

'Babs' spoilt The Lads' fun at Swimming pool

MENTION on this page recently Of Vestry Street Baths in Leicester; has prompted several readers to get in touch.

The latest, Mr Michael Petty Of Blaby, writes; When I was about three and living in High-cross Street at my maternal grandmother's house I was washed in the sink like many other children in the 1940's.

“ There was a bath but no Plumbing; hot water was heated in a boiler and added with cold coming from the tap over the sink. It was hard to fill and empty with no plumbing, so my mother went to Vestry Street slipper baths as a better alternative. I remember watching the ladies swimming in the small bath below.

“Years later when attending Caldecote Junior School we caught a bus into town for swimming lessons in the large pool at Vestry Street. Several years after this I and other friends from the Post Office and telephone Staff went to a weekly swimming club night in the small baths at Vestry Street - another way to meet off duty telephonists.

“ Before the Instructor Barbara from the Leicester Penguins Swimming club, arrived, the lads always got into trouble by lining up across the deep end and make waves to swamp the girls who gathered in the shallow end, great fun till Babs arrived and gave us a ticking off, but it was worth it!