



- a quote
- a global event date (e.g. war)

The pupils are also given a ticket from the kiosk; which indicates one for four types of user – first class male, second class male, first class female, second class female.



Boys are directed to the left of the Kiosk to enter the Main Hall, girls to the right of the Kiosk.

They will sit in one of 4 designated areas inside the Main Hall: first class male, second class male, first class female, second class female.

#### Instructions to pupils once seated:

#### Learning Objectives:

1. What can the building and its history tell us about life for local people in the past?

#### Activity 1: Time Travellers (45 mins)

Unroll your towels and have a look at the image or fact written on there. When you think we are talking about that particular event or time in the building's history I want you to put your hand up and show us your towel. We will invite you to peg up your towel on the washing line and then sit back in your place. Together we are going to put together a time line to examine changes in the building's use and important events which have shaped where we are today. Some of what we talk about you may already know, but it will refresh your memory; we will also introduce new events in the historical chronology.

#### Narrative (which accompanies the history timeline on the towels):

	<p><b>1846</b> – Facilitator sniffs the air... “What is that smell? Is it you lot? Don’t you ever take a bath? Look how dirty your clothes are!” That is what you might have wanted to say to lots of local people how would have been living in cramped houses with no facilities to wash or dry their clothes or themselves in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Filth caused bad air, and</p>	TOWEL 1
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	disease. So in 1846 an act of parliament was passed which encouraged councils to build public baths and wash houses; these had laundry rooms to wash and dry clothes.	
Trilby hat Envelope with letter inside	<i>Please can I have a volunteer from one of you First Class gentlemen?</i> Put a trilby hat on him – you are the Clerk of the council. Ask him to open an envelope and read out the letter in a nice loud voice.  The land on which this building stands was a gift by George Cadbury, who owned the Cadbury chocolate factory in Bournville.	TOWEL 2
Trilby hat Copy of architects plans Photocopy of the original ceremonial key	<i>I'd like two more volunteers from first class males.</i> Give one a copy of the architect's plans, you are architect John Osborne, and one the trilby hat - you are George Cadbury Junior. Osborne presents the ceremonial key to George. It is the <b>25 July 1911</b> .	TOWEL 3
Tin Bath	<i>Do you know why you have been divided up into four groups? Please can all the second class girls and the second class boys stand up.</i> You've been out working hard all day in the factories, you are dirty, hot and sweaty and really need a bath. Would you go home? Most of you wouldn't have a bathroom at home, but a big tin bath that your parents would have filled with hot water for you, probably in the lounge in front of the fire. You would probably come here once a week to do your washing, have a bath, take a swim for leisure and to get clean.  Please stand up if you have first class tickets. You would have much more money and so could pay to have private facilities and not mix with the working classes, but you also probably had bathing and washing facilities in your own homes.	TOWEL 4
	It's the first year or opening, 1911. Did you know there were 3,428 second-class male ticket sales compared with 39 first-class male ticket sales or uses of the swimming pool. What does this tell us? [It tells us the importance of the Baths for ordinary people in the area]. Who has some memories about using the wash house?	TOWEL 5
<b>Sign saying 'Take Cover'</b>	<b>SOUND EFFECT</b> Maroon Flare goes off loudly; a banner saying 'Take Cover' is held up. What is that	TOWEL 6

<p><b>Sound effect: Maroon Flare</b></p>	<p>noise? It's <b>1918</b>. Britain is at war. Daytime air raids are getting more frequent and the city's municipal baths are made available as places of shelter for the public. You lot are solders (pick a group) - during the four years of war (<b>1914-18</b>) you would get in for free - as would you (another group) you are refugees from Belgium, who have fled their homes.</p>	
<p>Real knitted swimsuit</p>	<p>Ok, let's shake things up. Boys and girls I'd like you to quietly and quickly move out of your groups and sit together; mix yourselves up. It's <b>1927</b>. Up until this time girls and boys were not allowed to be in the pool at the same time. It was considered improper. When mixed bathing was introduced, there were new laws to ensure that swimming were very modest and designed to cover as much skin as possible. Ladies swimming costume would have been made out of wool - show picture/ mannequin with swim suit.</p>	<p>TOWEL 7</p>
<p><b>Sound effect: air raid siren</b></p> <p><b>Images of bombing in Stirchley</b></p>	<p><b>SOUND EFFECT</b> Air raid siren noise goes off - Britain is at war again. It's <b>1939</b>. Here in this swimming baths the pool was closed, boarded over and turned into a first aid post and a place to congregate in emergencies; to help the injured and provide shelter. The number of people using the slipper baths has increased. Why do you think that may be? A; damage done to homes by enemy bombings</p> <p>Show images of bombings in Stirchley</p>	<p>TOWEL 8</p>
<p><b>Sound effect: Music - Glen Miller or Boogie woogie bugle boy</b></p>	<p><b>SOUND EFFECT: Glen Miller or Boogie woogie bugle boy music playing.</b> During the winter months in the <b>1940s</b> and <b>1950s</b> the swimming pool was boarded over to create a dance floor. People couldn't believe that they were dancing over all that water! Bands like the Den Jones Orchestra played. Peg up the towels up we have onto the washing line showing how the baths were used for different social activities, and a couple of memories.</p>	<p>TOWEL 9 TOWEL 10</p>
	<p>We have now arrived in the <b>1960s and 1970s</b>; wars are over; people are getting on with their lives– local people remember having fun, learning to swim, swimming galas, boys would have changing rooms down here and on this side, girls up on the balcony,</p>	<p>TOWEL 11 TOWEL 12 TOWEL 13</p>

	where they are now. They remember coming to the baths with their families for a weekly bath.	
	It's <b>1973</b> and a Jewish Mikvah opened at Stirchley Baths. Has anyone heard of a Mikvah? Here is a picture of the Mikvah here (when it hadn't been used for 25 years. It consists of a sunken bath which was filled with natural and heated water, in this case rainwater. It allowed for ritual immersion, part of the Jewish religion.	TOWEL 14
	Who here has got a bath in their own homes? Ah, well we might as well close the slipper baths and the washhouse as hardly anyone is using it any more. It's <b>1977</b> . Let's add in six beds and a TV lounge into the building instead!	TOWEL 15
	<b>1987</b> . 89,000 visits to the Baths recorded this year. Is that well used? If you had been alive back then, do you think you would have been swimming at Stirchley Baths?	TOWEL 16
<b>Sound effect: crash</b>	<b>SOUND EFFECT OF CRASH.</b> Shouting: "Girls watch out!" It's <b>1988</b> - the ladies changing room ceiling has just collapsed and people are worried about the corroding ironwork up on the balcony Everyone out. That's it! No more swimming here ever. You are local residents, you use the baths. We talked about this in school. How might you react? <b>How might you feel when a well-used public facility is taken away because the council don't have the money to repair it?</b> Ask children to suggest words which you write on paper and peg on the washing line.  Who has got the repair bill – how much is it going to cost to repair them? What over £1million. Have you got the money, have you? The city council said they hadn't either...	TOWEL 17 TOWEL 18
<b>Placards saying SAVE OUR BATHS</b>	Pick three volunteers to hold up placards facing the others. I know, let's have a sit in protest in the sauna. Everyone cross your arms and hold hands with the person next to you. Let's sing... "we shall, we shall not be moved, we shall, we shall not be moved..."	TOWEL 19
<b>Petition on a 2 clipboards</b>	I know, let's start a petition – and see if we can get 7,000 signatures – send it round to all the children	TOWEL 20

<b>with pen</b>	to sign to say – SAVE OUR BATHS!	
	Stirchley Baths Community Group fight for their baths: They talk to the newspapers, write letters, hold public meetings... nothing made any difference.	TOWEL 21
<b>FOR SALE SIGN</b>	<b>1993-2008</b> – What is to become of Stirchley Baths? For the next 15 years there were all sorts of new developments proposed. Turned down or not progressed; housing schemes, community facilities, sports centres. Stirchley Community and local councillors kept up their campaign as much as they could. Is there no future for the baths?	TOWEL 22
	<b>1998</b> – One of the big concerns for local people was that one day the building would be simply demolished, and all that wonderful history would be lost forever. They worked with the Victorian Society and approached Historic England, which was known as English Heritage then, to get the Baths listed, especially the front of the building. Being grade II ‘listed’ means that experts recognised that the building is significant to the history of Birmingham and that it had to be protected from demolition or alternation to preserve it for the future.	TOWEL 23
<b>Pete the plastic pigeon</b>	It's <b>2008</b> . The building has been stood empty for around 20 years. Pete the pigeon and his friends have moved into the building (pull out the pretend pigeon). There are plants growing out of the brick work, the roof lanterns have all been smashed and the rainwater and pigeon poo fills the pool. You are local residents and active citizens, you want to make a difference and your actions will speak louder than words. You start another campaign to save the Baths. What might you do to gather local support? How would you campaign? Ask the children to make suggestions and write these on paper and peg to washing line.  What did local people do for the next five years?  The Neighbourhood Forum, a group of local residents, held open days to which hundreds of people queued to get in. They spoke to the newspapers, they put pressure on the council to do something about the building. Many people wanted it to be open for swimming again, but pleased that it	TOWEL 24

	was going to be used by the community again.	
<b>Tesco carrier bag with paper money</b> <b>2 cards with words written on them.</b>	<p>2012 I need two volunteers.</p> <p>You are from Tesco (give bag of money) and you are high up on the cabinet of Birmingham City Council, please read what is written on your cards to each other in nice big voices:</p> <p>“Hello, we are Tesco and we would like to buy the land you own on which there is a community centre, indoor bowling centre and a social club. We will knock everything down, as well as some of the surrounding area, and build a massive Tesco superstore instead.”</p> <p>“Yes, we have decided that you may go ahead with your plans, and the money that you give us, we will put back into the local area and spend some on restoring Stirchley Baths and making it into the new community building for the area”. [hands over cash from Tesco bag] That is good news – but first we need to fundraise for another £1.2m in order for us to refurbish the Baths.</p>	TOWEL 25
	<p><b>2013</b> A grant of almost £1.2m was given by the Heritage Lottery Fund after a lot of hard work putting the plans together for the new community centre by a professional team of experts, working with the council and local people.</p>	TOWEL 26
<b>Two hard hats</b>	<p>Two volunteers are given hard hats, facilitator addresses them... “Thank you so much for all your hard work, you’ve given the whole building a new lease of life – it’s got offices and places for people to meet, a café, a sports hall; you’ve put a new glass roof on and even returned a clock to the front of the building. [shakes hands]. Marvellous job.</p> <p><b>Right, are we ready to open yet?</b></p>	TOWEL 27 TOWEL 28
<b>Picture of new ceremonial key</b> <b>Ribbon and scissors</b>	<p>It’s January <b>2016</b>. Ok, so it is 105 years since Stirchley Baths was opened the first time. Lots has happened; the building has witnessed two world wars, laughter, swimming and dancing, and then 28 years of silence. Can we have two new volunteers please to perform the same opening ceremony as the original in 1911 and can you hand over a new ceremonial key. <b>The baths have reopened as a community centre thanks to the persistence of active citizens in the community who thought</b></p>	TOWEL 29 TOWEL 30

**the building was worth saving.**

Who has got our final towel? As you have waited so patiently, I would like to invite you to come and cut the ribbon and open our wonderful new community building for us!

Let's have a round of applause – the Baths are open again!!! Hip Hip Hurrah!

And give your selves a pat on the back and a clap for time travelling with us today.

