

Larkswood Pool Photos: '55-'66

By Barry Ryder [[email](#)] April 2015

Bill Bayliss began his Larkswood history article (see: History Articles/Larkswood Open Air Pool/October 2011) with the words, "Like many other people who were not Chingford residents, at one time, my only knowledge of Chingford was the Larkswood Open Air Pool." His experience was definitely shared by me and my family. We were frequent visitors to the pool from our homes in Walthamstow.

Here are some photos, of varying age and quality, which capture those wonderful, summer days.



This is me at the age of about 15 months; roughly the summer of 1955. Mum, Edna Ryder, supervises one of my earliest dips - possibly my first. The following four snaps were all taken during the same visit.

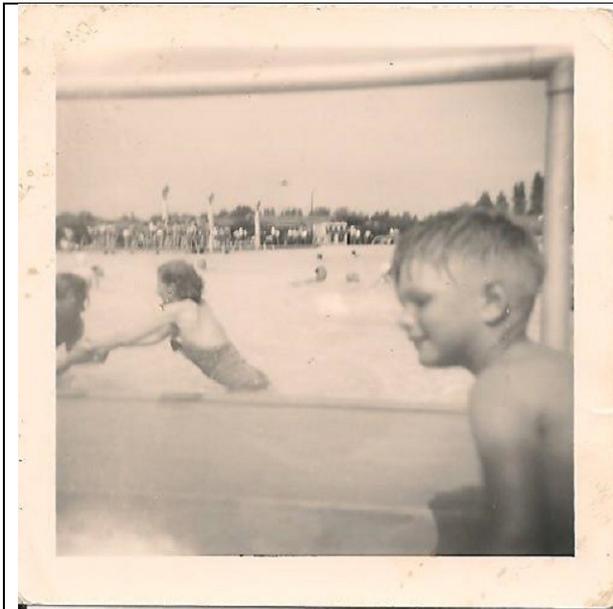
Tubby little me being thrashed about in the water by my uncle Percy Jemmett of Carr Road.



Mum, Edna (left), cousin Gill (centre in swimming cap), Aunt Joyce Jemmett (right) and me in the midst of all the girls up to my waist in chlorinated H₂O.

"It's my ball an' I ain't
playin' no more!"

My petulance developed
very early, it seems.



I don't know the lad in
the right/foreground,
but the man on the left
pulling my Mum over is my
uncle, Percy Jemmett.

Now into the mid 1960's. Mum (Edna) seems to have recovered from her ducking of 10 years before. Taking no more chances though, she opts for the safety of the high ground.



My brother Tony, my cousin's daughter Jayne (Spiers) and myself sitting on the 'island' in the middle distance. A nice panorama of the pool and a good study of the litter bin, though. (1965 ish)

My brother, Tony
Ryder, high on the
hill with the pool and
Chingford sprawling
beneath him. How
many others have
stood on this spot
for a photo? Plenty.
(1966 ish)



This is me, Barry
Ryder, emerging from
the depths into the
world of Kodak colour
film. Taken in June
1966; I was just over
12 - with an IQ to
match.

Barry Ryder, April 2015