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ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

1971

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1971

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AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1971

IAN G.P. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Area Health Office,
Wagonway Road,
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2263

J.A. STAIG, M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspector,
Alnwick Rural District Council
Council Offices,
Green Batt,
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2331

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IAN G.P. FRASER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Area Health Office,
Waggonway Road,
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2565

J.A. STAIN, M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspector,
Alnwick Rural District Council
Council Offices,
Green Batt,
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2551

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1971

To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Rural District Council

Vital Statistics The annual return from the General Register Office shows the population in the District in 1971 to have been 11,250 persons. This is a slight increase on the figure (11,094) issued in the Preliminary Report of the Census 1971. As the neighbouring towns also show a fall the drift away from the rural area has not been to local centres of population. The figure compares with that at the 1961 Census of 12,240 persons and with the mid-year estimate in 1970 of 12,050 persons.

There were 173 births - 84 male and 89 female - and this was slightly more than in 1970 - 165 births. The number of births exceeded the number of deaths as has been the case for the past 10 years during which period there has always been a natural replacement of population. The crude birth rate was 15.4 per thousand population and the adjusted rate 17.6 per thousand which compares with that for England and Wales of 16.0 per thousand.

Deaths numbered 140 and the crude death rate was 12.4 per thousand population compared with 11.6 per thousand in England and Wales. The adjusted death rate was 10.3 per thousand. Forty seven per cent of deaths were aged 75 years or over and seventy per cent were aged 65 years or over. There were three deaths aged under 35 years and these were all due to accidents, two of them being motor vehicle accidents. Causes of death were in the expected categories most of them being associated with the pathology of old age. There were no infant deaths and only one stillbirth which gave a stillbirth rate of 6 per thousand total births compared with the rate for England and Wales of 12 per thousand total births. The infant mortality and stillbirth rates are very satisfactory and are a good indicator of the health of a community and of the level of medical services available.

Infectious Diseases Apart from 64 cases of measles the number of notified infectious diseases was low. Measles is now a preventable illness and nearly all cases are found not to have been vaccinated.

There was one case of pulmonary tuberculosis in a retired man living in a residential home. X-ray examination of contacts produced no associated cases. The number of new cases annually is diminishing - there were 6 cases in the last 5 years but 13 cases in the previous 5 years - however, there appears to be still a small reservoir of infection in the older members of the community.

There were four cases of food poisoning. Three of these constituted a family outbreak and the source of infection occurred while they were on holiday outside the District. Contact with the health authority concerned failed to incriminate what appeared to be a likely source of infection. Surveillance was continued until the patients were cleared and this was important because one member was employed at a water undertaking.

The other case of infection by a food poisoning organism occurred in an elderly farmer and livestock was the likely source although this could not be verified.

Four cases of dysentery were notified and one of these was interesting because it was a case of amoebic dysentery which is almost invariably contracted abroad. However, the patient who had had symptoms for some years had never been abroad except as a member of a bomber crew during the war solely on missions over Europe. There are a few areas in this country where infections have been known to occur but the patient had not worked in any of these places. Enquiries in the area of another health authority where he had worked proved negative and his case appears to have been an isolated one.

The Divisional Veterinary Officer supplied information concerning salmonella infections among livestock at eight farms. None of these were milk producing and there were no cases among the farm staff.

Immunisation The table on page 7 shows that acceptance of various forms of immunisation for infants remains at a satisfactory level. Most children are routinely immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and poliomyelitis and measles vaccination is gaining in acceptability. In districts where measles vaccination is high there is found to be a low incidence of the illness. Nearly all recent cases of measles are found to have occurred in unimmunised children.

There was an increased demand for rubella vaccination for adolescent girls compared with the number vaccinated in 1970.

During 1971 the Department of Health advised that smallpox vaccination should no longer be a routine vaccination of infancy. The procedure had been compulsory between 1853 and 1948 but thereafter recommended only.

Worldwide smallpox eradication schemes have reduced the number of endemic countries to less than ten. The risk of importation has been progressively reduced, the disease can be well controlled by isolation, and there is a small mortality from vaccination itself.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 92,964 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 4,289
and the number of new houses completed
during the year was 99.

The estimated mid-year population was 11,250
and this figure was taken when calculating
the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	81	82	163
Illegitimate	3	7	10
Totals	<u>84</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>173</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	15.4
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (1.14)	17.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	6

Stillbirths

Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	6
Total live and still births	174

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)

Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Infant Mortality Rates

Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births	-
---	---

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births	-
---	---

Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	6
---	---

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of Deaths	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	72	68	140

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	12.4
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor (0.83)	10.3

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Oesophagus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	4	-	4
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	5	-	5
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	2	2
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	3	7
Diabetes Mellitus	1	3	4
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1	1
Mental Disorders	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	2	4
Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	24	23	47
Other Forms of Heart Disease	1	1	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	14	15	29
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	3	3
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	-	2
Asthma	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	-	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
All Other Accidents	4	3	7
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-	1
Totals	72	68	140

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Scarlet Fever	3	
	Measles	64	
	Infective Hepatitis	1	
	Whooping Cough	7	
	Food Poisoning	4	
	Dysentery	4	

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION

Alnwick U.D., Alnwick R.D., Amble U.D., Rothbury R.D.

(Population 28,160)

Disease	Primary Immunisation			Reinforcing Doses		
	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	294	4	298	7	408	415
Whooping Cough	292	4	296	3	38	41
Tetanus	294	15	309	8	489	497
Polio	363	9	372	10	403	413
Measles	264	50	314	-	-	-
Rubella	-	175	175	-	-	-

There were 399 live births in the area during 1971 and the number of primary immunisations of children under 4 years of age have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

Diphtheria	-	74%
Whooping Cough	-	73%
Tetanus	-	74%
Polio	-	91%
Measles	-	66%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Alnwick U.D.	-	210
Alnwick R.D.	-	-
Amble U.D.	-	-
Rothbury R.D.	-	68
Total		<u>278</u>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORTo the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Rural District Council

I have pleasure in presenting my seventeenth report for the year ended 31st December, 1971.

Routine work in connection with the administration of the Department including inspections of food preparing establishments, offices and shops, and meat inspection at slaughterhouses have been maintained as far as possible, bearing in mind that I must attempt to carry out all duties in the area by myself. All urgent matters are attended to with the minimum of delay, which means that one is away from the Office for long periods and therefore less urgent administrative duties are deferred until time becomes available. The policy of discussion and persuasion with offenders against Acts or Regulations is often more beneficial in results so reducing the time which would be spent in lengthy correspondence.

During the period under review the 1971 Housing Act came into force with the added attraction of substantially higher grants towards house improvements in this Area, which is classified as a Development Area. To comply with the higher grant, i.e. 75%, the improvement work has to be completed within two years from 23rd June, 1971. This has resulted in a stimulation of restorative work to older houses, and must be encouraged but, nevertheless, problems have followed by the increased amount of work thrown on to the Local Authority staffs and the Building Trade in such a limited period of time. I have no doubt that in due course all this essential work will ultimately be completed. I feel, however, that in the very early part of the year 1973 there must be a revision of the date for completion of the work because of the inadequate building force and materials available at present. It would be a great pity if these improvements were to be halted simply because of the non-compliance with the official termination date.

Obviously from a health aspect I am keenly interested in improving dwellinghouses which are occupied daily by people and if any restrictions on the continuance of Improvement Grants were envisaged; because of the shortage of labour and materials, then I would suggest that all intermittent occupied "second houses" or "holiday homes" be excluded from the schemes.

There were only eleven new private houses built during the year but the Government have had eighty-eight Royal Air Force houses erected at Longhoughton. Operations started at the opencast coal site at Radcliffe which meant that there was a steady flow of residents from sub-standard houses in Radcliffe to Amble as new houses there became ready for occupation. Sometime during next summer should see the end of Radcliffe as a village.

Subsequent to several meetings of the Joint Cleansing Service Committee during the year 1970 the Service was inaugurated on 1st April, 1971. The new garage was eventually completed towards the end of 1971. There was a considerable delay in receiving equipment, especially the power washing unit and air line which created maintenance problems. A Meeting of the Urban and Rural Councils Cleansing Staff took place on 13th March, followed by other meetings at which it was explained fully to all members the precise details of how the Joint Scheme would operate.

A few minor changes to the collection rota system in both the town and rural areas resulted in a number of complaints being received, these were promptly resolved to the satisfaction of the complainants.

The crews of the respective authorities have been retained together to minimise any confusion in the initial stages of the reorganisation, although it is anticipated that when all the staff are thoroughly integrated there will be interchanges so that all members can be familiar with the diversities of the service. A foreman was appointed in the latter part of the summer which helped to ease the administrative burden as well as ascertaining a number of essential facts concerning trade refuse collections, intermittent collections to several outlying properties, and relief work on collection vehicles during times of sickness and holidays. The total staff now comprises of a foreman, one chargehand who is a driver/loader and acts as deputy to the foreman, four driver/loaders and seven loaders all of whom carry out the collections of refuse. There is also a tip attendant who is in charge of the disposal of refuse at Embleton Quarry, which now receives all refuse in the area since the Alnwick Tip is no longer in use. There is a small tip at Glanton which it is hoped will be discontinued next year if it is possible to convey the refuse in that area to Embleton with the aid of the new larger vehicles.

During the past two years the policy of purchasing modern large refuse vehicles has helped in coping with the ever increasing amount of refuse. The service at the end of the year was functioning with a fleet of Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic refuse vehicles comprising of two 38 cubic yards and two smaller 25 cubic yards capacity vehicles, the smaller ones being for use in restricted areas of the town and on the farms and outlying properties in the rural areas. One of the old 12 cubic yard vehicles is retained on collections but as it is at the end of its useful life it will be replaced by another 25 cubic yard vehicle in April next year. For the immediate future this fleet will cope with the amount of refuse but it is very well known that substantial increases in the amount of refuse from existing premises and new premises is inevitable and when it comes to replacing the spare 12 cubic yard vehicle in 1973, I have no doubt that it will be necessary to consider purchasing a new Revopak refuse vehicle for dealing much quicker with the amount of trade refuse collected from the shopping area in Alnwick.

One of the 25 cubic yard existing vehicles would then act as a spare wagon. All vehicles belonging to a local authority must comply with the motor vehicle licensing laws and be submitted for annual tests. This means that the fleet must at all times be kept up to the rigid standards of roadworthiness and safety demanded by such laws. The year to follow will be a "settling-in" period in which it is hoped that many of the difficulties experienced in the past will be overcome to the benefit of the public and staff.

The water supply to the area is controlled by the Coquet Water Board, with whom we have amicable co-operation. Monthly reports are received of all water sample tests taken at random throughout the whole area from reservoirs and all types of properties. No complaints have been received from this source.

The provision of satisfactory sewerage systems drags on in several schemes, particularly Warkworth, where site building works are hampered because of the lack of adequate sewerage. Glanton and Eglington schemes may get the "go ahead" signals next year but it will probably be 1973 before work is started. The increasing influx of visitors during the summer weekends to Newton by the Sea who are greeted with the atrocious odour from the public health nuisance created by the discharge of raw sewage on the beach must wonder at the delay in removing such nuisance from an otherwise delightful beach. The villages of Howick and Denwick which comprise mostly of private estate houses are being modernised - private sewerage systems are being installed and these should be completed during 1972/73.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all Councillors, the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ian Fraser, and colleagues in this office who have kindly assisted me during the year 1971.

J.A. STAIG,

Public Health Inspector.

SECTION 1PUBLIC HEALTHSanitary CircumstancesTotal VisitsTOTAL VISITS DURING YEAR RE:-

Houses - Housing Defects
(S. 39, 45, 47, 56, 58, 92, 138)

27

Houses - Other nuisances
(S. 39, 50, 75, 83A, 83B, 92B, 92C, 92D)

11

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Section 39, Drainage, Cesspools, etc.

87

Section 50, Cesspools - nuisances

5

Section 73, Trade Refuse

22

Section 75, Dustbins

8

Section 87, Public Conveniences

41

STATUTORY NUISANCES

Section 92 Accumulations etc.

3

Section 138 Water Supply

4

FOOD AND DRUGS

Butchers

14

Ice Cream

2

Meat Preparation Rooms

14

Public Houses, Inns, Hotels, etc.

22

Restaurants, Cafes

17

Kippering Sheds

2

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Shops etc.

11

Slaughterhouses

231

MISCELLANEOUS

17

PETROLEUM

25

CARAVAN SITES

16

INTERVIEWS

117

FACTORIES

Mechanical

2

Non-Mechanical

15

Workplaces

-

PEST CONTROLTotal Visits

Dwellinghouses
Business Premises

5
4

CLEANSING SERVICE

Collection
Disposal

29
104

HOUSING ACT 1936/57

Demolitions (Section 16)
Clearance Area (Section 42)

23
8

SECTION 2FOOD AND DRUGSNumber of Licences or Registrations

Slaughterhouses
Slaughtermen
Ice Cream Premises

3
15
37

Food InspectionTins

Section 9 Canned Foods
Meat
Milk

121
12
5

SECTION 3HOUSINGGeneral

Total Number of Houses in District
New Houses (1971) - Local Authority
New Houses (1971) - Other Housing Authorities (R.A.F.)
New Houses (1971) - Private Persons
Total Number of Council houses to date

4,289
Nil
88
11
875

Unfit Housing

Total Number demolished 1971
Total Number Unfit Houses on List
Total Number Repaired by Informal Action
Total Number Demolition Order revoked

61
44
47
-

Discretionary Grants 1971

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority (1971)	77 houses
2. Applications Rejected	7 houses
3. Applications Approved	70 houses
4. Approximate Average Grant	£1,092
5. Total number approved since inception of scheme	631

Standard Grants 1971

	1971	To Date
Number of Houses Grant Aided	21	344
Number of Houses provided with Bath or Shower	13	267
Number of Houses provided with Wash Hand Basin	11	286
Number of Houses provided with Hot Water Supply	11	246
Number of Houses provided with Water Closet	13	297
Number of Houses provided with Sink	-	13

SECTION 4OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.(a) Registration and General Inspections (1971)

Class or Premises	No. Registered During Year	Total No. Registered at End of Year	No. of Registered Premises receiving General Inspection
Offices	Nil	4	-
Shops	Nil	20	14
Wholesale Shops	Nil	-	-
Catering establishment	Nil	11	7
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	1	-

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises - 37

(b) Analysis of Persons in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	14
Shops	46
Wholesale Shops	-
Catering Establishments	68
Fuel Storage Depots	4
Total	132
Males	43
Females	89

SECTION 5

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1971.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. No. of Houses in district	3,495	812
2. (a) Total number of houses (including nearby premises) inspected <u>following notification.</u>	302	26
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	181	16
(ii) Mice	45	8
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons <u>other than notification</u>	84	216
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	22	50
(ii) Mice	8	16

SECTION 6

MEAT

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	265	1	-	1084	30
Number Inspected	265	1	-	1084	30
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	29	-	-	51	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Cysticerci and Tuberculosis	11%	-	-	4.6%	6%
<u>Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>	-	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis, Cysterci and Other DiseasesYears 1969 to 1971

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed 1969	480	-	7	1,165	319
No. Killed 1970	449	-	-	1,549	279
No. Killed 1971	265	1	-	1,084	30
No. Inspected 1969	480	-	7	1,165	319
No. Inspected 1970	449	-	-	1,549	279
No. Inspected 1971	265	1	-	1,084	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci					
1969	36.5	-	-	10.0	4.5
1970	16.0	-	-	7.5	12.0
1971	11.0	-	-	4.6	6.0

SECTION 8ALNWICK AND DISTRICT CLEANSING SERVICE

Staff		17
Vehicles	S. and D. Pakamatic 38 cubic yard	2
	Rear Loading - Dual Tip, 12 cubic yards	2
	40 BHP Diesel Engine Tractor	1
	Drott Track Bulldozer	1
	S. and D. Pakamatic 25 cubic yard	2
Refuse Tips		2

SECTION 9FACTORIES ACT, 1961.Part 1 of the Act

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspe- ctions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	5	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	37	11	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises.	3	-	-	-
Total	45	14	-	-

Years 1969 to 1971

No. Killed 1969	No. Killed 1970	No. Killed 1971	No. Imported 1969	No. Imported 1970	No. Imported 1971	Percentage of the number imported affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis	1969	1970	1971
400	449	265	449	265	265	38.2	16.0	16.0	11.0
-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
7	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
1,162	1,349	1,084	1,162	1,349	1,084	10.0	7.5	2.6	4.5
319	279	30	319	279	30	12.0	12.0	6.0	4.5

SECTION 5

ALMSTON AND DISTRICT COUNCILS

Staff

Vehicles

S. and D. Parnham 12.10.71
 Rear loading - 12.10.71
 40 HP Diesel Engine
 Front Trunk 12.10.71
 S. and D. Parnham 12.10.71

17

2

2

1

1

1

2

Bullock Type

SECTION 6

FACILITY NO. 1961.

Part 1 of the lot

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Importation Licences	Number of Importation Licences
(i) Premises in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to be enforced by local authorities.	5	5	-
(ii) Premises not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	37	37	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkmen's premises).	3	-	-
Total	45	42	-



