Contributors

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ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1970

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1970

To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Urban District Council

<u>Vital Statistics</u> The number of births was 87 compared with 106 in 1969 and so the downward trend which commenced in the early 1960's continues. There is no doubt that family planning has played a major part in this. The birth rate for 1970 was 11.0 per thousand compared with that for England and Wales of 16.0 per thousand.

The number of deaths was 126, nearly 50% increase on 1969, but almost half were in persons aged 75 years or over and three quarters were in persons aged 65 years or over. Deaths exceeded births by 39 but the estimated mid-year population remained unchanged at 7,900. The findings of the 1971 Census will be of interest.

Causes of death approximated to the national rates apart from those from cancer which were slightly higher than would be expected. However, cancer deaths in 1969 were lower than expected and the two years taken in conjunction show a normal incidence. Deaths from cancer of the lung (9) were high but in 1969 there were no deaths from this cause. Immunisation Last year acceptance rates for primary immunisation of infants appeared to be unsatisfactorily low but the statistics for 1970 show a reversal of this position. A lower acceptance rate had been contrary to the experience of doctors and health visitors and would seem to have been apparent rather than real and due to recent changes in the immunisation schedule and method of recording. Measles vaccination has become acceptable and its value is indicated by a general fall in the level of the disease. This form of immunisation is to be encouraged because, apart from the discomfort of the illness, a proportion of children have serious complications and the national deaths from this disease in children at present average about forty annually.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF REALTH

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Vaccination against rubella (German Measles) became available for 13-year-old girls. This is a prophylactic measure against possible congenital defects as a result of infection during pregnancy and acceptance was reasonably good. At the time of writing it has now beeen recommended nationally that vaccination against smallpox need no longer be recommended routinely as part of the immunisation schedule for children. As a result of smallpox eradication programmes the world-wide incidence has fallen dramatically especially in the last ten years - a fall both in the number of cases and in the number of countries reporting the disease. Vaccination for international travel is being required by progressively fewer countries unless the traveller comes from an infected area.

<u>Infectious Diseases</u> The epidemic of infective hepatitis which circulated in the community for nearly two years faded out towards the end of 1969 but there were four cases in early 1970. Later in the year there was a cases in a residential establishment for children but this was an importation from outside the town. The staff and remainder of the children were given protective inoculations with gamma globulin and no further cases occurred.

A minor outbreak of whooping cough occurred at the end of the year. Bacteriological examinations were not made but symptoms were typical and some associated cases occurred among relatives a number of whom were well over the expected age group for the disease. Immunisation against whooping cough gives a less effective protection than for the other procedures in infancy where the protection afforded is very high.

Three new cases of tuberculosis were notified - one posthumously. Follow-up of contacts produced no associated cases.

Stacoafort of the illness, a proportion of children have serious complications and the mational deaths from this disease in children at present average about forty annually. There were no cases of food poisoning reported in the District but there was one of a person infected while abroad on holiday. One person who stayed in a hotel abroad at the same time that another resident contracted typhoid fever was put under surveillance.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health

Illegitimate . Totals

Stilling and Still Births

Infant Deaths (Deaths under one year)

Logitimate

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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

Meo-natal Hortelizy Bate

Destin under Tour weaks par 7,000 total live

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 4,778 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,504and the number of new houses completed during the year was 6.

The estimated mid-year population was 7,900, this figure was taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate Totals	46 <u>4</u> 50	33 <u>4</u> 37	79 <u>8</u> 87
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Illegitimate live births per cent of total li			11.0 12.3 9
Stillbirths			
Legitimate Illegitimate	:	1 -	1 -
Totals	<u> </u>	1	1
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and stil Total Live and Still Births	l births		11 88
Infant Deaths (Deaths under one year)			
Legitimate Illegitimate Totals	1 - 1	·	1 - 1
Infant Mortality Rates			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live birt Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegiti	live births		11 13 -
Neo-natal Mortality Rate			
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live	births		11

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under o	ne week p	per 1,000	total	live	births		11
----------------	-----------	-----------	-------	------	--------	--	----

Perinatal Mortality Rate

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

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

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

Deaths	Males	Females 67	Total 126
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	"	01	15.9
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			17.8

23

CAUSES OF DEATH

Malignant Neoplasm - Buccal C	avity etc.	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	.64	1	1	
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestin	e	1	4	2 5
Malignant Neoplasm - Larynx		1	- 97	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Br	onchus	8	1	9
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast		-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate		. 2	- <u>-</u> 40 m	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms		2	3	25
Diabetes Mellitus		-	1	1
Anaemias		-	1	1
Mental Disorders		1	1952	1
Other Diseases of Nervous Sys	tem	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disea		-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	.05	4	2	6
Ischaemic Heart Disease		15	19	34
Other Forms of Heart Disease		4	1	5
Cerebrovascular Disease		7	15	22
Other Diseases of Circulatory	System	1	2	3
Influenza	. 5	-	1	3 1 3 7
Pneumonia		-	3	3
Bronchities and Emphysema		5	2	7
Asthma		1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory	System	-	1	1
Peptic Ulcer		2	2	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis		1	-301	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal	System	-	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labou		1	1964	1
All Other Accidents		-	2	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted In	juries	1	1970	1
	mat.l.	59	67	126
	Totals	29	07	120

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles	6	M Intailrat
Infective Hepatitis	4	
Scarlet Fever	2 2 2 2 2 2 2	
Whooping Cough	total 1188 and	per 1,000
Tuberculosis	3	

INFANT MORTALITY

1931 - 1970

Year	Number of Infant Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Mortality England and Wales
1931	7	68.3	66
1940	7	72.9	57
1941)		100.0	60
1942)	Records Incomplete	44.6	- 51 ment 1
1943)		46.7	49
1944	4	35.7	45
1945	9	74.6	46
1946		59.4	- man loc 43 them the
1947	- 11	62.5	- montro 41 describited
1948	10	55.2	- man 1 and 34 defense fail
1949	5 4	30.6	32
1950	- 1	7.7	30
1951	- 1	8.8	30
1952	2 4	15.1	28
1953		24.3	all to a 27 and made
1954	5 3 3 4	24.6	25
1955	3	20.8	25
1956	3	21.9	24
1957		29.0	23
1958	2	16.0	22
1959	1	7.7	22
1960	- 3	21.6	21
1961	- 1	8.1	21 admontant
1962	9	64.3	21
1963	-	-	21
1964	- 2	15.7	21 10 21 att made
1965	-	-	19 19
1966	3	26.4	19 and 19
1967	- 1	11.1. select	18
1968	1	10.3	18 18
1969	- 1	9.0	areat 18 and 10
1970	1	11.0	18

IMMUNISATION

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

Dicesso	Primary Immunisation			Reinforcing Doses		
Disease	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	377	5	382	89	355	444
Whooping Cough	374	2	376	55	81	136
Tetanus	377	19	396	89	405	494
Polio	361	7	368	94 10	368	462
Measles	239	54	293	o Results of	redaus	Inger
Rubella	-	106	106	tto-s	Demot	-unlas

(Population 29,970)

	Primary Vaccination			Reva	ccinat	ion
à	Under 5	5-15	Total	Under 5	5-15	Total
Smallpox	255	7	262	2	25	27

There were 397 live births in the area during 1970 and the number of primary immunisations of children under 4 years of age (smallpox - under 5 years) have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

-	95%	
-	95%	
-	95%	
-	91%	
- 6	64%	
-	60%	
		- 95% - 95% - 91% - 64%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Alnwick U.D.	171
Alnwick R.D.	171
Amble U.D.	ol of bedt
	bed
Rothbury R.D.	bey
Total	171

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1970

HOUSING

(a) STATISTICS

-	New houses completed during the year With State Unaid Assistance	led Total
	(a) by Local Authority	- - 6 2504
	Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority	1148
Clos	sing and Demolitions Num	per of Houses
1. 2.	Houses demolished in Clearance Areas Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas (Number of dwellings included above previously reported as "closed" - 4)	14
3.	Houses closed, not demolished	6
4.	Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in the above	Saaltoo
7. 8. Slun	By owners, following statutory notice By local authority in default of owners Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction a Clearance Programme	vad (crest
	sing Act 1957	
	Part 111 Houses to be cleared - 63	
	Part II Houses likely to be subject to demolition or closing orders - 24	
Impr	rovement Grants Number of se	eparate houses
(a)	Discretionary Grants	
1. 2. 3. 4.	Applications submitted to Local Authority during the year Applications rejected Applications approved Approximate average grant approved per house during year	9 - 9 £516.
5.	Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	161

(b)	Standard Grants	During the	Total to
	and the state of t	Year	Date
1.	Number of separate houses for which		
	grants have been made	11	78
2.	Number of houses so provided with		
	(a) Bath or shower	10	61
	(b) Wash-hand basin	10	62
	(c) Hot water supply	7	53
	(d) Water Closet	11	69
	(e) Sink	6	8

(b) GENERAL

No houses were completed by the local authority during the year, but site works on the Pottergate Development Area commenced at the end of June. This scheme comprises the erection of 6 one bedroom ground floor flats, 8 two bedroom maisonettes, 8 two bedroom houses and 22 garages.

The tender of Ralph Bowey & Son Limited was accepted for the sum of £131,773, the houses to be completed in 44 weeks. The council appointed Messrs. Reavell & Cahill as architects for this scheme.

In early February site works commenced on the Grove House, Lisburn Street Site, where 12 Aged Persons flats are to be erected by R. Carse & Sons Ltd. These comprise 8 one person flats, and 4 two person flats, and Clarence Solomon was appointed as architect.

57 house inspections were made under the Housing Act 1969, 31 visits in relation to Closing & Demolition Orders and 148 inspections as regards improvement work, building regulations and drainage.

(c) REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the district.



HOUSES DEMOLISHED OR CLOSED

(d) HOUSES ERECTED

Year	By Private Persons	By Local Authority	By other Housing Authorities	Total	Demolished	Houses or Parts Closed	Total	1. Number of set grants have 2. Number of hot
1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970	74 6 21 23 25 4 1 1 22 25 4 1 1 22 24 6	64 - 11 21 19 33 2 - 37 7 -		7147213463372230016	5 12 10 22 5 1 2 5 3 2 4 5 3 7 10 5 6 14	32 - 22692761 - 16	8 14 24 7 37 33 17 10 13 11 5 7 20	<u>N.B.</u> 15 dwellings reported as "Closed" have since been demolished and are included in both figures. 2 Closing Orders revoked.
Total	156	225	6	387	169	47	216	The tender o

WATER SUPPLY

The area is served by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, who maintained a plentiful and wholesome supply throughout the year.

The service is adequate and satisfactory.

Water is obtained from the Coquet Water Board, and the Half Moon Springs. Both supplies are filtered and chlorinated.

The Company readily investigate any complaints, and where necessary effect a remedy.

Cottages on Alnwick Moor are supplied by the Freemens Council and this water, whilst untreated, has retained wholesome over the year.

Source of Supply	Whether water treated or untreated		actory Class 11	Suspicious Class 111	Unsatis- factory Class 1V
Alnwick Low Supply (C.W.B.)	Treated	12	-	-	- 164
Alnwick High Supply	Treated	13	-	-	-
Freemen's Supply	Untreated	2	-	-	-

RESULTS OF WATER SAMPLES (BACTERIOLOGICAL)

The number of dwelling houses, and the number of the population supplied from the public water mains are as follows:-

		Number of Dwelling Houses	Populations Supplied
(a)	Direct to House	2438	7829
(b)	By means of stand pipes	7	15

SWIMMING POOL

The new Swimming Pool was opened to the public on 18th May.

The pool basin is 82'6" long, 24' wide, and 6'6" at the deep end. It is of reinforced concrete and tiled internally.

The heat requirements of the building, both for space and water heating, are supplied by an oil fired boiler.

The pool water is filtered and chlorinated and check samples of the water are taken daily.

Four samples were submitted to the public health laboratory for bacteriological examination, and the results of all samples were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There were no major works carried out to the existing sewers, or to the Sewage Disposal Plant and the arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district are reasonably adequate.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) MILK

Dealers licences are granted by the Northumberland County Council as the food and drugs authority, and regular sampling was carried out by the County Public Health Inspector.

There is no untreated milk bottled in the district, and there are no producers in the area selling raw milk, consequently there were no samples of raw milk examined for Brucella Abortus.

	RESULTS OF SA	MPLES (BACTERIOLOGI	CAL)
Designation		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Untreated		2	1
Treated		34	-

(b) FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

FOOD PREMISES SUBJECT TO FOOD HYGIENE (GEN) REGULATIONS 1960

ly. both for space and water	Number of Premises	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Number to which Reg. 19 applies	and the second se
Grocers, Self Service Stores General Dealers and Confectioners	30	30	9	- 9 9
Cafes, Snack Bars, School Kitchens, Boarding House, Hospital Kitchens	23	23	23	23
Public Houses, Hotels and Social Clubs	21	19	21	21
Butchers and Fishmongers	8	8	8	8
Fruiterers	4	4	-	-
Chemists	5	5	-	-
Fried Fish and Chips	4	4	4	4
Bakeries	3	3	3	3
Off Licence Premises	2	2	-	-
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	1	1 1
Totals	101	99	69	69

CATEGORIES OF TRADE PREMISES

41 visits were made to the 101 food premises and contraventions or deficiences found were brought to the notice of the food traders concerned.

There were no prosecutions during the year under the Regulations.

(c) POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

(d) FOOD INSPECTION (OTHER THAN FRESH CARCASE MEAT AT SLAUGHTERHOUSES)

17 visits were made to food premises for the primary purpose of food inspection. The following were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed at the East Cawledge Park Refuse Tip:-

Canned Vegetables	547 lbs. Canned Milk & Milk Products	20 lbs.
Canned Fruit	71 lbs. Quick Frozen Foods	112 lbs.
Canned Meat & Fish	36 lbs. Pork	12 lbs.

(e) FOOD COMPLAINTS

Below is a summary of complaints received and investigated regarding food purchased not of the nature, substance or quality demanded by the purchaser:-

- 1) Can of Strawberries in syrup containing stone. Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
- Can of Chopped Pork with Ham containing tooth, later identified as that of a pig's tooth. Warning letter sent to manufacturer.
- 3) 2¹/₂ gall. can of milk delivered to a school kitchen milk found to be dirty with coating of slime on bottom of churn. Replacement provided for school meal, County Health Department asked to investigate.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two private slaughterhouses in the district. Both are fully equipped and maintained in accordance with the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1968, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958.

Regular inspections are made by Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. 19 slaughtering licences were issued to slaughtermen.

aunhor of properties found to be infested and treated but this year there

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Under the Meat Inspection Regulations a total sum of £127. 0. 6. was paid by the butchers for meat inspection, as against a total sum of £112. 14. 3. for the previous year. 100% inspection of all carcases was made and I am indebted to Mr. J.A. Rodgett, Surveyor and Publich Health Inspector, Amble U.D.C., and Mr. J.A. Staig, Public Health Inspector, Alnwick R.D.C., for meat inspection duties carried out during my absence.

No cysticercosis or tuberculosis was found.

243 visits were made to the slaughterhouses for meat inspection. A total of 2717 carcases were inspected, an increase of 448 over the previous year.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle e x cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	556	1	5	1888	267
Number inspected	556	1	5	1888	267
All diseases	abatacor m		Hand Bart	anti ta	100 10
Whole carcases condemned	lotter not	ant-ral		6	- 6.0
Part " "	4	-	1	7	3
Offal condemned	92	1	in to m	67	41
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease	17.3	100.0	20.0	4.2	16.5

Total weight of carcase meat and offal condemned - 952 lbs. RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, imposes on a Local Authority the duty of keeping its district free from rats and mice, and for this purpose a part time rodent operator is employed for approximately 20/22 hours per week.

All treatments are given free of charge.

In each successive year since 1966 a reduction has been seen in the number of properties found to be infested and treated but this year there was a 60% increase (total treatments carried out 77) over the previous year's figures (total treatments carried out 48). 50% of such treatments were carried out in the months of November and December and this necessitated the rodent operator being employed full time on rodent control during the month of December.

The big majority of treatments were minor in character, where the 'odd rat' had been seen, but an intensive treatment was carried out at the East Cawledge Park Refuse Tip as a result of a complaint of rat infestation at a nearby farm.

One sewer treatment was carried out when 48 manholes were baited. A part take was recorded at 3 of these manholes, and further baiting was carried out.

Dependention other than Sevena	Type of	Property
Properties other than Sewers	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	3161	24
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	214	to second
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats (11) Mice	55 12	5
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	31	3
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats (11) Mice	4 4	1

FERAL PIGEONS

3 traps were in operation throughout the year, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable locations for such traps.

317 pigeons were destroyed, and 215 eggs broken. A sum total of 2186 pigeons have been destroyed in the past four years.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963 REGISTRATION, GENERAL INSPECTIONS AND PERSONS EMPLOYED

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total Number of Registered premises at end of year	General Inspections carried out	Persons Employed
Offices	-	46	7	334
Retail Shops	10	97	23	345
Wholesale shops, warehouses	2	5	4	16
Catering establish- ments open to the public, canteens	las, and mus	13	7	74
Totals	12	161	41	769
45 24	- <u>APPTONIEUT</u>	TOTAL MALES TOTAL FEMALES	299 470	o and milling

Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections) to Registered premises - 83.

Twelve new premises were registered during the year, but the total number of registered premises at the end of the year dropped from 169 to 161, due to closure of premises and persons ceasing to become employed.

Contraventions of the Act are brought to the notice of the employers, either by interview or written notice, after which follow up visits are made.

One accident was reported, and this concerned a girl age 16 years, who strained her wrist whilst lifting boxes in a stock room.

There were no applications received and no exemptions granted in relation to (1) space (2) temperature (3) sanitary conveniences (4) running water.

There were no prosecutions instituted,

FACTORIES ACT 1961

1. Inspections

		Number	Number of			
13 0%	Premises	on Register	Inspections		Occupiers Prosecuted	
(1)	Factories in which Secs. 1.2.3.4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	tan rofu	to register	yarda on pultantia editi"ee.	i ano	
(2)	Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	17	1	nos sento inci	
(3)	Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	8	Cedaga 7.0 O gastado	provision ana_ania	
	Totals	46	25	1	-	

2. Defects Found

balue Complied Stoouted	and the second se	Number of cases in which defects were found				
Particulars	Carlos M.	Remedied	Refer	By H.M. Insp- ector	in which prose- cutions were in-	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	stituted (6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	5 -	- 5	09	an-tell -	- 92	
Overcrowding (S.2)	s -		-	195. <u>195</u>	Sound in	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-			-	-	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-			-	<u>alaron</u>	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	11th 1000	etti et idari	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	Leool	01 - nim	2004 101-102	sine ole	the s-wolf	
(b) Unsuitable or defective(c) Not separate for sexes	1 -	+h 1 _	- Dev	ration et	near Enersti	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals	1	1	-	-	-	

3. Outwork

There were no out workers notified.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Two scrap metal dealers are registered with the local authority. Both have scrap yards or stores within the district.

One application to register was refused on account of unsuitable storage facilities.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

Some progress has been made, particularly in industry, with the provision of smokeless fuels, and during the past year the Co-operative Wholesale Society Creamery installed a second oil fired boiler in lieu of the existing coal fired boiler, used in emergency.

Found OF cound Asterred in shich To B.N. By H.N. proper	Informal	with	Statu- tory	Complied with	Executed in default by Local Auth- ority
Public Health Act, 1936 Sec. 39 - drainage 45 - W.C.'s	4	(3) 3	-	- (1	-
92 - Nuisances Housing Act, 1957 Sec. 9 - Repairs	2	2		ann=11ana ng (8 <u>1</u> 2)	Nant-of C
Totals	9	8		-	-

5

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS NOTICES SERVED

Public Health Acts

Blocked drains cleared	5
Houses disinfested re. vermin	- 10
Wasps nests destroyed	14

(cockroaches-9, fleas-1) 10



