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ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health



and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1963





ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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Councillor J. H. Knight

Vice-Chairman of Council

Councillor (Mrs.) C. Kerridge

Public Health Committee

Chairman

Councillor B. P. C. Hamblin

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„ (Mrs.) C. Harckham

„ (Mrs.) C. Kerridge

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„ (Mrs.) M. J. Piggott

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Representatives on the Joint Slaughterhouse Committee

Councillors E. T. Hutley, J. H. Knight, G. Radford and

Mrs. C. Harckham

Representatives on the Alton (No. 7)

District Health Sub-Committee

Councillors Mrs. M. M. Brockes and Mrs. C. Harckham

Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

R. L. Goodey, B.A., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

and Meat and Food Inspector: D. M. Ling, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

M. G. Worthington

Rodent Operator/Clerical Assistant : S. H. I. Marvin

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
HIGH STREET, ALTON, HANTS.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1963**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the annual report on the health of the urban district during the past year. This is a statutory requirement and is compiled on general lines laid down by the Ministry.

Undoubtedly the most important matters in environmental hygiene arising in 1963 involved water supply and sewage disposal. The first concerned the desirability of supporting Hampshire County Council in its advocacy of fluoridation. The second, difficulty of sewage disposal, has not yet been completely solved.

Notifications of infectious disease throughout the year were few; in matters of general health there is little unexpected to note.

I am obliged to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest; to Mr. Ings, the Clerk of the Council, for his encouragement and help; and to Mr. Ling, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Marvin for their assistance. Also to Officers of other departments of the Council for their co-operation.

RAYMOND GOODEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Part 1

General Report of the Medical Officer of Health

General and Social.

Alton Urban District is situated in North East Hampshire. Its distance from London is sufficiently great to remove it from the ring of dormitory towns of commuters; it acts as a centre for the largely agricultural districts which surround it. Alton is dominated by the main road from London to Winchester, and there is no doubt that the most important factor in the future development of Alton is the long overdue construction of the Alton by-pass.

Some small towns on the periphery of the London area have a few houses of Georgian design still remaining. It is difficult to realise that such houses may be unsuitable for the needs of the present day. They may present no advantages, architectural or otherwise, over their Victorian successors. It is easy for such a town to be more concerned with preservation than with improvement. If this occurs a country town does not develop and the social atmosphere remains that of the years before the 1939 war. Emphasis may then be placed more upon the interests of the old than the facilities for the young and the town becomes unbalanced. Alton, with its relatively large post-war housing programme, has not made that mistake. The opening of the Swimming Bath in Alton (expected in 1964) and the provision of extensive playing fields to some extent will provide for the recreational needs of younger people; one cause of juvenile delinquency is boredom. Redevelopment of sites cluttered with unplanned back-to-back 19th century buildings will, it is hoped, result in a town with less traffic hazards and more amenities for all age groups.

Comments on Statistics listed in Part II of the Report.

It should be emphasized that with the comparatively small numbers involved some figures and rates are not statistically significant. Attention is again drawn to the slow increase in population, the Registrar General's estimate for mid-1963 is 9,210, only 130 more than in 1962 (9,080).

Causes of Death.

As in last year's report I consider this the appropriate place to emphasize those causes of death, which to some extent are preventable. Many years ago infectious diseases were an important cause of death; of these Tuberculosis is possibly the only infectious disease of consequence remaining. In 1962 the former toll of epidemic diseases was rivalled in importance in England and Wales by the 26,383 persons who died of Lung Cancer (compared with the 6,709 killed on the roads). Preventive measures are available to every individual in dealing with this particular problem. Duties undertaken by the Local Authority in this sphere will be dealt with in this report under "Health Education."

Retirement, particularly for men, is undoubtedly one cause of morbidity and possibly also of earlier death. Compulsory leisure and dependence with loss of personal status and reduction of income with reversal of role from that of an active, valued member of society to that of a more passive listener, has its effect on making life seem less interesting and less worth living. Adequate preparation for retirement may therefore be considered as a method of prolonging youthful life, in the same way as avoiding obesity and continuing light physical exercise in middle age.

Infectious Diseases.

Few infectious diseases were notified during the year.

(1) Measles.

Twenty-four cases of measles were notified, all in children.

(2) Whooping Cough.

Five cases of whooping-cough were notified. Immunisation accounted for the considerable decline in the incidence of whooping-cough. Even partial protection may result in a later infection becoming mild and unrecognizable.

(3) Pneumonia.

Six cases of primary pneumonia were notified in the early months of the year.

(4) Poliomyelitis.

No more cases have been reported since 1955.

(5) Diphtheria.

No cases have been reported for 17 years.

(6) Salmonellosis.

One case of this infection of the bowel (not considered food-borne) was notified during the year. Full investigations were undertaken but the case appeared isolated and the infection was quickly cleared up in the one person affected.

(7) Virus Epidemic Vomiting.

During the last week in November information was received concerning a certain number of cases of diarrhoea and vomiting in schoolchildren. In order to exclude Food Poisoning or Dysentery, investigations were made and specimens from food handlers, children and from school meals were taken for bacteriological examination, but all proved negative.

This outbreak was possibly due to a mild infection of virus origin.

Immunisation Schemes.

(1) Diphtheria.

Immunisation against Diphtheria alone or against Diphtheria,

Whooping-Cough and Tetanus (Triple Antigen) or other combinations is available through the local Clinic or through General Practitioners. Most children in the area are protected in infancy against all three diseases. At the age of five a "booster" injection is offered through the schools against Diphtheria or against Diphtheria and Tetanus. (Further Whooping-Cough protection at this age is not considered necessary). Again at 10 years a further "booster" is available. In infancy every effort is made by the Health Visitor to persuade the parents of the desirability of immunisation; a routine reminder is sent by this office to the parents of all children in the area born four months previously. The Health Visitor is undoubtedly the most important factor in securing a high level of immunisation. Unfortunately in 1963, owing to ill-health for six months, the number of Health Visitors was reduced and this is reflected in the immunisation figures:—

Sixty-five per cent. of the children under 12 months were immunised in 1963.

(2) Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Oral Sabin vaccine has now almost entirely replaced Salk. This vaccine is given after the child is six months old and a "booster" is given at school entry at a Clinic or by a General Practitioner. The total number of infants vaccinated in this area expressed as a percentage of the 1962 births was 54 per cent. This is not satisfactory and it is hoped that in 1964 a higher figure will be obtained.

(3) Vaccination against Smallpox.

It is now recommended that vaccination against Smallpox should take place after a child's first birthday. Previously statistics as to the percentage of children vaccinated were expressed as a percentage of the previous year's births. With the change in procedure advocated by the Ministry this method is no longer valid and there is no direct basis for comparison of one year with another.

In this Urban District the following figures apply:—

	All Ages	
	Vaccinations	Revaccinations
First Quarter	1	13
Second Quarter	33	10
Third Quarter	7	5
Fourth Quarter	40	14
Total	81	42

The number of children under two years of age vaccinated in 1963 was 66.

(4) B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

This is available from the Chest Clinic and also from the local Health Authority for all children who have reached the age of 13 who require it, following a skin test. The Secondary Schools in the town take many children living outside the Urban District; the statistics following refer to all children at these schools in 1963.

Number of children Heaf tested	...	...	...	...	494
Number of children Heaf positive	46
Number of children given B.C.G.	439

Absent	9
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The percentage of 13-year-old children Heaf positive is 9.3%

This compares with a national average of 11.5% of children positive to Tuberculin at this age.

Water Supply.

This is provided by the Mid-Wessex Water Company; apart from the fact that it has less than one part per million fluoride it is satisfactory in quality. It is also adequate in quantity. All routine bacteriological and chemical tests made in 1963 were satisfactory.

It is to be noted that Alton Urban District Council on two occasions voted to support Hampshire County Council in their efforts to add fluoride in the proportion of one part per million to the water supply to reduce dental decay.

In February it became obvious that there was an obstruction of animal origin in the main's water supply in the middle of the High Street. The residual chlorine content of the water was immediately raised to 0.6 parts per million and householders served by this particular supply system were informed. The obstruction, a cat, was removed. The residual chlorine was maintained at a high level for as long as necessary then reduced to the normal 0.25 parts per million. The chief concern was not merely the presence of the animal, but how an animal of this size could enter the water supply system. The matter was thoroughly investigated and the probably method and time of entry discovered. Repetition of such an occurrence is not considered possible.

Sewerage, Sewage Disposal and Public Cleansing.

Pollution of the Caker stream by sewage effluent became evident in the summer months, decreased rainfall resulted in reduced flow and the higher proportion of effluent resulted in the growth of "sewage fungus" showing excessive fouling of this small stream which goes on to join the River Wey. Emergency measures were undertaken and pollution was reduced, but the standard was still not acceptable to the Thames Valley Conservancy Board.

A local public inquiry was held by a representative of the Ministry and evidence was given as to the necessity of new sewage disposal works. The matter is still being considered.

I am indebted to Mr. Hugh Burn, M.I.MUN.E., Engineer and Surveyor to the Alton Urban District Council for providing the following information:—

“Schemes for a new pumping station and the enlargement of the treatment works were submitted to the Ministry for their approval and a public inquiry held. The Minister has approved the provision of the pumping station and requires more details regarding the treatment works. These are being prepared by the Council’s Consulting Engineers.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse has continued as in previous years.

The usual precautions regarding the control of flies and vermin were taken.

Contracts were again renewed with Southern Cleansing Services, Ltd., for the cleansing of street gulleys.

Street sweeping has continued as usual.”

Factories.

Information concerning factories will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector’s part of this report.

Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths in the district, although it is hoped to open one in this area in 1964 to serve Alton and the neighbourhood.

National Assistance Act 1948—Section 47.

No action was necessary under Section 47 in 1963.

The Elderly.

Over the last few years the general concensus of opinion has been towards community rather than institutional care of the aged. In Alton there are old persons’ bungalows and old persons’ flats with a Warden. The services of the Warden are available in case of need and a bell is at hand should an emergency arise. Apart from specialized housing provision, there is a home help service, a chiropody service, four clubs for the elderly and an Old People’s Welfare Committee to look after old persons’ interests.

Accidents on the Road.

One major factor in 1963 towards the prevention of accidents in Alton has been the improvement of lighting on the main road.

Figures are appended for the number of road accidents in the Alton area:—

	1962	1963
Fatal	1	1
Serious	34	26
Slight	50	66
Serious Casualties (Children)	5	0
Slight Casualties (Children)	9	16
Child Cyclists	3	1

There is a Road Safety Committee on this Council which, in co-operation with the Police, organize cycling proficiency tests and training in the schools. (Since 1959, 263 children have passed the proficiency test in Alton). It also assists in the display of safety material in offices, garages and factories. At the local clinic, Ro.S.P.A. pamphlets and posters are on display.

Accidents at Home.

In past years the report has been indebted to Mr. D. F. Aiano, the Secretary of the Alton General Hospital, who has provided figures of persons in the district treated at the hospital for accidents occurring at home. Each year the same picture has emerged: accidents occurring in the young due to inadequate supervision, in the elderly due to individual physical limitations and reduced mobility. There is little point in repeating similar statistics.

Many of these accidents are preventable; those affecting children by increased foresight on the part of parents, those affecting the elderly by attention to housing design and road and pedestrian crossing planning, and the realization by the elderly themselves of their increasing tendency to accident proneness.

Health Education.

This is of course one of the most important duties of any Public Health Department. The days of health dogmatism should now be over, assertion without a reasoned argument now has little result. However, direct appeals to the intellect is remarkably ineffective as is well seen by the anti-smoking campaign (the amount of tobacco smoked in England and Wales in 1963 was a record, despite the anti-cancer publicity). Any campaign without emotional content and without social pressure is also likely to fail. Moreover toleration for any deviation from the norm in behaviour is less apparent today. Therefore, any campaign for health education must have social approval of the leaders of the age-groups affected. Probably the most effective anti-smoking propaganda is being unobtrusively carried out through advertisements in teenage magazines with the latest male or female young pop singer acting as health educator. The male adolescent models himself on other teenagers and no longer on a father figure, and it is through these temporary heroes of an unstable teenage society that any lasting change in social habits of the young must be affected.

This Public Health Department has endeavoured to carry out a reasoned and balanced policy in its anti-smoking efforts. Possibly the most popular talks given in the area were arranged by the County authority. These were given in a local Secondary School by young men from the Central Council of Health Education.

In December these arrived in a distinctive vehicle, spoke to their young audiences on fairly equal terms and answered their queries. It is of interest that over 90% of the audience of 150 children aged 12 and 13 had smoked or were smoking.

The largest audience (of several million) for health education was obtained by Mr. Ling, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and by Mr. Marvin, who each separately gave a talk on the radio of public health problems of rodent control and on destruction of pests. In Alton itself, lectures were given by Mr. Ling on Public Health to the local Grammar School and to a social club. Discussions which followed included problems connected with food preparation, fluoridation, smoking and housing.

Other talks were given during the year to food handlers on food hygiene and to mothers on dental care. Films were provided when obtainable.

Throughout the year a frequently changing series of posters on public health matters, chosen to be as arresting as possible, enlivened the High Street and notice boards elsewhere. For adults the effects of health education are largely dependant on rational means of publicity, but locally also on the personal contact of the Public Health Inspector or of the Health Visitor with private individuals or families. In children, the schools are the obvious agency.

Health Education is, of course, a long term policy, the effectiveness of which will be proved by the higher standards in the community health expected and demanded in the future.

PROVISIONS OF GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Devolution of Health Functions.

On the 1st April, 1953, there came into operation a scheme of devolution of Health functions to existing District Health Sub-Committees. In this area, the No. 7 (Alton District) Health Sub-Committee comprises the area of the Alton Rural District Council and Urban District Council, to which sub-committee both Councils nominate members. Among the resolutions made were:—

“In order to make the fullest possible use of local knowledge and to widen interest there be devolved upon the District Health Sub-Committee as far as possible responsibility for the supervision of the Health Services in the area; in particular services operating under Section 22 (Care of Mothers and Young Children), Section 24 (Health Visiting), Section 26 (Vaccination) and Section 28 (Prevention of illness, care and aftercare, so far as that section does not relate to tuberculosis) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, as amended, provided that those functions are exercised in such a way as to conform with the existing scheme.”

Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance Service is administered by the County Council who supply monthly details of journeys to the District Health Committee. The ambulances for the area are stationed at Alton.

Applications for the use of ambulances are made to:—

The Aldershot Ambulance Station
(Telephone: Aldershot 2244)

Child Welfare.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Assembly Rooms, Alton. This centre is for the attendance of mothers and babies, and children under five. Activities at the clinic, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation, weighing and the distribution of welfare foods and certain Medicaments.

National welfare foods are distributed from the following centres in Alton Urban District:—

Civil Defence Centre, Vicarage Hill. Tuesday and Friday,
2 to 4 p.m.

(As from March, 1964, this distribution centre was replaced by Inwood Health Clinic, Alton).

Health Visiting.

The Health Visitors for Alton are Mrs. J. E. Morrow, 13 Whitedown, Alton (Tel. Alton 2097), and Miss D. McKenzie, c/o East Worldham Manor, East Worldham (Tel. E. Worldham 3191).

Home Help Service.

A scheme of domestic help is available. The helpers are experienced women carefully chosen for their suitability for the work. They will run the home carefully, their job being to take over the housewife's work.

Home Helps are available for the following type of cases:— when the housewife is sick or has to have an operation; when a new baby is expected; when several members of a household are ill at one time; and to give help to the elderly and infirm.

Application for a Home Help, accompanied by a medical certificate, should be made to the District Organiser. The charge depends on the hours worked and the income of the family after certain allowances have been made.

Division VII includes the Urban District of Alton and the Divisional Organiser now has her office at the Town Hall, Petersfield (Telephone: Petersfield 771/773), to whom application should be made for a Home Help.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations of clinical matter (sputum, swabs, etc.) and water, milk and foodstuffs are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

Chemical analyses of water, sewage, milk and other samples are carried out by arrangement with the Public Analyst, Southampton.

Thanks are expressed to the Director of Public Health Laboratory Service and the Public Analyst, Southampton, for their ready advice and assistance granted during the year.

Midwifery and Home Nursing.

These services are administered as follows :—

DISTRICT SERVED	NURSE	SERVICE GIVEN
Alton	Mrs. M. A. Staples, S.R.N., S.C.M., 1, Pond Cottages, Chawton, Alton	Midwifery and General Nursing
Alton	Miss E. J. Howton, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.M. 14, Elmwood Close, Alton	„ „

Relief duties to cover holidays, sickness or emergency calls are undertaken by neighbouring nurse midwives.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

A clinic is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at Alton General Hospital.

The Medical Officers attending the Alton Clinics at the end of the year:—

1st Thursday	Dr. W. S. Larcombe and Dr. P. Shortt (at 2.30 p.m.)
2nd Thursday	Dr. M. B. Wilson
3rd Thursday	Dr. H. E. Larcombe
4th Thursday	Mr. A. F. Goode

School Health Services.

Clinics are held as follows:—

Orthopaedic	Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton
Ear, nose and throat	Alton General Hospital
Dental	At Schools
Ophthalmic and orthoptic	Alton General Hospital
Child guidance	Health Centre, Winchester
Speech Therapy	Alton General Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

Clinics are held at Aldershot, Basingstoke and Winchester, whilst sanatoria are available at Bishopstoke, Chandler's Ford, and Liphook.

Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held at Aldershot and Winchester.

Area Welfare Officer.

The Area Welfare Officer is Mr. W. Pepper, whose office is at 14 King George Avenue, Petersfield (Telephone Petersfield 1199—mornings only). Also at 94, Normandy Street, Alton (Tel. 3853), Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9.30-12.30.

Area Mental Welfare Officer.

Mr. A. C. Wood, Manor Park House, Aldershot (Telephone Aldershot 20395)

Part II

(Statistics)

It will, of course be understood that with small numbers involved figures obtained are not necessarily of statistical significance.

Table 1—General Statistics

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	4085
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£407,214
Sum represented by a penny rate 1963-64					£1646
Population (mid-1963)	...	...	...	...	9210
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	2914

Table 2—Medical Statistics.

1(a) Live Births.			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	92	72	164
Illegitimate	...	...	10	2	12
			—	—	—
Total			102	74	176
Live birth rate per 1000 estimated population,					
England and Wales (1963)	...	...	...	...	18.2
Live birth rate per 1000 of estimated population, Alton					19.1
Comparability factor 0.97, adjusted birth rate for Alton, 1963					18.5

(b) Still Births			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	3	4	7
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
			—	—	—
Total			3	4	7
Still birth rate per 1000 live births	...	...	...	...	39.8
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	183

2(a) Deaths (from all causes).			Male	Female	Total
			44	40	84
Death rate per 1000 estimated population, Alton	...	...	...	...	9.2
Comparability factor 0.96 adjusted death rate, Alton	...	...	...	...	8.8
Death rate per 1000 population, England and Wales (Provisional 1963)	...	...	...	...	12.2

(b) Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			—	—	—
Total			—	—	—
Infant mortality per 1000 live births	Nil
Infant mortality per 1000 live births, England & Wales, 1963					20.9
Legitimate infant mortality per 1000 legitimate live births					Nil
Illegitimate infant mortality per 1000 illegitimate live births					Nil

(c) Neo-natal Mortality.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	—	—	Nil
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	Nil
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per total live births)	Nil
Peri-natal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live & stillbirths)			38.2
Maternal deaths including abortions	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live & stillbirths		...	Nil

Table 3—Causes of Death.

	Diseases	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	2	3	5
11	„ „ lung and bronchus ..	—	1	1
12	„ „ breast	—	1	1
13	„ „ uterus	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	2	5
15	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	1	1	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	—	1	1
18	Coronary disease, angina	7	2	9
19	Hypertension with heart disease	3	6	9
20	Other heart diseases	11	7	18
21	Other circulatory diseases	9	7	16
22	Influenza	—	1	1
23	Pneumonia	4	4	8
24	Bronchitis	—	2	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined causes ..	—	—	—
33	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34	All other accidents	1	—	1
35	Suicide	—	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	All causes	44	40	84

Table 4—Deaths according to ages.

Age group	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 ..	—	—	—
1—9 ..	—	—	—
10—19 ..	—	—	—
20—29 ..	—	—	—
30—39 ..	—	1	1
40—49 ..	2	—	2
50—59 ..	6	3	9
60—69 ..	11	7	18
70—79 ..	14	13	27
80—89 ..	11	10	21
90—99 ..	—	6	6
	44	40	84

Table 5—Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the last 5 years

Disease	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Scarlet Fever	3	7	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	13	3	1	0	5
Measles	104	4	123	1	24
Acute Pneumonia	4	2	5	1	6
Food Poisoning	1	0	0	2	0
Erysipelas	0	0	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	125	17	131	4	35

Table 6—Tuberculosis (details of new cases for the past 5 years)

Pulmonary	{ Male	2	1	1	0	0
	{ Female	1	0	0	2	0
Non-Pulmonary	{ Male	0	0	0	0	0
	{ Female	0	1	0	1	0
		3	2	1	3	0

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1963 on the sanitary circumstances of the district.

Progress has been made in slum clearance by closing sub-standard dwellings and rehousing the occupants in Council owned houses.

The absence of a Rodent Operator from January until May resulted in a widespread increase of rats throughout the whole area, including the sewers, refuse pipes and outfall works, and it was some months before these infestations were successfully tackled by the newly appointed part-time Operator, Mr. S. H. Marvin, who quickly absorbed the rudiments of rodent control and by whose efforts alone the sewers and manholes were completely cleared of rodents.

The year 1963 will be remembered as the Meat Inspection Year, in which the Meat Inspection Regulations were published, which requires all animals killed in slaughterhouses to be inspected, according to prescribed system, before the carcass can be allowed to be sold to the public. One hundred per cent. Meat Inspection is the ideal method, but could not be enforced by one meat inspector, and I am pleased to report that by the end of the year an additional Public Health Inspector, duly qualified for meat and other foods inspection, was appointed.

I wish to record my thanks to Dr. R. L. Goodey, Medical Officer of Health; to Mr. S. H. Marvin, Rodent Operator and Clerk in the Public Health and Housing Department, for his ready and willing assistance at all times; and to colleagues on the staff and the Chairman and Members of the Council for their assistance and co-operation during the year.

DUDLEY M. LING,

Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Kent Lane Slaughterhouse continued to serve the town of Alton and the immediate neighbourhood, and the wholesaling of meat from the premises extended during the year throughout the South of England and the Channel Islands.

Animals are brought in from as many as six counties and are dealt with in a humane and hygienic manner.

The large number of livers found to be infested by parasites is disappointing, and again this year my plea is to the manufacturing chemists for suitable drugs and to the farmers to use what preventative measures as are available.

The total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 10 tons 7cwts. 3qtrs. 3lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	813	769	1719	5237	7937
Number Inspected ..	788	743	1689	5163	7806
All diseases except T.B. and cysticerchi. Whole car- cases condemned	1	14	13	22	52
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	55	203	4	207	397
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerchi	7.1	29.2	1.01	4.4	5.7
<u>Tuberculosis only :</u> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	9
Percentage of the number inspected infected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	0.11
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Return of Diseases for which whole Carcasses were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Abscess	—	—	—	—	7	7
Emaciation	—	3	—	13	3	19
Fever	—	1	2	5	5	13
Moribund	—	2	1	—	1	4
Oedema	1	6	6	1	10	24
Septicaemia	—	2	3	3	23	31
Uraemia	—	—	1	—	3	4
	1	14	13	22	52	102

Return of Diseases for which organs and part Carcasses were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Head :						
Abscess	3	—	—	—	3	3
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	9	9
Heart :						
Ascaris Lumbricoides	—	—	—	—	285	285
Pericarditis	1	3	3	—	46	53
Lungs :						
Ascarides	—	—	—	—	285	285
Echinococcus cysts	—	—	—	4	—	4
Pneumonia	10	3	—	—	56	69
Strongylus rufescens	—	—	—	118	—	118
Livers :						
Abscess	8	27	—	—	—	35
Ascarides	—	—	—	—	297	297
Cavernous Angioma	—	129	—	—	—	129
Cirrhosis	2	1	—	27	30	60
Distomatosis	21	41	—	51	—	113
Echinococcus cysts	—	—	—	4	—	4
Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	31	31
Strongylus rufescens	—	—	—	121	—	121
Tenuicolis cysts	—	—	—	4	—	4
Kidneys :						
Nephritis	2	—	—	—	16	18
Spleen :						
Peritonitis	—	3	—	—	5	8
Part Carcasses :						
Abscess	6	4	—	—	10	21
Bruising	1	1	1	—	—	2
Fracture	3	3	2	—	—	6

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954.

6 (six) Licences have been issued to slaughtermen in this district. All trainees are tested in their skill in the use of a mechanically operated instrument before a licence is issued to them. In addition to Captive Bolts, a pair of electric stunners is in use at the slaughterhouse. Stand-by instruments are maintained for use in case of breakdown.

Food Condemned other than at the Slaughterhouse

Meat		Offal	Fish	Tinned Food		Poultry
lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	ozs.	
865	8	16	164	462	8	72

No seizure of diseased meat or other food has been necessary during the year, but it was necessary to warn a local trader for

selling a wrapped pie in a mouldy condition. The routine of rotating the stock had broken down, resulting in fresh stock being sold and the remaining old stock getting older.

I am obliged to Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector, of the Hampshire County Council, for the following report, as this concerns Food Adulteration and is administered in Alton by the County Council.

Report of the Chief Sampling Officer relating to the samples of food and drugs taken in the Alton Urban District during the year 1963/64

1. During the year ended the 31st March, 1964, 50 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the area of the Alton Urban District Council.

2. **Milk Samples.** Twenty-seven samples of milk, 16 of which were Channel Islands, were obtained, and all proved to be satisfactory and of good average quality.

3. **Miscellaneous Samples.** Twenty-three samples of articles other than milk were procured and these did not call for special comment except in three cases:—

Two samples of double cream, taken from the same producer at a local market, proved to be 19% deficient of the required minimum fat content of 48% for cream of this description. Inquiries indicated that the vendor, who was producing only a small amount of cream for sale purposes, had obtained the cartons marked "Double Cream" without realising that the description implied a special standard. The products would have been satisfactory as "Cream," and in view of what was accepted to be an inadvertent error on the part of the vendor, a warning was given.

A sample of imported "Full Strength" Chocolate Liqueurs was found to contain less than the 40% of proof spirit denoted by the description. The matter was taken up with the importers who agreed to ensure that the label of the article was suitably amended.

4. **General.** Under the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, attention was given to the description and labelling of food and drugs. In a few instances, labels were found to show insufficient particulars. These matters were of technical significance only and did not involve prejudice to purchasers. They were, however, taken up with the packers and suitable amendments secured.

J. S. PRESTON,

County Weights and Measures Office,
Trafalgar House, Trafalgar Street,
Winchester.

Chief Sampling Officer.

Milk Supplies.

Distribution of milk within the area is carried out by seven retailers, all licenced by the Council by virtue of powers vested by the Hampshire County Council.

Ice Cream.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the town, but there are now six vans plying in the area in addition to 46 registered retailers. No action in respect of contravention of the Heat Treatment Regulations has been necessary. The electronic chimes and other audible means of advertising assists the Public Health Inspector in locating the vans, and so the inspections are simplified.

Food Premises.

Those premises and vehicles retailing food were inspected from time to time, to ensure compliance with the Regulations. No statutory action was necessary to enforce same, but many verbal, or otherwise informal, notices were issued and complied with. The food premises in the area can be summarised as follows :-

Bake-houses	2	Confectioners	11	Hotels	7
Bakers Shops	3	Dairies	1	Public Houses	13
Breweries	3	Factory Canteens	9	School Kitchens	3
Butchers	10	Fish Shops	5	Wines & Off	
Cafes	10	Food Warehouses	2	Licences	4
Chemists	3	General Stores	30	Slaughterhouses	1
Clubs	6	Greengrocers	8		

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Rodent Control and Pest Destruction.

As reported in my opening remarks, for the first four and a half months of this year the Council were without the services of a Rodent Operator and rats became a serious nuisance. Schools, shops, factories, food premises, dwelling houses, sewers, refuse tips and outfall works became infested, and by the time a Rodent Operator was appointed the part-time job had become full-time employment.

The sewerage system received the fullest possible control for rodents, and in addition to the usual 10% treatment of manholes, the practice followed involved the baiting of all junction manholes throughout the town. Where these were found to be infested (and in the first instance it was discovered that over 97% showed evidence of rats), manholes on either side of the infested manhole were treated. This system continued until a total of 207 manholes were under treatment.

It is usual in accordance with recommendations by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Infestation Division, for treatment of manholes to continue for two days only following the initial baiting, but owing to the degree of infestation in the town's

sewers it was decided to continue treatment until no further poison was taken from the manhole, indicating that all the rats in that vicinity had been destroyed. This was done, and in order to complete some of the treatments as many as eight visits were made to some of the manholes.

In all, 207 manholes were baited and poisoned, and it is estimated that this work alone involved the lifting of 94 tons of manhole covers.

The survey, treatments, recordings and results were a credit to Mr. Marvin, and it is fitting that he should have been chosen to appear on a popular radio programme which visited the town during the year under revue.

Business premises, private property and all other infested areas received treatment until the rats were under control and exterminated.

The Council continued its membership of the North Hants Rodent Control Committee, and Councillor Carr accompanied me at the quarterly meetings.

A refresher course for Rodent Operators was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which proved interesting and instructive and assisted in co-ordinating the efforts of the various Rodent Operators in this part of Hampshire.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Two establishments in the district are licensed as Pet Shops. They are:—

Messrs. M. A. Rose & Son Ltd., 23, Market Street, Alton.

Mr. F. Beresford, 9, Normandy Street, Alton.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses registered in the area, the nearest being at Basingstoke.

Water Supply.

The town is supplied throughout by a piped supply by the Mid-Wessex Water Co., and reports of the purity of the water are supplied at regular intervals.

As reported by the Medical Officer, following a complaint by a local publican that "hairs" were seen in water drawn from the water tap, immediate investigation was carried out and until the cause could be ascertained the Water Company was requested to "step-up" the chlorine content in order to combat any pollution and safeguard the community.

It was soon discovered, by emptying certain sections of the main, where the offending obstruction was sited and by thorough flushing and back-flushing, that portion of the main was cleared, but not before minute portion of animal matter had found its way into water meters, stop cocks, ball valves and other water fittings.

A thorough and extensive check of all these fittings followed and all water meters within the trouble area were changed in order to remove as much as possible of the offending animal matter.

For many weeks this intensive search continued and the chlorine content of the water maintained. Apart from a few cups of black tea, it can now be said that no-one suffered in health from this unusual intruder into the main.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.

The licenced sites were maintained satisfactorily during the year and no nuisances were reported.

Fishers Meadow was vacated by the two caravans which were the subject of last year's report, but it was necessary to use persuasive powers to move three caravans from the adjoining site and arrange with the owner to prevent further unauthorised camping.

Slum Clearance.

The clearing of substandard dwellings continued during the year resulting in six demolitions and 13 closures.

Number of Inspections made.

Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Complaints investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Complaints justified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Housing Defects—Public Health and Housing Acts								
Inspections and revisits								320
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Tents, vans and sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Factories (mechanical power)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Factories (non-mechanical power)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Other Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Cafés, Restaurants, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Piggeries (and other animals not domestic)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Miscellaneous visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Smoke Abatement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Food Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I.

Under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, the District Council is the authority responsible for enforcing the provisions regarding sanitary accommodation in all factories and, in addition, the provision with respect to cleanliness, overcrowding, workroom temperature and ventilators and floor drainage in all factories where mechanical power is not used.

The following particulars are those prescribed on the administration of the above Acts:—

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notice (4)	Prosecu- tions (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	16	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworks premises)	14	10	—	—

Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remed- ied (3)	Referred To HM Insp. (4)	By HM. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act not including (offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
	3	3	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act. (Outwork). (Sections 110 & 111).

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers in August list, required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	3	Nil	N	Nil

Health Education.

Talks were given during the year to various bodies and organisations and particularly food handlers at canteens and kitchens.

I am informed that following a talk to schoolchildren the impression was so great that it infiltrated to the homes, and it is rewarding to learn that notice was taken by persons of the retentive age who will tomorrow be the country's food handlers.

Statutory Notices

Number of Statutory Notices issued for abatement or abolition of nuisances.

	Served	Complied with
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	—	—
Housing Act, 1957, Section 9	3	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938/55	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	3

Legal Proceedings.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.



