

[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health, Aylesbury R.D.C.

Contributors

Aylesbury (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1958

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ghxf69k5>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



AC 4424(3)

1771R. O' r' Haro Div. 56.

2. Library.

AYLESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECEIVED
15 SEP 59

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
43, BUCKINGHAM STREET,
AYLESBURY,
BUCKS.



31st August, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AYLESBURY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and vital statistics of the district for the year 1958.

Details of the sanitary circumstances of the District and the routine work of the Department will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

During the year, surveys were made by No. 1 Unit, the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, Mass Radiography Service, at St. John's Hospital, H.M. Prison Grendon Hall, and H.M. Borstal Institution, Aylesbury. The results have been incorporated in the report.

The total number of infectious diseases notified was 63 less than the previous year. No infection of the central nervous system was notified during the year, nor was there a case of diphtheria, typhoid, paratyphoid, or food poisoning notified in the district. Ten cases of tuberculosis were notified, two of which were of the non-pulmonary type. Six cases of dysentery were notified, four were from one family. They were all of a mild type and made an uneventful recovery.

I am pleased to record that compulsory removal to hospital of any patient under the National Assistance Amendment Act, 1951 was not required.

The general standard of health of the inhabitants is good and compares well with the rest of the country.

I thank the Members of the Council for their guidance, co-operation and support in the promotion and maintenance of healthy conditions throughout the area, also the staff generally for their loyal assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN T.C. SIMS-ROBERTS, M.B., CH.B.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

B

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a)	Area of the District.....	89,313 acres.
(b)	Total Population (Estimated mid-1958).....	30,210
(c)	Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958, according to Rate Book).....	9,135
(d)	Rateable Value.....	£353,320
(e)	Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£1,420

U N E M P L O Y E D

At 31st December, 1957:

At 31st December, 1958:

58 women	61 women
91 men	100 men
<u>149</u>	<u>161</u>

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S

	<u>1957</u>			<u>1958</u>		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
Live Births - Legitimate	481	248	233	536	272	264
Illegitimate	19	11	8	16	9	7
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	<u>1957</u> 15.4			<u>1958</u> 18.3		
Birth rate (corrected)	17.4			20.6		
	<u>1957</u>			<u>1958</u>		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
Still-births legitimate	14	4	10	9	5	4
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	2.7			1.6		
Total live and still-births	514	263	251	561	286	275
Rate =	15.8			18.5		
Infant deaths	12	10	2	5	4	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (total)	24.0			9.0		
- do - legitimate	24.9			9.3		
- do - illegitimate	-			-		
- do - Neo Natal (first four weeks)	M	F		M	F	
	3.0	.4		1.4	.35	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.2	3.3		3.2	2.58	
Maternal deaths including abortion	Nil			Nil		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-			-		
Birth rate for England and Wales	16.1			16.4		

DEATHS

<u>1957</u>			<u>1958</u>				
Total	M	F	Total	M	F		
327	165	162	329	161	168		
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population						<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
Standardised Death Rate.....						10.1	10.9
Death Rate for England and Wales.....						9.0	9.5
						11.5	11.7

Deaths from Cancer 66

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>						
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>				
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	-	1	
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	-	1	1	
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1	6	7	
" " lung, bronchus	...	...	...	14	3	17	
" " breast	...	...	...	-	6	6	
" " uterus	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	19	17	36	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	1	2	
Diabetes	...	...	...	-	3	3	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	14	36	50	
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	34	25	59	
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	4	6	10	
Other heart disease	...	...	...	14	16	30	
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	4	8	12	
Influenza	...	...	...	1	2	3	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	11	17	
Bronchitis	...	...	...	11	5	16	
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	3	1	4	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	1	4	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	1	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	3	-	3	
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	2	-	2	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	-	1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	14	16	30	
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	4	-	4	
All other accidents	...	...	...	2	2	4	
Suicide	...	...	...	5	1	6	
Homicide	...	...	...	-	-	-	

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases:

<u>Disease</u>								
	<u>1957</u>				<u>1958</u>			
	<u>No. of Cases</u>				<u>No. of Cases</u>			
	<u>Notified</u>				<u>Notified</u>			
Smallpox	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	...	...	...	199	-	152	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	20	-	10	-	-
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2	-	24	-	-
Pneumonia	...	...	...	5	34	7	17	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	4	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Anterior poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	...	...	...	8	-	6	-	-
Para-Typhoid	...	...	...	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	20	-	-	-	-
	<u>263</u>				<u>34</u>			
					<u>200</u>			
					<u>17</u>			

T U B E R C U L O S I S

<u>Age</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
<u>Periods</u>	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>5</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>0</u>	
	<u>3</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

Hospital accommodation for the District is provided by the Royal Bucks and Tindal General Hospitals. Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital.

These three hospitals are administered by the Royal Bucks and Associated Hospitals Management Committee.

Cases are admitted to the Stoke Mandeville Hospital or the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, if bed space is unavailable at the above. Similarly, infectious disease cases are admitted to infectious disease hospitals within the Oxford region when there is no accommodation locally.

Pathological Specimens

The majority of specimens for examination are submitted to the Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The services of the Public Health Laboratories at Luton and Oxford are utilised whenever necessary.

Ambulance Services

The ambulance services in the area are the responsibility of the Bucks County Council. Eight ambulances are stationed in the Borough of Aylesbury for the use of the town and surrounding district, and 4 sitting cars.

Maternity and Child Welfare

This service is controlled by the Bucks County Council, Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Aylesbury, Brill, Long Crendon, Waddesdon, Quainton, Haddenham, Wendover, Whitchurch, Worminghall, Aston Clinton, Dinton, Halton, Stone, and Mobile Welfare Centres at Cuddington, Grendon Underwood and Westcott.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough immunisation and Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The Bucks County Council, being the Local Health Authority as defined by the National Health Service Act, 1946, administer these services.

Treatment of Venereal Disease

A venereal disease clinic is held regularly at the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, where free treatment is given. This clinic is administered by the Royal Bucks and Associated Hospitals Management Committee.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE
No. 1 Unit, Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL - FOURTH SURVEY.

18th - 20th August 1958

Held at St. John's Hospital, Stone,
Nr. Aylesbury, Bucks.

SURVEY OF PATIENTS

<u>Summary of Work</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Tot</u>
No. of miniature films taken	280	344	62
No. recalled for large films	12	10	2
No. recalled for clinical examination ...	6	4	1
No. referred to Chest Physician	3	2	
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	227	278	50
No. not previously examined by M.M.R. ...	53	66	11

Results of Cases referred to Chest Physician

Active pulmonary tuberculosis requiring treatment	1	1	
(These were newly discovered; did not have positive sputum; had previous satisfactory M.M.R. examinations)			
Presumably inactive pulmonary tuberculosis but requiring occasional supervision	1	-	
Right sided aorta	1	-	
Myxoedema Heart	-	1	
	3	2	

Results of cases clinically examined by the Medical Director but not referred to Chest Physician:

Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis	3	1	
Pulmonary fibrosis and pleural thickening ...	-	1	
	3	2	

SURVEY OF STAFF AND DEPENDANTS

No. of miniature films taken	89	36	12
No. recalled for large films	2	-	
No. recalled for clinical examination ...	-	-	-
No. referred to chest clinic	-	-	-
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	71	20	9
No. not previously examined by M.M.R. ...	18	16	3

Summary of newly discovered, significant cases of tuberculosis found in the St. John's Hospital 4th Survey

<u>Group</u>	<u>No. Examined</u>	<u>Active P.T.</u>	<u>Inactive P.T.</u>
Patients	624	2	1
Staff and Dependants	125	-	-
Total	749	2	1

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE
H.M. PRISION, GRENDON HALL
THIRD SURVEY

22nd August 1958

Held at H.M. Prison, Grendon Hall,
Grendon Underwood, Bucks.

Response:- Prisoners 63%
 Staff 92%

Summary of Work

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of Miniature films taken	...	...	...	...	108	2	110
No. recalled for large films	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
No. recalled for clinical examination	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
No. referred to chest clinic	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	36	1	37
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	72	1	73

Summary of newly discovered, significant cases of
tuberculosis found

<u>Group</u>	<u>No. Examined</u>	<u>Active P.T.</u>	<u>Inactive P.T.</u>
Prisoners	91	-	-
Staff and Dependants	19	-	-
Total	110	-	-

H.M. BORSTAL INSTITUTION, AYLESBURY
FIFTH SURVEY

22nd August, 1958

Response: 99%

Males Females Total

Summary of Work

No. of miniature films taken	...	...	...	...	18	120	138
No. recalled for large films	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
No. recalled for clinical examination	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
No. referred to chest clinic	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	15	66	81
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	3	54	57

Summary of newly discovered, significant cases of
tuberculosis found

<u>Group</u>	<u>No. Examined</u>	<u>Active P.T.</u>	<u>Inactive P.T.</u>
Inmates	98	-	-
Staff and Dependants	40	-	-
Total	138	-	-

MALE RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

REPORT ON THE RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

REPORT ON THE RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

22nd August 1955
 H.M. Prison, Brixton, London, S.W.2

Report on the Radiograph Service
 22nd August 1955

Summary of Work
 No. of miniature films taken
 No. referred for large film
 No. referred for clinical examination
 No. referred to chest clinic
 No. previously examined by M.M.R.
 No. not previously examined by M.M.R.

Summary of newly discovered, significant cases of tuberculosis found

Group	No. Examined	Active F.T.	Inactive F.T.
Prisoners	91	-	-
Staff and Dependents	19	-	-
Total	110	-	-

H.M. PRISON, BRIXTON, LONDON, S.W.2

REPORT ON THE RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

22nd August 1955

Report on the Radiograph Service

22nd August 1955

Summary of Work
 No. of miniature films taken
 No. referred for large film
 No. referred for clinical examination
 No. referred to chest clinic
 No. previously examined by M.M.R.
 No. not previously examined by M.M.R.

Summary of newly discovered, significant cases of tuberculosis found

Group	No. Examined	Active F.T.	Inactive F.T.
Prisoners	91	-	-
Staff and Dependents	19	-	-
Total	110	-	-

R. A. CANT, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.INST.
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR,
BUILDING SURVEYOR,
DEPUTY-
W. A. MATHER, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.INST.
TELEPHONE : AYLESBURY 4211 (THREE LINES).

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
43, BUCKINGHAM STREET,
AYLESBURY,
BUCKS.
August, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF AYLESBURY

I have the honour to report on the work of the Inspector's branch of the Department for the year 1958.

H O U S I N G

Slum Clearance:

Further progress was made on the Council's Slum Clearance programme, although it was to some extent checked after Mr. Lee had to be taken from Housing to assist with routine work when Mr. Mulley underwent an operation.

At the end of the year the position was as follows:-

No. of properties inspected	...	...	...	355
No. of properties deleted from list upon inspection	...	...	...	12
No. of properties deleted from list:-				
(a) Demolished informally	...	...	...	3
(b) Made fit informally	...	...	...	13
(c) Bought by R.D.C. for reconditioning	...			2
Properties represented to Committee	...			231

Action to Date

No. of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	129
No. of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	71
No. of properties in respect of which Undertakings accepted not to re-let	...			6
No. of properties of which Undertakings accepted to carry out works	...	...	...	23
No. of properties demolished	...	...	...	33
No. of properties made fit as a result of an Undertaking	...	...	...	19
No. of properties subject to Demolition Orders or Closing Orders for which proposals to recondition have been submitted and accepted				19
No. of properties subject to Demolition Orders or Closing Orders made fit as a result of work carried out	...	...	...	12

This represents an increase of 35 in Demolition Orders and 32 in Closing Orders.

There is a wide difference between the number of Demolition Orders made and the number of houses demolished or reconditioned. The re-housing of tenants of these properties and enforcement of the Orders should receive more urgent consideration and attention. Some of the difficulties resulting from delay in these matters were emphasised in the troublesome case of the property at Shabbington.

Housing Repairs:

As a result of informal action, 51 houses were repaired, also a further 14 after formal action.

Certificates of Disrepair issued totalled 10 for the year. Applications for these have been much less than was expected at one time.

Improvement Grants:

Applications were received in respect of 35 properties.

No Grants were given except on properties subject to Housing Act procedure from November, 1957 to July, 1958, which, to some extent, accounts for reduced figures.

The applications are examined, discussed with owners or architect amended when necessary and the estimated costs checked carefully. After this has been done the properties are inspected by the visiting Sub-Committee whose recommendations are then submitted to the full Health Committee.

It has been the policy of the Council to grant 50% of the cost of the approved expense.

At the end of the year the summary of applications received since the inception of the scheme was as follows:-

Number of Grants on Council property	...	...	3
No. of private properties covered by applications received	...	...	297
No. approved	...	...	253
No. refused	...	...	31
No. withdrawn before approval	...	...	13
			<u>297</u>

Total amount of Grants = £57,659. 13s. 4d.

FOOD INSPECTION

Meat Inspection:

5 Slaughterhouses were licenced during 1958 and a summary of visits and inspections is set out below.

Whatever difficulties the staff encounter, full inspection is not allowed to suffer. Visits are made during evenings and on Sundays whenever necessary.

The butchers' attitude to this service nowadays makes the Inspectors' task much easier. Regular inspection is both expected and welcomed by the trade.

Generally a good standard of cleanliness is maintained, although on the structural side there will undoubtedly be difficulties when the 1959 survey and report is made.

Meat Inspection figures for the district are given below:-
Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>Excluding</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	201	22	4	879	629
Number inspected	201	22	4	879	629
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and</u> <u>Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	5	2
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	24	9	-	45	45
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.94	40.91	25.00	5.69	7.47

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	8	2	-	-	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.98	9.09	-	-	4.93

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Cysticercosis	0.50	-	-	-	-

Number of visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	471
Total number of carcasses inspected	...	...	1,735
Total weight of meat condemned	...	...	1,585 lbs.
Number of licensed slaughtermen	...	...	13

Licences

The following licences for sale of Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilized milk were issued during the year:-

Dealer's Licences	...	...	...	Pasteurised	16
				Tuberculin Tested	21
				Sterilised	4
Supplementary Licences	...	...		Pasteurised	7
				Tuberculin Tested	7
				Sterilised	3

Food Premises

Proceedings against a caterer resulted in a fine of £2 on each of four summonses, plus 5 guineas costs. In addition, disqualification from catering for a period of two years was also imposed.

Fortunately such action was an isolated case. Usually tradesmen are very ready to comply with suggestions and requests made by the Inspectors. Circumstances have prevented regular and systematic inspections being made, but it is hoped that this important part of the Department's work may soon be stepped up.

Schedule of Food Premises

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	85
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sugar Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	12
Butchers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	20
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fruit and Vegetable Shops	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cafés and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	21
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	33
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	98
Total						287

NEW BUILDINGS

The number of plans submitted increased yet again to 545.

These are summarised below:-

Building Byelaws - Town & Country Planning Act

Dwelling Houses

New	...	...	...	...	66	for 80 houses.
Layout plans	...	...	...	...	3	for 55 houses.
Outline applications	...	...	...	...	108	
Conversions	...	...	...	...	16	
Alterations and Additions	...	...	...	...	87	
Number of Private Enterprise Dwellinghouses completed	...	...	...	...	127	

Industrial

New Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	Nil	
Alterations & Additions to Factories & Workshops	...	...	...	...	3	
Outline applications	...	...	...	...	5	
Mineral Development	...	...	...	...	3	

Miscellaneous

Agricultural Buildings	...	...	...	...	25	
Private Garages	...	...	...	...	119	
Caravans	...	...	...	...	27	
Others	...	...	...	...	69	

During the year, three notices under Section 65 of the Public Health Act, 1936 were served in respect of buildings which had been erected in contravention of the Building Byelaws.

In one case the building was removed by the owner and in the other cases the buildings were altered to comply with Byelaw requirements.

A Notice under Section 137 of the Public Health Act, 1936 was served to prohibit the occupation of a new bungalow which had not been provided with a satisfactory water supply.

The erection of a considerable number of large poultry broiler houses in one village gave rise to numerous complaints and considerable local feeling. These buildings were erected without the necessity for planning permission under the terms of exemption conferred by the Town & Country Planning (General Development) Order, 1950. At the year end the County Council were considering action to prevent repetitions of the large scale development of these buildings in unsuitable locations.

Moveable Dwellings

During the year, 27 caravans were licensed and given temporary planning permission. This figure includes 18 renewal licences. No site licences were issued.

WATER SUPPLY

Although all Parishes within the District, except Lower Winchendon, are supplied by the Bucks Water Board, applications for assistance with local extensions are made from time to time.

One extension at Bishopstone, costing £1,050, was made possible by a Grant from the Council of £300 after lengthy negotiations with the various owners involved. Consideration was also given to a possible extension to Scotsgrove but this was refused owing to the heavy cost, and the fact that the main consumer had obtained an improved supply from Thame U.D.C.

Two former public wells now disused were closed during the year, one at Oving and the other at Long Crendon.

In one case a water service was laid on to a private house by the Council after the owner had failed to comply with the Statutory Notice.

Samples taken from the old Muswell Hill supply serving Wotton Underwood School, together with a few farms and cottages, were reported to be bacteriologically unsound. The various consumers were warned and advised regarding precautions to be observed. Unfortunately, most properties involved were not within reasonable reach of the Bucks Water Board's mains, but it was possible to arrange for connection of the School.

At the end of the year adverse reports were received on some samples taken from the Lower Winchendon supply. Although samples taken from the sources were satisfactory, those from the storage reservoirs were not. Steps were in hand for the reservoirs to be sterilised before further checks were made.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection and removal of refuse is carried out with four Dennis "Paxit" vehicles and one Side-loader, whilst on cesspool emptying, etc. five 1,000-gallon Dennis Cesspool Emptying Machines are employed. A team of 32 men operate these vehicles, and disposal of refuse on the Council's central tip is effected by one man driving a Chaseside Mechanical Shovel.

Approximately 70% of the district now receives a weekly collection of refuse, 20% a 10-12 day collection and 10%, covering outlying areas are visited fortnightly. Unfortunately, since there is no reserve of vehicles, the service can only be maintained at this level providing there are no serious break-downs or labour shortages. Short working weeks at Bank Holiday times are generally coped with owing to the ready co-operation of the collectors who take pride in keeping their work up-to-date if it is at all possible. The fact that complaints are so very few and far between indicates that the public generally appreciates the work of these men, indeed, some householders have written most generously about the work and bearing of the collectors.

The cost of collection and disposal, taken from the information supplied for the statistics on Refuse Collection and Disposal compiled for the Public Cleansing Costing Returns published each year by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government is as follows:-

Collection: Net cost per 1,000 premises	...	£1,705.
Disposal: " " " " "	...	220
Total	...	<u>£1,925</u>

Included in the total from which these figures are taken is a sum of £1,018 capital expenditure.

Dustbin Hire Scheme

The Council's dustbin hire scheme continues to expand steadily. The number of bins out on hire at 5/- per annum at the end of the year was 2173. Householders using this service have found it most advantageous and it is hoped that even fuller use will be made of the facility in the future.

Litter Bins

In August the Council was recommended to accept the principle of providing litter baskets throughout the district.

Prices were obtained, also details of bins carrying advertisement which would be supplied without cost to the Council.

Unfortunately, strong opposition was encountered from the County Planning Committee regarding bins carrying advertisements and after considering a report on the subject the Council decided to include a sum for the purchase of plain bins in the Estimates for 1959/60.

Salvage

During the year the very limited facilities for storing and baling waste paper at the former depot buildings continued to be used. A total of 47 tons. 18 cwts. 1 qr. baled mixed waste was sold, yielding an income of £311. 12s. 10d.

Proposals for the new salvage store at the Council's Depot were considered and after lengthy consideration it was decided in October to proceed with the brick building originally suggested at a cost of approximately £1,300.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, SEWERAGE and DRAINAGE.

The year saw the commencement of further schemes at Westcott, Shabbington and Dinton, a welcome change after the delays and frustrations of recent years. Unfortunately the very severe weather conditions, notably exceptionally heavy and continuous rainfall, retarded the work, but it was very pleasing to see progress being made again in this field.

With the completion of these schemes, 19 Parishes out of 45 will have main drainage, representing 83% of the total population.

In May, an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government visited Wendover and Long Crendon to investigate the Council's proposals for modernising the works at Wendover and providing new works and extension of the sewerage system at Long Crendon. Subsequently approval in principle of both proposals was received and the Engineers requested to prepare final details.

In June, after further representations to the Ministry regarding the sanitary circumstances of the village, approval of the new scheme for Oakley was received with authority to invite tenders. The Engineers were asked to prepare necessary details to enable this to be done.

Further delay of the scheme for Grendon Underwood was occasioned by a Planning objection relating to the proposed Housing site for the Prison.

Difficulties over acquisition of the site and approach road for the Weedon and Hardwick scheme were still unresolved. A new Compulsory Purchase Order was made in October but the complications continued and no progress was made. Apart from the general need for main drainage, the expense and difficulty in maintaining even moderately sanitary conditions at the Hardwick Housing Sites makes the delay in this case very difficult to bear with patience. It is sincerely hoped that 1959 will see this sorry business brought to finality.

The extension of the sewer in Oving Road, Whitchurch was completed in March. During the year an extensive ditching scheme was carried out at Haddenham, and at Waddesdon a start was made on cleansing and scraping part of the old sewerage system.

A second Benford Dumper was purchased during the year to aid the emptying of mud beds. These vehicles have given considerable satisfaction and are most economical in operation.

Chain-link boundary fencing at Whitchurch Sewage Disposal Site was renewed at a cost of £223. 8s. 6d.

Pump trouble at Worminghall and Ickford became so acute that instructions were given for new plant to be installed. The makers of the plant offered to put the existing diverters into proper running order, free of charge. It was decided to accept the offer and defer action pending trial of the reconditioned plant.

Improvements to the existing drainage systems were designed and carried out on Housing Sites at Cuddington and Oakley.

Once again a considerable amount of your Inspectors' time has been spent on advising builders and private house-holders on new drainage proposals where sewerage is not available. Wherever possible, septic tank and irrigation systems are installed rather than cesspools so as to avoid the attendant frequent emptying of tanks. In all cases, systems are so designed, as far as practicable, to facilitate ease of connection to future sewers, and the relaxation of the distance requirement under the Building Byelaws, whereby greater freedom of siting of cesspools is possible, has helped considerably in this respect.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The work of inspections and treatments for rat infestation is carried out by two operators. Until this year the work has been almost wholly confined to other than agricultural properties owing to the activities of the Bucks Agricultural Executive Committee in this field. That Committee operated a contract system over a large number of farms but these contracts are no longer being renewed.

After some deliberation, the Council decided to offer to renew existing contracts and to enter into new agreements with farmers who no longer held a contract. At the end of the year this work was gradually being taken up, though the response to the Council's circulated offer was rather disappointing.

In addition to dealing with rats, your operators have treated infestation of flies, fleas, bugs, wasps, ants and various types of beetles. It is the practice of the Department to try and deal with every type of pest which is affecting the occupation of habitable property, and it is very evident that this service is much appreciated by the public.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

No action was necessary under this Act during the year.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

92 Licences were issued in respect of petrol stores. All new installations and alterations to existing installations were inspected and tested before licences were issued. Preparatory work has been carried out on a standard code covering both structural and safety conditions. It is hoped the code will operate over the whole county when it is finally completed.

The Council was concerned to hear that there had been delays in renewing storage licences. Instructions were given for cases of non-renewal to be reported early next year.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

The following summary gives a record of the visits and inspections made during 1958 and affords some indication of the varied duties of the Department:-

New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	1,598
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	44
Ditches	...	...	...	...	...	58
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	309
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	347
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	37
Food Premises and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	170
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	694
Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	320
Infestation and Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	50
Levelling	...	...	...	...	...	37
Milk Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	20
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	368
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	86
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	78
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	69
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	145
Refuse Collection and Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	118
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	34
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	3,861
Sanitary Surveys	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	267
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	365
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	471
Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	128
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	68

S T A F F

In August, Mr. F. Lee left the service of the Council on obtaining an appointment with the Winchester Rural District Council as an Additional Public Health Inspector.

At the end of the year the Health Committee discussed the need for additional staff in the Department and it was decided to ask the Establishment Committee to investigate the matter.

Once again I should like to express my thanks and appreciation for the help and assistance given by the Members, all the Officers of the Council and in particular by the Health Department.

Your obedient Servant,

R. A. CANT.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Building Surveyor.

