

**[Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Chepstow (Wales). Rural District Council. nb2006021759

**Publication/Creation**

1950

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a2wfvsvt>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

LIBRARY

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



A N N U A L R E P O R T

- O F T H E -

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R 1 9 5 0 .

---

R. D. C. OFFICES,  
CHEPSTOW, MON.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman : Mr. E. Johnson.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. W.W. Jones.

Councillors:

Mrs. K. Amooore,	Mr. A.H. Morgan,
Mr. R.J. Anstey,	Mr. H.L. Morgan,
Mr. R.G. Benjamin,	Mr. L. Nevison,
Mr. A.J. Bevan,	Mr. R.A. Newall,
Mr. R.L. Clay,	Mr. A.S. Nicholas,
Mr. D.T. Coleman,	Mr. W.J. Parker,
Mr. W.H. Gale,	Mr. D.H. Parry,
Rev. D.E. Gravell,	Mr. D.F.E. Price,
Mr. E. Griffiths,	Mr. J.W. Price,
Mrs. G.I. Heath,	Mr. C.R. Read,
Mr. S.M. Hill,	Mr. T.S. Rowlands,
Mr. H. Hughes,	Mr. R.R. Thomas,
Mr. A. Jones,	Mr. S.J. Thorne,
Mr. O.A. Jones,	Mr. W.J. Titley,
Mr. W.J. Jordan,	Brig. G.B. Vaughan-Hughes,
Mr. W.H. Margretts,	Mr. F.C. Walker.
Mrs. C.P.O. Micklethwait,	

---

Officers of the Council:

Clerk - Mr. G.D. Spearing.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. E.N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H.

Deputy Clerk - Mr. T.T. Birbeck, F.A.I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor -  
Mr. L. Whittingham, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert S.I.B.,  
M.A.Rur.S., Certified Inspector  
of Meat & Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector - Mr. D.C. Powell, A.M.I.S.E.,  
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert.S.I.B.

Rate Collectors:

Caldicot Collection District - Mr. R.A. Squibbs.

Mathern Collection District - Mr. M.E. Smith.

Shirenewton Collection District - Mr. F.C. Price.

---

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

R.D.C. Offices,  
Chepstow, Mon.

To :- The Chairman and Members of the  
Chepstow Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health  
and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year  
ended 31st December, 1950.

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area (Acres)		42,459
<u>Population.</u>	Estimated mid-year Home Population	10,090
	Registrar-General's preliminary report on 1951 Census.	10,238
	1931 Population	8,686
	1801 Population	7,933

With the industrial development in the area and the necessary rehousing of families from other areas, it is estimated that the population will be 11,700.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	85	64	149
Illegitimate	4	2	6

Birth Rate per 1,000 population 15.36

Corresponding rate for England and Wales 15.8

Corresponding rate for Monmouthshire 17.4

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	0	4	4
Illegitimate	0	1	1

Rate per 1,000 population 0.495

Corresponding rate for England and Wales 0.37

Corresponding rate for Monmouthshire 0.58

<u>Infant Mortality.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year	2	1	3

Rate per 1,000 Live Births 19.35

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales  
(a) per 1,000 related live births 29.8 (a)

Corresponding rate for Monmouthshire 39.8

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	60	54	114

Notified Causes of Death.

Tuberculosis - Respiratory	1.
Whooping Cough	1.
Acute Poliomyelitis	1.

Death rate per 1,000 population 10.495

Corresponding rate for England and Wales 11.6

Corresponding rate for Monmouthshire 12.3

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths from pregnancy, childbirth,

abortion. The Maternal Mortality Rate for Monmouthshire  
per 1,000 total births (live and still) 1.73

Tuberculosis.

The following notifications were received during the year :-

(i)	Female	Age 15 yrs.	Pleural Effusion.
(ii)	Female	" 50 yrs.	Fallopian Tubes.
(iii)	Male	" 17 yrs.	Lungs.
(iv)	Male	" 42 yrs.	Lungs - Transfer from other district.
(v)	Female	" 21 yrs.	Lungs.
(vi)	Male	" 18 yrs.	Pleurisy.
(vii)	Female	" 50 yrs.	Lungs.

One patient was admitted to Sanatorium and two were discharged.

One patient, a female, age 25 yrs., died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.



Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report  
for the Year 1950.

Inspections during the Year.

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	16
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	31
Bakehouses	...	...	21
Food Inspection	...	...	18
Drainage	...	...	181
Drain Testing	...	...	40
Sewerage	...	...	146
Water Supply	...	...	431
Housing (Complaints)	...	...	158
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	...	...	33
Nuisances	...	...	16
Disinfestation	...	...	15
Shops Acts	...	...	83
Housing Accommodation	...	...	217
Rural Housing Survey	...	...	613
Interim Development	...	...	68
Civil Building Control	...	...	64
Housing Sites	...	...	131
Council House Repairs	...	...	105
Camping Sites	...	...	18
Temporary Housing Camps	...	...	143
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	81
Factories	...	...	62
Petrol Licences	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	399
Building Byelaws	...	...	173

Work Done.                      by owners after Informal Notices:-

Housing Repairs	...	...	36
Drainage Repairs	...	...	10
Nuisances Abated	...	...	5

by owners after Statutory Notices:-

Housing Repairs	...	...	12
Drainage Repairs	...	...	2
Nuisances Abated	...	...	8

Notices Served.

Informal Under Housing Acts	...	17
Informal Under Public Health Acts	...	62
Statutory Under Public Health Acts	...	21
Statutory Under Housing Acts	...	5

HOUSING.

Dwelling houses inspected under P.H. Acts or Housing Acts	771
Number of inspections made for the purpose	795
Number of houses inspected under Housing Consolidated Regs.	613
Number of inspections made for the purpose	642
Number of dwelling houses injurious or dangerous to health	29
Number of dwelling houses not in all respects fit for human habitation	162
Number of houses rendered fit by informal action..	46

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 of Housing Act, 1936.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served	Nil
Number of houses rendered fit by Statutory action	Nil



PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served	Nil
Number of houses rendered fit by Statutory action ...	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF HOUSING ACT 1936.

Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders		
	were made...	Nil
Number of houses demolished	...	Nil

OVERCROWDING.

4 cases of overcrowding were noted during routine housing inspections and 2 families were rehoused.

BUILDING BYELAWS AND PLANNING.

During the year 97 plans for buildings and alterations were approved, 8 of which were subject to temporary licences.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

During the year a total of 13 Building Licences were issued to the value of £6,942. Of the above, 2 licences to the value of £2,134 were in respect of new dwellings. The remaining 11 licences amounting to the sum of £4,808, were in respect of repairs and extensions and £1,728 of this total was used for the restoration of a building after damage due to fire.

WATER SUPPLY.

The parishes of Portskewett, Rogiet most of Caldicot and a few premises in Mathern parish are supplied with water purchased in bulk from Chepstow Water Company. Quality and quantity have been satisfactory during the year.

The Parish of Undy is supplied by water purchased in bulk from Magor and St. Mellons R.D.C., the source of supply being Newport Corporation's gathering grounds at Wentwood. Quantity and quality have been satisfactory during the year.

Highmoor Hill, in the Parish of Caldicot, is supplied with water purchased in bulk from Newport Corporation. Quantity and quality have been satisfactory during the year.

Parts of the Parishes of Mathern and Caerwent are supplied by Monmouthshire County Council with water purchased from Chepstow Water Company. Quality has been satisfactory, but pressure has been poor on some sections of mains in Caerwent parish.

Devauden Parish is supplied by a scheme employing hydraulic rams. In the past the spring has been insufficiently protected from contamination and the quality of the supply has varied, being at times below a satisfactory standard as laid down by the Ministry of Health. Approval of proposals to protect the spring and provide additional pumping and storage capacity has been awaited for some time. Protective measures to the spring were regarded as being too urgent to admit of delay and consequently these were carried out during the summer, although no formal approval to the Council's proposals has yet been received. The result has been reported as being bacteriologically highly satisfactory.

There is ample water at the source, but pumping and storage capacity is insufficient to meet growing demands in drought periods consequently at such times it has been difficult to maintain a satisfactory supply.

St. Arvans village is supplied by a small water scheme; of 6 samples taken during the year 2 were bacteriologically below the standard laid down by the Ministry of Health. Quantity has been satisfactory during the year. The supply is slightly plumbo-solvent, therefore iron or copper pipes are used for this scheme.

The remainder of the district is served by small private schemes wells and springs. Quality and quantity of water from some of these sources has been unsatisfactory and the provision of adequate piped supplies is the only satisfactory solution.

Bacteriological samples from Piped Supplies.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Samples</u>	<u>Raw</u>	<u>Treated</u>	<u>Results</u>	
				<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
St. Arvans	6	6	-	4	2
Caldicot - Highmoor Hill	4	-	4	4	-
Undy	5	-	5	5	-
Portlet	5	-	5	5	-
Devauden	15	15	-	8	7
Courwen & Llanvair (Mc. C.C.)	3	-	3	3	-
Matheru	1	-	1	1	-

Supplies by Public Water Mains

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Population supplied direct to houses.</u>	<u>Number of houses</u>	<u>Population supplied by standpipes.</u>		<u>Number of houses.</u>
			<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	
Cae. wen+	633	181	Nil	Nil	Nil
Caldicot	1748	528	132	38	38
Devauden	332	95	104	30	30
WILGERWIG	Nil	--	Nil		
Llanvair	Nil	--	Nil		
Llanvillanangel	11	2	15		4
Rcgiet					
Matheru	762	218	24	7	7
Porvskewett	1262	360	13	4	4
Rogist	1165	333	12	4	4
St. Arvans	308	91	67	19	19
Shlrenwton	Nil		Nil		
Tintern	Nil		Nil		
Undy	594	170	Nil	21	6

### SEWERAGE.

No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal have been commenced during the year. Schemes for Rogiet, Caldicot and Fortskewett are needed as soon as possible owing to anticipated building development in the Severn Tunnel Area.

The problem in Caldicot is particularly urgent as the present pumping equipment is totally inadequate for dealing with the flow during storm periods.

### FOOD.

No slaughtering of animals has been carried out during the year, carcass meat coming from Newport abattoir, where inspection is carried out at time of slaughter. Routine inspections are made at Caldicot distribution centre. 16 lbs of decomposed imported beef was condemned after inspection.

Other foodstuffs condemned as being unfit for human consumption were :-

Pudding Mixture (rendered unfit through storage in a damp place)	38 packets
Gorgonzola Cheese (decomposed)	14 lbs
Tomato Ketchup	4 bottles
Miscellaneous Tinned Foods (blown & damaged)	196 tins.

### Ice Cream.

Three additional premises were registered for storage and sale of ice cream and two premises were deleted from the register. Samples taken during the year proved to be satisfactory. At the year end the number of registered premises was eleven.

### HOUSING.

The speedy erection of new houses and repair of many existing ones is necessary, for the housing problem is still acute.

Rate of building during the year compared unfavourably with that of 1949.

New houses completed during the year are as follows :-

Undy	6
Caldicot	22
Mathern	12
Itton	4

In addition the following houses were in course of erection at the end of the year :-

Tintern	6
Caldicot	22

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Rodent Operative treated premises as listed below :-

Month	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Sewers	Local Authorities Premises.
1950				
Jan.	50	-	-	2
Feb.	48	-	-	2
Mch.	50	-	-	2
Apl.	41	2	-	2
May	42	2	72 M.H's	2
June	67	-	-	2
July	59	-	-	2
Aug.	53	-	-	2
Sept.	48	-	-	2
Oct.	56	-	-	2
Nov.	43	1	72 M.H's	2
Dec.	45	-	-	2

FACTORIES ACTS.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	26		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	36		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority - (excluding out-workers' premises).				
TOTAL	32	62		

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	4	4			
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors					
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient	2	2			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	2		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	2	2			
TOTAL	9	10		1	







