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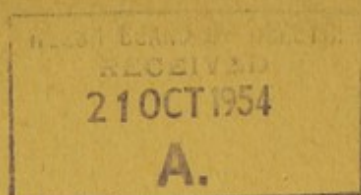
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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



A N N U A L   R E P O R T



- OF THE -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1953.

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





CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Chairman : Mr. D.H. Parry

Vice-Chairman : Mr. D.T. Coleman.

Councillors :

Mrs. K. Amore,  
Mr. R.G. Benjamin,  
Mr. A.J. Bevan,  
Mr. T.W. Bevan,  
Mr. R.L. Clay,  
Mr. H.G. Cook,  
Mr. W.H. Gale,  
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Mr. W.J. Sterry,  
Mr. W.J. Titley,  
Brig. G.B. Vaughan-Hughes,  
Mr. F.C. Walker.

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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.F.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor - Mr. L. Whittingham,  
M.R.San.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.San.E.,  
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.,  
Cert.S.I.B., Incorporated Sanitary Engineer,  
Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Rural District Council 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, 1953.

The health of the district was  
satisfactory. There were no notifications of diphtheria or  
poliomyelitis. The number of notifications of Pulmonary  
Tuberculosis was three less than in 1952.

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.



## VITAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	42,459
<u>Population.</u>	
Estimated mid-year Home Population	10,090

### BIRTHS

#### Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	74	72	146
Illegitimate	6	6	12

In 1952 the total live births were 177 and in 1951 they were 166.

#### Still Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	1	1

In 1950 there were 5 still births.

#### Infant Mortality.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.			
Legitimate	4	-	4

In 1952 there were 5 deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.			
Legitimate	4	-	4

The following gives a list of infants deaths under 1 year of age, giving age at and cause of death :-

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Male - 1 day | Ia. Cardiac Failure      |
|                  | b. Prematurity.          |
|                  | II. Concealed Accidental |
|                  | Haemorrhage.             |
| (2) Male - Twins | 1a. Prematurity.         |
| 1 day            |                          |

1a. Bronchopneumonia.

II. Sub-arachnoid Haemorrhage.

## DEATHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	64	48	112

This is an increase of 7 over 1952. As in 1952 there were no deaths attributed to Tuberculosis and 5 to malignant neoplasm of lung. There were 11 deaths due to Coronary disease and one to childbirth. Of the total deaths 58 were 70 years or over at the time of death.

Table 1 gives a classification of the causes of death and the number attributed to each cause.

## GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified. There were no cases in 1952.

Immunisation.

Of the children born in the years 1952, 1951 and 1950, at the end of the year 62, 56 and 73 were immunised. At the end of 1952 the number immunised for these years was 6, 34 and 69. In 1952 the total number of live births was 177 and in 1951 it was 166. This is a low percentage. It was hoped to secure immunisation of not less than 75 per cent. of babies before their first birthday. 9 children born in 1953 were immunised by the end of the year.

During the year Llansoy, Llangwm, St. Arvans, Tintern and Mathern Schools were visited, and 34 children were given a booster dose and 18 were immunised for the first time.

On the 9th June, 1953, diphtheria immunisations were suspended throughout the County as a result of the occurrence of a case of Poliomyelitis in a child at Blaina. It recommenced on the 18th September, 1953.

Scarlet Fever.

Three cases were notified. There were 7 notifications in 1952.



Measles.

30 notifications were received and of these 12 were in the age group 5 - 9 years.

Whooping Cough.

There were 22 notifications during the year.

Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases notified.

Tuberculosis.

The following were the notifications of new cases received during the year:-

- |     |        |             |                 |
|-----|--------|-------------|-----------------|
| (1) | Female | - 22 years. | Glands of neck. |
| (2) | Male   | - 35 years. | Epipidymus.     |
| (3) | Male   | - 45 years. | Lungs.          |
| (4) | Female | - 20 years. | Lungs.          |
| (5) | Female | - 2 years.  | Lungs.          |
| (6) | Male   | - 63 years. | Lungs.          |
| (7) | Female | - 27 years. | Lungs.          |
| (8) | Female | - 20 years. | Lungs.          |
| (9) | Female | - 34 years. | Lungs.          |

During 1952 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis.



TABLE I

DEATHS 1953

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, bronchus.	5	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	8	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	7
Coronary disease, angina.	9	2
Other heart disease.	8	10
Other circulatory disease.	5	1
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	3	-
Bronchitis	3	9
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	4
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-
All other accidents.	2	1
Suicide	1	1
ALL CAUSES	<u>64</u>	<u>48</u>

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER  
THAN TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED - AGE GROUPS -							Total all ages.
	Under 1 yr.	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 & over	
Diphtheria								
Scarlet Fever				3				3
Enteric Fever								
Pneumonia								
Erysipelas								
Acute Poliomyelitis								
Food Poisoning								
Dysentery								
Puerperal Pyrexia								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum								
Measles and German Measles	1	7	4	12	3	1	2	30
Whooping Cough	1	3	6	8	3		1	22
TOTALS	2	10	10	23	6	1	3	55





Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report  
for the Year 1953.

Inspections during the Year.

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	12
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	62
Bakehouses	...	...	15
Food Inspection	...	...	46
Drainage	...	...	97
Drain Testing	...	...	31
Sewerage	...	...	121
Water Supply	...	...	417
Housing (Complaints)	...	...	143
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	...	...	12
Nuisances	...	...	21
Disinfestation	...	...	2
Rural Housing Survey	...	...	121
Shops Acts	...	...	93
Housing Accommodation	...	...	241
Building Control	...	...	63
Housing Sites	...	...	261
Council House Repairs	...	...	163
Camping Sites	...	...	31
Hutted Camps	...	...	83
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	264
Factories	...	...	77
Building Byelaws	...	...	236
Petrol Licences	...	...	73
Miscellaneous	...	...	376

Work Done                      by Owners after Informal Notices :-

Housing Repairs	...	....	17
Drainage Repairs	...	...	11
Nuisances abated	...	...	8

by Owners after Statutory Notices:-

Housing Repairs	...	...	2
Drainage Repairs	...	...	-
Nuisances abated	...	...	-

Notices Served

Informal Under Housing Acts	...	9
Informal under Public Health Acts	...	30
Statutory Under Housing Acts	...	2
Statutory under Public Health Acts	...	-



# HOUSING

Dwelling houses inspected under P.H. or Housing Acts	0 ..	264
Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	279
Number of houses inspected under Housing Consolidated Regs		121
Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	121
Number of houses injurious or dangerous to health	... ..	5
Number of houses not in all respects fit for human habitation	... ..	27
Number of houses rendered fit by informal action	... ..	18
Number of premises for which an Undertaking has been received not to re-let for human habitation	... ..	1



## WATER SUPPLY

The district is topographically divided into two areas of essentially different character, the Southern portion being urbanised and containing all the area's industries whilst the Northern portion is typically rural. The Southern half, or Severn Tunnel area receives a filtered and chlorinated water supply from the two large water undertakers - Chepstow Water Company and Newport Corporation - the latter supplying directly through their own mains and also indirectly through the mains of Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

The villages of Mathern, Caerwent, Portskewett and Caldicot receive water from Chepstow Water Company whilst Five Lanes, Highmoor Hill, Rogiet and Undy are supplied by Newport from their reservoir at Wentwood. In the Northern area, St. Arvans and Devauden are supplied by small untreated village supplies and Shirenewton receives a private untreated supply for which the pumping arrangements are voluntarily operated by the Council. Approval has been obtained to commence the first part of the scheme to provide Shirenewton and Earlswood with a public supply and it is hoped that a start will be made early in 1954.

The position at Common-y-coed remains the same as it was at the end of 1952 and it appears that this community will be deprived of a mains supply unless the grants offered by the County Council are considerably increased. The cost of the scheme to supply 7 houses and 4 farms together with a comprehensive scheme for field tanks was estimated at £2,613 and in view of the high cost in relation to the number of properties involved and the income to be derived therefrom, the Council feel that they would not be justified in proceeding with the scheme.

The Council considered the question of taking over the existing scheme at Kilgwrrwg which is owned and operated by the Itton Estate and which supplies 10 houses, 11 farms, 2 small holdings, 1 school and 7 field tanks. The water is obtained from a spring with a dry weather flow of 14,400 gallons per day and raised by means of a Hydraulic Ram to a reservoir whence it gravitates to supply. The works were laid down in 1911 and will undoubtedly require repair or renewals in the near future. Negotiations were begun during the year with the Itton Estate and were still proceeding in December.

Generally speaking, the quantity and quality of water supplies in the district were satisfactory as can be seen from the following tables. Bacteriological samples were taken during the year and the results are indicated below :-



Parish	Samples	Raw	Treated	RESULTS	
				Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Devauden	3	3	-	3	-
Shirenewton	5	5	-	4	1
Rogiet	7	-	7	7	-
Undy	6	-	6	6	-
Caldicot	4	-	4	4	-
Highmoor Hill	5	-	5	5	-
Mathern	3	-	3	3	-
Caerwent	4	-	4	4	-
TOTAL	37	8	29	36	1

The Council purchased 51,637,000 gallons from the Chepstow Water Company at a cost of £685. 7s. 7d. and 1,999,000 for the Highmoor Hill supply and 20,218,000 gallons for Undy and Rogiet at a cost of £114. 13s. 11d. and £1,348. 7s. 4d. respectively. This makes a total of 73,854,000 gallons used during the year at an average of 109 gallons per house per day or 31 gallons per head per day of population supplied. From the following table it will be noted that 78.1% of the premises in the district are supplied by mains piped direct into the premises and 2.2% are supplied by standpipes. This compares with 67.9% and 2.2% respectively last year and makes a total of 80.3%. This leaves 19.7% of the population to be served with private springs, public wells etc.



Parish	Population supplied direct to houses	Number of houses	Population supplied by standpipes	Number of houses
Caerwent	637	182	-	-
Caldicot	1971	563	130	38
Devauden	511	148	-	-
Kilgwrrwg	53	15	-	-
Llangwm	-	-	-	-
Llan. Rogiet	22	7	15	4
Mathern	768	219	24	7
Portskewett	1120	318	-	-
Rogiet	1143	329	-	-
St. Arvans	320	101	33	10
Shirenewton	-	-	-	-
Tintern	-	-	-	-
Undy	613	176	24	6

Tintern, Earlswood, Llansoy and Llangwm rely entirely upon individual private supplies such as wells and springs which supplement the public wells which are available. These supplies leave very much to be desired and Tintern in particular should be given the benefit of a public supply at the earliest possible time.

Owing to the fact that two of the Council's Housing Estates comprising 268 houses were to be supplied by the Chepstow Water Company, it was felt that pressure and quantity at Rogiet which is at the end of the main would be insufficient and this village was, therefore, switched over to the Magor and St. Mellons supply which at that time fed only Undy. Since this change, conditions have been quite satisfactory and in the event of an emergency necessitating the cutting off of the supply in Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council's area, or at Undy, it is possible to continue a supply to Rogiet temporarily by reverting to the Chepstow Water Company's mains.



During the year, the existing supply at Devauden was augmented by the installation of an additional storage tank, pumphouse and rising main. The storage tank has a capacity of 10,000 gallons and the supply to the village is now satisfactory.

New Byelaws made under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945, for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied by the Council, were adopted in November, 1953, but will not come into operation until March, 1954.

### SEWERAGE

Once again no major sewerage schemes were carried out during the year although the Council are not entirely responsible for this state of affairs. During 1952 an enquiry was held regarding the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme at Devauden which was designed to serve 36 premises including one public house and a school with 50 pupils. In April of that year, the Ministry of Housing approved the scheme in principle and its original cost was £5,428. In January 1953, it had increased to £7,115, and after further consideration having regard to Circular 54/52 it was decided by the Ministry that the scheme should be deferred.

No further progress can be reported on the schemes for Undy, Portskewett or Caldicot and considerable difficulty has been experienced at Caldicot regarding the disposal of surface water from the Council's large housing site. Building was commenced during 1952 and it was proposed to construct a 33" surface water sewer to discharge into a reën administered by the Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels Drainage Board. At the end of the year 50 houses had been completed on the site, but the position regarding the storm water still remained obscure and it was being discharged into the Drainage Board's reën near Caldicot Pool pending negotiations with the Board and British Railways under whose lines the water would have to pass.

During the year 172 persons took advantage of the Council's cesspool emptying scheme and a total of 219 pits were emptied for this purpose. In addition to this, regular emptyings of cesspools were carried out at the Council's various housing estates and the emptying of cesspools at business establishments resulted in revenue to the extent of £33. The scheme provides two free emptyings per house per year after which a charge of 10/- is made. Business premises are charged at the rate of £1 per hour.



## FOOD

During the year 274 tins of Miscellaneous goods were inspected and found unfit. These were disposed of at the Council's Refuse Tips in the district. There were 18 food preparing premises in the district and these received a total of 62 visits during the year. Generally speaking, the conditions were very satisfactory and no written notices had to be served. Samples of milk were taken from all the schools in the district and adverse reports were received in respect of two ungraded samples both of which were supplied from adjoining districts. The information was passed to the appropriate authorities for samples to be taken at the source of production.

Five vendors of ice cream were deleted from the register and three new applications were received. This makes a total of 11 premises at present registered and 28 samples were taken which were classified as follows :-

Provisional Grade I	12
" " II	12
" " III	2
" " IV	2

The following table shows the number of premises and inspections made in connection with the supervision of the handling, storing and preparation of food.

Premises	Number	Inspections
Dairies	2	12
Bakehouses	4	15
Butchers' Premises	7	16
Fish & Fruit Premises	4	8
Fried Fish Shops	2	10
Food Vehicles and Meat in Transit	3	8
Ice Cream Premises	11	32
Provision Shops	24	59
Restaurants & Kitchens	16	52
TOTAL	73	212



Routine inspections were also carried out to School and Works Canteens which generally maintained a high standard of cleanliness. Only one application for a catering licence was made to the Ministry of Food and the necessary inspection under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Handling Byelaws revealed that the premises were satisfactory. The shops which were selling watercress were warned about purchasing their supplies from doubtful springs and streams in the district, but usually they were supplied by wholesalers.

### HOUSING

The Council's Building Programme during the year was as follows :-

Parish	Houses Completed	Under Construction
Caldicot	50	142
Tintern	7	6
Devauden	4	-
Fairoak	-	2
Portskewett		44
TOTAL	61	194

In addition to the above, sanction had been obtained to commence building a further 70 houses at Fairoak, Caldicot and Mathern.

Despite the large strides which have been made by the Council, in the building of new houses, the number of applicants for rehousing is still heavy and during the year amounted to 178. The majority of applications are from persons who are living as sub tenants and when it is considered that there are a large number of properties in the district which are reaching the end of their useful lives, it can be seen that the problem remains almost as acute as ever. At the end of the year 592 applications still remained on the Council's files

The supervision of Council houses is carried out with a view to maintaining the general standard of cleanliness by the tenants and the eradication of vermin by disinfection. It is pleasing to note that no verminous premises were found and apart



from six cases, the general standard of cleanliness was very good.

Three applications were received for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, but none were approved.

#### RODENT CONTROL

The following table shows the number of premises inspected during the year :-

Month	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Sewers	Local Authorities Premises
Jan.	61	3		2
Feb.	52	-		2
March	64	2		2
April	58	1		2
May	55	2		2
June	49	-	10 M.H's	2
July	73	-		2
August	56	4		2
Sept.	67	-		2
Oct.	69	2		2
Nov.	58	1		2
Dec.	65	2	10 M.H's	2

It is gratifying to note the degree of cooperation which exists between the owners and occupiers of premises and the local authority and consequently it was not necessary to serve any written notices. The cooperation referred to also extends to the County Agricultural Pests Department and a scheme between them and the Council whereby all the 629 farms are inspected and reported, works very harmoniously.



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There were 39 factories within the district and there were no complaints received from the Factory Inspector. Inspections were carried out as follows :-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	31	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	25	46	-	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority-(excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	39	77	-	-

	Number of cases in which defects were - Referred				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instit- uted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1			
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature.					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors.					
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes.					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).					
TOTAL	3	3			

There was only one outworker employed in the district and the work was being carried out in satisfactory premises. A joint inspection of a Factory was carried out with County Fire Brigade Officers for the purpose of ensuring sufficient means of escape from fire and structural alterations were made as a result of the visit.

#### PETROLEUM ACTS

32 Licences were issued for the Storage of Petroleum and 1 new storage tank installed. The County Fire Brigade again co-operated with the Council and undertook to inspect all petroleum installations in the district. In the majority of cases conditions were satisfactory









