

[Report 1963] / Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow R.D.C.

Contributors

Chepstow (Wales). Rural District Council. nb2006021759

Publication/Creation

1963

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/x6x8ezey>

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>

C H E P S T O W R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1963

"High Trees",
Chepstow, Mon.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman:- D.F.E. PRICE.

Vice Chairman:- L. HUGHES.

Councillors

Mr. B. Beale	Mr. R.A. Mawhinney
Mr. L. Budden	Mr. A.H. Morgan
Mr. D.T. Coleman	Mrs. C.L. Morgan
Mr. E.M. Davis	Mr. R.A. Newall
Mr. C.A. Evans	Mr. W.J. Parker
Rev. J.B. Evans	Mr. G. Powell
Mr. W.H. Gale	Mr. G.E. Pritchard
Mr. L.H. Gardner	Mr. A.V. Reece
Mr. D.P. George	Mr. E.G. Saunders
Mrs. G.I. Heath	Mr. R. Skinner
Col. E.R. Hill	Mr. S. Sparkes
Mr. C.L. Hill	Col. D.R. Stanley
Mr. W.E.G. Hodges	Mr. W.J. Titley
Mr. L.M. Horton	Brig. G.B. Vaughan-Hughes
Mr. L.T. Jacka	Mr. F. Vicarage
Mr. L.A. Jones	Mr. F.C. Walker
Mr. S.G. Jones	Mr. W.T. Walkley
Mr. D.I.C. Lewis	Mr. A.M. Williams
Mr. W. Little	

Officers of the Council

Clerk	-	Mr. T.T. Birbeck, F.A.I., F.R.V.S.,
Medical Officer of Health	-	Dr. E.N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor	-	Mr. L. Whittingham, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. Cert.S.I.B., M.A. Rur.S., Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor	-	Mr. D.C. Powell, A.M.I.P.H.E. M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert.S.I.B., Incorporated Sanitary Engineer, Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

T. T. BIRBECK,
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

TELEPHONE NO. : 2214/2215

"High Trees,"
Chepstow, MON.

30th November, 1964.

The Chairman and Members,
Rural District Council of Chepstow.

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, 1963.

The health of your district continues to be satisfactory.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr.
Whittingham and Mr. Powell for their help and co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E.N. Dowell

Medical Officer of Health

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL - 1963

Statistics

The estimated mid-year population for 1963 was 12,590. In 1950 it was 10,090.

The natural increase, i.e. the figure that the number of births exceeds the number of deaths, was 101. The natural increase in 1962 was 69.

Births

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	112	117	229
Illegitimate	4	8	12

The highest number of births recorded since 1950 was 214 in 1962. The lowest was 158 in 1953.

The live birth rate per 1000 of population for Monmouthshire was 18.94.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate		2	2
Illegitimate		1	1

The Registrar General arranged to supply Medical Officers of Health with details of transferable stillbirths (inward and outward) registered on and after 1st January, 1963. Two inward transferable deaths were received and the cause of death was as follows:-

- (1) Hydrocephalus with Spina Bifida
(2nd baby of twins)
- (11) Ia. Eclampsia.
b. Prematurity.

In 1962 there were 9 stillbirths.

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under

<u>one year of age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	2	6

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

(i)	Male	3 days	Pulmonary atelectasis
(ii)	Male	2 weeks	Ia. Meningitis b. Meningo-myelocoele and hydrocephalus
(iii)	Female	1 day	Prematurity
(iv)	Male	2 months	Lumbar meningo-myelocoele
(v)	Male	20 hours	Ia. Hydrocephalus and cleft palate and hare lip.

In 1959 and 1960 six infants under one year of age died.
The infant mortality rate per 1000 live births for Monmouthshire was 25.57.

Deaths

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	76	64	140

There were 145 deaths in 1962 and 115 deaths in 1960.
There were 7 deaths attributed to neoplasm of lung in 1956.
The death rate per 1000 of population for Monmouthshire was 13.67.

The following table gives a classification of the cause of death and the number attributed to each cause.

DEATHS - 1963

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, other	1	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	
Malignant neoplasm, breast		2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	7
Diabetes	1	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	12
Coronary disease, angina	22	14
Hypertension with heart disease	2	4
Other heart disease	7	3
Other circulatory disease	2	4
Influenza	1	
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	9	3
Other disease of respiratory system	1	
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea		1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	
Congenital malformations	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	4
All other accidents	1	1
Suicide	1	
Total all causes	<hr/> 76 <hr/>	<hr/> 64 <hr/>

General Epidemiology

Diphtheria.

For the eleventh consecutive year, no case was notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 188 children were immunised against diphtheria. Of the number immunised, 66 were children born in 1963 and 101 were born in 1962.

There were no confirmed cases of poliomyelitis during the year, so it was not necessary to suspend immunisations.

Poliomyelitis.

On the 13th May, a case of paralytic poliomyelitis was notified. The patient was a girl age 7 years and the paralysis which was slight occurred in the left leg.

As this was a paralytic case, oral poliomyelitis vaccine was offered to children at the same school and also children living in the same street. The vaccination state was not considered.

Unfortunately the patient died and the cause of death was neuroblastoma.

Dysentery.

For the fourth consecutive year, no cases were notified.

Food Poisoning.

As for dysentery, the return was nil.

Tuberculosis.

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

(1)	Male	63 Years	Lungs.
(2)	Male	51 Years	Carvical Gland.
(3)	Male	10 Years	Meninges.

During the year 136 children who are pupils at Caldicot Secondary Modern School were vaccinated against tuberculosis.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector's Annual
Report for the Year 1963.

Inspections during the year

Dairies and Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	232
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	284
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	326
Drain Testing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	418
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138
Housing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	186
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Shops Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	212
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	306
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	681
Petrol Licences	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	932

Work Done

By Owners after Informal Notices :-

Housing Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Drainage Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17

By Owners after Statutory Notices :-

Housing Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Drainage Repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Notices Served

Informal under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Informal under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Statutory under Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Statutory under Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

WATER SUPPLY

The supply to the district was maintained throughout the year by the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board, and several improvements were effected. There are still a few areas requiring a piped water supply, notably Llangwm, Llanfair Discoed and Common y coed although it is understood that the Board is making every effort to improve conditions in these parishes. An unusual situation exists at Itton where a private water scheme serves the village and where a portion of main was renewed many years ago by this Council who built 4 houses at that time. This main was taken over by the Board who prohibited any new connections until they were able to acquire the whole of the scheme including the source, and thus they would ensure a pure supply. They are apparently unable to acquire the supply without the agreement of all the existing consumers and this seemed unlikely to be forthcoming. In the meantime, development is prohibited in this area and the quality of the water to the existing users fluctuates.

The following table shows the samples taken and submitted for bacteriological analyses by the Public Health Laboratory at Newport.

Parish	Samples	Raw	Treated	<u>RESULTS</u>	
				Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Severn Tunnel Area	14	-	14	13	1
Devauden	9	-	9	9	-
Tintern	4	-	4	4	-
Shirenewton	6	-	6	5	1
Mathern	2	-	2	2	-
St. Arvans	2	-	2	2	-
	37	-	37	35	2

HOUSING

The Council continued to build houses for steelworkers employed at Llanwern and extended the housing site at Caldicot by erecting a total of 197 such houses during the year. In addition a further 211 houses were under construction on this and one other site at the end of the year. Caldicot was also a centre for considerable private house building and a total of 96 were completed. A significant feature of the year from the private development point of view was the sudden emergence of Shirenewton incorporating Mynyddbach as a small growth centre for speculative building. This was achieved principally by the owners of small cottages with large gardens severing the land and in filling with dwellings. This provided approx. 110 sites and many more to come, in future the population of this village which had declined from 924 in 1921 to 705 in 1961, gave the impression that it would increase to approximately 1063.

Apart from the housing at Caldicot the Council decided in principle to erect Aged Persons Bungalows at Rogiet, Tintern, Devauden, Caerwent and Portskewett and plans were put in hand.

There were five dwellings dealt with as unfit for human habitation and scheduled for demolition. Contrary to their usual policy of allowing the owners to give an undertaking to use the building for a purpose other than housing, the Council insisted upon demolition orders in an effort to clear these unsightly buildings.

The position at the end of 1963 was that there were still 41 dwellings which needed to be demolished but in many cases there were difficult circumstances preventing any immediate action. In some instances, the dwellings were farmhouses or in areas where no Council house building was envisaged. It was hoped to encourage owners to rescue several of these houses but the cost is considerable and the inducement of a grant is not available in these circumstances.

A further 4 licences were issued to station caravans for temporary living accommodation making the total in the district to 49. With the exception of 2 sites these were all located on individual sites.

The following table shows the number of Improvement Grants made and the total to date.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
		<u>£</u>
Standard Grants 1963	36	4635
Total to December, 1963	93	12175
Discretionary Grants, 1963	18	6013
Total to December, 1963	157	45264

The Council gave applicants every encouragement with grants and the procedure for obtaining them is made as simple as possible. Unfortunately in one instance, a grant already agreed had to be withdrawn at a later stage because the applicant had virtually demolished the building he was supposed to be improving and this contravened the relevant conditions of the grant scheme. This was subsequently supported by the Ministry of Housing.

REFUSE COLLECTION

During the year refuse was collected weekly from all parts of the district and disposed of at two partly controlled tips at a cost of £8,171. The refuse collection service consists of two full time vehicles and one part time (two days a week) whilst additional service is given to schools, hotels and shops who are not charged for same. Litter baskets are placed throughout the area and emptied by the refuse crews when passing. There are no industrial waste problems although the Sudbrook Pulp Mill do engage us in the collection of waste for which a charge is made and which realised £116 for the year. Tips are regularly inspected for rats and sprayed in summer against flies.

FACTORIES ACT

The responsibility for the inspection of factories is divided between the Local Authority and the Factory Inspectorate with the Former being responsible for sanitary conveniences in all Factories and cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in those factories not employing mechanical power. The following tables show the number of inspections made during the year and the action taken.

6

Premises	Number of Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	17	39	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	25	54	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	42	93	-	-

Ctd.....

	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	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL:	4	4	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL

The rat problem does not really exist in the district at the present time and a major infestation has not been seen for some years, even at such places as Refuse Tips. This is due partly to systematic inspections and control and also to improved poisons and methods of baiting. In some areas, it has been found that rats have developed immunity against Warfarin - the most widely used poison bait, but this has not been the case in this area where the results have been good. The following table shows the inspections made and the number of infestations found:-

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other Premises	Agricultural
No. of Properties Inspected as a result of				
(a) Notification		321	5	
(b) Survey	3	381	32	163

In addition to the above surface treatments, the sewers at Caldicot, Rogiet and Sudbrook were baited and whilst no major infestations were discovered the following table shows the work involved.

No. of Manholes Baited	216
No. of Manholes showing partial take of poison	29
No. of Manholes showing no take	187

The refuse tips are inspected each week and the banks and streams in the district are also investigated. As will be seen from the table above, farms and other agricultural buildings are inspected but the farmers generally wish to carry out their own treatment if any infestation is found. The usual rick control was exercised during the threshing season.

SEWERAGE

Work commenced on Stage 11 of the Caldicot Sewage Disposal Scheme which meant that various sewers, pumping station and disposal works with outfall sewer would be completed by mid 1964. This would ensure that all sewage from Rogiet and Caldicot which had hitherto been discharged crude into the River Severn would be partially treated and the effluent thus improved. The remainder of the comprehensive scheme embracing the three parishes of Rogiet, Caldicot and Portskewett would then be commenced upon completion of Stage 11.

St. Arvans sewerage scheme was completed and it was intended to connect all dwellings in the village to the new sewer in the beginning of 1964. This scheme served 58 dwellings at a cost of £23,930 excluding connections which were estimated at £3,800.

The Council instructed their Engineers to prepare a scheme for Mathern which would serve 107 dwellings and provide for development up to a further 91 dwellings at an estimated cost of £95,000.

The remaining outstanding schemes at Tintern and Undy showed no progress during the year but it was hoped to commence Tintern in 1964.

Complaints were received at Caldicot of a nuisance from smell caused by a pumping station which had been built in close proximity to dwellings and it was decided to install Ultra Violet Deodorising Units to abate this nuisance at an estimated cost of £244.

Samples of effluent were taken from disposal plants to ensure that they were of the prescribed standard and remedial work was carried out where there showed deterioration.

The cesspool emptying service operated at a cost of £2,879 providing a free service for all domestic premises for as often as is required. In practice this is not abused and generally speaking three or four emptyings is more than adequate. It was hoped to augment the existing two vehicles with a third during 1964.

FOOD

The following table shows the number and type of food premises in the district.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
Bakehouses	2	14
Butchers	4	27
Fish and Fruit Premises	6	32
Food Vehicles	4	17
Ice Cream Premises	34	38
Provision Shops	41	84
Restaurants and Kitchens	28	72

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption. It was voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of on the refuse tip at Portskeewett.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Amount in Lbs</u>
Tins of Cooked Meat	Decomposition	41
Porage Oats	"	24

Regular visits are made to all food establishments as outlined above and the standard was maintained throughout the year. Informal action was taken in several instances to secure cleansing of walls and floors and two premises were redecorated as a result of visits. Itinerant vendors were visited but found to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. There are no slaughterhouses within the district or manufacturers of icecream. Transport of meat and bread was satisfactory.

