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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1964

"High Trees",
Chepstow, Mon.



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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Chairman : - L. HUGHES

Vice Chairman : - B. BEALE

Councillors

Rev. J. Barrie Evans	D.I.C. Lewis.
S.R. Baldwin	W. Little
A.S. Barker	A.H. Morgan
R.H. Bowen	R.A. Mawhinney
Major F.A.J. Cooper	Mrs. C.L. Morgan
Rev. D. Francis	W.J. Parker
L.H. Gardner	J.E. Price
L.M. Horton	P.H. Price
K.D. Hill	G.E. Pritchard
W.E.G. Hodges	V.L. Rees
Col. E.R. Hill	A.V.S. Reece
Mrs. G.I. Heath	R. Skinner
L.T. Jacka	T.P. Spencer
J.E. Jones	S. Sparks
L.A. Jones	F. Vicarage
W.J. Titley	Brig.G.B. Vaughan-Hughes
V.G. Thomas	W.R. Wheeler
	B.B. White
	F.C. Walker
	W. Walkley

- - - - -

Officers of the Council

Clerk	-	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	-	L. Whittingham, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. Cert.S.I.B., M.A.Rur.A., Certified Inspector of Meats and other Foods.
Public Health Inspector and Deputy Surveyor	-	D.C. Powell, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H. M.A.P.H.I., MR.U.P.H.H., Cert.S.I.B., Incorporated Sanitary Engineer, Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
Treasurer	-	G.P.D. Morris

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

T. T. BIRBECK,
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

TELEPHONE NO.: 2214/2215

"High Trees,"
Chepstow, MON.

8th November, 1965.

The Chairman and Members,
Rural District Council, of Chepstow.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

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

W. J. Jones
Chairman

T. J. BURROCK
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
TELEPHONE NO. 221421

5th November, 1955

The Chairman and Members,
Rural District Council of Chepstow.

Dear Sirs,

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Yours obedient servant,

E. M. TOWELL

Medical Officer of Health.

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CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL - 1964

Statistics.

The estimated mid-year population was 13,780. In 1963, it was 12,590.

The natural increase, i.e. the figure that the number of births exceeds the number of deaths, was 194.

<u>Births</u>			
<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	159	142	301
Illegitimate	3	5	8

Of the above only 72 were registered with the local Registrar.

The highest number of births recorded since 1950 was 241 in 1963 and the lowest was 158 in 1953.

The live birth rate per 1000 of population for Monmouthshire was 18.76.

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	3	4

The following are details of transferable stillbirths as supplied by the Registrar General:-

- (i) Female. Intra-uterine death due to maternal hypertension.
- (ii) Male. Anencephaly
- (iii) Female Placental Insufficiency.
- Post - maturity.

In 1962 there were 9 stillbirths.

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under
one year of age.

Males

Females

Total

Legitimate

3.

3.

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

- | | | | |
|-------|------|----------|---|
| (i) | Male | 2 hours | I.a. Cerebral anaemia.
Gross placental infarction. |
| (ii) | Male | 12 hours | I.a. Pulmonary atelectasis.
b. An exogenous cause.
II. Toxaemia of pregnancy. |
| (iii) | Male | 3 months | I.a. Respiratory failure.
b. Bronchopneumonia.
II. Ventricular septal defect. |

In 1959, 1960 and 1963, six infants under one year of age died. The infant mortality rate per 1000 live births for Monmouthshire was 28.58.

Phenylketonuria

The County Council decided to start routine testing of all babies for phenylketonuria. The scheme commenced with babies born on 1st January, 1964.

Cytology

A cytology clinic for the early detection of cancer of the cervix of the uterine was held for the first time in Chepstow on September 1st. It was proposed to examine patients between the ages of 30 and 65 years and repeat tests at intervals of three years.

	<u>Deaths</u>		
Deaths	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	73	42	115

There were 145 deaths in 1962 and 115 deaths in 1960.

There were seven deaths attributed to neoplasm of lung in 1956.

The death rate per 1000 of population for Monmouthshire was 11.16.

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

	<u>Deaths 1964</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	7	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast.		3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.		3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	1
Diabetes	2	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	7
Coronary disease, angina	17	7
Hypertension with heart disease	2	
Other heart disease	7	5
Other circulatory disease	4	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	6	
Other disease of respiratory system		2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	
Totals C/Fwd:	61	35

Deaths 1964 continued

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Totals B/Fwd:	61	35
Nephritis and nephrosis		1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	2
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
All other accidents	2	3
Suicide	1	
Total all causes	73.	42.

General Epidemiology

Diphtheria

For twelve consecutive years, no case has been notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year, 225 children were immunised against Diphtheria. In

1963, the number of immunisations was 188.

Of the number immunised, 81 were babies born in 1964 and 105 were born in 1963.

Vaccinations (smallpox)

In 1964 only 64 primary vaccinations were completed. In 1962, the year that smallpox came to South Wales, there were 3,254.

Public Health (Ships) (Amendment) Regulations, 1963.

2 residents of your district were placed under surveillance for 14 days.

They were passengers on a ship which had visited an endemic smallpox area and they had no valid certificate of vaccination against smallpox.

In my opinion, no person should be allowed to enter an endemic area without a valid certificate of vaccination against smallpox.

Poliomyelitis.

In 1957 four notifications of poliomyelitis were received. In 1955 there were three. With the exception of 1959 and 1961 when one case was notified, there has been no case of poliomyelitis since 1953.

Children are immunised by the local doctors, at clinics at Caldicot and Caerwent, and when the mobile Infant Welfare Clinic visits the rural areas.

Dysentery

For five consecutive years, 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:-

(i) Male	25 years	Kidney
(ii) Male	81 years	Lungs
(iii) Male	7 years	Meninges.

The patient, age 81 years was resident in the Old People's Home which is situated in your district.

31 residents, 2 nursing and 9 other staff were examined by the Mass Radiography Service and only one was referred to the Chest Physician as a case requiring further investigation.

The Mass Radiography Unit came to Chepstow on July 8 and stayed for 3 days.

**Surveyor and Public Health Inspector's Annual
Report for the Year 1964**

Inspections during the year

Dairies and Cowsheds	7
Food Preparing Premises	161
Bakehouses	12
Food Inspections	248
Drainage	216
Drain Testing	103
Sewerage	432
Water Supply	116
Housing	123
Infectious Disease & Disinfection	8
Nuisances	26
Disinfestation	7
Shops Acts	4
Refuse Collection & Disposal	321
Factories	73
Building Byelaws	643
Petrol Licences	76
Miscellaneous	842

By Owners after Informal Notices:-

Work Done

Housing Repairs	41
Drainage Repairs	4
Nuisances Abated	13

By Owners after Statutory Notices:-

Housing Repairs	-
Drainage Repairs	-
Nuisances Abated	-

Notices Served

Informal under Housing Acts	48
Informal under Public Health Acts	34
Statutory under Housing Acts	-
Statutory under Public Health Acts	-

Water Supply

The following table shows the number of samples taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological analysis:-

Parish	Samples	Raw Treated	Results	
			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Severn Tunnel Area	18	18	18	
Devauden	4	4	4	
Tintern	6	6	6	
Shirenewton	6	6	6	
Mathern	6	6	6	
St. Arvans	9	9	5	4
	49	49	45	4

In addition to the above samples, the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board make a regular checks upon the supply and samples are analysed by the Board's own chemist. The quantity of water throughout the area was satisfactory but the parishes of Llangwm, Llanfair Discoed and part of Undy, viz Common y coed, still require a piped supply. No change can be reported at Itton where the existing private supply showed gross pollution and the consumers were warned to boil all drinking water. There are 55 properties served by this supply which consists of two separate schemes both served by springs emanating in the nearby wood. Owing to legal difficulties, it is not possible for the Water Board to take over this scheme without the hundred per cent agreement of the consumers and as this is not forthcoming it is unlikely that anyway can be found out of the deadlock. A Public meeting was held in the area but a few consumers objected to the Water Board taking over. In the meantime all development in the area is prohibited. A part of St. Arvans is served by a separate system from the main village and this was polluted to such an extent that the Water Board warned consumers to boil all water.

Housing

No new capital works were undertaken by the Council during the year but 209 houses were completed and occupied at Caldicot and 4 at Mathern. Considerable private development took place at Caldicot where 168 houses were built and also at Shirenewton and Mynyddbach. Although the Council had plans to build bungalows for aged persons in several villages, no work was commenced on them by the end of the year.

Two dwellings were scheduled as unfit for human habitation and consequently demolished. This left a total of 20 still to be dealt with and the policy of encouraging owners to improve and rescue them rather than demolish was pursued. The extension of mains water into remote parts of the district has ensured that many houses which would normally have deteriorated, have now been improved and these type of dwellings present a rather special problem. As they are used principally as farmhouses or are attached to a few acres of land which the owner works as a spare time occupation, the mere question of rehousing the occupier is not satisfactory as a dwelling removed from the land is not suitable. Consequently, although the progress is slower than one would wish, this policy of improvement is paying off and it has also to be borne in mind that these dwellings are in the main owner-occupied.

A further five licences to station caravans for temporary living accommodation were issued and these were all individual sites which presented no problems. The Council has no trouble with gypsies, as does the neighbouring authority and only one such family enters the district.

The grant system was continued and the following table shows the number and types of grants made with the total to date.

		£
Standard Grants 1964	31	7536
Total to December, 1964	124	19711
Discretionary Grants 1964	29	4015
Total to December, 1964	186	49279

The Council reconsidered the system of allocating Council Houses and decided to adopt a point system. They also formed an Estates Committee to deal with specific problems relating to their various Housing Estates and tenants queries. The work of converting Sudbrook Institute to provide accommodation for problem families was not commenced owing to difficulties in securing tenders.

Refuse Collection

The Council operate a weekly refuse collection service to all parts of the district and disposal is effected at a partly controlled tip at Portskewett. Collection is made by two full time and one part time vehicles and the annual cost of £8825 includes disposal. The tip is regularly sprayed to control flies and covering material is placed over the surface and distributed by a tractor which was purchased during the year. Litter baskets are placed throughout the area and various business premises are given additional service at no extra cost. A weekly collection is made on a chargeable basis from Sudbrook Pulp Mills and this realised £151 during the year. The tip at Portskewett was reaching the end of its life and a new one at Dinham was secured from the Ministry of Defence. A request for an additional trade refuse collection was received from local traders and a scheme was being prepared. The problem of abandoned cars caused considerable concern but the Council resolved that they should not be permitted on the refuse tip due to the difficulties created by voids etc., during the period in which the car rotted under the normal refuse. The Council decided that although they operate a kerbside collection of refuse, assistance would be given to aged or infirm persons and the bin collected from the rear of the house even if this meant an additional loader being employed. It was decided to purchase a new refuse vehicle in the ensuing year and after demonstrations a compression type vehicle of 35 cubic yard capacity was selected.

Factories Act

The following tables show the number and type of factory premises throughout the area . They are divided into those which have mechanical power installed and those which do not, and the Local Authority bear a larger responsibility for those in the latter category. In the case of mechanical factories the Councils duties extend only to the control of sanitary conveniences whereas in the other case, they are responsible for cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors. There were no outworkers employed during the year.

Premises	Number In Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	14	32	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	41	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total:-	39	73	-	-

	Number of cases in which defects were:				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
In effective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total :-	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Rodent Control

There were no major infestations during the year and strict control was exercised at the Refuse Tip at Portskewett which was the most likely place for such an infestation. The Council give a free service to all domestic premises but charge business premises on a time and material basis. The following table shows the number of inspections made and infestations found:-

No. of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act.	L.A.	Dwellings.	All other Premises	Agriculture
	3	472	46	129

Sewer treatments were carried out at Rogiet, Caldicot and Sudbrook whilst the sewage disposal plants at Council House estates were inspected and the sewers baited. No major infestations were shown at any of these points. Rick control was exercised and a systematic inspection made of agricultural premises. Generally speaking, it was found that the farmers preferred to carry out their own treatments.

Sewerage

Work continued on the Stage II of Caldicot Sewage Disposal Scheme and whilst it was not completed during the year, the first part consisting of the sedimentation tanks came into operation in November. This meant that crude sewage would no longer be discharged into the River Severn and was a great step forward by the Council. Eventually it would embrace the parishes of Rogiet and Portskewett. A Sewage Works Supervisor was also engaged.

The work of connecting 58 dwellings at St. Arvans to the newly installed sewer was commenced at a cost of £3797 but was not completed by the end of the year.

No progress can be reported on the joint scheme with a neighbouring authority to serve Undy nor Tintern.

Nuisance was experienced from a sewage pumping station at Caldicot and Ultra Violet Purification Units were installed in an attempt to alleviate the trouble.

A new cesspool emptying vehicle was purchased which meant that two vehicles would be employed full time on this service giving a free service for all domestic premises as often as was required. This service cost £5068 to operate and although at certain times of the year, the number of applications is considerable, generally speaking a good service is maintained with a minimum of delay.

FOOD

The following table shows the number and type of food premises in the area:

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
Bake houses	2	12
Butchers	6	23
Fish and Food Premises	4	14
Food Vehicles	2	8
Ice Cream Premises	35	42
Provision Shops	40	93
Restaurants	28	56

The following foodstuffs were examined and found unfit for human consumption. After being voluntarily surrendered by the owners, it was disposed of at Portskewett Refuse Tip.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Amount in lbs.</u>
Tinned cooked ham	Decomposition	94
Argentine beef	"	300
Corned beef	"	6

Regular visits are made to all establishments and good relations are maintained with all staff engaged in food handling. This is considered important as co-operation is easier to preserve by this method. Consequently no written notices were served but informal action was taken in several instances to improve premises - principally cleanliness of walls and floors. Meat offered for sale in Butchers shops was inspected and transport of meat from neighbouring slaughterhouses was observed. Neither of these items presented any problems. One new registration was made of a premises for the storage and sale of icecream bringing the total to 35.

