

[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Chepstow U.D.C.

Contributors

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CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1953.



GATE HOUSE,

CHEPSTOW, MON.

TEL. NO. 857.

OCTOBER, 1954.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman.

Mr. Councillor S.J. Richards. J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Councillor L. Price.

COUNCILLORS:

Mrs. M. Collins. J.P.

Mr. A.T.B. O'Neill.

Mr. D.H. Davies.

Mr. H.R. Pinchard.

Mr. A.J. James.

Mr. W. Powell-Tuck.

Mr. W.G. James.

Mr. P. Powell-Tuck.

Mr. T.F.H. Lang.

Mr. P.H. Price.

Mr. C.E.A. Morgan.

Mrs. S.B. Rees.

Mr. S.J. Ryan.

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. A. Gill.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. E. McC. Taylor.

Rating Officer and Collector.

Mr. W.A. Hood.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. E.N. Dowell.

CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gate House,

Chepstow, Mon.

October, 1954.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the
Chepstow Urban 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 December 1953.

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

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.



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VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres). 1,350.

Population. 1931 Census. 4,303

Registrar General's estimate Mid 1952. 5,473

Registrar General's estimate Mid 1953. 5,791

Number of Inhabited premises:-

Houses, Cottages, etc., 1,538

Temporary units (Converted concrete
hutments, Nissen huts etc.,) 100

Business premises with housing
accommodation. 76

Licensed Premises. 25

Private Hotels. -

Hostels. 1

Hospitals. 4

TOTAL: 1,744

Ratable Value @ 31st December, 1953. £33,434

Product of ld. Rate. Actual 1952/53. £120. 13. 10.46

Actual 1953/54. £129. 18. 11.45

Rates levied for the financial year ending 31st March 1954:-

Chepstow Urban District Council. 8. 8.

Monmouthshire County Council. 13. 0.

TOTAL: 21. 8.

BIRTHS.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
---------------------	--------------	----------------	---------------

Legitimate.	42	49	91
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Illegitimate.	1	2	3
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In 1952 the total live births were 81.

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	1	1	2

In 1952 there were 5 still births.

<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
--------------------------	--------------	----------------	---------------

Deaths of Infants under
1 year of age.

Legitimate.	2		2
-------------	---	--	---

Illegitimate.	1		1
---------------	---	--	---

Deaths of Infants under
4 weeks of age.

Legitimate.	1		1
-------------	---	--	---

Illegitimate.	1		1
---------------	---	--	---

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

(i) Male. 7 months. I.a. Broncho-pneumonia.
b. Whooping Cough.

(ii) Male. 1 hour. I.a. Prematurity.

(iii) Male. 3 days. I.a. Prematurity.

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

DEATHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths.	58	40	98

There were 65 deaths in 1952 and 59 in 1951 and 1950. As in 1952 there were no deaths attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis or Pregnancy, Childbirth, or Abortion. There were 3 deaths, whose cause was attributed to Malignant Neoplasm of Lung or Bronchus and 26 to Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System.

Of the total deaths, 33 were 70 years or over at the time of death.

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

DEATHS IN CHEPSTOW URBAN DISTRICT 1953.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, other.	1	-
Whooping Cough.	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	3	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	5	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	15	11
Coronary disease, Angina.	6	2
Other Heart disease.	13	9
Other Circulatory disease.	1	-
Pneumonia.	2	1
Bronchitis.	4	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	4	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	1	-
All other Accidents.	1	1
ALL CAUSES.	58	40

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases were notified.

Immunisation.

Of the children born in the years 1952, 1951 and 1950, at the end of the year, 38, 33, and 47 were immunised. At the end of 1952, the number immunised for these years was 9, 28, and 45. In 1952 the total number of live births was 81, and 1951 it was 85. This is a low percentage of children who were born in the years 1952, 1951, and 1950. It was hoped to secure immunisation of not less than 75 per cent of babies before their first birthday.

3 Children born in 1953 were immunised by the end of the year.

During the year Chepstow and Bulwark Infant Schools were visited and 55 children were given a booster dose and 17 were immunised for the first time.

On the 9. 6. 53 diphtheria immunisations were suspended throughout the county as a result of the occurrence of a case of Poliomyelitis in a child at Blaina.

SCARLET FEVER.

One case was notified as against 8 in 1952.

MEASLES.

22 notifications were received and of these 11 were in the age group 5 - 9 years.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There were 6 notifications during the year.

POLIOMYELITIS.

One case of acute poliomyelitis was notified; this occurred in a male age 38 years. There was moderate paralysis in both legs. He was working in the Bristol Area during the previous week returning home each evening. He was removed to the City Isolation Hospital, Cardiff on 29.11.53.

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 and over.		
Diphtheria.								1	
Scarlet Fever.			1						
Enteric Fever.									
Pneumonia.									
Puerperal Fever.									
Erysipelas.									
Acute Poliomyelitis.							1	1	
Food Poisoning.									
Dysentery.									
Puerperal Pyrexia.									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.									
Measles, and German Measles.	1	3	7 2	11 4				22 6	
Whooping Cough.									
TOTALS:	1	3	10	15			1	30	

TUBERCULOSIS.

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

(i) Female.	-	age 33 years.	Lungs.
(ii) Male.	-	age 27 years.	Lungs.
(iii) Female.	-	age 26 years.	Lungs.
(iv) Female.	-	age 28 years.	Lungs.

During 1952, 7 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. As in 1952 there were no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

HOUSING.

PRE-WAR.

Under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930 the Council took the following action:-

- 11 Clearance Orders were made and confirmed involving 94 dwelling and outhouses and displacing 295 persons.
- 2 Demolition Orders were made and 5 persons were displaced in the consequence.
- 58 Dwellings were made fit for human habitation as a result of formal action under Sections 9 to 12 of the Housing Act, 1930 and by reason of the conversion of dwellings into a lesser number 14 persons were displaced.

To accommodate the total of 314 persons displaced as a result of the Slum Clearance Programme 74 (3 - bedroom non-parlour type) houses were erected by the Council at St. Tecla, Bulwark.

POST-WAR.

1953 was undoubtedly the peak year in the Council's Housing activities since no less than 160 dwellings were completed and occupied and at the 31st December, 1953, 82 houses were in course of construction and nearing completion. As the Council were anxious to break the 'hard-core' of the local housing problem as quickly as possible it was necessary to embark upon substantial contracts for houses of the new traditional type; the local building labour pool being too small to undertake large contracts with quick completion dates.

The Council are indeed to be congratulated on their very vigorous housing programme. At the 31st December, 1953, 316 houses had been completed; equivalent to a little over 54 houses per 1,000 of the population. No doubt on this basis the Council's achievements must rank among the highest in the country.

At the 31st December, 1953, the post-war position could be summarised as follows:-

HOUSING. Post-War (Contd).

316	Completed and occupied -	2 bedroom (Maisonettes)	32	
		2 Bedroom houses.	14	
		3 Bedroom houses.	239	
		4 Bedroom houses.	<u>31</u>	316
82	In course of construction-			
	3 Bedroom houses.	At eaves level.	16	
		Roofed.	27	
		Plastered.	<u>39</u>	<u>82</u>
398				398

Of the 398 houses referred to above 110 were built by traditional methods and the remaining 288 by new-traditional methods.

By the end of the year arrangements were well in hand for a further contract for 34 houses (work actually commenced in March 1954). Of these houses 15 were to be specially allocated to members of the Hospitals' staffs in accordance with policy decided by the Council some considerable time ago. The rapid expansion of the Hospitals in Chepstow and the need to find accommodation for members of the staffs, made it imperative that special consideration be given to the problem.

TEMPORARY HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

No temporary prefabricated dwellings have been erected by the Council but, with the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the undermentioned temporary dwellings have been provided:-

St. Maur College - converted into five flats.	5	
St. Maur - Nissen Huts converted.	12	
Bulwark Camp - converted concrete hutments.	<u>88</u>	<u>105</u>

It is generally agreed that these temporary dwellings are very substandard but they met an urgent need when the shortage of housing accommodation was acute. It is the Council's intention to close down these schemes as soon as possible.

These temporary dwellings were provided under the Government's Emergency Housing Scheme and the following amounts have been returned to the Exchequer towards the cost of adaptations:-

	£.	s.	d.
Year ended 31st March, 1953.	1,278.	19.	2.
Year ended 31st March, 1954.	1,008.	9.	2.

HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

As mentioned in previous reports the Council entered into an agreement under the powers contained in Section 93 and 94 of the Housing Act, 1936, with the Red & White Housing Association, as a result of which the Association receive the Exchequer Grant of £16. 10s. 0d. per annum in respect of each house.

The Council made a loan of £7,020 to the Association.

The six houses were completed and occupied during 1949.

THE SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS, 1899 - 1923.

The Acts were adopted on the 28th January, 1946. At the 31st December, 1953 the Council had advanced or agreed to advance to 12 borrowers the sum of £21,388. Of the twelve houses involved 10 were built under licence and 2 were erected pre-war.

POST-WAR HOUSING BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

At the 31st December, 1953, 31 houses had been completed and occupied by private enterprise and 2 were in course of erection.

Although licences are readily available the demand has virtually ceased in this district. No doubt the continued high level of the cost of building and the fact that the hard-core of the demand for houses has been satisfied account for the tailing off of building by private enterprise in this locality.

ALLOCATION OF TENANCIES OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council still operate a "points scheme" for selecting tenants for permanent accommodation although in recent allocations there has been a deviation to give greater emphasis to the local residential qualification. The members had found that although the points scheme was invaluable for sifting the applications, its operation in entirety has the effect of almost excluding completely the younger married couples.

DEMAND FOR PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION.

At the 31st December, 1953, there were 305 applications outstanding although the true demand might be determined at 144 in the manner following:-

DEMAND FOR PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION (contd).

Number of outstanding applications. 305

DEDUCT:-

Houses to be erected on the Moun-ton
Road site and not allocated. 34

Number of old houses which would
become available on removals and
which might be regarded as suitable
for other applicants. 50

Number of applications from persons
who have never resided in the area
and who do not work in the town. 77 161

NET DEMAND. 144

As compared with 166 last year.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS.

No applications were received for grants for improving
or converting old houses under the Housing Act, 1949.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1953.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Numerous inspections were carried out under the Public Health Acts, and nuisances found were abated without recourse to formal action.

It was not possible to carry out the regular and systematic inspection of the dwelling-houses in the Urban District during the year as provided by the Housing Acts, but a number of properties which were defective were repaired as a result of informal action.

Difficulty is often experienced, and indeed in some cases hardship, where repairs to houses often cost a considerable amount of money, whilst the rentals are as low as a few shillings a week. The proposed Bill before Parliament at the moment may do something towards helping landlords keep their properties in a good state of repair, and so preserve housing units for the country.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Complaints received.	107.
Visits made in connection therewith.	162.
Nuisances found.	35.
Nuisances abated.	34.
Informal notices served.	33.
Formal notices served.	Nil.
Cattle Market visits.	36.
Food premises visited.	20.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The undermentioned visits were carried out during the year in connection with the administration of the Factories and Workshops Acts:-

Visits	17.
Defects found.	3.
Reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories.	Nil.

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Wholesale Producers within the Urban District.	3.
No. of Retail Purveyors within the Urban District.	1.
No. of Retail Purveyors outside the District selling within the area.	2.

MILK (Special Designations) Orders.

No. of Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.	1.
No. of Retailers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.	2.
No. of Pasteurising Establishments.	1.
No. of Retailers of Pasteurised Milk.	2.

The whole of the milk supply in the Urban District is either Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised), or Pasteurised.

A number of samples were taken during the year, and in each case was found to be satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to the Urban area is supplied by a private Company, The Chepstow and District Water Co. Ltd., and is derived from two sources situate in the Chepstow Rural District. All water is treated and chlorination is carried out by the "Chloramine" process. The supply is adequate, and routine samples of water are taken and submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination. Samples taken during the year showed that the water was suitable for a public and domestic supply.

A number of extensions to mains were carried out during the year, particularly in connection with the Council's housing schemes, and renewals to old existing mains in the older parts of the town will have to be carried out before long.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvency.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Various extensions to the Council's sewerage system were carried out during the year to meet the requirements of the Council's new Housing Estates. There are three main outfalls, discharging into the River Wye by means of gravitation, controlled by penstock valves.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Almost the whole of the dwelling houses within the Urban District are provided with water closets connected up to the Council's sewers, the remainder draining into cesspools.

SWIMMING AND BATHING POOLS.

There are no swimming or bathing pools within the Urban District.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was found necessary in connection with Smoke Abatement.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Only one dwelling house was found to be verminous, and works of disinfestation were carried out by the Local Authority.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employ a part-time Rodent operative, and the treatment is carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A free service is given to private dwelling houses, whilst business premises are charged on a cost of works basis.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MEAT, ETC.

Under the scheme of the Ministry of Food for the centralised slaughtering of animals, no slaughtering takes place within the Urban area, most of the carcass meat being supplied from the Newport abattoirs.

Inspections of the butchers shops and food premises has been carried out during the year, and a satisfactory state of cleanliness has been generally observed.

The undermentioned goods have been voluntarily surrendered during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

Apricots.	4 tins.	Brislings.	2 tins.
Apricots.	1 jar.	Baking Powder.	8 "
Beef Loaf.	6 tins.	Bream.	14 lbs.
Blackcurrants.	1 "	Bacon.	39 "
Bournvita.	1 "	Beef and Gravy.	2 tins.
Brawn.	1 "	Chicken.	5 "
Beetroot.	3 "	Cherries.	23 "
Beetroot.	3 jars.	Cheese.	1 box.
Baked Beans.	7 tins.	Cooked Ham.	6 tins.
Barley.	31 "	Cooked Ham.	17 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MEAT, ETC (contd).

Cream.	1 jar.	Peas.	30 tins.
Corned Beef.	6 tins.	Plums.	92 "
Corned Mutton.	1 "	Peaches.	14 "
Damsons.	2 "	Peaches.	6 jars.
Dog Food.	65 "	Pineapple.	2 jars.
Essence.	1 bottle	Prunes.	5 tins.
Evaporated Milk.	31 tins.	Paste.	1 jar.
Figs.	1 "	Pilchards.	4 tins.
Flour.	3 lbs.	Rabbits.	49 lbs.
Fruit Salad.	6 tins.	Raspberries.	1 tin.
Fruit Salad.	2 jars.	Shrimps.	5 tins.
Gooseberries.	7 tins.	Stew.	8 "
Grapes.	1 "	Sausages.	1 "
Grapefruit.	4 "	Stewed Steak.	11 "
Groats.	1 "	Slids.	9 "
Herrings.	16 "	Soup.	7b "
Herrings.	236 lbs.	Spaghetti.	2 "
Herring Roes.	2 tins.	Strawberries.	2 "
Jellied Veal.	14 "	Sauce.	1 bottle.
Kit-E-Kat.	12 "	Sardines.	3 tins.
Luncheon Meat.	22 "	Sponge Mixture.	2 packets.
Marmalade.	4 "	Sunny spread.	1 jar.
Nescafe.	3 "	Salmon.	11 tins.
Macroni.	1 packet.	Stuffed Olives.	1 jar.
Oranges.	5 tins.	Stained foods.	19 tins.
Orange Segments.	6 "	Sage and Onion Stuffing.	6 packets.

CATTLE MARKET.

During the year 29 Sales were held at the Cattle Market which is owned by the Urban District Council. The Market was used by the Ministry of Food as a Collecting Centre for fat stock. Animals entering the Market during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1953 were as follows:-

	<u>For Slaughter.</u>	<u>Store.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Cattle.	1,379	148	1,527
Calves.	904	125	1,029
Sheep.	13,819	2,140	15,959
Pigs.	651	705	1,356
Bulls.	19	7	26
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16,772	3,125	19,897
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Domestic house and trade refuse was collected twice weekly for the first four months of the year, but owing to the large increase in the number of Council Houses erected at Bulwark, the Council decided that for a limited period a once weekly collection be carried out.

Refuse is collected in a modern Dennis Refuse Collecting vehicle, 10. cubic yard capacity, and disposal is effected by tipping on low lying land near to the Chepstow Racecourse.

The collection of waste paper is carried out, but owing to the low prevailing prices for this product, some difficulty was experienced in disposing of same.

REPORT COLLECTION

These reports have been collected from various sources for the first four months of the year, and are to be used in the number of General Reports which will be published. It is decided that for a limited period a more complete collection be made.

Below is collected in a table the names of the various persons, the number of reports, and the date of the report. It is to be used as a list of the names of the persons who have reported.

The collection of reports is carried out by the various persons who have reported, and the results are to be used in the number of General Reports which will be published.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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