

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

**Contributors**

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CRICKHOWELL  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



**THE ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
AND  
**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1963





CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1963.

- Chairman of the Council - Councillor Rev. J.M. Evans, J.P.  
Vice-Chairman - Councillor Miss M.A. Haywood.  
Chairman of the Public Health & General Purposes Committee - Councillor Miss M.A. Haywood.  
Vice-Chairman - Councillor T.M. Lewis.

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

COUNCILLORS.

The Rev. J.M. Evans, J.P.  
Col. P. Fisher,  
Miss M.A. Haywood.  
Sir George Kitson.  
J. Mills Price.  
Mrs. B.L. Greet.  
B. Rees.  
W. Gittoes.  
E. Davies.  
T.M. Lewis.  
G. Morgan.  
H.J. McIntosh.  
D.W. Bevan.  
C.S. Farr.  
F.E. Parry.  
Col. C.E. Beckwith.

PARISH.

Llangenny.  
Llangenny.  
Crickhowell.  
Crickhowell.  
Cwmdu.  
Cwmdu.  
Llangattock.  
Llangattock.  
Llanbedr.  
Llanelly. (Gilwern Ward)  
Llanelly. (Gilwern Ward)  
Llanelly. (Clydach Ward)  
Llanelly. (Darenfelen Ward)  
Llangynidr.  
Llangynidr.  
Partrishow.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances of the district, the health of the people and the work of the Public Health Department, during the year 1963.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Members of the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health. Also, the Officers of the Council for their help in all matters appertaining to the duties of the Health Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant.

CREIGHTON E. EDWARDS,  
B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1963.

Medical Officer of Health	- C.E. Edwards, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector	- R.A. Jackson, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. Cert. (Meat and Foods)
Housing Inspector	- M.A. Thomas.



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HOUSING DIVISION

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

<u>Population:-</u>	(Registrar General's Estimate)	7,680.
<u>Number of Parishes:-</u>		8
<u>Acreage:-</u>	According to 1961 census.	46,140 acres.
<u>Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1963:-</u>		£134,110.
<u>Product of a Penny Rate:-</u>	Actual 1962/63	£220.19.5d.
	Estimated 1963/64	£512. 0.0d.
<u>Rate in the Pound:-</u>	1962/63	£1. 8. 8d.
	1963/64	12. 8d.
<u>Water Rate:-</u>	1/- in the £ with a minimum of £1.10.0d. per annum.	
<u>Number of dwellings (including farms):-</u>		2,535.
<u>Number of Council Houses (included in above figure):-</u>		438.

Crickhowell is a large District in South Breconshire, mainly mountainous in character, with an acreage of 46,140 acres.

The District is divided into eight Parishes, Crickhowell, Llangattock, Cwmdu, Llangenny, Llangynidr, Llanbedr and Partrishow, which are mainly agricultural, and Llanelly which is mainly industrial. In the agricultural area the workers are employed mainly in farm work, forestry and quarrying. In the industrial area, the workers are employed mainly in adjacent coalmines in North Monmouthshire, and Elvicta Handtools Factory in Crickhowell. The District also supplies labour to the British Nylon Spinners Ltd., Pontypool, Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd., Steelworks, Ebbw Vale, and the Glascoed Ordnance Factory, Usk.

The re-housing of families from unfit dwellings continues together with applicants from the ordinary lists in cases of hardship, illness and overcrowding.

Tenants are selected with the assistance of a Points Scheme adopted by the Council so as to allocate houses to families in the greatest need, conditions of existing accommodation, overcrowding and health circumstances, all rating for "points award".

When Council houses are allocated to applicants their old houses are inspected with a view to their future use being considered. These houses, if they are unfit for human habitation and cannot be repaired at reasonable expense, are then covered by a Demolition Order or Closing Order.



HOUSING - DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS.

	1962 <u>figures.</u>	
Unfit dwellings added to the 'unfit' list during the year 1963.	4	4
Unfit houses closed or demolished under the Housing Act, 1957, in the year 1963 (including the dwellings vacated in Crickhowell that were covered by the 1937 Clearance Orders)	15	6
Number of applicants for Council Houses on 1st January, 1963.	130	151
Number of applicants remaining on the Council's list 31st December, 1963.	133	130
Total number of post-war Council Houses 1st January, 1964.	438	408
Number of Council Houses completed during the year 1963.	30	4
Number of Council Houses under construction on 31st December, 1963.	12	30
Number of Private Houses completed during the year 1963.	48	51

School Medical Service, Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and the provision of school meals are carried out by the County Council.

The health of the district during the year has been good. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low during the year.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. Inspections have been carried out from time to time of various food handling shops, bake-houses, licensed premises and shops selling ice-cream in accordance with the Regulations. Minor defects have been pointed out and corrected. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act, or under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action has been necessary under this Section during the year 1963.



SECTION A.

	Crickhowell R.D.C.			Breconshire C. Council.
<u>BIRTHS.</u>	Male.	Female.	Total.	
No. of legitimate Live Births.	68	67	135	867
No. of illegitimate Live Births.	3	7	10	39
Total Live Births.	71	74	145	906
Birth Rate per 1000 Population 1963.			18.8	16.65
Registrar General's Comparability Factor.			1.10	1.13
No. of Still Births Legitimate.	2	1	3	17
No. of Still Births Illegitimate.	-	1	1	4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births.			6.8	4.30
Total Live and Still Births	73	76	149	927
Still Birth Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births.			26.8	22.65
<u>DEATHS.</u>				
Total Deaths for District.	48	46	94	809
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the population.			12.2	14.87
Registrar General's Comparability Factor.			1.00	0.97
Corrected Death Rate.			12.2	14.42
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths from Maternal Causes.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.



VITAL STATISTICS.  
(Continued).

	Crickhowell R.D.C.			Breconshire C. Council.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	
<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 years of age:-				
Legitimate.	1	4	5	21
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births:-				
Total.			34.4	23.17
Legitimate.			37.03	24.21
Illegitimate.			-	-
<u>NEO NATAL MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-				
Legitimate.	1	3	4	12
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
Total.	1	3	4	12
Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births:-			27.5	13.24
<u>EARLY NEO NATAL MORTALITY.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age:-				
Legitimate.	1	3	4	10
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-
Total.	1	3	4	10
Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births:-			27.5	11.03
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE.</u>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age plus No. of Still Births:-				
No. of Deaths under 1 week of age.	1	3	4	10
No. of Still Births.	2	2	4	21
Perinatal Mortality Rate:-			53.6	33.44
<u>CANCER DEATHS.</u>				
No. of Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	5	10	15	120
Cancer Death Rate.			1.9	2.20



CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
1. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	1	-
2. Tuberculosis (Other Form).	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease.	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections.	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-
9. Other infective and Parasitic Diseases.	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	-	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	4	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	-	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	1	5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	-	-
16. Diabetes.	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	13	5
18. Coronary disease, angina.	8	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-
20. Other heart diseases.	5	7
21. Other circulatory disease.	1	2
22. Influenza.	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	4	-
24. Bronchitis.	-	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	3	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.	2	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-
34. All other accidents.	2	1
35. Suicide.	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-
ALL CAUSES =	<u>48</u>	<u>46</u>
	=====	=====

SECTION B.

PUBLIC ANALYST:

Dr. G.V. James, M.B.E.,  
69, Dock Street,  
Newport, Mon.  
(Newport 63035)

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY  
SERVICE:

Dr. H.D. Gray,  
The Public Health Laboratories,  
Clytha Square,  
Newport, Mon.  
(Newport 65431)

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:

The Breconshire County Council  
Ambulance stationed at Crickhowell.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

The Clinic is situated at the rear of  
the old Town Hall, Crickhowell, and  
is attended by the County Medical  
Officer of Health and his assistant  
Medical Officers, and by Nurse J. Silk,  
the Health Visitor.  
(Crickhowell 208)

WELFARE:

The District Welfare Officer,  
Mr. Verley Rees, has an office in  
Bailey Street, Brynmawr, and also  
attends at offices in Crickhowell and  
Gilwern. The Breconshire County  
Council have facilities for Part III  
Accommodation under the National  
Assistance Act at Cockcroft House,  
Hay, and Crawshay House, Brynmawr.  
(Brynmawr 254)

ISOLATION HOSPITAL:

Infectious diseases requiring  
hospitalisation are admitted to  
Alt-yr-Yn Isolation Hospital,  
Newport, Mon.



SECTION C.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS. The following cases, other than Tuberculosis, were notified during the year 1963:-

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Number of Cases.</u>
Measles.	37
Whooping Cough.	3
Scarlet Fever.	2

TUBERCULOSIS. A schedule of new cases and removals from the Register is given below.

<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Removals from Register.</u>			
<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
2	1	0	1	3	1	0	0

Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1963.

<u>Respiratory.</u>			<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
17	14	31	2	2	4

SCHOOLS. No schools were closed during the year 1963, in consequence of infectious diseases.



SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The year opened with one of the severest winters in living memory with the heavy frosts continuing for long periods and the lowest temperature recorded was 4<sup>o</sup>F i.e. 28 degrees of frost.

All services were affected, with the frozen watermains and services causing perhaps the most inconvenience. The South-East Breconshire Water Board gave every possible assistance with standpipes, water-carts and de-frosting apparatus. Frequently, it was found that pipes de-frosted, quickly became re-frozen with the following night's frost.

Council houses suffered with frozen pipes, cisterns and cracked waterclosets, but the outdoor staff worked until late at night, weekends included, giving excellent service and, when all was over, had to tackle a back log of work that had accumulated.

The outdoor staff on refuse collection turned out every working day in the most appalling conditions and kept the service going throughout the severe winter.

WATER.

The South-East Breconshire Water Board are responsible for the public water supplies in this Council's area.

The Council's area has a piped water supply to all centres of population served mainly from local springs harnessed to small local reservoirs. The supplies to Llangenny, Glangrwyney, Crickhowell (part), Gilwern (part) and Blackrock are chlorinated. These are now sampled regularly by the Water Board, but, as in the past, the bacteriological results vary considerably due to the catchment areas frequently being unfenced agricultural ground. However, the Water Board are actively pursuing their comprehensive scheme to harness their three main sources to a large grid distribution system that will supply an adequate and pure water to all areas, and so dispense with the present local springs which can be doubtful and poor in yield.



BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLES.

PUBLIC SUPPLIES.

Supply.	Satisfactory.	Slight Contamination.	Heavy Contamination.
Crickhowell (Wern)	3	1	-
Crickhowell (Ffynnonau)	1	-	-
Llangattock.	1	-	-
Gilwern (Maesgwartha)	1	-	-
x Gilwern (Hydram)	1	-	-
Clydach.	1	-	-
x Denotes a chlorinated supply.			
<u>PRIVATE SUPPLIES.</u>	5	3	14

The reports on samples of water from the public supplies are forwarded to the South-East Breconshire Water Board for their information and action.

ESTIMATED POPULATION SUPPLIED BY A PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

Estimated total.	7,680 (Reg. Gen. estimate for 1963)	This figure includes 300 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.
Estimated population supplied into the houses.	6,597	This figure includes 300 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.
Estimated population supplied by standpipes.	30	
Estimated total population supplied.	6,627	This figure includes 300 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.
Estimated population without a public piped water supply.	1,053	



Parish.	Estimated Total Population	Estimated Population Supplied.		
		Piped Supply.	Standpipe.	Total.
Crickhowell.	1,478	1,421	Nil.	1,421
Cwmdu.	722	381	26	407
Llanbedr.	227	54	Nil.	54
Llangynidr.	487	401	Nil.	401
Llangattock.	769	634	Nil.	634
Llangenny.	650	582	Nil.	582 Includes 300 for Cwrt-y-gollen Camp.
Llanelly.	3,279	3,124	4	3,128
Partrishow.	68	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
<b>TOTALS.</b>	<b>7,680</b>	<b>6,597</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6,627</b>

RODENT CONTROL.

A full time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council and he has carried out the following treatments during the year:-

Private Dwellings.....357  
 Business Premises..... 32  
 Schools..... 4  
 Sewerage Systems.....Regular Treatment.  
 Refuse Tips..... " "  
 Brooks in Villages..... " "  
 Farms in the area surveyed and treated.

The Report of treatments carried out has been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949.



In spite of farm surveys, and the offer of treatment under Contract, the response has been poor and only seventeen farms were treated continually under Contract.

Contracts have also been signed for Cwrt-y-gollen Military Camp, Tymawr School, Tymawr School Farm and Elvicta Handtools Factory.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The new Llanbedr Sewage Works is now nearing completion, and, within the next few weeks, the old tanks will be disconnected and filled in.

The Clydach Sewerage System is now being drawn up in detail by the Consulting Engineers preparatory to the seeking of Tenders. Apart from bringing a sewerage system to the Clydach area for the first time, this scheme will enlarge the Aberbaiden Sewage Works to accommodate the housing growth of Gilwern, to at least 700 dwellings, and also the development at Govilon in the Abergavenny Rural District Council Area.

The Bwlch Scheme is now being drawn up in detail and the site for the Works has been purchased.

The Llangynidr Scheme is being pressed forward but difficulties have arisen regarding a site for the Works and access road.

The Cwmdu Sewerage Scheme is held in abeyance at present, and it is possible that further advancement will be made when the main water grid system has been installed in this area.

The Tretower Sewerage Scheme is at the stage of discussions regarding the purchase of land for the Sewage Works.

#### SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS.

Regular maintenance and sludge removal, by pumping with the Wickham Towed Diesel Pump, has been carried out at the treatment plants situated at the following Housing Estates:-

Penallt, Penllwyn, Danycoed (3 tanks), St. Michael's Close, Groesffordd, Glasfryn Terrace and also the Village of Llanbedr.

The treatment plants at Glangrwyney and Llangenny are pumped out and the sludge taken away by Contractors' Tanker at three monthly intervals. This was arranged to prevent smell nuisance to occupiers of houses in the locality.



Daily maintenance has been given to the two larger public sewage works at Crickhowell and Gilwern, and to the eleven electrically operated sewage pumps in the area.

The pumps have been given regular inspection by the Insurance Company Inspectors and their reports have been satisfactory.

One complete sludge bay has been excavated at the Aberbaiden Works, drainage pipes cleaned out and relaid, and the bed re-filled with new filtering media. The remaining fifteen sludge beds at Aberbaiden and Crickhowell have been recovered, where necessary, with filtering media and sand.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The general scavenging of the area has operated satisfactorily, and during the year the lorry travelled 7,883 miles and carried away 8,421 cubic yards of refuse to the tips at Crickhowell and Gilwern.

The present Ford Thames 7 cubic yard refuse lorry is to be replaced, and Council Members viewed a Karrier and Shelvoke & Drewry Fore and Aft Tipping lorries, and both vehicles operated for three days in the Council's area. It was agreed to purchase a Shelvoke & Drewry 20 cubic yard capacity vehicle at the beginning of the 64/65 financial year.

The vehicle to be fitted with a low roof rack to carry certain disposable medical dressings in accordance with a disposal service that the Council has agreed to operate.

As the Llanelly Parish scavenging round had now increased to a 1,000 premises, and was too much for one day's collection, it was agreed to split the round into two as from the beginning of December, 1963. This has resulted in the Gilwern area being collected on Mondays, and Clydach and Llanelly Hill being collected on Thursdays, each comprising approximately 500 premises.

The regular treatment of the tip faces with an insecticide powder, applied by a "blower", continues to give an excellent result in the reduction of any fly or wasp nuisance.

Continuous control of rat infestation is carried out at both Tips.

The 1963 Anti-Litter Campaign was again supported by the Council by the display and issue of anti-litter posters to shops, hotels and schools, and the stationing of more litter baskets and bins in the area.



## FOOD AND DRUGS.

### FOOD CONDEMNED AND VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

The following goods, were on inspection, found to be unfit and were voluntarily surrendered:-

- 78 tins Tomatoes.
- 23 tins Meat.
- 20 tins Damsons.
- 17 tins Mincemeat.
- 19 tins Curry Powder.
- 15 tins Peaches.
- 11 tins Peas.
- 10 tins Pineapples.
- 8 tins Milk.
- 9 tins Soup.
- 7 tins Salmon.
- 3 tins Baked Beans.
- 2 tins Prunes.
- 7 tins Plums.
- 3 tins Rice Pudding.
- 3 tins Golden Syrup.
- 4 tins Mustard.
- 12 jars Cod Liver Oil.
- 2 jars Pickled Beetroot.
- 5 jars Strawberry Jam.
- 1 lb Christmas Pudding.
- 2 bottles Tomato Ketchup.

### ICE CREAM.

Thirty eight premises are now registered for the sale of ice cream under the Food and Drugs Act.

The following new registration was granted during the year:-

Mrs. O.L. Walker, Morning Star Inn, Bwlch.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND KNACKER'S YARD.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses or public abattoirs, within the area of this Authority.

Slaughtering occurs within neighbouring districts where facilities are adequate, and this Council did contribute a proportion of the cost of a fully qualified Meat Inspector at Brynmawr Slaughterhouse. The latter premises have now been modernised and a charge made for meat inspection.

The Knacker's Yard of Mr. J. Davies, Tredegar, situated at Gilwern, has been regularly inspected and found to be efficiently and hygienically operated with full records maintained.

## SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year 1963:-

Detailed house inspections.....	577
Public Health Acts.....	453
Food.....	3
Factories.....	21
Complaints investigated.....	75
Scavenging investigations.....	18
Drainage investigations.....	137
Water Supply investigations.....	32

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Housing conditions continue to improve with the installation of modern amenities to old houses with the aid of improvement grants.

In the twelve months covered by this report 23 improvement grants were approved, being 16 Discretionary Grants and 7 Standard Grants.

Standard Grants were introduced in 1959, and following is a comparison of grants approved over the past eleven years:-



	Discretionary Grants.	Standard Grants.	Total.
1953	1	-	1
1954	12	-	12
1955	21	-	21
1956	13	-	13
1957	15	-	15
1958	14	-	14
1959	19	2	21
1960	13	1	14
1961	15	5	20
1962	14	13	27
1963	16	7	23

PLANNING AND BYELAW APPLICATIONS.

For the twelve months ending 31st December, 1963, the following applications were made:-

136 Applications for Planning Approval.

165 Applications for Building Byelaw Approval.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal.		Statutory.	
Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.
16	13	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Details of the routine inspection at the eighteen factories in the area are contained on separate Ministry forms.

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