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Hay Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1963

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I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Rural District for the year 1963.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1963 (15) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section I. General and Vital Statistics.

Population.....39,195 acres.

Sanitary Condition. The number of inhabited houses was 1,020 giving an average number of 26 persons per house.

Hay Rural District Council

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1963

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall, Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N. Brecon 2884. D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....W.D.Morgans, C.R.S.H.





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Hay Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1963

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Rural District for the year 1963.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/64 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....39,153 acres.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 1023 giving an average number of 3.5 persons per house.

Population.

Census 1931.....	4028.
Census 1951.....	3869.
Census 1961.....	3728.
Estimated Midsummer 1963.....	3670.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years are shown below:-

1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962. 1963.

3680. 3680. 3680. 3640. 3640. 3640. 3630. 3660. 3660. 3670.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	28.	26.	54.	
Illegitimate	2.	2.	4.	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	30.	28.	58.	15.7

The corrected birthrate was 19.9

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.2

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also higher than the district deathrate.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	24.	28.	52	14.2

The corrected deathrate was 7.1

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12.2

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also lower than the birthrate.

Still Births. There were two still births registered during the year, giving a rate of 33.3. The national still birth rate was 17.3 per 1000 live and still births.

Infant Deaths. There were no deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age, giving a rate of 0.0
National Infantile Mortality Deathrate.....20.9

Maternal Deaths. No deaths during the year could be attributed to childbirth which was very satisfactory.
Maternal Mortality Rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....	0.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	1.
Other forms tuberculosis.....	0.
Cancer.....	7.

Causes of Deaths. Males.....24. Females.....28.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0.....	1.
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	0.....	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	4.....	1.
Leukaemia.....	0.....	1.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	4.....	2.
Coronary disease.....	5.....	2.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1.....	1.
Other heart disease.....	2.....	12.
Other circulatory disease.....	2.....	5.
Pneumonia.....	1.....	0.
Bronchitis.....	1.....	0.
Gastritis.....	1.....	0.
Other defined causes.....	1.....	1.
Motor vehicle accidents.....	0.....	1.
Other accidents.....	1.....	0.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There were no changes in your Public Health Officers, Mr. W. D. Morgans remaining as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing and Other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and nursing facilities. The County also administer the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, eye, dental and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases apart from infectious disease are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of cases are also admitted to Hereford Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital receive cases of infectious disease.

For the treatment of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Section 4. Sanitary Circumstances.Water Supplies.

The Council own 10 water supplies serving the villages and hamlets of their district. There are also 8 private supplies which serve 6 properties or more and there are 182 supplies, serving 5 properties or less and 91 of these are piped supplies, the remainder being either wells, springs or pumps.

The rainfall during the summer was above average and a more plentiful supply was available and no restrictions on consumption were necessary.

The water supply position in each parish is given below:-

Aberllynfi Parish. The northern part of the village of Three Cocks is supplied from springs on Lodge Farm, while the southern part is supplied from the Velindre reservoir via Gwernyfed Supply.

The supplies were adequate throughout the year.

Seven samples of water were taken in 1963; four being satisfactory and three unsatisfactory.

Bronllys Parish. There are two supplies in this parish. One is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board and serves the Sanatorium and houses belonging thereto. The other is owned by the Council and serves most of the remaining properties in the parish, the water being collected from springs and is untreated. The supply is usually insufficient during the summer months and is then augmented from the Talgarth supply.

There are 13 other small private supplies serving individual farms in the parish.

One sample of water was taken which was satisfactory.

Talgarth Parish. There are three main public supplies in this parish.

One is owned by the Welsh Regional Hospital Board and serves the Mid Wales Mental Hospital and houses belonging thereto. The other two supplies are owned by the Council.

The larger of the Council's supplies serves some 410 properties in Talgarth, this supply being received as an overflow from the Mental Hospital and is sand filtered and chlorinated.

The smaller of the Council's supplies serves the hamlet of Trefecca of 28 dwellings. The water is from springs and is untreated.

The very severe and continuous frost during the winter was responsible for a number of service pipes being frozen. After the thaw came in March a number of burst pipes were discovered and a systematic search was carried out to locate any leaks. Any defective pipes and stop-cocks were repaired and this has reduced the quantity of water running to waste.

In addition to the above there are 40 private supplies in the parish of which some 30 are piped supplies serving individual farms.

One sample of water from the main supply was taken and this was satisfactory.

Llanellieu Parish. There are 16 properties in this parish, 11 being in the Wye Valley and 5 in the Usk Valley and all have private supplies from various sources.

Glynfach Parish and Usk Valley portion of Tregoyd and Velindre. There are 10 private supplies in this area, 6 being small piped supplies and the other 4 being from springs. None of them being treated. No samples were taken during the year.

Llanigon Parish. The Council own the supply serving the village of Llanigon, water being taken from springs to a service reservoir. There was an adequate supply for consumers during the year. Some 270 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ " new main was laid to replace the old defective main in Llanthomas Road.

One new bungalow was connected to the supply during the year, making a total of 34 on this supply.

There are 10 other small private supplies in this parish and 6 of these are piped.

2 samples of water were taken during the year and were satisfactory.

The Council also own the supply which serves the hamlet of Ffordlaes. Water is pumped by Ram from Llwynfilly Farm to a small reservoir and filter tank above the hamlet.

One sample was taken and this was satisfactory.

Llyswen Parish. The Council own the supply serving this village; water being collected from two springs and is untreated. The source at Tir-gwalter springs is poor and soon dries up in the summer months but there is an adequate yield at all times from the source on Llandefalle Road. This supply also serves the village of Boughrood in Radnorshire.

Two samples of water taken were satisfactory.

Hay Rural Parish. 14 properties in this parish obtain water from the Llanigon supply. There are 15 private supplies and 8 of these are piped.

No samples were taken during the year.

Pipton Parish. There is no Council supply in this parish, but there are 11 private supplies of which 8 are piped; the other supplies being from wells and springs.

No samples were taken during the year.

Tregoyd & Velindre Parish. Most of the properties in this parish are served from the Council's reservoir at Velindre; the water being sand filtered and chlorinated. Of the 130 dwellings in the parish, 117 have water laid on. Water is also supplied to Gwernyfed, Three Cocks, Glasbury and also augments the Glasbury (Radnorshire) supply in times of shortage.

5 samples of water from this source were taken during 1963 and 2 were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory.

Most of the dwellings in the village of Glasbury (Breconshire) are served from a private supply from two spring sources; the one source being augmented by an overflow of spring water from the Council's hydraulic ram supply at Llwynfilly Farm.

One sample of water taken from this source was satisfactory.

Hay and Painscastle Area Water Scheme. Negotiations have continued during the year with the owners of the land adjoining Llanbwchlllyn Lake over acquisition in connection with the use of the lake as a reservoir for the above named scheme, and an Engineering Inspector from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government visited the Council Offices to investigate the proposals submitted by the Councils in respect of this scheme.

The draft Water Order was published during the year together with a statement by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the proposed constitution of the Radnorshire and North Breconshire Water Board.

Notification was later received that the Minister of Housing & Local Government, having considered the report of his Engineering Inspector, following the local investigation into the Council's application for an Order under Section 23 and 26 of the Water Act, 1945, empowering them to abstract water from Llanbwchlllyn Lake and the River Wye and the construction of certain works, had decided to make the Order in the form of the deposited draft, and this would be made on the 17th. January 1964, entitled the Hay and Painscastle Areas Water Order, 1964.

General.

Number of inspections to water supplies made by P.H.I. 32.

Number of samples taken from private sources. 9.

Samples satisfactory. 1.

Samples suspicious. 1.

Samples unsatisfactory. 7.

Where unsatisfactory samples have been taken, the owners have been requested to take steps to improve the supplies.

Numbers of properties served from public mains and population is as given on amended Table.

	Houses with piped supply	Population served	Number with standpipes	Population served
Aberllynfi	43	140	0	0
Bronllys	111	388	0	0
Talgarth	435	1532	0	0
Trefecca	Included in Talgarth			
Llanellieu	0	0	0	0
Glynfach	0	0	0	0
Llanigon	40	136	0	0
Ffordlaes	Included in Llanigon			
Hay Rural	14	48	0	0
Llyswen	56	196	0	0
Tipton	0	0	0	0
Tregoyd & Velindre	117	407	1	2

Drainage and Sewerage.

Talgarth. The scheme for the alteration and modernisation of the Talgarth Sewage Works was placed in the hands of Consulting Engineers and they have been preparing the preliminary report and plans for the scheme. Two samples of sewage taken in Talgarth were submitted for analysis in connection with the scheme.

The sedimentation tanks were cleaned out during the year by a private contractor and 128 loads of sewage were removed.

Bronllys. It is proposed that the sewage from this village be piped to the proposed new works at Talgarth for which plans and details are being drawn up by the Council's Consulting Civil Engineers.

Three Cocks. Further details and plans were prepared during the year for the provision of sewers and a sewage disposal works for this village.

Ffordlaes. Further consideration was given during the year to provide sewers and a sewage disposal works for this small hamlet, and the Council have now engaged Consulting Civil Engineers to prepare a scheme.

Llyswen. Most of the properties in this village have now been connected to the new sewers and the works have been working satisfactorily.

Velindre. The sewers and sewage disposal works which were constructed for this village some years ago are working satisfactorily.

General.

Number of inspections to sewage disposal works made by P.H.I.15.
Number of visits to other drainage works by P.H.I.30.

A sewage works maintenance team employed by the Council comprises two workmen with a small van and these carry out similar duties for Hay U.D.C. and Painscastle R.D.C. Regular inspections and maintenance work is carried out to all the village sewage works and the small septic tank units serving village housing estates.

Public Cleansing. Refuse is collected once weekly in Talgarth, Bronllys, Llyswen, Tipton, Aberllynfi, Tregoyd and Velindre, Llanigon and the parish of Hay Rural. Some of the outlying properties, including Pengefordd, have a monthly collection.

The refuse Collection service was extended to serve properties at Capel-y-ffin in the parish of Glynfach during the year.

The refuse collection service is undertaken by the Council's workmen and lorry jointly with Hay U.D.C. and Painscastle R.D.C. under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on the Bronllys tip.

Salvage. No waste paper was sold during the year.

There are 205 Council houses in the district. Three private houses were constructed during the year, making a total of 47 erected since the war. One discretionary grant was approved in 1963 for the sum of £315 and ten standard grants were also approved for a total figure not exceeding £1293.

Legal Proceedings. No legal action was taken during the year.

Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 (Article 31).

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....46.
2. The number of houses the defects of which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....0.
3. The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notice requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders.....0.
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution or works.....0.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal action.....0.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made.....0.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.....0.
8. Number of houses demolished.....0.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. There are two dealers registered in the district who sell T.T. pasteurised and sterilised milk. There are no dairies registered. One dealer operates from Brecon Borough and one from Hay Urban District. It was necessary during the year to take certain action with regard to a brucella abortus infection of a herd and a positive tuberculous sample received. This has been previously reported in detail.

Slaughterhouse. There is only one slaughterhouse in the district situated at Cross House, Talgarth, and owned by Mr. W. J. George. Improvements to the slaughterhouse were commenced at the end of 1962 in order to bring the building up to the required standard as laid down in the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958. In view of the difficulty experienced by the owner in getting the alterations completed by the Appointed Day of 1st. January, 1963, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food agreed to postpone the Appointed Day until the 1st. April 1963, and the necessary work was completed by that date.

Number of visits to slaughterhouse.....78.

Meat Inspection Regulations 1963. These Regulations came into force on 1st. October 1963 and requires that all home killed meat must be inspected before it leaves the slaughterhouse. The Act requires that 24 hours notice of slaughter must be given to the Inspector, and the meat inspected and passed for human consumption must be marked and a charge made for such inspection.

The Hay Rural District Council have agreed to charge the maximum permitted under the Regulations, namely:-
 2s. 6d. per horse or bovine animal (other than a calf)
 9d. per calf or pig
 6d. per sheep, lamb or goat.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed if known					
Number inspected	141	-	541	156	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	3	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	0.71	-	0.74	-	-

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Other Foods Condemned.....17 lbs. cooked meats.

Other Foods.

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses)

Number of inspections made.....22.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....18.

No manufacture of ice cream is carried out in the district,there being 20 retailers.No samples of ice cream were examined during the year.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspector.....12.

There is one fried fish premises in the district.

Shops. There are 26 shops in the district which deal in food and may be classified as follows.

Grocers.....	10.
Grocer/Confectioners.....	3.
Grocer/Cafe.....	0.
Grocer/Bakers.....	0.
Bakers.....	1.
Cafes.....	5.
Greengrocers.....	1.
Confectioners/Tobacconists.....	4.
Butchers.....	1.
Fish and Chips.....	1.
Fishmongers.....	0.

The district is also served by such tradesman from contiguous areas.

Number of inspections under Shops Acts.....30.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. The Government intend to bring most of the provisions of this Act into operation on 1st. August, 1964. In order to give Local Authorities and other enforcing authorities time to deal with the registration of premises and to make administrative preparations, it is intended to bring certain provisions into operation a few months earlier. The Ministry of Labour have been consulting local authority organisations and other interested organisations about procedures and forms to be used for administering the Act, and when these questions have been decided, the Ministry will issue a series of circulars giving guidance to the authorities responsible for enforcement. It is proposed to give the Act extensive publicity by means of leaflets, posters and press and television advertising.

The Act will cover health, welfare and safety of office and shop workers and other non-industrial workers, except in premises where only self-employed persons work or where the total time worked by an employee or employees amounts to twenty-one hours a week or less; this is to exclude the small shop or office where the only paid help is occasional.

Regardless of the premises covered by the Act, its general provisions are comprehensive in range and cover some 16 matters, such as, cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, lighting, ventilation, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing, eating facilities etc.

The Factory Inspectors of the Ministry of Labour will be responsible for all railway premises, shops and offices on building sites and factories, crown premises and all local authority premises, since it has not been thought advisable to permit local authority's officers to inspect its offices. "Self-inspection" has been decided to be basically undesirable and not in the interest of the inspector or his authority.

Fire Services Authorities will administer the fire provisions, and it will be the duty of the local authorities to enforce the Act in all the remaining premises, i.e. all those which are shops or offices as such, and those which are incorporated in buildings not assigned to the Factory Inspector.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

No cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year. This is the second year in succession for this to occur.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis.The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in 1963 and recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	46.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	3.
Number of cases removed due to recovery.....	6.
Number of cases removed due to removal from district.....	2.
Number of cases removed due to death.....	1.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	40.

The number of cases notified during recent years is shown below:-

1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961. 1962. 1963.

9. 3. 10. 2. 13. 12. 8. 6. 6. 3.

It must be pointed out that, of these 3 new cases admitted to the register during the year, 2 were transfers from other districts. This left a total of 1 fresh case occurring in the district during the year.

APPENDIX

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1963 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF HAY IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	12	18	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	15	21	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Out-work)	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	-	-	-

There was no out-work done during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health

Cases in which DEFECTS were found, as listed in the following table, (if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
ant of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	1	-
verpowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
collective drainage (S.5)	-	-	-	-
sanitary conveniences (S.6)	-	-	-	-
sanitation (S.7)	-	-	-	-
defective	1	1	1	-
not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
other offences against the Act (not relating to S.1-S.7)	1	1	1	-
Totals	3	3	3	-

There was no out-work done during the year.

Yours faithfully,
T.C.R. George

Medical Officer of Health