

**[Report 1952] / Medical Officer of Health, Llangollen U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

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LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To  
The Chairman and Members of the  
Llangollen Urban District Council.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH  
RECEIVED  
12 OCT 1953

A.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Jones and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Second Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Llangollen Urban District for the Year ended the 31st December 1952, together with the information supplied by the Sanitary Inspector for the same period.

At the time of writing the Annual Report for 1951 I was acting as Medical Officer of Health only in a temporary capacity, but on the 1st March 1952 I was appointed whole-time Medical Officer of Health for the Eastern (No. 1) District of Denbighshire comprising Llangollen Urban District, Wrexham Rural District and the Ceiriog Rural District.

In September of this year we lost the services of Mr. Lovatt the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector who then retired, after having given over 30 years of long and faithful service to this Council. His excellent work during this period will leave an indelible mark on the Llangollen landscape which will prove to be its own testimonial to him. With his departure I lost a valued and trustworthy colleague who will be difficult to replace.

During the last three months of the year the duties of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector were carried on with outside help which did not prove an entirely satisfactory solution to the problem.

In November, Mr. Fenton was appointed to the post, but as he could not commence duties until 1953, he was not available for any work in 1952.

The estimated population of the Town in 1952 is given by the Registrar General at 3,207 which is 68 less than the Census figure of 3,275 for 1951.

During the year there were 48 live births as compared with 54 in 1951 and 64 in 1950. These figures show that the number of births in Llangollen has fallen gradually during the last three years, consequently the birth rate has also fallen and it is now 14.96 as compared with 17.03 in 1951. Our adjusted birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 14.81 as compared with a rate of 15.3 over England and Wales. To make an approximate allowance for the way in which local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole the crude birth and death rates for the area should be multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor. For the Llangollen Urban Area the comparability factor for Births is 0.99 and for Deaths 0.75.

The number of deaths recorded during the year was 45, one less than in 1952. The death rate was 14.03 as compared with 14.51 in 1951. The adjusted death rate works out at 10.52 which is less than that for England and Wales = 11.3.

There were 3 infant deaths during 1952. This gives an infantile death rate of 62.5 per 1,000 live births compared with NIL in 1951. There were no cases of maternal mortality. The infantile death rate for England and Wales for 1952 was 27.6 per 1,000 live births.

There were no epidemics of infectious disease during the year and it was pleasing to note that the Town was free from attacks of diphtheria and poliomyelitis.

15 OCT 1952  
A

To  
The Chairman and Members of the  
Hampshire Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Messrs Jones and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to  
submit to you the Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics  
of the Hampshire Urban District for the year ended 31st March  
1952, together with the information requested by the  
Sanitary Inspector for the same period.

At the time of writing  
the annual report for 1951 I was working as Medical Officer of  
Health only in a temporary capacity, but on the 1st March 1952  
I was appointed whole-time Medical Officer of Health for the  
Hampshire Urban District of Hampshire consisting of Hampshire  
Urban District, Hampshire Rural District and the entire Rural  
District.

In September of this  
year we had the services of Mr. David the Surveyor and Sanitary  
Inspector who then retired, after having given over 20 years of  
loyal and faithful service to this Council. His excellent work  
during this period will leave an indelible mark on the Hampshire  
Urban District which will prove to be of the greatest benefit to him.  
With his departure I lost a valued and trustworthy colleague.

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The number of deaths  
recorded during the year was 45, the least since 1921. The  
death rate was 14.01 as compared with 14.81 in 1951. The highest  
death rate was 16.02 which is less than the rate for 1921  
and 1922. The lowest rate was 11.5.

There were 5 births  
during the year. This gives an infant mortality rate of  
42.3 per 1,000 live births compared with 44.1 in 1951. The  
lowest infant mortality rate was 37.5 per 1,000 live births  
in 1921 and the highest was 57.5 per 1,000 live births in 1922.

The number of marriages  
during the year was 12, the least since 1921. The highest  
number of marriages was 15 in 1921. The lowest number of  
marriages was 8 in 1922. The number of marriages in 1952  
was 12, which is the same as in 1921.

The number of divorces  
during the year was 1, the least since 1921. The highest  
number of divorces was 2 in 1921. The lowest number of  
divorces was 0 in 1922. The number of divorces in 1952  
was 1, which is the same as in 1921.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration throughout the year and also to pay tribute to the great help I have received from the Clerk and his staff at all times and for their assistance in the compilation of this Report.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District in Acres. . . . .	3,107.
Registrar General's estimated population. . . . .	3,207.
Number of inhabited houses. . . . .	1,070.
Rateable Value of the District at 1st April 1952.	£19,114.
Sum represented by the product of a penny rate for the year ended 31st March 1952. . . . .	£75. 5. 11d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	Legitimate	23.	25.	48.
	Illegitimate.	2.	3.	5.
	Totals.	<u>24.</u>	<u>24.</u>	<u>48.</u>

STILL BIRTHS. No still births were recorded during 1952.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	22.	23.	45.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under four weeks old.	1.	1.	2.
DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year.	2.	1.	3.

The causes of the 45 deaths in the area can be summarised as follows :-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Malignant neoplasm - stomach.	-	2.	2.
- ditto - lung, bronchus.	2.	-	2.
- ditto - breast.	-	1.	1.
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3.	2.	5.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	2.	6.	8.
Coronary disease - angina.	1.	1.	2.
Hypertension with heart disease.	-	1.	1.
Other heart diseases.	4.	3.	7.
Other circulatory disease.	1.	1.	2.
Pneumonia.	1.	-	1.
Bronchitis.	1.	2.	3.
Congenital malformations.	1.	-	1.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	3.	4.	7.
Motor vehicle accidents.	1.	-	1.
All other accidents.	1.	-	1.
Suicide.	1.	-	1.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals.	22.	23.	45.

STATISTICS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and members of the Council for their kindness and consideration throughout the year and also to say a few words to the staff. Great help has been received from the Clerk and his staff at all times and for their assistance in the completion of this Report.

Area of the District in acres, 1,107.  
 Population General, 1,807.  
 Number of inhabited houses, 1,070.  
 Estimated value of the houses at the 31st Dec. 1914, £28,114.  
 The population in 1911 was 1,771, and in 1901, 1,511.

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE

Year	Deaths	Causes
1914	1	Accident
1913	1	Accident
1912	1	Accident
1911	1	Accident
1910	1	Accident
1909	1	Accident
1908	1	Accident
1907	1	Accident
1906	1	Accident
1905	1	Accident
1904	1	Accident
1903	1	Accident
1902	1	Accident
1901	1	Accident

DEATHS OF INFANTS under four weeks old, 1.  
 DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year, 1.

The cause of the 45 deaths in the area can be summarized as follows:

Year	Deaths	Causes
1914	1	Accident
1913	1	Accident
1912	1	Accident
1911	1	Accident
1910	1	Accident
1909	1	Accident
1908	1	Accident
1907	1	Accident
1906	1	Accident
1905	1	Accident
1904	1	Accident
1903	1	Accident
1902	1	Accident
1901	1	Accident
1900	1	Accident
1899	1	Accident
1898	1	Accident
1897	1	Accident
1896	1	Accident
1895	1	Accident
1894	1	Accident
1893	1	Accident
1892	1	Accident
1891	1	Accident
1890	1	Accident
1889	1	Accident
1888	1	Accident
1887	1	Accident
1886	1	Accident
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1837	1	Accident
1836	1	Accident
1835	1	Accident
1834	1	Accident
1833	1	Accident
1832	1	Accident
1831	1	Accident
1830	1	Accident
1829	1	Accident
1828	1	Accident
1827	1	Accident
1826	1	Accident
1825	1	Accident
1824	1	Accident
1823	1	Accident
1822	1	Accident
1821	1	Accident
1820	1	Accident
1819	1	Accident
1818	1	Accident
1817	1	Accident
1816	1	Accident
1815	1	Accident
1814	1	Accident
1813	1	Accident
1812	1	Accident
1811	1	Accident
1810	1	Accident
1809	1	Accident
1808	1	Accident
1807	1	Accident
1806	1	Accident
1805	1	Accident
1804	1	Accident
1803	1	Accident
1802	1	Accident
1801	1	Accident
1800	1	Accident

Total, 45.

HEALTH SERVICES.

There has been no change in the general provision for Health Services since 1948, and the Clinics available are :-

1. The County Council Child Welfare Clinic at Llangollen.
2. The Ante-Natal Clinic at Llangollen taken by the County Obstetrician.

The larger Hospitals available in the immediate neighbourhood are as detailed in the 1951 Report, viz :-

1. The Wrexham War Memorial Hospital.
2. The Wrexham Emergency Hospital (Plas Maelor)
3. The Wrexham Fever Hospital.
4. The Wrexham Tuberculosis Dispensary.
5. The Park Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

The Ambulance Service is by arrangement with the Cefn Mawr St. John's Ambulance Corps and since July 1948, the Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Denbighshire County Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Infectious Diseases notified during the Year were

Scarlet Fever.	...	...	2.
Measles.	...	...	11.
Diphtheria.	...	...	NIL.
Poliomyelitis.		Paralytic	NIL.
		Non-paralytic	NIL.

There were 6 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the Year but no deaths attributable to this disease occurred. This compares with only 3 cases notified in 1951. The diagnosis and control of this disease has greatly advanced of recent years as a result of new methods of treatment both surgical and medical. The Mass Radiography Service also plays a great part in the early discovery of new cases. As a result it is to be hoped that Tuberculosis will in due course be gradually eradicated but it is already true that deaths from Tuberculosis have fallen by 40% in England and Wales in the last five years.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Llangollen for the first time in March 1952, and there was a very satisfactory response, 1166 people available themselves of the service.

IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is carried out at the Clinic and by the General Practitioners of the Town.

The figures are given in the Table below.

It is imperative that the number of children immunised be kept up to the level of 75% of the child population otherwise outbreaks of diphtheria may occur again.

Vaccination has fallen into disfavour with the public in recent years. Of the 48 live births recorded, only 22 were vaccinated during 1952. This is probably due to the fact that most mothers of today have never seen a case of smallpox and do not realise what a fatal and horrible disease it is, otherwise they would rush to have their children protected and not wait to act until an outbreak of smallpox occurs when it may be too late.

Immunisations - Diphtheria - Primary dose.	3.
Whooping Cough.	14.
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough combined dose. Under 1 year	22.
Between 1 and 5.	20.
Vaccinations - Children - Primary.	22.
Re-vaccination.	1.

There has been no change in the general provision for health services since 1950, and the district available are: 1. The County Council Health Service (District of Health); 2. The Public Health Service as administered by the County Council.

- The Public Health Service available in the immediate neighbourhood are as detailed in the 1951 report, viz:
  1. The Hospital for Mental Hospital
  2. The Hospital for Mental Hospital (P.N.S. section)
  3. The Hospital for Mental Hospital
  4. The Hospital for Mental Hospital
  5. The Hospital for Mental Hospital

The Public Health Service is by arrangement with the County Council, and a maintenance grant is made to the County Council, the responsibility of the maintenance of the health services.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases notified during the year were:

Scarlet fever	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...
Hypertension	...	...
Polio-myelitis	...	...
Paratyphoid	...	...
Non-paratyphoid	...	...

There were 6 new cases of tuberculous notified during the year but no deaths attributable to this disease occurred. This compares with only 3 cases notified in 1951. The diagnosis and control of this disease has greatly advanced of recent years as a result of new methods of treatment both surgical and medical. The Mass Radiography Service also plays a great part in the early discovery of new cases. As a result it is to be hoped that tuberculous will in due course be gradually eradicated but it is already true that deaths from tuberculous have fallen by 50% in Scotland and Wales in the last five years. The Mass Radiography Unit visited Glasgow for the first time in March 1952, and there was a very satisfactory response, 1500 people available themselves of the service.

LEPROSY

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease and during 1952 is carried out of the State and by the General Practitioner of the town. The figures are given in the table below. It is important that the number of children born in the town at the level of 1000 of the total population otherwise the number of children may soon rise. Leprosy has fallen into disrepute with the public in recent years. Of the 15 live births recorded, only 12 were reported during 1952. This is probably due to the fact that the number of live births is not known and it is, therefore, they would tend to have their children protected and not well to see until an outbreak of leprosy occurs when it may be too late.

1952	12
1951	15
1950	18
1949	20
1948	22
1947	25
1946	28
1945	30
1944	32
1943	35
1942	38
1941	40
1940	42
1939	45
1938	48
1937	50
1936	52
1935	55
1934	58
1933	60
1932	62
1931	65
1930	68
1929	70
1928	72
1927	75
1926	78
1925	80
1924	82
1923	85
1922	88
1921	90
1920	92
1919	95
1918	98
1917	100

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The normal source is upland surface water, an auxiliary supply being obtained from the River Dee to meet deficiencies in dry periods. The water is treated by sedimentation tanks, gravity filters and chlorination. The quality of the water is consistently reported as highly satisfactory. There is no plumbo-solvent action.

The waterworks supplies about 14,000 gallons an hour to the town and has three filters which are working at full capacity with little or no margin of safety. It is essential that an extension of the works should be made and an extra filter added so that one can be rested when necessary. These recommendations are under consideration and will probably be carried out when the new scheme for abstracting more water from the River Dee is commenced. As a result of the Council's application to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government for increased abstraction of water from the River Dee to meet the present day demands during dry periods, an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry held a Public Inquiry on the 27th February 1952. The original application had been amended to cover further abstraction in order to meet the needs of the Parish of Llantysilio in the Wrexham Rural District, the Llangollen Urban District Council having entered into negotiation for a supply of water to this Parish at the request of the Wrexham Rural District Council. Negotiations are also proceeding with the Dee & Clwyd River Board in respect of the abstraction of water from the River Dee and on the question of financial contributions to the Bala Lake Scheme.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There has been no change in the drainage and sewerage system during the year. Although the whole of the town area is on the water carriage system there has been no arrangement for treating effluent before discharge into the River Dee. This state of affairs has existed for many years and the various schemes for Sewerage Works have been shelved from time to time because of two world wars resulting in necessity for economy. This has been a false economy for the original cost of the work has now trebled and will sooner or later have to be met for it is an urgent necessity that the work should be completed at the earliest possible date for the sake of common decency as well as in the interests of public health.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse is collected weekly throughout the town area and disposed of at the Wenffrwd Tip about 1½ mile from the town.

HOUSING.

Two houses were completed during the year by private enterprise.

No houses were erected by the Local Authority. Although there is an urgent need for Council houses in Llangollen, at present no further development is permitted by the Ministry until some progress is made in the negotiations for a sewerage scheme. There is therefore very little hope of mitigating our housing problems due to over-crowding and unfit houses and it is certain that this problem will become aggravated as time goes on. Overcrowded families have very little hope of obtaining a house in Llangollen and probably less hope of getting one in any other district. May we anticipate that this state of affairs will soon be rectified so that Llangollen's progress as to housing may not be indefinitely delayed.



MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. A list of foods that have been condemned during the year is given below. It will be noticed that boiled ham in tins constituted the food which was most frequently condemned. Many of these tins are meant to be kept in cold storage, and if displayed in shops or transported by road at ordinary temperatures for more than 24 hours may become unsafe for human consumption. Many shops fail to keep these tins in cold storage, hence the reason for so much going bad and being wasted. There is a danger to public health from this carelessness and stricter measures should be taken to see that foods are kept at temperatures that will ensure that they are safe for human consumption.

There are no slaughterhouses in use in Llangollen. Visits are paid to shops and other places where food is prepared and the following articles of food were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :-

Boiled ham (Tinned)	...	124 lbs.
Wet fish.	...	84 lbs.
Tinned fish.	...	3 lbs.
Tinned vegetables.	...	101 lbs.
Tinned soups.	...	8 lbs.
Tinned milk.	...	10 lbs.
Tinned fruit.	...	27 lbs.
Tinned meats.	...	38½ lbs.
Tinned jam.	...	3 lbs.
Pork.	...	8 lbs.
Bacon.	...	11 lbs.
	Total.	<u>417½ lbs.</u>

INSPECTIONS UNDER FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	27.	14.	1.
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12.	8.	-
<b>TOTAL.</b>	<u>39.</u>	<u>22.</u>	<u>1.</u>

Cases in which defects were found.

	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness.	1.	1.	-
Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective	<u>1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total.</b>	<u>2.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>-</u>

Yours obediently,

T. KENRICK HUGHES.  
Medical Officer of Health.

Llangollen.

August 1953.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS  
 A list of foods that have been  
 condensed during the year is given below. It will be  
 noticed that bottled pan in this category the food which was  
 most frequently condensed. Many of these items are found to be  
 kept in cold storage, and it is difficult to give an accurate  
 total as ordinary consumption for these items is not very  
 much for human consumption. Many shops sell in large  
 quantities for cold storage, hence the reason for so much being  
 being wanted. There is a danger to public health from this  
 condensation and greater measures should be taken to see that  
 foods are kept at temperatures that will ensure that they are  
 safe for human consumption.

There are no slaughtering in the  
 to be supplied. Visitors are sent to shops and other places  
 where food is prepared and the following articles of food were  
 condensed as well as for human consumption during the year:-

100 lbs.	...	Bottled pan (Tinned)
50 lbs.	...	Wet fish
5 lbs.	...	Tinned fish
100 lbs.	...	Tinned vegetables
5 lbs.	...	Tinned soups
10 lbs.	...	Tinned milk
20 lbs.	...	Tinned fruit
200 lbs.	...	Tinned cereals
5 lbs.	...	Tinned jam
5 lbs.	...	Pork
10 lbs.	...	Bacon

Total

100 lbs.	...	Bottled pan (Tinned)
50 lbs.	...	Wet fish
5 lbs.	...	Tinned fish
100 lbs.	...	Tinned vegetables
5 lbs.	...	Tinned soups
10 lbs.	...	Tinned milk
20 lbs.	...	Tinned fruit
200 lbs.	...	Tinned cereals
5 lbs.	...	Tinned jam
5 lbs.	...	Pork
10 lbs.	...	Bacon

Cases in which delinquents were found

1	...	Went to classification
1	...	Unsuitable or defective
2	...	Total

Yours obediently,

T. KENNON HOBBS,  
 District Officer at ...

Approved  
 August 1922