

[Report 1964] / Medical Officer of Health, Blandford Forum Borough.

Contributors

Blandford Forum (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1964

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qz8rtpqx>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR.....1964

THE
LIBRARY OF THE
MUSEUM OF
ART AND HISTORY
OF THE
CITY OF
NEW YORK
100 N. 5th St.
NEW YORK, N. Y.
10002

1964

1.

BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

His Worship the Mayor.....Alderman G.R.J. Haskett, J.P.

The Deputy Mayor.....Councillor Mrs. G.F. Lane, J.P.

Aldermen:

J.L. Carter, J.P.

E.G. Riggs

B.C. Hunt

Councillors:

A.W.G. Adams

D. Flander

G.O. Fry (Chairman of the Public Health
Committee)

T.L. Hughes

Major A.N. Lane

W.E. Newsome

W.L. Penny

Lt. Col. P.E. Salkeld

J. Trickett

Miss A.A. Williams, J.P.

A.G.H. Woodward

2.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Senior Assistant County Medical Officer) |) 5/11th of time. |
| School Medical Officer | |

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Blandford Forum.

Medical Officer of Health, Blandford Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health, Wimborne Minster Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health, Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.

contributing roughly:

Borough of Blandford Forum..... $\frac{1}{4}$ day per week.

Blandford Rural District..... $\frac{1}{2}$ day per week.

Wimborne Minster Urban District..... $\frac{1}{3}$ rd day per week.

Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District..... $1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

H.L. Birkett, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

Area Office,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne Minster.
Dorset.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for 1964.

The list of notifiable infectious diseases is unremarkable; measles was at a low ebb following the flood tide of the previous year. Although rarely serious the disease has at the least much nuisance value and an "antibiotic umbrella", is very often raised against secondary infection. There is a prospect of a satisfactory vaccine, some advance having been made in research and development during the year. Apart from the obvious advantages to health of such a vaccine a saving to the National Drug Bill would result.

One case of tuberculosis was added to the list. There were 18 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis under observation, males predominating, and three non-pulmonary. There were no deaths directly attributable. During 1962 in England and Wales there were 3,088 deaths from tuberculosis, about 9 per day. At the rate prevailing 100 years ago, there would have been 130,000 deaths, or 370 per day. Environmental factors such as better housing, better food, shorter hours of work, better working conditions, increasing restrictions on the sale of strong liquor, compulsory schooling, progressive raising of the school leaving age, coupled with restrictions on child labour, steadily reduced this appalling toll. The introduction of effective drugs after the last war was a notable contribution to the struggle but it is as yet too early to talk of a coup de grace to tuberculosis. Elderly men continue to present a **problem**, some appear to lose their resistance, and in the sixty to seventy year age group the mortality rate for men is five times that for women. Smoking is considered to play a part in this, possibly due to years of tobacco induced coughing.

The improving environment is not always beneficial, and indeed the greater availability of food seems to be causally associated with increased coronary disease and diabetes. The latter shows a distinct familial tendency and the increased breeding potential conferred by the success of treatment seems destined to increase the incidence. Marriage guidance in the future will very likely expand to pre-marriage guidance, to include genetic investigation and advice.

The virus diseases are slowly yielding but there is a big field to conquer. Smallpox and poliomyelitis are preventable, one for two-hundred, the other for several years. Many enteric and upper respiratory viruses have yet to be isolated, identified and tamed. Some are responsible for the epidemics of diarrhoea and vomiting which occur so frequently.

Meanwhile research on the common cold was held up by lack of volunteers just as a tantalising and expanding glimmer of light was to be seen at the end of the tunnel.

The affluent society continues to throw up fresh problems besides overeating and smoking. It was necessary during the year to invoke Article 83 of the International Sanitary Regulations dealing with surveillance of potential smallpox victims, a few unvaccinated Mediterranean cruise participants having stepped ashore in N. Africa. There has been an increase in several parts of the world of a type of botulinism, a very dread form of food poisoning, because of a superior form of packaging of dried fish in air-tight polythene bags. The increase in the consumption of confectionery led to the importation of frozen bulked eggs from afar, together with a quota of paratyphoid germs and other Salmonellae; regulations requiring pasteurisation of frozen eggs followed. Desiccated coconut imports were found frequently to be contaminated likewise, owing to primitive sanitary conditions and methods in the countries of origin. Antibiotics have become widely available to cattle and regulations became necessary to limit the penicillin content of milk. Resistant germs are being cultured by administration of other antibiotics to cattle, and man himself may find this practice rebounding upon both himself and his cattle. Meat was dusted with certain vitamins because they kept the meat red and fresh looking; overdoing this caused mysterious flushing in some people with attendant anxieties about their health or age, calling for more regulations. So much petrol fumes swirl about our highways that significant quantities of lead from antiknock ingredients have been found on lettuces grown alongside highways in America. No regulations as yet!

The programme of films and discussions to discourage children from smoking was continued during the year, and the effort was concentrated on the ten to 12 year olds. There is some evidence that the warning is taken quite seriously by some children of this age. The Surgeon General of the U.S.A. Public Health Service reported some impact upon adolescents of the American Report on smoking, and a 12% drop in cigarette smoking.

There was one death from lung cancer. The annual national death rate from this condition rose to about 27,000. Over three quarters of all men smoke. Less than a half of doctors smoke. During 1963/4 tobacco tax accounted for nearly one seventh of the total Government taxation receipts.

In 1963 the National Health Service cost £1000 million. £132 millions were spent on mental health, including Local Health Authority community care, drugs and general practitioners' time. The mental hospitals took about four fifths of this, leaving £27 millions as the total expenditure on the vast realm of mental health outside hospitals, including the anxiety neuroses which are in varying degree crippling and much more common than frank psychoses. The costs of sickness absence due to mental ill health are rising. Certification of sickness absence tends to magnify the physical component at the expense of the mental because the latter is still a National Taboo. The real cost is therefore heavily concealed. The concept of mental ill-health, particularly the neuroses, is too abstract to be widely understood, based as it is on the sort of adjustment that each individual makes to the trials and tribulations of life. It is impossible to pinpoint a clearly defined target on which to spend money in research but basically the human being is an infinitely complex chemical laboratory capable of continual adaptation to the multitudinous effects of the environment, and the more money that is spent on research into the basic chemical processes the sooner we shall have the power to influence from outside the intrinsic processes which are found to be faulty.

Meanwhile the impact upon District Councils lies mainly through their housing functions under the Housing Acts, and through certain Public Health Act functions. Obviously one of the most important and immediate environmental influences is the house, and every general practitioner would frequently be very grateful for the power to write a prescription for a house rather than for medicine. The Council's efforts in this direction are therefore to be seen as very important factors in the advancement of the mental health of the community, and the serious deficiencies in the country as a whole are to be viewed in the opposite light.

During the year good progress was made on the Highfields site in building sixteen houses and eight bungalows, many of which were occupied by the end of the year. Several of the houses were allotted to families vacating unfit premises closed or demolished. Six of the bungalows were destined for old age pensioners.

By 1972 there are likely to be over one million people, mostly women, in England and Wales, who have passed their eightieth birthday, and by 1985 the number of over sixty-fives will have risen by two million to some 7,650,000. The community will be as well able to care for this increase as it is now owing to a comparable increase in the productive age groups and a probable extension of the system of employing married women. There seems therefore to be a very solidly assured future for any project for old peoples' houses and however expensive they may appear, there is a large unknown credit from the contribution to mental health.

It is doubly unfortunate for the health of the nation that the land shortage is creating a new class distinction, the new pashas and peasants, those who have land with planning permission and the rest.

The birth rate continues a relatively high one while the death rate has dropped from last year's high figure to the low figure normally associated with a rural area.

There follow the customary details and the Report of the Public Health Inspector, and in conclusion I record my thanks for the courtesy and consideration extended to me throughout the year.

J. B. Hopkins

SEPTEMBER, 1965

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough.....253 acres
 Population as estimated by Registrar General (mid-year) 3,630
 Rateable value at 1st April, 1964.....£147,742
 Estimated product of 1d rate at 1st April, 1964.....£ 582.13.11.
 Estimated number of inhabited houses at 31/12/64.....1,195

AS SUPPLIED BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

| <u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Blandford Borough</u> | <u>England & Wales</u> | <u>Adminstra- tive County</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Total number registered.... | 73 | 41 | 32 | | | |
| Legitimate..... | 68 | 39 | 29 | | | |
| Illegitimate.... | 5 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| Standardised rate..... | | | | 23.7 | 18.4 | 15.9 |

DEATHS

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|------|------|------|
| Total number registered.... | 51 | 22 | 29 | 10.5 | 11.5 | 12.1 |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|------|------|------|

Comparability Factors

Births.....1.18
 Deaths.....0.75

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Peurperal Pyrexia.....1
 Tuberculosis.....1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases on the tuberculosis register was as follows:-

Pulmonary

Males..... 11
Females..... 7

Non-Pulmonary

Males..... 1
Females..... 2

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS

| <u>Poliomyelitis</u> | | | | | <u>Diph-theria</u> | | <u>Tetanus</u> | | <u>Whooping Cough</u> | | <u>Smallpox</u> | |
|----------------------|----|-------------|-----|-----|--------------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| <u>Oral</u> | | <u>Salk</u> | | | P. | R. | P. | R. | P. | R. | P. | R. |
| 3 doses | R. | P. | 3rd | 4th | | | | | | | | |
| 86 | 87 | 3 | 11 | - | 86 | 64 | 89 | 73 | 86 | 46 | 44 | 5 |

P - Primary R - Reinforcing Dose

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from Castleman House.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

This is situated at Dorchester and provides an excellent free service for the bacteriological examination of human specimens, food, milk and water. The Laboratory took part with others in an extensive investigation into the prevalence of food poisoning organisms in meat and their transference to humans and a report was published during the year confirming that this sequence of events can occur and suggesting preventive action.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic in Blandford once a fortnight. The Clinic now accommodates this, together with the School Dental Service, Speech Therapy, Audiometry, Family Planning Association and other facilities.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help Scheme provided a service in Blandford and surrounding district of well established utility.

SECTION D

STATISTICAL TABLES.....1964

| <u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach..... | - | 2 |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus..... | 1 | - |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast..... | - | 3 |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms..... | 2 | 4 |
| 16. Diabetes..... | - | 1 |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system..... | 1 | 5 |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina..... | 6 | 5 |
| 20. Other heart disease..... | 3 | 6 |
| 23. Pneumonia..... | 1 | - |
| 24. Bronchitis..... | 4 | - |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system..... | - | 1 |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate..... | 3 | - |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases..... | - | 1 |
| 34. All other accidents..... | 1 | - |
| 35. Suicide..... | - | 1 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| TOTAL | 22 | 29 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Action taken under Acts
of Parliament

(a) Public Health Acts

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of Informal Notices served..... | 17 |
| Number of Informal Notices complied with..... | 18 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served..... | 4 |
| Number of Statutory Notices complied with..... | 3 |

(b) Housing Acts

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of Statutory Notices served..... | Nil |
| Number of Statutory Notices complied with..... | Nil |

(c) Number of Unfit Houses closed..... 5

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of Unfit Houses demolished..... | 2 |
|--|---|

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Number of families rehoused..... | 2 |
|----------------------------------|---|

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Number of persons rehoused..... | 4 |
|---------------------------------|---|

(d) Factories Acts and Regulations

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of Informal Notices served..... | 1 |
|--|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Informal Notices complied with..... | 1 |
|---|---|

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Formal Notices served..... | Nil |
|--------------------------------------|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of Formal Notices complied with..... | Nil |
|---|-----|

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Slow but sure progress made during the past year in
demolishing and closing unfit houses and rehousing the families.

OVERCROWDING

| | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at 31/12/64 | 1 |
| Number of families therein | 1 |
| (b) Number of new cases | 1 |
| (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved | 1 |
| Number of persons involved | 6 |
| (d) Number of renewed cases of overcrowding | Nil |

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF AREA

Summary of Inspection and re-visits made in the course of routine work during the year 1964 by your public health inspector:-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Houses | 110 |
| Other premises | 42 |
| Housing Inspections | 27 |
| Infectious Diseases | 0 |
| Disinfestation | 2 |

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (continued)

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Markets | 42 |
| Factories | 15 |
| Food inspections:- | |
| Meat inspection | 6 |
| Cafes | 31 |
| Ice cream premises | 10 |
| Grocers | 11 |
| Butchers | 12 |
| Bakeries | 4 |
| Fried Fish | 3 |
| General | 41 |

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Regular inspections have been carried out under the above regulations and as a result of which the following improvements were made.

- 2 Premises - redecorated throughout
- 2 Additional washbasins with hot water supplies
- 4 Other minor improvements

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

No complaints have been received regarding any noise complaints during the past 12 months.

MEAT INSPECTION

The only privately owned slaughter house closed during the year 1962.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption:

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Canned cooked meats | 180 lbs. |
| Canned Fruit | 110 lbs. |
| Meat | 28 lbs. |
| Sugar confectionery | 5 lbs. |

CLEAN AIR ACT

No action necessary.

ICE CREAM

16 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, the results of which were as follows:

| | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| Grade 1 | - | 13 |
| " 2 | - | 2 |
| " 3 | - | 1 |
| " 4 | - | Nil |

OTHER FOODS

Two samples of ice lollies were submitted for bacteriological examination and both were reported as satisfactory.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Ten samples of water obtained from the Swimming Baths were submitted for bacteriological examination, nine were reported satisfactory and one slightly unsatisfactory.

Of the four samples taken from the small Swimming Baths at the Primary School two were reported as being unsatisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY

All the population within the Borough are supplied with internal water supplies from the public mains with the exception of four dwelling-houses.

Informal Notices have been served upon the landlords to provide internal supplies to two of these dwelling-houses.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All houses with the exception of 3 are connected with the main sewage system. The sewage disposal works have recently been improved and can now deal with a population of over 6,000.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the Borough.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The dumping and burning of refuse on the outskirts of the town gives rise to frequent complaints. It is hoped that the negotiations now taking place with the Rural District Council for a joint tip where the tipping can be properly controlled will be satisfactorily concluded in the near future.

RODENT CONTROL

| | |
|---|-----|
| Total number of visits made by Rodent Officer | 485 |
| Number of premises surveyed on notification | 84 |
| Number of premises surveyed under Act | 126 |
| Number of premises found to be infested with rats | 38 |
| Number of premises found to be infested with mice | 6 |
| Number of premises found to be infested with rats and mice | 1 |

A large number of complaints were received from the public of wasps nests and ant infestations. All of these were effectively dealt with by the Pests Officer.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961
Part 1 of the Act.

16

| <u>PREMISES.</u> | <u>Number on Register.</u> | <u>Inspections.</u> | <u>Number of Written Notices.</u> | <u>Occupiers prosecuted.</u> |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities..... | 49 | 16 | 1 | Nil |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.... | 5 | 3 | Nil | Nil |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding out-workers' premises)..... | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Total..... | 54 | 19 | 1 | Nil |

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

| <u>PARTICULARS.</u> | <u>Number of cases in which defects were found.</u> | | | | <u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u> |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | <u>Found.</u> | <u>Remedied.</u> | <u>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</u> | <u>by H.M. Inspector.</u> | |
| Want of cleanliness.(S1) | | | | | |
| Overcrowding.....(S2) | | | | | |
| Unreasonable temp...(S3) | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL |
| Inadequate vent.....(S4) | | | | | |

PART VIII of the Act.

| <u>Nature of Work.</u> | <u>Number on List.</u> | |
|--|------------------------|---|
| Wearing apparel) Making etc, Cleaning & Washing. | 12 | There were no cases of default in sending lists to the council, no prosecutions for failure to supply lists, no instances of work in un-wholesome premises, no notices served and no prosecutions |
| Curtains and furniture hangings..... | 2 | |
| | <u>14</u> | |

