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Urban District of Brentwood



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1953

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1894

Presented to the Senate and House of Representatives
at the second session, 1895
by the Honorable J. W. Thompson, Commissioner

WASHINGTON: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1895

URBAN DISTRICT OF BRENTWOOD

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(as at 31.12.53)

Chairman :	E. R. D. de Rougemont, C.C., J.P.	(1)
Vice-Chairman :	J. Durston	(1)
F. P. Anderson	P. W. Hammond	(1)
H. C. Browne	A. F. Harper	(1)
H. E. Brownett	E. R. Hartley	(1)
Mrs. G. C. Brummitt	T. W. Kenner	(1)
V. H. Burton	H. J. Kirby	(1)
A. V. Cave	K. W. B. Marshall	(1)
J. W. Cole	G. A. D. McTurk	(1)
Mrs. A. W. Dell	C. T. Nunn, J.P.	(1)
P. W. Duck	F. W. C. Salway	(3)
C. J. L. Fox	J. M. Smith	(1)
S. B. Farrell	S. A. Wilson	(1)
H. J. Farrow	J. R. Meadon	(1)
G. C. Green, LL.B.		

(1) Member of Public Health Committee.

(2) Chairman of Public Health Committee.

(3) Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

B. Fraser Beatson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

BACTERIOLOGISTS AND ANALYSTS

The Counties Public Health Laboratories

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. G. Spencer, C.R.San. I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector and Smoke Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works

FIRST ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

P. T. Shelton, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works

SECOND ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

E. A. Sheppard, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector.

CLERICAL STAFF

Mrs. D. R. Griffiths (resigned 28.5.53)

Miss A. M. Y. Froud (appointed 26.5.53)

Mrs. M. Davidson (part-time)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1953

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Brentwood*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A year has passed since I last gave an account of Public Health conditions in Brentwood and it is now my duty to present this my 25th Annual Report.

The Council is to be congratulated on a quarter of a century of good health, which has resulted from its careful direction of policy and its co-operation with the officials.

The face of Brentwood has undergone tremendous changes during that time; from a pocket Urban District it suddenly expanded in 1934 into a medium sized and predominantly country area. Now it is a growing District with progressive urbanization written large upon it.

In 1949 I expressed the hope that, amid a welter of house construction, the value of rural amenities would not be forgotten. It is an abiding hope.

There has been a steady rise in the population level during the year and this will continue as long as fresh areas of land are converted into housing estates.

Increasing possessions inevitably lead to increasing responsibilities. In due course the Public Health Department should be charged with administration of the Food and Drugs Act, at present in the hands of the County Council. Our watch over the management of shops and restaurants will then be linked with supervision of the composition of foods sold to the public.

This Nation is now probably one of the least food-conscious of its contemporaries. Tolerance of conditions and practices imposed by war becomes bad citizenship when allowed to perpetuate. Only the highest standard of food production, preparation and presentation should be demanded by the public as a right.

Apart from Poliomyelitis we have been happily free from any serious notifiable disease. Ailments of childhood predominated. One mild outbreak of food poisoning in a School caused merely temporary inconvenience to the sufferers.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the whole of my Staff for their enthusiastic and painstaking work throughout the year, and for the mutual harmony in the Department.

I am also beholden to the Heads of other Departments for consideration and assistance when needed.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. FRASER BEATSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, BRENTWOOD.

May, 1954.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Areas in Acres	18,166
Estimated Resident Population	33,410
Number of Inhabited Houses	9,067
Rateable Value	£295,853
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,160

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	435	218	217
Illegitimate	13	8	5
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population		13.40	
Area Comparability Factor		1.01	
Corrected Birth Rate		13.53	

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales and with smaller Towns having a population from 25,000 to 50,000 :—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 1953 :—

England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Brentwood U.D.
15.5	15.7	13.53

Stillbirths

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	10	8	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births		21.83	

Deaths

	Total.	M.	F.
	455	189	266
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population		13.61	
Area Comparability Factor		.90	
Corrected Death Rate		12.25	

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales and with smaller Towns having a population from 25,000 to 50,000 :—

Death Rate per 1,000 population for 1953 :—

England and Wales.	Smaller Towns.	Brentwood U.D.
11.4	11.3	12.28
Deaths from Puerperal Causes		Nil
Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age :—		
All infants per 1,000 live births		20.09
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		20.68
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil
Deaths from Cancer and other Malignant Diseases		58
Death Rate from Cancer and other Malignant Diseases per 1,000 of the estimated population		1.74

Deaths at various ages :—

Age Groups	Number of Deaths		
	M.	F.	Total
Under 1 year	4	5	9
and under 2	1	—	1
and under 5	2	1	3
and under 15	1	—	1
5 and under 25	2	2	4
25 and under 35	7	6	13
35 and under 45	5	6	11
45 and under 55	14	15	29
55 and under 65	32	34	66
65 and under 75	60	66	126
75 and over	61	131	192
	189	266	455

Causes of Death:—

Disease	Number of Deaths		
	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	4	1	5
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	2
Measles	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	6
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	1	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	16	31
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	36	55
Coronary disease, angina	28	25	53
Hypertension with heart disease	4	5	9
Other heart disease	31	67	98
Other circulatory disease	7	8	15
Influenza	—	6	6
Pneumonia and bronchitis	25	38	63
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	3	7
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	6	4	10
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Other defined and illdefined diseases	18	24	42
Motor vehicle accidents	4	—	4
All other accidents	1	6	7
Suicide	—	5	5
	189	266	455

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Routine examinations of milk, water and ice-cream supplies were carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

National Health Service Act, 1946—Local Health Services under Part III

The following is a list of the Clinics provided by the County Council under this heading:—

Brentwood Combined Treatment Centre

Day	Clinic
Monday morning	Ante Natal (9.30 to 11 a.m.) Women's Welfare (11 a.m. to 12 noon)
Wednesday morning	Minor Ailments
Wednesday afternoon	Child Welfare
2nd Wednesday afternoon in every month	Diphtheria Immunisation
Thursday morning	Eye Clinic
Thursday afternoon	Speech Therapy
Friday morning	Speech Therapy
Friday afternoon	Child Welfare (with Health Visitor only)
Daily	Dental

There were three Subsidiary Centres

1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons	Hutton Child Welfare
4th Thursday afternoon	Herongate Baby Weighing Clinic
1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday afternoons	Bentley Child Welfare

Brentwood Foot Clinic

Sessions were held at the Doddinghurst Road Clinic as follows :

Mondays :	9 a.m. to 12 noon	)	No. of hours	6
	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	)	No. of sessions	2
Tuesdays :	9 a.m. to 12 noon	)	No. of hours	9
	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	)	No. of sessions	3
	4.30 to 7.30 p.m.	)		
Wednesdays :	9 a.m. to 12 noon	)	No. of hours	6
	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	)	No. of sessions	2
Thursdays :	12.30 to 6.30 p.m.	)	No. of hours	6
		)	No. of sessions	1

The Clinic was due to be moved to 39 Queens Road, Brentwood, during February, 1954.

During 1953 a total of 430 sessions were held and the following figures show the number of persons treated :—

New Patients :

Adults	152
Children	26
Old Age Pensioners	69

Attendances by :

New Patients	152
Old Patients	3,655 (adults)
	193 (children)

Ambulance Service

During the year 23,124 calls were answered and the mileage covered was 112,076. The following table shows the nature of cases conveyed :—

	Total	Monthly Average
Maternity	232	19.3
Accident	447	37.25
Other Emergency	539	44.91
Non-Emergency :		
Hospital admissions and dis-) charges		
Out-Patient Clinics	21,906	1,825.5
Inter Hospital transfers		
	23,124	1,926.96

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supplies

Main water supplies to the Area are provided by the South Essex Water Company and the Southend Water Works Company. Supplies throughout the year were satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

Samples taken from the Southend Water Works Company's mains showed the water to be clear and bright in appearance, of a high standard of bacterial purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. This is a soft water, the average hardness being :—

Temporary : 30 Permanent : Nil Total : 30

Samples taken from the South Essex Water Company's mains again showed the water to be clear and bright in appearance, of a high standard of bacterial purity and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. This is a harder water of which the average hardness is :—

Temporary : 155 Permanent : 95 Total : 250

During the year several more houses were provided with piped water supplies.

Sewerage

I am indebted to the Engineer & Surveyor for the following information on sewerage during the year :—

The sewerage works carried out during 1953 were the provision of soil sewers in Station Road (part), Cadogan Avenue and Thorndon Avenue (part), all at West Horndon.

The sewers laid provided facilities for drainage of properties in the areas stated below :—

Station Road : From Messrs. Rotary Hoes Ltd. to the end of the existing development, east of the junction with Thorndon Avenue.

Thorndon Avenue : From its junction with Station Road to the end of the existing development north of the junction with Cadogan Avenue.

Cadogan Avenue : The total length of the road.

The two latter roads were dealt with under the Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Sanitary Inspection of Area	Inspections	Re-Inspections
Housing Regulations	24	402
Housing Overcrowding	7	5
Moveable Dwellings	104	124
Sanitary Defects	298	1,200
Verminous Premises	4	—
Dirty Premises	13	24
Infectious Diseases	33	23
Water Supply	9	20
Drains—Inspected	172	357
Drains Tested	25	3
Sewers	10	5
Cesspools and Pail Closets	58	69
Factories—Power	116	16
Factories Non-Power	16	4
Outworkers' Premises	4	1
Bakehouses	27	3
Ponds, ditches and watercourses	84	120
Swine, fowls, etc.	25	21
Accumulation of Refuse	31	12
Refuse Tips, etc.	18	—
Rats and Mice—General	92	224
Rats and Mice Sewers	68	—
Miscellaneous Visits	263	—
Hairdressers' Premises	12	—
Miscellaneous Interviews	42	—
Swimming Bath Visits	3	—
Swimming Bath Samples	14	—
School Premises (San. Cons.)	1	—
Public Houses (San. Cons.)	40	6
Civil Defence	14	—
Shops Act	5	—
Council House Inspections	8	—
Pet Shops	10	2
Food Poisoning Investigations	2	—
T.B. After-Care	48	—
Rehabilitation—Canvey Island	14	—
Fair Ground	1	—
Massage Establishments	12	—
Pests—Insects	1	1
Fireguard Regulations	1	—
	<u>1,729</u>	<u>2,642</u>

Number of complaints received : 421.

Clean Food Campaigns**CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS**

1. (1) Number of Butchers' Shops	20
(2) Number of Bakers' Shops only	6
(3) Number of Bakers' Shops with bakehouses attached	5
(4) Number of Bakehouses with no shops attached	5
(5) Number of Grocers' Shops	79
(6) Number of Greengrocers' Shops	16
(7) Number of Fish Shops—wet	7
fried	3
wet and fried	1
(8) Number of Dairies	9
(9) Number of Milk Shops and Grocers	12
(10) Number of Pasteurising Establishments	2
(11) Number of Cafes and Restaurants	49
(12) Number of Public Houses supplying meals	28
(13) Number of School Canteens	6
(14) Number of Factory Canteens	8
(15) Number of Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream	90
(16) Number of Public Houses	50
(17) Number of Knackers' Yards	1
2. (a) Number of premises registered under Essex County Council Act for sale of Ice Cream	90
(b) Number of Dairies registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	21
(c) Number of registered Bakehouses	12
3. Number of inspections of registered food premises :—	
(1) Bakehouses	27
(2) Dairies and Milk Shops	56
(3) Ice Cream Premises	136
4. All condemned food was despatched to the Council's refuse tip under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. In special circumstances meat was returned to the Ministry of Food's Abbatoir.	
5. No special examination of large consignments of food was necessary.	

Food Inspection

Slaughterhouses	2
Meat Shops	135
Other Food Shops	165
Dairies and Milk Shops	56
Cowsheds	2
Knackers' Yards	19
Cafes and Restaurants	144
Ice Cream Premises	136
Fried Fish Shops	5
School Canteens	11
Factory Canteens	4
	679 visits

Food Sampling

Samples of Milk	75
Samples of Water	14
Samples of Ice Cream	89
	178

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES**Milk Sampling****Pasteurised Milk**

Number of samples taken	59
Number of samples satisfactory	54
Number of samples unsatisfactory	5

Undesignated Milk

Number of samples taken	16
Number of samples satisfactory	15
Number of samples unsatisfactory	1

Ice Cream Sampling

Number of samples taken	89
Number of samples satisfactory	87
Number of samples unsatisfactory	2

Meat and Other Foods

Number of inspections 679

Total weight of meat and other foodstuffs condemned:—

Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
1	15	3	8

Knackers' Yards

Number of Premises 1

Number of Inspections 19

HOUSING

1. (a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 298

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1,924

2. Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit 108

3. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers 94

4. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 21

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners 22

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 5

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 3

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners 3

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

During the course of the year three unfit houses were voluntarily closed by the Owners as a result of informal action by the Council.

Swimming Pools

Routine samples were taken from Swimming Pools and submitted to bacteriological and chemical examination, the results being as follows :—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Brentwood Council Pool	7	—
Girls' County High School Pool	1	—
Ursuline High School Pool	2	—
Brentwood Boys' School Pool	3	—
St. Charles's School Pool	1	—
	—	—
	14	—
	—	—

Factories Act, 1937

1. Inspections

Premises	Inspections	No. of Notices Served	Notices Complied
Factories—power	166	5	5
Factories non-power	21	2	2

2. Defects Found—particulars :—

	Found	Remedied
Lack of Cleanliness	Nil	Nil
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	10	8
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	1	Nil
Defective Floors	Nil	Nil

3. Outworkers

Number of Outworkers	6
Number of Inspections	5

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following figures show attendances of children for immunisation :—

	Primary		Boosts
	Under 5	Over 5	
At Clinics, Schools and by Private			
Private Practitioners	286	92	450

Poliomyelitis

Eight cases of Poliomyelitis in children were notified, half of which were non-paralytic.

Two adults also were victims of this disease, one of whom—a man aged thirty—died.

No connection could be traced between any of the cases.

Tuberculosis

The care of persons suffering from Tuberculosis continued to be the responsibility of the Chest Clinic at High Wood Hospital, under Dr. E. Woolf.

The total number of cases for 1953, which are not included in the Table of Notifiable Diseases, were:—

Age Groups	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	2	—	—	1
5 and under 15	2	5	—	—
15 and under 25	7	6	—	—
25 and under 35	8	8	—	—
35 and under 45	5	5	—	—
45 and under 55	5	2	—	1
55 and under 65	2	—	—	—
65 and over	1	1	—	—
Totals	32	27	—	2
Grand Totals	59		2	

There were five deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

Tuberculosis Care Association

The local voluntary Tuberculosis Care Association continued to give valuable help to households afflicted by this disease.

Food Poisoning

Nineteen cases of Food Poisoning occurred at Hutton Residential School in July.

These children were overtaken by diarrhoea at about 7 p.m. on 11th July. Soup consumed at lunch that day was suspected to have been the cause. All the patients recovered within twenty-four hours.

None of the soup was available for analysis, but it appears that it was made from bones two days previously, and that there had been some doubt in the kitchen as to their freshness.

Patients' stools sent for pathological examination were reported to be negative.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

Diseases.	Age Groups.												
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	3	1	5	—	23	3	—	2	—	—	—	36
Pneumonia ...	2	—	1	2	2	5	—	2	5	1	7	5	32
Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	—	—	1	4	2	—	2	—	—	—	10
Whooping Cough ...	6	19	22	20	26	27	1	—	1	—	—	—	122
Measles ...	6	53	43	44	79	84	6	—	4	—	—	—	319
Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	2	—	—	—	—	15
Food Poisoning ...	—	10	8	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Totals ...	14	86	74	75	108	155	14	4	14	1	7	5	557