

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Forehoe & Henstead R.D.C.

Contributors

Forehoe and Henstead (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

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Forehoe & Henstead Rural District Council.

THE
Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspectors


FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1938.

NORWICH :

F. Crowe & Sons, Printers, Pottergate.





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Forehoe & Henstead Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTORS

For the Year ended 31st December, 1938.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Forehoe and
Henstead Rural District Council.**

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report for 1938 on the health and sanitary conditions of your district.

I. GENERAL.—Area of district, 69,267 acres ; population (mid-year), 19,940—an increase of 100 in the year ; Rateable Value, £62,762 ; Product of a Penny Rate, £260 ; Chief Industry, Agriculture.

There have been no changes in the Health Services during the year, with the exception that with the opening of the County Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Dereham, the Council's Hospital at Wicklewood has been closed.

II. VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	TOTAL
LIVE BIRTHS	168	135	303
Legitimate	161	128	289
Illegitimate... ..	7	7	14
STILL BIRTHS (all legitimate)	4	4	8

These figures give a Live Birth Rate of 15.24 per 1,000 of the population—that of England and Wales being 15.1, and a Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population of 0.40, as compared with 0.60 in England and Wales.

Deaths from all causes total 198, a decrease of 49 as compared with 1937. Of this number 102 were males and 96 females, giving a *crude* death rate per 1,000 of the population of 9.98 as compared with 11.6 in England and Wales, or making the adjustment for the age-sex constitution of the population a *comparable* death rate of 7.78.

Table of details of the deaths arranged by cause, sex and number :

	M.	F.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	7	2	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
General Paralysis (G.P.I.)	1	—	1
Cancer	15	17	32
Diabetes	2	1	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	8	11
Heart Disease	23	38	61
Other Circulatory Diseases	12	10	22
Bronchitis	1	2	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	3	7
Septic Ulcer	1	—	1
Disease of Liver... ..	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3	—	3
Nephritis	—	1	1
Puerperal Disease (not Sepsis) ...	—	1	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	11	2	13
Senility	1	—	1
Suicide	3	—	3
Other Violence	3	5	8
Other Defined Diseases	9	5	14
TOTALS ...	102	96	198

Maternal Mortality.—Puerperal Sepsis, nil ; other Puerperal cause, 1—a rate per 1,000 of live and still births of 3.2, comparable with 2.19 in England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality, i.e., Deaths under 1 year of age, number 17

					M.	F.
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	12	3
Illegitimate...	...	...	...	...	2	0
					—	—
				Total	14	3
					—	—

A death rate per 1,000 of Live Births of 56, that in England and Wales being given as 53. As no less than 13 deaths occurred from Premature Birth or Congenital Debility, the *apparently* high Infantile Mortality rate can be readily explained.

It will be gathered from the foregoing figures that the Deaths from Cancer numbered 32 (two less than last year) ; from Whooping Cough, 2 ; Measles, nil ; Diphtheria, nil ; Scarlet Fever, nil ; Diarrhoea under 2 years, nil ; and from Tuberculosis, 10.

III. TUBERCULOSIS.

The number on the register at the end of the year was 136, a reduction of no less than 54 on the previous year. On a revision of the register a large number of cases were deleted as having recovered and some lost sight of or had left the district. New cases numbered 28, and there were 10 deaths.

Details are set out in the following form, showing age, sex, and type, in the new cases, and the deaths :

Age Periods	New Cases, 28				Deaths 10			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
5—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—	...	2	3	...	1	2	...	...
25—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—	4	2	1	1	1	...	1	...
45—	3	2	2	...	3	...	...	...
55—	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
65 & upwds	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	11	6	8	3	7	2	1	—

IV. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Excluding Tuberculosis, these total 71: Scarlet Fever, 42 cases; Diphtheria, 7; Enteric Fever, 2; Pneumonia, 11; Puerperal Pyrexia, 5; Erysipelas, 4. The prevalence of Scarlet Fever continued from 1937 and gradually subsided. Cases occurred in many parishes, but happily were of a mild type. Diphtheria, of which 4 cases occurred in Mulbarton, 2 at Trowse and 1 at Marlingford, was kept from spreading by prompt diagnosis, and early treatment.

One case of Enteric Fever was reported at Hingham in the neighbourhood where previous cases occurred. The other was an isolated case at Ketteringham.

V. THE MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

These continue to be well attended. Another centre was opened at Hethersett in May, and Costessey has two sessions per month now. I have extracted the following figures from the registers of attendance.

OLD COSTESSEY AND DISTRICT.—Average number of children brought each month, 25.5; new cases, 28 during the year;

NEW COSTESSEY.—Average each month, 39.3, and new cases, 61;

HINGHAM.—Average each month, 24.2, and new cases, 17.

VI. HOUSING CONDITIONS, SLUM CLEARANCE AND OVERCROWDING.

It will be seen from Mr. Hobbs' report that good progress was made during the year with the Council's programmes.

VII. PHYSICAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN.

I should like to see an organised effort to support this in individual parishes or groups of parishes. It is regrettable that owing to concerted opposition, the Government Milk Bill had to be withdrawn, but hope that the promised New Measure will provide what I have advocated for many years, ample milk supplies of accredited quality, at a price within the reach of all. I consider this a National Defence Measure of the very first importance.

VIII. SUMMARY.

1938 as compared with 1937, shows a fall in the Birth Rate from 16.7 to 15.24. To set off against this, there is a fall in the Death Rate from 12.5 to 9.98. In spite of the Council's pre-occupation with National Defence Measures and A.R.P., the essential services of the district have been well maintained, and improved. In this connection I would especially mention the safeguarding of water supplies, generally, and to dairy farms particularly.

In conclusion, I tender my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, each member of the Council, and the Officials for invaluable help given me during the year.

ALEX. P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.

June 1939

**To the Chairman and Members of the Forehoe and
Henstead Rural District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1938, which deals with the Housing and Slum Clearance, Overcrowding, Nuisances dealt with, Water Supply, Drainage, and generally on the Sanitary Condition of this Rural District.

**Summary of Nuisances dealt with, House Drainage,
Water Supply, Disinfection of Premises, etc.**

Defective Vault Closets abolished and new Earth Closets erected	2
Defective Vault Closets converted to Earth Closets, Pail System	5
Houses provided with new drainage and connected with sewers	52
Houses provided with new drainage and connected with either Cesspools or Septic Tanks and Filters	26
Houses provided with domestic water supplies from Water Mains :	
Costessey	201
Hingham	30
Choked and defective House Drains and Cesspool Nuisances	5
Dirty Houses cleansed	3
Disinfection of Premises after Infectious or Contagious Disease	51
Water Samples taken for analysis—from 63 premises	85
Defective Wells and Pumps—improved supplies provided	20
Accumulation of Refuse Nuisances	5
Foul Ditches cleaned and cleansed... ..	4
Main Sewers cleared and cleansed—all sewers in the township of Hingham.	
Overcrowding cases abated	32
Animals improperly kept	3

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Costessey and Cringleford.

Although Preliminary Surveys have been made in both these parishes for Sewerage Schemes and estimates of the probable cost given by the Council's Consulting Engineers, it has not been found possible, yet, to proceed with these Schemes. There are several reasons for this, the greatest, I think, being financial.

Hingham.

I reported last year there had been several complaints of the bad condition of the sewers in this parish and that the work of cleaning and repairing had just begun.

This work was completed in the early part of this year and the sewers are now clear and flowing freely. They are, however, far from being in a sound condition, but may last a few more years until such time as a new sewerage scheme can be provided.

Trowse Newton.

The new sewerage works are now so far advanced that houses are being connected to the new sewers.

As a matter of fact sixty houses are already partially connected with the new system, and it is hoped that those remaining to be connected will be completed early in 1939.

House Drainage.

In all, new drainage has been provided to seventy-five dwellings, and in three cases partially defective drainage to houses has been replaced with new drains.

SCAVENGING.

Night Soil and Household Refuse Collection.

I am unable to report any progress regarding the provision of further schemes of scavenging for the parishes in this district which are badly in need of them, and I am very much afraid that, owing to the present International situation of the world generally, finances will not permit of services of this nature being provided yet awhile.

The only Council scheme where collection of this nature is in force is at Hingham, and I am pleased to report that the Contractor does his job well.

WATER SUPPLY.

Parish of Costessey.

Extensions of their mains were laid by the Norwich Waterworks Committee in this parish, which enabled a further number of houses to have the advantage of a pure and constant supply of water for domestic use from a public supply.

The actual number connected to the mains were: to existing houses, 109; to new houses, 92.

Parish of Hingham.

A few more houses were connected up to the Town's Main Supply during the year, the number being 30: to existing houses, 2; to new houses, 28.

Parish of Poringland.

The provision of a Main Piped Supply of water for this parish is not yet an accomplished fact.

As I reported in my last Annual Report a trial borehole was being sunk, but owing to the Contractor getting badly out of the vertical with his boring it was not found practicable to proceed with this scheme, and it was resolved to proceed with the alternative scheme, viz.: to receive a bulk supply from the Norwich Waterworks Committee's Mains, they to lay their mains up to the Poringland Boundary and the District Council to lay such mains as are necessary in the parish.

These works, I hope, will be started early in this next year.

Hethersett.

Toward the end of this year some concern was felt as to the purity of the water supply in this parish.

The parish is to be inspected and samples of well water taken for analysis in different localities to see what danger exists to the Public Health.

WATER SAMPLES.

During the past year samples of domestic well waters have been taken for analysis, numbering in all, for Chemical, 72, for Bacteriological, 13. These were taken from 63 different premises. There were 6 repeat samples and in one case a second sample was taken from premises where there was a secondary source of supply. Also two samples were taken from the Hingham Main Supply, direct from the reservoir, and the water was pronounced to be of the highest standard of bacteriological purity.

The Samples were taken from the following Parishes :

Parish	Number taken		Good	Moderate	Bad
	Chem.	Bact			
Arminghall	1	—	1	—	—
Barford	1	—	1	—	—
Barnham Broom	3	1	2	—	1
Bracon Ash	1	—	1	—	—
Colney	1	—	1	—	—
Costessey	7	4	4	3	—
Cringleford	1	—	1	—	—
Deopham	1	—	1	—	—
Dunston	2	—	—	—	2
East Carleton	1	—	1	—	—
Flordon	1	—	—	—	1
Hethersett	6	1	3	2	1
Hingham	3	2	2	1	—
Ketteringham	2	2	1	—	1
Kirby Bedon	1	—	—	—	1
Markshall	1	—	1	—	—
Morley	2	—	2	—	—
Mulbarton	3	—	3	—	—
Newton Flotman	1	—	—	—	1
Rockland St. Mary	2	—	1	1	—
Runhall	1	—	—	1	—
Saxlingham	1	—	1	—	—
Shotesham	4	—	4	—	—
Stoke Holy Cross	5	—	2	2	1
Swainsthorpe	6	1	1	2	3
Swardeston	4	1	2	—	2
Surlingham	2	—	1	1	—
Wicklewood	7	1	3	3	1
Wreningham	1	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	72	13	40	17	15

In the cases where the supplies were bad the necessary steps were, or are being, taken to provide an improved supply. Three new tube wells have been provided and one well. Seven wells have been cleaned out and new pumps provided where it was necessary.

MILK (Special Designations) ORDERS
and
MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.

Licences have been issued to 58 applicants under the above-mentioned "Special Designations" Order to use the term "Accredited" for the milk produced at their farms.

During the year 234 samples were taken for examination to see if the milk came up to the standard required. Of these 210 passed the test and 24 failed.

Further, 117 samples of milk were taken for tests for Tuberculosis. Of these, 108 were examined and 9 proved useless owing to either the guinea pig dying or the milk curdling.

The number of positive cases was four.

Bottling Licences were issued as follows: 1 "T.T.", 1 "Pasteurised," and 3 "Accredited."

Frequent inspections of cowsheds and dairies under this Order were made and very little fault could be found in the methods adopted in the production of this milk, and the condition of the premises. There was, however, one exception, and in this case it was recommended that the County Council withdraw the Licence.

The cowsheds and dairies of producers other than "Accredited" producers have been visited and improvements carried out as far as possible, but it is very difficult at times, owing to some owners being unwilling to carry out improvements, and the responsibility falls on the tenant, who, in a good many instances, is not in a position, financially, to carry them out.

The cowsheds at nine farms were reconstructed and modernised during the year, and two new dairies were built.

FUMIGATION.

Fifty-one dwelling-houses have been disinfected after cases of infectious or contagious disease or where cases of Cancer have occurred.

The method of disinfection is by means of Formaldehyde Vapour. Where necessary, the precaution is taken to strip off wallpaper and thoroughly cleanse the walls.

FACTORIES.

These, I am pleased to be able to report, are being kept in a satisfactory sanitary condition generally.

In a few instances the occupiers had their attention drawn to some minor matters requiring attention, but these were usually quickly attended to, and it was not found necessary to serve any statutory notices.

One bakehouse has been provided with new drainage and sink.

BUG INFESTATION.

No case under this heading has been notified or found.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No statutory action was taken during the year, but it was noted that there are in existence several small timber buildings used as shops not entirely suitable for the storage of perishable goods. The future of these buildings will have to be considered after further inspections have been made.

NEW BUILDINGS.

During the year thirty-eight houses and fifty-two bungalows have been erected and completed by private enterprise, making a total of ninety dwellings in all.

There were, at the end of the year, 36 houses and bungalows in course of erection or not finally passed for occupation.

Other buildings erected in this period included a new Abattoir at Swardeston for the Norwich Co-Operative Society, a Mutual Service Club-house at Costessey and a Mission Room at Barnham Broom.

Alterations and Additions to existing buildings numbered 26 and included the following: Cringleford House, Cringleford, converted into three flats; House at corner of Intwood Road and main road, Cringleford, converted into two dwellings; East Carleton Manor—very extensive alterations and additions, amounting practically to rebuilding.

Council houses erected and occupied during the year numbered 103 and were built in the undermentioned parishes :

Bracon Ash	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Costessey, Richmond Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Costessey, Easter Hill Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hethersett, Ketts Close	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Hingham, Hardingham Road	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Mulbarton	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Poringland, Rectory Lane	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Poringland, The Street	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

HOUSING RETURNS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

1. (a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 153
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 286
2. (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under above sub-head (1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) 103
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 172
3. Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health to be unfit for human habitation 83
4. Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 55

II. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

- Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 25

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

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

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	9
2. Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	...	...	—
(a) By Owners	...	...	9
(b) By the Local Authority in default of Owners			—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	—
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :						
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By the Local Authority in default of Owners						—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	39
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	...	...	19
3. Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	9
4. Demolition by informal notice	...	...	2

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of Separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	Nil
2. Number of Separate or Underground Rooms in Respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil

(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

Of the Clearance Orders made during the last year (1937) and reported in my last report, as not yet confirmed by the Minister of Health, all have now been confirmed with the exception that three houses are to be excluded subject to certain conditions. This means that a further 88 houses are to be demolished under Clearance Orders.

One Clearance Order was made in this year in respect of 14 houses in the Parish of Easton. The confirmation of this Order was not received during the year.

Two Ministry of Health enquiries have been held during the year in respect of 105 dwellings.

IV. Overcrowding.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	65
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	65
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	365
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	10
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	32
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	185½
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...	...	...	Nil

A. W. HOBBS, M.I.Min. & Cy.E.,

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1939.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION, 1938.

At the beginning of the year there were 29 Slaughterhouses in use in the District of which number 24 are "Registered" and 5 "Licensed."

These figures include two Knacker's Premises, one "Registered" and one "Licensed."

By the end of the year several of the small slaughterhouses had more or less ceased to be used and in all probability it will be possible to strike them off the Register in the near future.

The slaughterhouses, with one exception, have been kept in a satisfactory state of cleanliness. In the one case it was found necessary to draw the Occupier's attention to the untidy and dirty condition of the slaughterhouse and surrounding yard and buildings, and an improvement in the conditions was made.

As was mentioned in last year's report, the new Food and Drugs Act, 1938, comes into operation on the 1st October, 1939, and Section 57 of this Act relates to the Licensing of Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards. This Section will abolish the permanent registration of old slaughterhouses, making it compulsory for occupiers of such premises to apply to the Local Authority for a licence in respect thereof. Licences will only be in force for twelve months and Local Authorities will have much more stringent powers for refusing to licence premises, existing or otherwise, which are not considered suitable either from a structural point of view or because of their unsatisfactory situation.

Owing to increased duties, chiefly under the Housing Acts and Milk and Dairies Orders, it becomes more difficult each year to carry out, satisfactorily, the duties under the Meat Regulations.

In connection with this matter, the erection by the Norwich Co-Operative Society of an up-to-date Abattoir in this District to supply all the Co-Operative Society's shops in Norwich and Norfolk will make it even more difficult to carry out the duties.

At the end of the year the Abattoir was nearing completion.

During the year visits and inspections were made to Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops as follows :—

Visits to Slaughterhouses during or after the regular hours of killing	413
Visits to Slaughterhouses after special notice had been received of killing other than during the regular notified hours	14
Visits to Slaughterhouses to examine carcasses after notice had been received of suspected disease in carcasses	30
Visits to Butchers' Shops	134
TOTAL VISITS	591

CARCASES INSPECTED AND COMDEMND.

	Cattle, Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (approx.) ...	1472	408	94	3223	8341
Number inspected ...	288	124	5	683	1122

All diseases except Tuberculosis—

Whole carcasses condemned — — — —					2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	33	38	—	3	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	11.4	30.6	—	.04	.53

Tuberculosis only—

Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	20	22	—	—	92
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.6	16.1	—	—	8.2

CONDEMNED MEAT.

The following meat was condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed :—

Beef—

2 Carcases and all offals	Tuberculosis
8 stones of beef	Tuberculosis
25 heads and tongues	Tuberculosis
4 ditto	Actinomycosis
10 livers	Tuberculosis
34 livers	Distomatosis
10 livers	Cirrhosis
15 livers	Cavernous Angioma
1 liver	Melanosis
1 liver	Fatty degeneration
11 pairs of lungs	Tuberculosis
16 mesenteric fats	Tuberculosis
21 pairs of kidneys	Cysts
3 pairs of kidneys	Nephritis
6 pairs of kidneys	Infarcts
1 pair of kidneys	Tuberculosis

Pork—

1 Carcase and all offals	Tuberculosis
2 Carcases and all offals	Erysipelas
2 forequarters	Tuberculosis
2 hindquarters	Tuberculosis
68 heads	Tuberculosis
23 plucks (liver and lungs)	Tuberculosis
4 plucks	Cirrhosis
71 mesenteric fats	Tuberculosis

Mutton—

4 hindquarters	Extensive bruising
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G. A. J. BROWNE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Meat and Other Foods Inspector.

Council's Offices,

~~6, Tombland, Norwich.~~

June, 1939.

*W. The Close,
Norwich.*



