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KINGSBRIDGE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



*REPORT*

*of the*

*Medical Officer of Health*

*for the Year 1960*



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# Kingsbridge Rural District Council

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## HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246/7.

### STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health* : R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health* : W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

*Chief Public Health Inspector* : D. J. COLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspector (up till 30th September)* :

R. J. NICHOLS, F.I.A.S., A.M.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.


*Additional Public Health Inspector (from 1st October)* :

W. J. LAND, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Temporary Public Health Inspector* : J. E. MILLER, M.B.E., E.D.,

M.R.S.H.





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# Kingsbridge Rural District Council

## Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1960.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1960.

The area is mainly agricultural, although on the coast many of the inhabitants are employed in seafaring pursuits. The beauty of the whole area, coast and inland, attracts many visitors throughout the year, the largest number, naturally, being during the summer months. Catering for these visitors is one of the main sources of livelihood for many residents of the district. There are, situated geographically within the district, the Urban Districts of Kingsbridge and Salcombe.

### PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The personal health services are provided by various bodies, by far the greater part being under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, Devon County Council and the Local Executive Council. The environmental health services are controlled by the District Council.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Plymouth for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water, ice cream, foodstuffs, etc.

The Devon County Health Handbook gives details of the health and allied social services in the County of Devon. Much of its information refers to the County as a whole, but there are details of the various services provided in this district.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notification of infectious diseases continues. There was no significant change from last year. There continue to be outbreaks of Winter Vomiting, usually fairly brief and localized in occurrence. The epidemiology of this condition remains obscure.

### FOOD POISONING.

There was one notification during the year. It occurred in a holiday-maker and was notified after she had left so that little progress was made in the investigation into the cause.



## WATER SUPPLY.

The chief supply is the South Devon Water Board. A moorland water from Dartmoor is supplied, being held before treatment in a reservoir formed by the Avon Dam. A modern filtration plant has recently been installed where treatment by flocculation and filtration is given. Before going into supply the water is chlorinated and the pH is adjusted.

Plumbo-solvency is controlled by adjustment of pH, readings being taken electrically and automatically recorded at three points at the filtration plant (raw water, after filtration and after final treatment) and at the Board's office where water arrives 3—5 days after leaving the filtration plant. Considerable attention is paid to control of pH drop in order that plumbo-solvency is reduced to a minimum. The highest reading of the many tests carried out was 0.08 p.p.m. Most of the readings were considerably less.

The quality of the water is of a very high standard and is adequate in quantity for all the needs of the district. Frequent samples for chemical analysis were taken, all of which proved satisfactory. There is a continuing extension of the mains to take water to the remoter parts of the district.

Copies of reports on all samples taken by the Board are forwarded to this department. We are kept fully informed on all matters of interest connected with water, for which I should like to express my gratitude.

Samples of water are taken in schools by the County Public Health Department. Copies of these reports are received.

There are a number of small private supplies. Inspection of the supplies and sampling of the water is carried out as necessary.

## SEWERAGE.

**CHILLINGTON.** The construction of sewage disposal works for Chillington is now well under way and should be completed at an early date.

**KINGSTON.** After long delays a start to the work of constructing new disposal works and relaying sections of old sewers is in sight.

**MALBOROUGH.** A scheme for sewerage the northern part of Malborough village has been prepared by the Consulting Engineers, and it is hoped that work will be completed at an early date.

**OTHER SCHEMES.** Proposals for the construction of sewers and disposal works have been submitted to, and approved by the Council in respect of the following villages, Charleton, Galmpton, Ringmore, Sherford and South Milton (Thurlestone Sands).

The question of sewage disposal at Strete presents some difficult problems. Ultimate proposals will depend on various tests which may take some considerable time to carry out.

The position at Frogmore remains the same, and I am still of the opinion that steps should be taken to replan the sewage disposal arrangements in this area.



## Maintenance.

The number of disposal plants, including those at Council Housing Estates, now total 41. Maintenance of these has continued to be satisfactory, although general maintenance in the event of major breakdowns becomes extremely difficult when the whole labour force has to be concentrated to deal with one emergency. With other major works coming into operation it will be necessary for additional maintenance staff to be employed. In view of the number of installations now in operation, spread out over the district, the existing staff of three men is certainly not excessive.

The outfall carrying the effluent at Bigbury-on-Sea was greatly improved during the year with the extension of the pipe to a point below low water mark. This work was carried out mainly by direct labour.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The conveniences at East Portlemouth were completed during the year, but it is doubtful whether they will be sufficient to serve all the beaches on the Eastern side of the estuary. There is still urgent need for more conveniences. The need appears greatest at Strete Gate, Thurlestone Sands, Wonwell, Soar Mill and Lanna-combe.

## HOUSING.

The Housing Survey carried out by Mr. Miller, Additional Public Health Inspector who was taken on for this purpose, was completed during the year. The report should prove invaluable when planning for the housing needs of the district. The following are some of the salient facts emerging from the report.

The final number of Category IV houses (152) proved to be less than was anticipated, and of these about one-third were vacant. The immediate problem of rehousing the occupants of slum property is, therefore, diminished but, in addition there were 259 houses placed in Category III, and in this Category is the type of house which can rapidly deteriorate into slum property.

A large number of houses, about one-fifth of the total inspected, still require improvements to bring them up to the accepted standard of present day housing. All of these lack bathrooms, and many of them additionally lack other accepted amenities of modern living.

It is of great interest to note that statutory overcrowding of individual houses is virtually non-existent and that, in fact, the average number of persons per house has dropped since 1949. This suggests that the progress of building in the area has outstripped the increase in population. One would imagine that this happy state of affairs is rather unique in Great Britain.

The previous paragraph might well imply that there is no very great demand for houses in the Kingsbridge Rural area. Nothing could actually be farther from the truth. There is a remorseless



pressure from outside to acquire houses, houses in almost any state of decay and disrepair. These houses are bought either for holiday purposes or retirement and, quite frequently a combination of both, the former to lead on to the latter. Whilst the improvement of such property is to the district's advantage it produces an inflation which prices local people out of the market.

The survey has given most valuable information in relation to future building. A random analysis of the degree of occupation of 300 houses showed that about 250 of them are occupied by adults only, which offers a very strong suggestion that the population is one which is predominantly middle-aged or elderly and that many of the houses are, as the Council well knows in the case of their own houses, underoccupied. It, therefore, seems that the concentration on the building of three bedroomed houses was, in the past and is now certainly misplaced. The future emphasis should most certainly be on one or possibly two bedroomed type of dwelling.

There seems to be one type of property which is not in great demand by outside purchasers and that is the terrace house. Many of these in the villages are in a reasonable condition structurally, but floor space is the limiting factor when modernization is considered. There does seem to be scope for the partial improvement of these, even though they might not be fully modernized, to offer improved accommodation to the existing tenants.

Finally it is interesting to note that the percentage of Category I houses in a Parish increases with that Parish's popularity as a holiday resort. This is due in the main to the insatiable demand for holiday property, a demand which is inescapable in an area offering the attractions to be found in the South Hams.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

During the year 57 applications were received for Discretionary Improvement Grants and 36 applications for Standard Grants. 42 Discretionary Grants were approved, the grants totalling £13,278. 29 Standard Grants were also approved. The number of applications showed a slight increase over those of last year, and a substantial rise in the number of applications approved.

#### HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS.

Represented	.....	.....	5
Confirmed	.....	.....	5
Not confirmed	.....	.....	Nil
Demolished	.....	.....	Nil
Families rehoused	.....	.....	15

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, legislation now provides for additional controls over caravan sites. At first sight this would appear



entirely satisfactory, but time will tell whether the Act is all that is required. The standards recommended for holiday sites appear in some respects to have been made without a great deal of consideration and exemptions granted to certain organizations will, no doubt, lead to a number of anomalies.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A start has been made with the inspection of food premises, especially shops, but there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in connection with Hotels, Boarding Houses and similar establishments. This work of necessity needs to be carried out during the summer when holidays and additional seasonal work place some strain on the Department.

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

The amount of meat inspected was rather less than in 1959, a total of 13,414 animals as against 14,482.

The percentage of bovine tuberculosis noted was 1.70. This comprised one whole carcase and two part carcasses of cows. None was found in any other bovine animals. In 1959 the figure was 0.93, and in 1958 5.10.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

A fortnightly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year and the acquisition of a new vehicle and additional staff brought a welcome relief from the customary strain of the holiday period. The amount of refuse collected increased from 10,600 cu. yds. in 1959 to 11,209 cu. yds. in 1960. A fortnightly collection although it can now be guaranteed, is still not entirely satisfactory, particularly during the summer months when the putrefaction of organic matter is hastened. A weekly collection, at least for the months of July, August and September, is most desirable.

Salvage, mainly in the form of scrap metals, is still undertaken and an income of £213 4s. 2d. was derived from that source.

#### LITTER.

The litter problem is by no means a thing of the past. It is one thing to pass legislation but another thing entirely to enforce it. It is surely a legal precept that the satisfactory observance of any law requires the co-operation of the people generally, and it is only too obvious that a great proportion of them are not behind the anti-litter laws. It is a distressing sight to see a beauty spot transformed into an untidy rubbish dump, but, unfortunately, this is only too frequent.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*July, 1961.*



## APPENDIX.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,710 (Estimated).

Rateable Value—£133,477.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£587.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	LIVE BIRTHS :		Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
		Males	Females	
Legitimate	149	72	77	13.57
Illegitimate	10	6	4	
	159	78	81	
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births				
Illegitimate live births	10	6	4	6.29
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				
Still Births	1	1	—	6.25
Total live and still births	160	79	81	

#### INFANT DEATHS (DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE).

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	4	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	4	1	3

#### INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	25.16
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.84
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	18.87
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	18.87
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	25.00

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	Deaths —	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births —
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DEATHS	Deaths			Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population
	Total	Males	Females	
	174	77	97	14.86

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	1
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease .....	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6. Meningoccal Infections .....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	—	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	4	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	3	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	—	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	14
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	1	—
16. Diabetes .....	—	2
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	10	22
18. Coronary Disease, Angina .....	10	13
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	1	—
20. Other Heart Disease .....	17	12
21. Other Circulatory Disease .....	3	7
22. Influenza .....	1	—
23. Pneumonia .....	2	4
24. Bronchitis .....	4	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	1	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	—	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	3	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations .....	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases .....	2	7
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	2	—
34. All other Accidents .....	2	2
35. Suicide .....	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War .....	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	77	97
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### INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Acute Primary Pneumonia .....	1	
Whooping Cough .....	6	
Measles .....	29	
Scarlet Fever .....	21	
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	
Sonne Dysentery .....	—	
Erysipelas .....	1	
Meningitis .....	1	
Food Poisoning .....	1	
Total .....	60	—

### TUBERCULOSIS.

#### NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN DISTRICT DURING 1960.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

#### REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

During the course of the year no action was necessary under the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts for the removal and detention in a County Welfare Establishment for aged persons.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

#### LICENSED SITES AND CARAVANS.

No. of Sites.	No. of Caravans licensed.	Individual Caravans.
16	999	101

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	61
Litter Act	16
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	205
Visits in connection with complaints	29
Infectious Disease	10
Inspections of Camping Sites	85
Houses inspected under Public Health Act	24
Houses inspected under Housing Acts (excluding Special Housing Survey)	156
Standpipes	5
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	91
Public Conveniences	2
Council Houses	28
Water Supply	65
Water Samples	31
Rent Act	1
Improvement Grants	221
Wrecks of the Sea	6
Slaughter of Animals Act	8
Miscellaneous	81
Petroleum Regulations	121
Dangerous Buildings	20
Drainage	33
Total	1,299

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

During the year, visits were made as follows :—

Slaughterhouses	835
Butchers' Shops	29
Total	864

The following carcasses were inspected :

Bulls	—
Cows	177
Heifers	402
Steers	558
Calves	300
Sheep	10,234
Pigs	1,743
Total	13,414

The total weight of meat condemned was 5 tons 16 cwts. 21 lbs. Diseased meat, etc., is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.



**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed .....	960	177	300	10234	1743	—
Number inspected .....	960	177	300	10234	1743	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	3	9	4	54	7	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	157	48	3	160	43	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .....	16.67	32.20	2.33	2.09	2.87	
<b>Tuberculosis only :</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	—	2	—	—	9	—
Percentage of the number inspected and affected with tuberculosis .....	—	1.70	—	—	0.52	—
<b>Cysticercosis :</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	2	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—

**OTHER FOODS.**

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business :

Bakehouses .....	8
Butchers' Shops .....	12
Fishmongers and Fryers .....	1
Ice Cream—Manufacturers .....	1
Retailers .....	54
General Stores .....	68
Dairies .....	3
Restaurants and Cafés .....	23
Hotels, etc. ....	60
Inns .....	40

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 :

Manufacture of Ice Cream	1
Sale of Ice Cream .....	54
Manufacture of Preserved Food .....	8
Amount of food condemned during the year .....	136-lbs.
Number of new registrations under Section 16 .....	1

ICE CREAM SAMPLING :

Grade 1 .....	14
Grade 2 .....	18
Grade 3 .....	3
Grade 4 .....	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

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

Premises. (1)	No. in Register. (3)	Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occupier Prosec'ed. (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	3	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	12	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	25	17	—	—

No defects were found.  
There are no out-workers.



## RODENT CONTROL.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL			AGRICULTURAL	
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses).	All other (inc. Business Premises).	Total of cols (1) (2) and (3).	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	30	4162	434	4626	748
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	74	12	86	7
(b) Survey under the Act	30	543	53	626	196
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	19	14	33	9
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	217	636	79	932	259
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats—Major	4	—	—	3	—
Minor	16	493	3	512	41
(b) Mice—Major	—	—	—	—	7
Minor	—	43	2	45	27
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by the L.A.	20	536	5	561	5
6. Total treatments carried out including retreatments	71	684	5	760	5
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	102				

### WATER SUPPLIES.

Parish.	No. of habitable Houses.	No. connected to Water Mains.	Population served.
Aveton Gifford	220	154	410
Bigbury	196	151	407
Blackawton	165	106	286
Buckland-tout-Saints	53	33	89
Charleton	95	69	186
Chivelstone	143	109	294
Churchstow	94	47	127
East Allington	133	93	251
East Portlemouth	99	69	186
Kingston	112	95	256
Loddiswell	181	143	386
Malborough	260	193	521
Modbury	350	275	742
Ringmore	80	69	186
Sherford	95	54	145
Slapton	162	134	361
South Huish	173	116	313
South Milton	126	101	272
South Pool	90	49	132
Stoke Fleming	270	208	561
Stokenham	525	431	1,164
Strete	144	113	305
Thurlestone	260	183	494
West Alvington	170	132	356
Woodleigh	53	30	81
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4249</b>	<b>3157</b>	<b>8511</b>

There are no domestic supplies dependent on Public Standpipes.

### WATER SAMPLES.

Source of Sample	No. satisfactory.	No. unsatisfactory.	Total.
**South Devon Water Board Mains	371	23	394
Private Supplies	18	17	35
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>429</b>

\*\*These figures include samples of water not in supply to consumers.



## HOUSING SURVEY.

PARISH.	Categories.					TOTALS
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	Unclassi- fied *	§§
Aveton Gifford .....	105	57	15	10	13	200
Bigbury .....	152	9	7	2	11	181
Blackawton .....	66	47	10	13	6	142
Buckland-Tout-Saints .....	39	7	2	1	3	52
Chivelstone .....	70	47	7	3	3	130
Churchstow .....	55	16	6	5	4	86
East Allington .....	79	30	—	—	7	116
East Portlemouth .....	83	3	1	2	5	94
Loddiswell .....	51	48	17	14	3	113
Sherford .....	48	18	5	8	3	92
Slapton .....	101	37	9	5	4	156
South Huish .....	136	19	2	—	12	169
South Milton .....	72	16	16	8	6	118
South Pool .....	56	17	6	5	5	89
Stoke Fleming .....	174	47	5	3	22	251
Stokenham .....	320	96	34	17	18	485
Strete .....	80	16	7	13	6	122
Woodleigh .....	37	11	1	4	3	56
TOTALS	1724	541	160	113	134	2672

\* Unclassified buildings relate to those not normally used for human habitation.  
 §§ The total figures do not include Council Houses.

NOTE: The figures relating to the Parishes not included above appeared in the Annual Report for 1959.

### COUNCIL HOUSES.

Number of pre-war houses erected by the Council .....							69
	HOUSES	BUNGALOWS	TEM- PORARY.	HOUSES PUR- CHASED RECONDI- TIONED.			
	Tradi- tion.	New Tradi- tion.	Tradi- tion.	New Tradi- tion.			
Number of post-war houses up to April, 1960 .....	265	158	79	4	30	4	540
Houses in course of construction —	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
						Total	617







