

[Report 1963] / Medical Officer of Health, Kingsbridge R.D.C.

Contributors

Kingsbridge (Devon, England). Rural District Council. no2011196201

Publication/Creation

1963

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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1963



Kingsbridge Rural District Council.

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

Clerical Assistant (from 1/8/63) : MRS. S. M. HINGLEY.

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1963

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1963.

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.

There were two hundred and nine cases of infectious disease during the year. This was considerably more than the previous year. The increase was due almost entirely to very many more cases of measles.

There was one case of Sonne Dysentery. This occurred in a visitor from abroad who was admitted to hospital. There were no further cases resulting from contact with this patient.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water was supplied until the middle of the year by the South Devon Water Board. In July supply was taken over by the new and enlarged board. The sources remain the same being chiefly for this district from the Avon Reservoir, with additional water on occasion from the Ranney Works on the River Dart.

The water is treated by flocculation and filtration. It is chlorinated and the pH is adjusted. The quality is of a high standard and it is adequate in quantity for the needs of the district.

Copies of reports of all samples taken by the Board are forwarded to this department. We are grateful for all the information passed to us by the board.

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 these and sampling of the water is carried out as necessary.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Those at Strete Gate are completed. Approval has been given for construction of conveniences at Millbay. Consideration has been given to the provision of conveniences at Wonwell, Soar Mill and Lannacombe.

HOUSING.

During the year the unfit houses have been treated individually in many cases so that an opportunity is given for them to be made fit. Our purpose has been to have as many houses as possible made fit before they have deteriorated to such an extent that the cost of making them fit would not only be "unreasonable" but quite impracticable.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION. OF FOOD

The position is very much as last year. This work is not being done as completely or as extensively as one would wish. It is hoped that it will be possible to do more next year, as with the appointment of clerical help to the department which occurred in August, the Inspectors should be relieved of a considerable amount of office work.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1964.

Annual Report

OF

The Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1963.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit my report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1963.

SEWERAGE.

BROWNSTON. Conditions remain unsatisfactory and will do so until disposal plant is constructed. A "packaged" plant might be suitable for this hamlet.

KINGSTON. The old section of sewers have been replaced by new foul sewers connected into the new sewerage system.

GALMPTON. The work of constructing new sewers and disposal works at Galmpton and Hope Cove is well under way and it is estimated work will be completed in the latter part of 1964.

RINGMORE AND SHERFORD. The new installations of sewerage and sewage disposal at these villages were brought into operation during the year.

At SHERFORD a system of treating effluent by sand filters was introduced but the results have been disappointing and this type of plant has led to increased maintenance work.

SOUTH MILTON. The pumping station to deal with sewerage from the Links Hotel area is now in operation and the old unsatisfactory disposal works have been dispensed with.

WEST CHARLETON. Work is in progress on the construction of sewers and sewage disposal plant at West Charleton. Completion is anticipated in the latter part of 1964.

SOUTH POOL. An Engineering Enquiry was held into the proposed scheme at South Pool and work should commence during 1964.

LODDISWELL (Extension of Sewer). The Consulting Engineers are preparing a detailed scheme for the re-sewering of the village and for the re-construction of the disposal works. It is hoped that this scheme will come into operation at an early date as existing conditions are most unsatisfactory.

OTHER SCHEMES. Proposals to build council houses at Frogmore have accelerated a scheme for this village, but engineers reports are still awaited in respect of schemes for Strete and Challa-borough and for improvement to Modbury.

MAINTENANCE. Although authority was given to review the maintenance staff, no extra manpower was employed, but it will not be possible to economise in this way next year, and when installations at Galmpton and Charleton are completed it will become necessary to divide the staff into three gangs in order to maintain adequate cover throughout the district.

HOUSING.

Marked progress was made in dealing with individual unfit houses there being a 100 per cent. increase in the number dealt with by formal action.

The number of houses remaining to be dealt with according to the survey records is approximately thirty, but in view of the time lapse since the survey was carried out a great deal of work remains in the re-inspection of those houses in the lower categories.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The number of grants made during the year showed a decrease on that of last year, although the amount of discretionary grant was doubled.

Legislation is still awaited whereby Local Authorities are empowered to enforce higher amenity standards for houses, and although such legislation would be welcome, I feel that its implementation will be seriously impeded by the lack of available building labour to carry out the necessary work.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Improvement has been maintained in the standard of sites throughout the district, and under the programme of improvements, items such as hardstandings, surfacing of roads and provision of surfaced car parks are the main conditions still to be completed.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There was a further reduction in the number of carcasses inspected during the year.

From October of 1963 inspection of meat became obligatory by all authorities and charges have been levied for this service.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The introduction of a weekly collection of refuse throughout the district has been welcomed, particularly by residents living in the coastal parishes.

Apart from Molescombe refuse tip the life of the other disposal points is rapidly reaching an end.

The use of tips scattered throughout the district has been extremely helpful in the past although the method of disposal leaves much to be desired. It seems reasonable to assume that future disposal will be concentrated at Molescombe where more control can be effected. Future refuse vehicles will, of necessity, require efficient compaction units in order to reduce the mileage to and from the tipping point. Unfortunately this particular area does not lend itself to the use of bulk refuse vehicles.

LITTER.

If anything there was a slight improvement regarding litter during the past season. This was primarily due to the use of additional receptacles and labour in emptying. The basic problem—the apathy and filthy habits of the public in relation to litter—remains.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Administration received a serious setback during the year as the department was without effective clerical assistance for two-thirds of the time. This was probably the main reason for a further drop in the number of inspections carried out during the year.

Since the employment of an office clerk, office administration has been greatly improved and a new filing system based on individual houses introduced.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. COLE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

June, 1964.

APPENDIX.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,400 (estimated).

Rateable Value—£309,848.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£1250.4252.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	LIVE BIRTHS.			Birth Rate per 1,000 —of the estimated resident population.
	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	154	72	82	14.56
Illegitimate	12	4	8	
	<hr/> 166	<hr/> 76	<hr/> 90	Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births. 7.72

				Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
	Total	Males	Females	
Still Births	3	2	1	17.75

Total live and still births	169	78	91
INFANT DEATHS (DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE).			
	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	—
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	—
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	—
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	—
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	17.75
	Rate per 1,000 total Deaths. live and still births
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	1 5.91
	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.
DEATHS	Total. Males. Females.
	135 85 50 11.84

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	—
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 ..	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	5	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	5	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	6
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	8	12
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	13	11
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	—	1
20. Other Heart Disease	15	5
21. Other Circulatory Disease	2	1
22. Influenza	1	—
23. Pneumonia	5	3
24. Bronchitis	6	—
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	3	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	2	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	—	1
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases ..	8	5
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
34. All other Accidents	—	1
35. Suicide	2	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War ..	—	—
	85	50

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Whooping Cough ..	2
Measles	201
Acute Lobar Pneumonia	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1
Sonne Dysentry ..	1
Total ..	209

TUBERCULOSIS.

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN DISTRICT DURING 1963.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	—	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.	Licensed Individual Caravans
27	1149	23
13 sites, each with a maximum of five caravans, are exempt by virtue of membership of the Caravan Club.		
In addition there are two other mobile caravan sites run by the Caravan and Camping Clubs.		

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	..	..	..	61
Litter Act	..	..	..	13
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	..	..	..	339
Visits in connection with complaints	..	..	..	42
Infectious Disease	..	..	..	12
Inspections of Caravan Sites	..	..	..	59
Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts				475
Pests	..	..	..	5
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	..	..	..	17
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	5
Rodent Control	..	..	..	17
Ice Cream Samples	..	..	..	20
Water Samples	..	..	..	48
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	152
Wrecks of the Sea	..	..	..	2
Slaughter of Animals Act	..	..	..	5
Petroleum Regulations	..	..	..	21
Dangerous Buildings	..	..	..	13
Drainage	..	..	..	95
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	40
Water Supplies	..	..	..	—
Food Inspection	..	..	..	5
Rent Act	..	..	..	2
Waste Food Order	..	..	..	5
Total				1448

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year 425 visits were made to slaughterhouses.

The following carcasses were inspected :

Bulls	..	..	..	1
Cows	..	..	..	110
Heifers	..	..	..	160
Steers	..	..	..	223
Calves	..	..	..	106
Sheep	..	..	..	1986
Pigs	..	..	..	447

TOTAL	..	3033
-------	----	------

The total weight of meat condemned was 5 tons 3 cwts. 1 qr. 26 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	330	110	106	1986	447	—
Number inspected	330	110	106	1986	447	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned	3	13	7	15	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	89	67	2	96	18	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	27.87	72.72	8.49	5.58	4.02	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected and affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.34	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	10	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	10	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

OTHER FOODS.

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

Bakehouses	6
Butchers' Shops	12
Fishmongers and Fryers	1
Ice Cream—Retailers	72
General Stores	63
Dairies	3
Restaurants and Cafes	23
Hotels, etc.	63
Inns	41
Sweet Confectioners	8

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

Sale of Ice Cream	72
Manufacture of Preserved Food	8
Amount of food condemned during the year	80 lbs.
Number of new registrations under Section 16	3

ICE CREAM SAMPLING :

Grade I	19
Grade 2	1
Grade 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. (2)	Inspections. (3)	Number of Written Notices. (4)	Occupier Prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	27	15	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	30	18	—	—

No defects were found.
There are 2 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	36	3355	441	3832	837
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	95	23	118	9
(b) Survey under the Act	36	723	84	843	156
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	32	21	53	—
3. Total inspections carried out—includ'g re-inspect'ns	237	860	138	1235	166
4. Number of properties inspected in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats—Major	12	9	11	32	15
Minor	14	618	61	693	72
(b) Mice—Major	—	3	5	8	3
Minor	—	53	21	75	21
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by the L.A.	36	631	12	679	6
6. Total treatments carried out includ'g re-treatments	97	704	13	—	—
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (<i>i.e.</i> Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
88. 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	131				

WATER SUPPLIES.

Parish.	No. of Habitable Houses.	No. connected to Water Mains.	Estimated Population served.
Aveton Gifford	220	157	439
Bigbury	196	155	434
Blackawton	165	106	296
Buckland-tout-Saints	53	33	92
Charleton	103	78	218
Chivelstone	143	109	305
Churchstow	94	47	131
East Allington	135	96	268
East Portlemouth	101	71	198
Kingston	113	99	277
Loddiswell	210	176	492
Malborough	262	196	548
Modbury	330	295	826
Ringmore	90	80	224
Sherford	95	57	159
Slapton	156	129	361
South Huish	178	118	330
South Milton	136	114	309
South Pool	90	50	140
Stoke Fleming	280	219	613
Stokenham	517	430	1204
Strete	146	119	333
Thurlestone	265	186	520
West Alvington	180	136	380
Woodleigh	54	33	92
TOTALS	4312	3289	9189

WATER SAMPLES.

Source of Sample.	No. satisfactory.	No. unsatisfactory.	Total.
**South Devon Water Board			
Mains	241	3	244
Private Supplies	27	14	41
TOTALS	268	17	285

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

GRANTS FOR THE CONVERSION OR IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING
ACCOMMODATION.

	Formal applications received	Applications approved	
	Number dwellings.	Number of dwellings.	Amount of grant.
(a) Conversions	6	Owner occupied dwellings	£ 9823
		Other dwellings	
(b) Improvements	16	Owner occupied dwellings	5 22
		Other dwellings	

(a) Applications		Formal applications received.		Applications approved.					
		20		Owner occupied dwellings				10	
				Other dwellings				5	
<hr/>									
		Number of amenities provided.							
No. of dwellings.	Total amount.								
		Bath or shower.	Wash basins.	Hot water.	Water closets.	Food storage.			
<hr/>									
Grants paid	18	£2256 18 9	17	16	18	16	14		

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE
AREAS.

Represented	42
Confirmed	42
Not confirmed	Nil
Demolished	Nil
Families re-housed	18

COUNCIL HOUSE PROPERTY AT 31st DECEMBER, 1963.

	Houses.	Bunga- lows.	Flats.	Pre-fabs.	Houses Purchased and Re- conditioned.	Totals.
No. of pre-war houses erected	67	2	—	—	—	69
No. of post-war houses erected up to 1962	423	99	—	30	8	560
No. of houses completed in 1963	15	11	—	—	1	27
Houses in course of construction December, 1963	—	—	11	—	—	11
Totals	505	112	11	30	9	667



