

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Longbenton U.D.C.

Contributors

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LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM,

for the year ended 31st. December 1944.



OFFICERS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE.	OFFICER.	QUALIFICATIONS.
Medical Officer of Health.	William Cunningham.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy M.O.H.	Theodore Craig.	M.B., Ch.B.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	William.N.Lockey.	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat & Food Inspector's Cert., Sanitary Science Cert.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (Serving in Royal Navy).	Frederick Spencer.	A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.
Temporary Sanitary Inspector.	William.S.Bruce. Resigned 11.8.44.	A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., Meat & Food Inspector's Cert.
Temporary Sanitary Inspector.	William Henderson. Commenced 16.10.44.	M.S.I.A., Meat & Food Inspector's Cert.

To the Chairman & Members of the
LONGBENTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1944. In accordance with instructions from the Minister of Health this report, and the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, are abridged, but, fuller records of all the various activities of the Public Health Department, are permanently retained for reference.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There is a slight rise in the population of the area as calculated in mid-1944. We are now permitted to publish these figures and they are shown on Page.3. The Birth Rate shows a considerable increase over the figure for 1943, there being 52 extra births during the year, an increase of 117 over 1942 figures. The Death Rate shows a decrease there being 243 deaths as against 250 in 1943. The principal causes of death were:-

Heart Disease.	77	Cancer of all kinds.	41
Cerebral Haemorrhage	25	Bronchitis.	20

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

An increase in the number of cases notified occurred namely, 110 in 1944 as against 30 in 1943.

Deaths from Diphtheria. Two deaths from Diphtheria occurred in the district, one an adult and one a child aged 6 years, neither of whom had been immunised.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. No children of school age were immunised during the year, all children coming into the school age having already been treated in the Child Welfare Clinics.

Particulars are being extracted of the numbers of school children attending school to receive the completing treatment at an interval of not less than 3½ years. It is expected that 1,500 children will receive this final protection. Local practitioners still have the advantage of immunising their private patients at the cost of this Authority. Our propaganda methods still proceed but I still find that our most valuable method of persuading parents is the personal contact between parents, local practitioners, sanitary inspectors, health visitors and the school authorities. It is becoming increasingly evident that immunisation against diphtheria is a most valuable protection of child life.

Scarlet Fever. A decrease of 9 cases as against the figure of 79 cases for 1943 is noted. No deaths occurred from this disease.

Measles. In common with the rest of the County a decrease is reported, 28 cases were notified as against 271 in 1943. There were no deaths.

Scabies. Through the School Medical Officer, Health Visitors and local practitioners cases of scabies were brought to the notice of the Department. The Scabies Clinic, at the Cleansing Station, West Moor, is staffed by members of the First Aid Posts. During the year a total of 445 cases were treated. It was noted that the use of the Clinic was highly satisfactory in eradicating scabies.

MILK.

The standard of milk both for cleanliness and bacteriological content has been maintained in a fairly satisfactory level. Milk produced within our area has shown 85.27% satisfactory standard, whilst, outside our area the milk produced and exposed for sale in the area shows a 75% satisfactory standard. Pasteurised milk sent into the area has now shown a good standard and I am sure that transport difficulties from farms to depots has to some extent been rectified.

Tuberculosis in Milk. 46 samples of milk were examined for the presence of bacillus tuberculosis, six samples gave a "positive" result. This is an increase on the number of "positive" samples for 1943 and is not satisfactory. In each case particulars were sent to the County Medical Officer who informed the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who took the necessary proceedings.

Nutrition.

I have no evidence of any malnutrition in any class of the community as a result of war conditions.

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their sympathetic consideration at all times and Mr. Lockey, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and all the staff for their unfailing loyalty and energetic work. Despite extra tasks imposed by the war the routine work of the Department has not been allowed to suffer.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. Cunningham.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Birth Rate per 1,000 population.....	20.47
Still Births per 1,000 Live & Still Births.....	29.21

Death Rate.

Deaths from Puorperal Causes.

Deaths of Infants.

Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births.....	35.95
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births.....	37.29
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births....	62.5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	41
" " Measles (all ages).....	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).....	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	2

Area (in acres)..... 3,343
 Registrar General's estimate of population
 mid-1944..... 11,730
 Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to
 Rate Book..... 6,387
 Rateable value..... £11,387
 Sum represented by a penny rate..... £11-0-0

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Chief Industry is coal mining, and the residential area of Denton and Denton Park is situated to the north of the town.

Live Births - 1,000 population. 1943 18.38 1944 20.47

Still Births. 1943 0.37 1944 0.59

All Causes. 1943 11.6 1944 11.27

Measles. 1943 0.04 1944 0.00

Scarlet Fever. 1943 0.00 1944 0.00

Whooping Cough. 1943 0.046 1944 0.00

Diphtheria. 1943 0.215 1944 0.092

Influenza. 1943 0.23 1944 0.046

Enteric Fever. 1943 0.00 1944 0.00

Smallpox. 1943 0.00 1944 0.00

Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years. 1943 2.54 1944 4.49

Total deaths under 1 year. 1943 61.06 1944 35.95

ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.

Rate per 1,000 Live Births.

	England & Wales 1944.	Longbenton 1944	1943
Live Births.	17.6	20.47	18.38
Still Births.	0.50	0.59	0.37
All Causes.	11.6	11.27	11.6
Measles.	0.01	0.00	0.04
Scarlet Fever.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough.	0.03	0.00	0.046
Diphtheria.	0.02	0.092	0.215
Influenza.	0.12	0.046	0.23
Enteric Fever.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years.	4.8	4.49	2.54
Total deaths under 1 year.	46	35.95	61.06

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LONGEENTON AREA 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		MALE.	FEMALE.
All Causes		119	124
1. Typhoid & Para. Typhoid.....	-	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	-	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria.....	1	1	1
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	1	4	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	1	1	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases.....	-	-	-
9. Influenza.....	1	-	-
10. Measles.....	-	-	-
11. Ac:polio-myel: & polio-encoph:.....	-	-	-
12. Acute Inf. encephalitis.....	-	-	-
13. Cancer of Buc.cav. & Oesoph. (M) Uterus (F).....	1	3	3
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum.....	3	6	6
15. Cancer of breast.....	-	4	4
16. Cancer of all other sites.....	11	13	13
17. Diabetes.....	1	2	2
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions.....	9	16	16
19. Heart Disease.....	39	38	38
20. Other diseases of circulatory system.....	3	6	6
21. Bronchitis.....	11	9	9
22. Pneumonia.....	1	1	1
23. Other respiratory diseases.....	-	-	-
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	2	-	-
26. Appendicitis.....	1	-	-
27. Other digestive diseases.....	1	1	1
28. Nephritis.....	7	2	2
29. Puerperal and post-abort, sepsis.....	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes.....	-	-	-
31. Premature birth.....	3	4	4
32. Con.Mal. Birth inj. infant dis.....	1	3	3
33. Suicide.....	-	-	-
34. Road traffic accident.....	1	-	-
35. Other violent causes.....	7	4	4
36. Other causes.....	13	6	6

There is no evidence of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

I have no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that condition of occupation, environment or unemployment have exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

Swimming Baths and Pools - There are no swimming baths or pools in the area.

SECTION B.

1. (i) Public Health Officials: see page 1.
- (ii) a. Laboratory facilities remain the same as in former years.
- b. Ambulance Service is the same as last year and is still under the direct supervision of the Public Health Department.
- c. Nursing in the home is controlled by the Northumberland County Council.
- d. The only treatment centre controlled by this Authority is the Sun-Ray Clinic, which continues to do good work.
- e. There are no hospitals in the area with the exception of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Scaffold Hill, administered by the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board, of which Board this Council is a Constituent Member.

Maternity & Child Welfare Service.

This service is controlled by the County Council.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. Water Supply.
 - (i) See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
 - (ii) Drainage & Sewage.
Condition remain the same.
2. Rivers & Streams.
 - (i) See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
3. Closet Accommodation.
 - (i) See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
 - (ii) Public Cleansing - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
 - (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
 - (iv) Shops & Offices. - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
 - (v) Camping sites - No applications have been made for camping sites during 1944, and no camping sites exist in the area.
 - (vi) Smoke abatement - No official action has been necessary.
 - (vii) Swimming Baths and Pools - There are no swimming baths or pools in the area.
 - (viii) Eradication of the Bed Bug. - See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

4. SCHOOLS.

The schools in the area are each provided with a sufficient suitable water supply from the mains supply. Periodical inspections are made to all schools.

SECTION D.

HOUSING. Omitted.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- a. Milk Supply. See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- b. Meat & Other Foods. See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.
- c. Adulteration. This service is administered by the County Council.
- d. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. Milk is the only food of which samples are taken for Bacteriological Examination by this Authority. These samples are examined in the County Laboratory, Newburn.
- e. Nutrition. No special educative effort was made in the nature of lectures, films etc.
- f. Shellfish. - Molluscan - There are no shellfish beds or layings in this area. Shellfish is rarely sold in this area.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other diseases.

The following table gives the numbers and the age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year:-

	NUMBER OF CASES.									Age Not Known	Hospit- al.	Deaths.
	at all ages	Under 1 yr.	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 & ever				
Scarlet Fever	70	-	1	10	22	20	11	6	-	-	57	
Diphtheria.	110	-	5	6	32	31	18	16	-	-	110	2
Acute Pneumon- ia.	5	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	2
Cerebro Sp. Fever	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas.	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	
Measles.	28	-	3	7	16	1	-	1	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough.	20	1	2	11	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Undulant Fever.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
	244	2	12	36	78	53	32	51	-	-	167	6

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, with regard to persons employed in the milk trade, nor in the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

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TUBERCULOSIS 1944.

Age Groups.	CASES NOTIFIED.				DEATHS.			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	4	-	1	-	3	-	-
25 - 35	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	9	1	2	1	5	-	-

The notification of cases of Tuberculosis in the area is apparently satisfactory and no action has been necessary in any case of neglect or refusal to notify.

PARTICULARS OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER
at 31st. December, 1944.

	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			TOTAL PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY.
	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.	TOTAL.
Cases on Register at 1.1.1944.	78	70	148	30	25	55	203
New Cases.	7	9	16	1	2	3	19
Cases removed.	3	8	11	-	-	-	11
On Register at 31.12.44.	82	71	153	31	27	58	211

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Longbenton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WILLIAM N. LOCKEY.

for the year ended 31st. December 1944.

Dear Dr. Cunningham,

I beg to submit my report upon the Sanitary Department for the year 1944.

HOUSING. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining labour and material for repairs the general state of repair of working class houses throughout the district is now somewhat low. The attention of owners has been drawn to a considerable number of defects which needed urgent repair. It was necessary to serve Notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act with regard to 22 separate houses, in four of these cases we had to obtain tenders and do the work in default. Very little movement has taken place from the approximately 300 houses in areas confirmed for clearance prior to the outbreak of hostilities, although attempts have been made to keep them weatherproof, the conditions have deteriorated until some of the houses are in a very bad condition and re-housing should take place from them as early as possible.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. It was with great difficulty we were able to maintain the collection of refuse, especially in the mining districts where refuse should be collected at least twice per week. Our transport was somewhat depleted at the beginning of the year and it was only by resorting to the hire of vehicles that the service was maintained at a satisfactory level. Arrangements were made during the year to purchase a Dennis scavenging vehicle and to dispose of two horses. Delivery was received before the end of the Financial Year and the present service can now be maintained at a high level.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE. We are still tipping on three controlled tips, sufficient provision has been made for tipping in the district for a few years. Barradon tip should be able to take the refuse for another 4/5 years for the district from which we are now tipping. Arrangements have been made to fill in part of the quarry at Wideopen to be developed as an "open space" and the same with regard to the quarry behind Quarry House, Benton. In the meantime we are still raising low lying ground at Watery Gates, Wideopen, and the filling of the brick field at Forest Hall.

TRADE REFUSE. No charge is being made for the removal of trade refuse owing to most of it being useable for salvage.

SALVAGE. The collection of salvage has been maintained for the whole of the year our motor vehicles having a trailer for the conveyance of the salvage. It will be noted there has been some gradual falling off in the material salvaged, this may somewhat be due to certain materials being excluded from the salvage. I beg to append below statistics relating to the scavenging services for the year ended 31st. March 1945. The figures are based upon the estimated population made in 1944.

HOUSE REFUSE ONLY.

Estimated quantity removed.....	16,379 Tons.
Approximate average weight per house.....	2.4 "
Average quantity per house per annum.....	6.8 Cu. yards.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days).....	41.3 Cwts.

Total cost of Collection.....	26,119
Cost of Disposal.....	443
Payment to men when sick.....	177
Part wages of men in H.M. Forces.....	27
Total Scavenging Costs.....	6,766
Less payment for scavenging Army Camps.....	91
" profit on salvage.....	681
" profit on ashbins.....	11
	783
	25,983

	s. d.
Cost per house.....	18-3.0
Cost per head population.....	5-6.2
Cost on rates in the £.....	1-1.3

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. It was necessary to serve Statutory Notices with regard to the following:-

1. Shed used for human habitation.
2. W.C's., without water supply (3).
3. Defective W.Cs. (2).
4. Verminouse Premises (2).
5. Houses without water supply (5).
6. Other nuisances (3).
7. Defective Drains (2).

In one instance of a W.C., without water supply, and another a house without water supply, it was necessary to do the work in default and charge the cost to the owners. All other nuisances found were abated without having to recourse to Statutory action.

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG. All cases of infestation of the bed bug, brought to the notice of the Department, were dealt with without recourse to Statutory Action except two cases where the occupiers failed to take the necessary action. These cases were reported to the Committee and instructions given for the houses to be treated. This work was done by Council workmen.

SHOPS & OFFICES. It has not been necessary to take any action with regard to the conditions found in any shops or offices in the district.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY. There has been no alteration to the water supply of the district. A considerable number of houses (15.6% at the last survey) are supplied from stand pipes in the street. Most of these houses are of very low standard and it is anticipated they will come under the purview of Slum Clearance within the next few years.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. Only minor cases of the pollution of the stream passing through the area have been found and, in each case, it was possible to have the matter dealt with by informal action.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. There are still some 190 houses in the area with dryclosets, 160 of which are in areas confirmed for clearance. All other properties have the water carriage system.

MEAT & FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924. As in previous war years, slaughtering is taking place in Government controlled slaughterhouses in Newcastle and meat allocated to this district. The Receiving Depot and shops are under regular supervision. The local Butcher's Pool and the Department work harmoniously together. A large number of cottager's pigs (105) were slaughtered for bacon during the year, and, in each instance the animals were inspected after slaughter and where any disease was found the cottagers were willing to have the affected animal destroyed.

UNBOUND FOOD SUPPLEMENTED.

Pork. (Boneless)	53-lbs.	Turnips.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.
Sausago.	48-lbs.	Date.	24-lbs.
Boiled Ham.	13-lbs.	Sweets.	24-lbs.
Bacon.	165-lbs.	Potatoes.	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.
Cheese.	135-lbs.	Fish.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ stones.
Sugar.	22-lbs.	Fish Cakes.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen.
Canned Goods.	302 tins.		

MILK & DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The following is a summary of the particulars of the Milk & Dairies Register at the 31st. December 1944.

Number of persons registered as cow-keepers	19
Number of premises registered as cow-sheds	20
Number of cows kept on registered premises (Approximately)	450
Number of cow-keepers retailing milk	15
Number of persons registered as Dairymen in the area.	19
Number of Dairymen outside the area retailing in the area	9
Number of premises registered as Dairies	19
Number of persons registered as Retail Purveyors.	48

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDER, 1936.

The following are particulars of licenses granted under the above order:-

Premises licensed for storage and sale of T.T. Milk.	-
Premises licensed for storage and sale of Pasteurised Milk.	4
Supplementary licenses to retail T.T. Milk.	-
Supplementary licenses to retail Pasteurised milk.	2
Supplementary licenses to retail accredited milk.	-
Accredited Producers.	5

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK. Samples of milk from each supply were submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test.

MILK PRODUCED IN THE LONGBENTON AREA.

EXAMINATION	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	% Satis.
Methylene Blue Test	29	5	34	85.2
B. Tuberculosis.	<u>Not Found.</u> 33	<u>Present.</u> 4	<u>Total.</u> 37	<u>% Present.</u> 10.8

MILK PRODUCED OUTSIDE THE LONGBENTON AREA.

EXAMINATION	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	% Satis.
Methylene Blue Test.	6	2	8	75.0
B. Tuberculosis.	<u>Not Found.</u> 4	<u>Present.</u> 2	<u>Total.</u> 6	<u>% Present</u> 33.3

GRADED MILK.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	Satis.
Pasteurised.				
Total Bacterial Count.	8		8	100

TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN.

EXAMINATION.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	% Satis.
Total Bacterial Count.	8	-	8	100
Methylene Blue Test.	35	7	42	83.3
	<u>Not Found.</u>	<u>Present.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>% Present.</u>
B. Tuberculosis.	39	6	45	13.3

Yours faithfully,

W.N. Lookey,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.