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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF LOTHINGLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH

of the

RURAL DISTRICT OF LOTHINGLAND

for the

year

1953



by: ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1953.

The first event to which I must refer, is the flood which took place at the end of January. From the health point of view, this did not present as many problems in the rural district as it did in adjoining urban ones. Some concern was felt, due to the contamination of wells in the Burgh Castle area, but this was soon remedied by the provision of alternative temporary supplies. The wells were subsequently pumped out and tested for excessive salt. In every case they soon returned to normal, once the flood waters had subsided.

The retirement of Mr. Adcock, who for many years had been your Sanitary Inspector took place in September. His kindly manner will be much missed in the department and I personally would like to record my appreciation of the help he gave me during my association with him. His place was taken by Mr. R. Groat, who joined the staff in August.

The statistics for the district show a further fall in the birth rate, which has been falling steadily since 1949. The death rate also shows a fall this year. The number of stillbirths and the deaths of infants under one year of age is satisfactorily well below the national figure.

The only infectious disease worthy of note was measles. This disease is following a typical two yearly cycle in the district, peaks of infection having occurred in 1952, 1950, 1948 and so on. This year was therefore a quiet one, only some 30 cases having been notified, compared with 257 the previous year.

I was able to devote some time during the year to the routine inspection of holiday camps and caravan and camping sites. It may not be appreciated quite how extensive this type of holiday accommodation has become. Generally speaking the holiday camps present few hygienic defaults, though in one or two cases a considerable number of recommendations were made with a view to improving the health standards of the camp in question. I have always found proprietors and organisers of these camps very ready to co-operate in every way. The permanent camps appear to have become more or less static in number. Internal development is taking place in most, and these works will help still more to improve the amenities in them. Problems relating to water supply, refuse and sewage disposal, cookhouse and food hygiene, living accommodation, etc. are not likely to prove very difficult of solution in these permanent camps.

The caravan and camping sites are, however, a different problem. Their number and size is increasing rapidly, particularly those of various voluntary organisations such as scouts, boys brigades, school parties and so on.

These latter are not subject to licence, but they are inspected informally and I am happy to report that usually their hygiene arrangements are a credit to them. These camps and caravan sites will need careful supervision in the future as their temporary nature makes the provision of good sanitary facilities difficult and slackness in this respect could soon lead to a very undesirable set of circumstances in the district.

Some concern has been expressed during the year by various persons concerning the question of refuse collection. Only six parishes out of thirty get a weekly collection, the others have a fortnightly one. It is interesting to recall that during the year, 117 new houses were built. These houses were provided with refuse bins, and it is not to be wondered at therefore, that an improvement in this service is being requested. It appears inevitable that "urbanisation" will extend quite considerably into the rural district and this will of necessity lead to a request for an extension of such services.

I am, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE.

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics:

Area ...	...	...	...	...	...	44,653 acres
Registrar-General's estimate population (mid-1953)	...	...	...	...	...	15,040
Number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	5,100
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	...	...	£65,615

Vital Statistics:

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	187	94	93
	Illegitimate	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
		<u>194</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>

	<u>Lothingland</u>	<u>Comparative figure for England & Wales</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1953	12.9	15.5

STILLBIRTHS

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	20.2	22.4
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<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
7	2	5

DEATHS per 1,000 estimated population	9.91	11.4
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DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	20.62	26.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	20.62	----
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	----	----
Deaths from puerperal causes	----	----

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Other Infective and Parasitic disease	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	4	9
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	8	14
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	13	25
Coronary disease, angina	20	5	25
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	3	8	11
Other circulatory disease	7	8	15
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Bronchitis	1	4	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	2	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy childbirth abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	6	7	13
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	-	2	2
Suicide	1	-	1
	<u>75</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>149</u>

Comparative Table for the past Five years:

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
Population	14,550	14,400	15,090	14,960	15,040
Births	258	210	219	194	194
Birth Rate per 1000 ..	18.0	14.9	14.4	13.0	12.9
Deaths	187	165	170	164	149
Death Rate per 1000 ..	12.8	11.4	11.3	11.0	9.9
Infant Deaths	6	7	10	3	4
Infant Mortality Rate	23.0	33.3	45.6	15.5	20.6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of Infectious Disease throughout the year in the various parishes:-

P A R I S H	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Jaundice	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Polio-myelitis	Malaria	Dysentery
Blundeston	-	9	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kessingland	-	2	2	3	1	2	1	-	-	-
Carlton Colville	3	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Hopton	18	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	1
Corton	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oulton	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somerleyton	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bradwell	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Wrentham	3	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mutford	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reydon	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	1
Lound	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fritton	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flixton	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnby	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Olaves	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Henstead	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1953	30	33	8	18	1	2	2	3	1	7
1952	257	10	7	3	4	1	1	1	-	-
1951	41	83	13	8	4	1	1	-	-	-

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

The following table shows the attendances at the various Infant Welfare Centres for the year. Figures for 1952 are shown in brackets:

	Carlton Colville	Kessingland	Wrentham	Somerleyton, Belton and District
No. of Children who first attended during the year				
(a) Under 1 year	12 (11)	17 (24)	27 (46)	61 (98)
(b) 1 - 5 years	13 (17)	10 (—)	31 (25)	8 (102)
Total attendances:				
(a) Under 1 year	108 (92)	95 (96)	104 (220)	324 (422)
(b) 1 - 5 years	213 (207)	126 (120)	186 (242)	880 (892)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1953

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a report upon the work of the Department for the year 1953.

Housing.

Provision of New Housing Accommodation

Houses erected by private enterprise	39
Houses erected by the Local Authority	78

Housing Surveys -

(a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes.	119
(b) Total number of houses in which sanitary defects were found.	100
(c) Number of houses which are still occupied for human habitation - (either under licence or otherwise) and in respect of which demolition or clearance orders have been made.	10

Summary of action taken.

A. Under Public Health Acts - Formal.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	5
(b) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied (by owners) after service of formal notices.	-

B. Under Housing Acts - Formal.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which repair notices were served.	1
(b) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of notices served.	1
(c) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	
(i) Individually unfit	3
(ii) In Clearance areas	-
(d) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of orders made	
(i) Individually unfit	10
(ii) In Clearance areas	-

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Licences were granted during the year to the owners of 18 sites for caravans and tents and with the 12 licences issued to the occupiers of single caravans a total of 573 moveable dwellings were approved for use in the District.

All sites were inspected and conditions were included in the annual licences for the improvement of the sanitary facilities where this was required. Four applications for licences were refused due to the lack of proper water supply and sanitary facilities on the sites.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Samples from private wells were despatched to the Public Health Laboratory at Norwich and the bacteriological reports were as follows:-

Highly satisfactory	9
Satisfactory	5
Suspicious	3
Unsatisfactory	20

Samples for bacteriological and chemical examination taken from Kessingland Water Tower and from the Nordals well, which is used during the summer months to supplement the main supply, were reported by the Public Analyst to be very suitable for drinking and general purposes but he did draw attention to the marked increase in salinity of the Nordals well which occurs when it is being fully operated in the summer.

FOOD PREMISES.

All registered premises were inspected. It was found necessary to request the occupiers of two bakehouses to cleanse and decorate the premises.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Slaughtering was carried out at the Benacre Slaughterhouse and all carcasses and offals were inspected.

No. of Animals Inspected.	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
	1129	799	2218	2138

Tuberculosis Only

Number of whole carcasses and offal condemned	5	-	-	1
Number of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	148	-	-	33
Percentage of carcasses affected with tuberculosis.	13.5	-	-	1.5

Diseases other than T.B.

Number of whole carcasses and offal condemned	2	2	5	12
Number of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	327	2	32	150
Percentage of carcasses with diseases other than T.B.	29.1	0.5	1.6	7.6

The total amount of meat condemned during the year amounted to 16,048 lbs, 40% of which was affected with tuberculosis.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection work is carried out by the Council's staff in all Parishes in the District using two side loading ten cubic yard capacity vehicles. There is a collection service for house refuse every week in six of the parishes and each fortnight in the remainder of the district. The refuse is disposed of by tipping on land adjoining the sewage works at Reydon and by arrangement on the tips of the Lowestoft Borough Council.

Night soil is collected weekly in the parish of Kessingland by the cesspool emptying vehicles.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Council provides a free service for the emptying of private cesspools and during the year 4,195,000 gallons of sewage was pumped from these drainage systems.

There is difficulty in finding suitable sites for disposal of this sewage and a great part of the operating time is taken in travelling. A new vehicle was acquired during the year and the three machines are fully employed in meeting the constantly increasing demand for this service.

Factories and Workplaces.

21 inspections were made and informal notices were issued in two cases regarding lack of cleanliness and insufficient sanitary accommodation.

Rodent Control.

A rodent operator was appointed and commenced duty in May 1953. Surveys were made of properties in two parishes. There is a great demand for service throughout the district for farms and adjoining dwelling-houses. Test baiting was carried out in the Reydon Kessingland and Corton sewerage systems in co-operation with a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and no evidence of rat infestation was found.

I am, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RALPH GROAT.

Sanitary Inspector.

