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Contributors

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L O T H I N G L A N D R U R A L D I S T R I C T

C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1967

COUNCIL OFFICES
RECTORY ROAD
LOWESTOFT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:	A.C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, PUBLIC CLEANSING OFFICER, and PETROLEUM OFFICER:	R. GROAT, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 30th April) G.J.L. HORNE, M.A.P.H.I., A.I.P.H.E. (From 1st May)
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:	M. STEER, M.A.P.H.I. (From 5th June)
MEAT INSPECTOR, TECHNICAL OFFICER:	S.C. BAKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.M.I.
CLERICAL ASSISTANT:	MISS P. WALTON.
GENERAL FOREMAN:	A. BURCH.

Council Offices,
Rectory Road,
LOWESTOFT.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Lothingland Rural District for the year 1967.

There is an increase of 670 (from 19,200 to 19,870) in the Registrar-General's mid-year estimate of population, but otherwise there are only minor variations in the other principal statistics.

I express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Members of the Council, for the attention given to and interest taken in the work of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1968

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area: 44,675 acres (Census 1961)

Population 1967: 19,870 (as estimated by the Registrar-General)

Population, Census 1961: 16,034

Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1967: 7,297

Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1967: £585,985

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	LOTHINGLAND					England and Wales rates
	Total	Male	Female	Crude rate	Adjusted rate	
Live births -						
legitimate	311	156	155	-	-	-
illegitimate	22	13	9	-	-	-
total	333	169	164	-	-	-
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	16.8	20.3	17.2
Still births -						
legitimate	6	3	3	-	-	-
illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
total	6	3	3	-	-	-
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	-	-	-	17.7	18.0	14.8
Total live and still births	339	172	167	-	-	-
Infant deaths -						
under 1 year						
under 4 weeks						
under 1 week						
legitimate	2	-	2	-	-	-
illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
total	2	-	2	-	-	-
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	-	6.0	6.1	18.3
Neonatal (under 4 weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	-	6.0	6.1	12.5
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births	-	-	-	23.6	24.3	25.4
Deaths from all causes	217	124	93	-	-	-
Death rate per 1,000 population	-	-	-	10.9	11.2	11.2

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	17	16	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	4	-	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	15	7
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	36	15	21
Coronary disease, angina	56	36	20
Hypertension	1	1	-
Other heart disease	17	5	12
Other circulatory disease	17	9	8
Pneumonia	11	8	3
Bronchitis	4	4	-
Other disease of respiratory system	2	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	-	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	5	5
Motor vehicle accidents	3	2	1
All other accidents	1	1	-
Suicide	1	-	1
Influenza	2	1	1
Homicide and operation of war	1	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	2	-
	<u>217</u>	<u>124</u>	<u>93</u>

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles	24
Whooping cough	2
Scarlet fever	3
Pneumonia	2
Tuberculosis	2
	<u>33</u>

HOME HELP SERVICE

	<u>No: of cases dealt with</u>	<u>Hours worked</u>
Maternity	11	575
Chronic sick, aged and infirm ...	95	25,024
Number of Home Helps working at 31st December, 1967	40	

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-pul.</u>	
Number of cases on register at 1.1.67	58	9	32	11	110
Number of cases added during year	3	-	1	-	4
Number of cases removed during the year	4	-	5	1	10
Number of cases on register at 31.12.67	57	9	28	10	104

Cases added to register

New notifications	1
Inward transfers	3
	<u>4</u>

Cases removed from register

Recovered	7
Died	3
Removed to other areas	-
	<u>10</u>

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1967

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report for the year 1967.

The staffing of the Department was re-organised in the early part of the year, Mr. Baker being given the duties of a technical officer in addition to meat inspector. Mr. Burch was made general foreman of the cleansing and sewage services and included on the staff.

After my promotion when Mr. Groat resigned at the end of April, Mr. Steer was appointed as my assistant. He has carried out his duties in an efficient and practical manner and I would like to express my thanks to him and the other members of the Department for their support and keenness to deal with all the various aspects of our work.

The problem of nuisance from factory farming is becoming more pronounced and more satisfactory means of disposal of waste matter is needed. Whole communities have been submitted to vile smells at too frequent intervals when effluent is sprayed onto the land. This practice has now been stopped but disposal of the effluent is still a problem.

Gypsies have again caused annoyance to residents in the northern part of the District. The provision of an official encampment for gypsies was considered during the year and discussions with adjoining Authorities were sought. The financial squeeze, however, shelved the proposal.

The Civic Amenities Act and the Working Party Report on refuse collection have shown that a better cleansing service is to be expected throughout the Country. A number of the recommendations were already part of the service but a survey of all the existing rounds was carried out in November and minor alterations were made to effect improvements and economies in the service.

The Council's housing programme was given a boost during the year with proposals for estates at Wangford and Carlton and for the purchase of 18 privately built houses at Bradwell. I am pleased to record that there exists a liason between departments so that recommendations for letting of council property is tied in with the slum clearance and housing improvement programme.

The Mutford sewerage scheme was started during the year and Ministry approval to the Somerleyton, St. Olaves and Fritton scheme was obtained. The Black Street, Gisleham scheme was proposed and the extension to the Halesworth Road sewer at Reydon was constructed. An improved scheme for Hopton was also envisaged with a rising main to the existing Corton Works.

Rural sewerage is extremely costly but this Council has for many years realised the necessity for this service and it is a most laudable achievement to be one of the foremost rural authorities to provide such a high proportion of completed schemes.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking members for their confidence and support in my first year of office. Also my thanks to Dr. Gee and the other members of the staff for their co-operation and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G.J.L. HORNE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing	424
Moveable dwellings	155
Food hygiene	135
Water supplies	65
Swimming pools	42
Rodent control and pests	47
Meat inspection	638
Factories	14
Offensive trades, scrap metals and knackers yards	3
Clean Air Act	18
Petroleum	14
Public Conveniences	45
Sewerage	599
Cleansing	557
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	58
Nuisances	130
Miscellaneous	20

2,964

HOUSING

328 dwellings were inspected during the year which resulted in the following action:-

Number of houses demolished and unfit houses closed:	27
Number of families re-housed:	7
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices under the Housing Act, 1957:	3
Number of Demolition Orders made:	10
Number of Closing Orders made:	3

There were 390 applications on the Housing List at the end of the year, 90 families having been re-housed during the year. 32 were casual lets the remainder being exchanges and tenancies of new dwellings.

The total number of Council dwellings at the end of the year was 937, 18 of these were modernised during the year leaving 7 properties without W.C.'s and proper drainage. These are to be improved in 1968. A further 80 post war dwellings with W.C.'s and drainage but without bathrooms are to be completely modernised in the near future.

The number of advances made by the Council under the Housing Acts was 15 compared with 12 in 1966.

The Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following information:

Provision of New Housing Accommodation

Houses erected by private enterprise:	267
Houses erected by the Local Authority:	45

Improvements to Houses

Number of dwellings in respect of which improvements were carried out with grants:

Discretionary Grants:	60
Standard Grants:	52

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Number of licensed sites:	52
Number of caravans used for holiday accommodation:	2,703
Number of caravans used as permanent dwellings:	182

Regular inspections were made of the facilities at the multiple caravan sites. Generally conditions were good but some site operators were required to make improvements to their toilet and other facilities. The standard is improving every year but the tendency now is for self contained chalets to replace holiday caravans. This has the advantage of allowing more recreational area and also obviating the communal toilet block which is unpopular however well maintained.

FOOD PREMISES

The standard of cleanliness in food premises has been maintained throughout the district and the co-operation with traders and management was such that it was found necessary to take only a few cases of informal action against them. Structural improvements were carried out in one of the larger holiday camps following recommendations from the department and new equipment has been installed in some of the others. The question of personal hygiene is most important where large numbers of staff are employed in kitchens and dining rooms and in order to maintain the usual good standard, regular inspections are carried out at the several large establishments in the district.

The office registers have been completely revised and there are now a total of 171 food premises of which 135 were inspected during the year.

Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1956

Ice-cream manufacturers:	1
Ice-cream retailers:	94
Sausage and preserved food manufacturers:	9

The processing of soft fruit and vegetables by rapid freezing and the warehousing of frozen food by Messrs. Chs. Salvesen started during the early summer months. This is the largest factory project in the district and provides a capacity of 3.6 million cubic feet of warehousing at temperatures down to -20°F.

A survey of licensed Public Houses started towards the end of the year and was completed in the southern half of the District. The main points looked for during the inspections were:

- a. General repair and cleanliness;
- b. Sanitary accommodation;
- c. Washing-up arrangements;
- d. Catering facilities;
- e. Bar ventilation;
- f. Cellar cleanliness and decoration.

By the end of the year discussions with Brewery Company representatives were in hand and it is expected that some houses will be structurally altered and others closed. A number of minor defects were found to exist such as absence of urinal flushes, poorly ventilated bars and undecorated cellars and these items were dealt with by the Companies on being notified.

The activities of mobile salesmen were kept under surveillance and informal action was taken in one case.

WATER SUPPLIES

The results of samples taken from domestic supplies and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Norwich, were as follows:-

	<u>Mains supply</u>	<u>Private wells</u>	<u>Streams</u>
Unsatisfactory:	3	12	Nil
Satisfactory:	3	6	1

5 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination for nitrate content. 2 of these were doubtful and advice was given on alternative supplies.

The following is a list of the dwellings supplied with mains water.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Direct connection</u>	<u>Standpipe</u>
Ashby	-	-
Barnby	75	12
Belton	265	-
Benacre	16	9
Blundeston	285	-
Bradwell	1,236	9
Burgh Castle	117	18
Browston	30	-
Carlton Colville	798	-
Corton	328	6
Covehithe	2	10
Flixton	13	4
Fritton	55	-

	<u>Direct Connection</u>	<u>Standpipe</u>
Frostenden	61	21
Gisleham	88	11
Henham	6	-
Herringfleet	20	-
Hopton-on-Sea	260	-
Hulver Street and		
Henstead	87	13
Kessingland	882	12
Mutford	96	4
Lound	92	-
Easton Bavents	-	-
Oulton	82	-
Reydon	654	2
Rushmere	15	-
St. Olaves	55	-
Somerleyton	116	-
South Cove	2	10
Uggeshall	27	10
Wangford	148	12
Wrentham	227	44

SWIMMING POOLS

There are eleven swimming pools in the District which were tested regularly for free and combined chlorine and for pH value. Four bacteriological samples were submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory Service. These were satisfactory. In recent years there has been a better understanding of the control of swimming pool water by the pool attendants and they have been encouraged to do a regular daily or twice daily test of the water and keep records of the results. It has been recommended that gas respirators are made available to the attendants and that those with re-chargable canisters be checked and replaced each year.

RODENT CONTROL

Both rodent operators again dealt with all notifications. Routine inspections were also carried out. During the summer, when there are generally less infestations of premises, one of the operators assisted with the cleansing services.

An increase in the rat populations during the winter gave concern and it was decided to put into operation a block clearance scheme so as to ascertain the extent of infestations in both rural and built-up areas.

An area a mile square was selected at Corton just north of Lowestoft; there was no reason to believe that the rat population was higher here than elsewhere but it was chosen for trial purposes because it seemed to be very suitable having both agricultural and residential areas with clearly defined boundaries with the sea on one side.

289 private dwellings and business premises in the area were visited. 59 were found to require treatments. In addition 188 Warfarin points were laid around the three farm buildings. The perimeters of 307 acres of woodland were also checked. 16 miles of hedgerows and dykes were found to be heavily infested with rats and just under 2,000 holes were gassed. On the perimeter of the clearance area 39 small boxes containing Warfarin were strategically placed, the object being to try and check any infiltration of rats from elsewhere.

It was not possible to check the kill when using gas, nevertheless some rats did leave bolt holes and die, the number found being 142. Some indication of the numbers involved is given by the fact that in a hedge clearing operation by a farmer after the treatment, a thirty yard length of bank was levelled and 104 bodies found. When the hedges were checked a week later only five of the holes had been re-opened - these were again gassed and sealed.

The survey showed that in an area not regarded as badly infested, action was necessary and this was carried out; it showed the real problem was not in the village area but in the surrounding land.

The 39 permanent baiting points were kept under observation throughout the year.

Time has shown that the block system was successful but to extend the scheme would have involved a great deal more work and expense.

		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Total number of properties inspected following notification:		329	67
Number infested by:	rats:	315	67
	mice:	26	7
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification:		1,239	3
Number infested by:	rats:	899	3
	mice:	15	3

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	<u>Cattle:</u>	<u>Cows:</u>	<u>Calves:</u>	<u>Sheep:</u>	<u>Pigs:</u>
Number of animals killed and inspected:	1,704	28	12	362	3,175
<u>Diseases other than T.B. and Cysticercosis:</u>					
Number of whole carcasses condemned:	1	-	-	-	1
Number of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	372	1	-	2	328
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Number of whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-
Number of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	-	-	-	-	55
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Number of carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigeration:	1	-	-	-	-
Number of whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-

The total weight of meat and offals condemned amounted to 3 tons 3 cwt. 20 lbs. This was collected by the Suffolk Fat and Bone Company and processed immediately on arrival at the factory at Oulton.

Number of licenced slaughterhouses:	3
Number of knackers yards:	1
Number of licenced slaughtermen:	15

£338. 10s. 9d. was received for meat inspection duties.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority:	7	1
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	46	13

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The chimney heights to two boiler plants were approved during the year and advice has been given where necessary to improve and maintain existing boiler houses. This resulted in a new boiler stack of modern design being fitted to one other plant.

There are two brickworks in the District which are registered with H.M. Alkali Inspector. The works were inspected during the year and both are unlikely to give rise to smoke nuisances.

No statutory action under the Act was necessary in respect of open-burning but the problem of disposal of timber off-cuts and sawdust by burning on bonfires in the year of a timber mill gave rise to complaints. Informal representations were made and a large incinerator was proposed. Much of this wood is now being processed into chipboard.

PETROLEUM

71 annual licences were issued for storage of petroleum spirit. Pressure tests were carried out on all new tanks and pipe lines.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following premises were registered under this Act:

Offices:	16
Retail Shops:	33
Catering Establishments:	7
Fuel Storage Depots:	Nil

The number of inspections made in the year was 58 and one accident was reported.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A new 50 cubic yard Karrier/Eagle continuous loading refuse collection vehicle was purchased during the year. This replaced one old 18 cubic yard Shelvoke and Drewry vehicle. These larger capacity vehicles compress the refuse by using a double acting hydraulic ram. The volume is thus reduced to nearly a third and the refuse is also mechanically pushed back into the container. This saves considerable time in travelling back and forth to the tip and in adjusting the load on the vehicle.

The provision of our own maintenance staff and equipment was raised for discussion during the latter part of the year but it was agreed to continue with the present arrangements and replace the older vehicles when they became too expensive to maintain.

The number of properties in the District is increasing steadily and the amount of refuse to be collected from each dwelling is more each year. The use of modern vehicles had helped to deal with this increase without the necessity for more men but the stage is approaching where more staff will be

required in order to maintain the present standard of service.

The vehicles covered 37,286 miles during the year collecting 1,516 loads estimated at weighing 5,958 tons. This was disposed of by controlled tipping at Camps Heath and Kessingland.

Vehicle details are given below:-

				<u>Capacity:</u>	<u>Mileage:</u>	<u>Diesel</u> <u>Fuel used:</u>	<u>Miles per</u> <u>Gallon:</u>
S. & D.	UBJ 590	1956	18c.y.	4,040	404 gls.	10.0	
S. & D.	YBJ 296	1958	25c.y.	10,442	952 gls.	10.9	
S. & D.	401 LBJ	1962	25c.y.	8,451	807 gls.	10.4	
Bedford/Eagle	DBJ 509C	1965	50c.y.	7,720	1,342 gls.	5.7	
Bedford/Eagle	NBJ 694E	1967	50c.y.	6,633	980 gls.	6.7	

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The old Shelvoke and Drewry tanker broke down in the early summer and it was decided that it would be uneconomical to carry out the major repairs required. A new Karrier/Yorkshire cesspool emptier was ordered and in the meantime we were fortunate in being able to loan a vehicle from the Lowestoft Corporation for periods until the new one was delivered in October.

The vehicles removed 4,912,000 gallons of sewage and sludge which was disposed of at Ness Point, farm land and some into the sewers. 32,028 miles were covered with the following fuel consumption:-

				<u>Capacity:</u>	<u>Mileage:</u>	<u>Diesel</u> <u>Fuel used:</u>	<u>M.P.G:</u>
S. & D.	335 CRT	1959	1,100 gls.	4,939	449 gls.	11.0	
Karrier/Yorkshire	308 URT	1964	1,000 gls.	19,075	1,552 gls.	12.2	
Karrier/Yorkshire	PRT 745F	1967	1,000 gls.	5,586	515 gls.	10.8	
Dennis	MRT 616		750 gls.	2,428 (on loan from Borough of Lowestoft)			

£463 was received in payment for the service from business and other premises.

SEWERAGE

The removal of sludge from the main disposal works by tanker was continued throughout the year. There is no doubt that this method is preferable to using sludge drying beds whilst disposal points are still available. Most of the sludge is disposed of at Ness Point. The practice of tipping sludge with refuse has now been discontinued as although it was convenient it did cause some difficulties.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The 3 public toilets were maintained by the department with the assistance of part-time labour. A certain amount of wanton damage for some reason seems to be inevitable in these places but it is found that if the premises are well maintained and kept clean the tendency for this destruction is reduced. The provision of toilets on the main trunk roads is becoming a necessity but they should be sited where water and drainage to a sewer is available.



