

[Report 1963] / Medical Officer of Health, Wenlock Borough.

Contributors

Much Wenlock (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1963

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bmr2kbxn>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



ACK. BY
[Signature]

Library

B O R O U G H O F W E N L O C K

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

F O R T H E Y E A R 1 9 6 3 .



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS, 1963.

Medical Officer of Health

Margaret H. F. Turnbull,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

J. L. McFall, M.R.S.H.,
M.P.H.I.A., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Additional Public Health
Inspector

J. T. Cope, M.P.H.I.A.

CONTENTS OF REPORT.

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Section A | - | Statistics. |
| Section B | - | General Provision of Health Services. |
| Section C | - | Environmental Hygiene, Housing, Food, Factories. |
| Section D | - | Infectious Diseases. |

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

-1-
-2-
BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of Wenlock Corporation.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual Report
for the year 1963.

This follows the same general lines as in previous
years, and contains all the data required by the Ministry
of Health.

For their valuable contributions towards the
preparation of the Report, my very grateful thanks are
due to the Public Health Inspectors, Mr. J. L. McFall
and Mr. J. T. Cope, who provided all the information
contained in Section C. The assistance given by our
clerical assistant, Miss Griffiths, is also gratefully
acknowledged.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant

MARGARET H. F. TURNBULL

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area of District in acres	-	22,657
Estimated Population (mid-1963)	-	15,020
Number of Inhabited Houses	-	4,858
Rateable Value of District (at 1.4.64.)	-	£388,520
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate (at 1.4.64.)	-	£1,509

VITAL STATISTICS:

1. POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district at mid-1963 was 15,020 - an increase of 50 on the corresponding estimate for 1962. This figure is employed in the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates for the area.

The natural increase in population for the year was 40 (i.e. the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths).

2. BIRTHS.

(a) Live Births.

There were 243 live births in the Borough during 1963 - 19 more than in the previous year. Of this total, 18 were illegitimate (7.4%).

The "Crude" Birth Rate for 1963 was 16.2 per 1,000 of the population, and the Standardised Birth Rate (comparable with the corresponding Standardised Rate for other areas) was 16.8. This is rather below the national average for 1963 which was 18.2 live births per 1,000 of population.

Live Births, 1963.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	115	8	123
Female	110	10	120
Total	225	18	243
Rate per 1000 of population	15.0	1.2	16.2

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of population - 16.2
 Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 of population - 16.8
 Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1963 - 18.2

(b) Still Births.

There were 6 Still-Births notified during 1963, two less than in the previous year.

The Still-Birth Rate was thus 24.1 per 1,000 total births (i.e. live births and still births combined). This is rather higher than the national average for 1963 which was 17.3, but shows a marked decrease on our own Still-Birth Rate for 1962 of 34.5.

Still Births, 1963.

Male - 3
 Female - 3
 Total - 6

Still-Birth Rate, per 1,000 total births - 24.1
 Still-Birth Rate, per 1,000 total births
 (England and Wales, 1963) - 17.3

3. DEATHS.

203 inhabitants of the Borough died during 1963, 12 more than in 1962.

The various causes of death are detailed in the Annual Return of the Registrar-General which appears overleaf. Conditions affecting the Heart and Circulatory System again accounted for the greatest number of the deaths (53.2% of the total), and Malignant Disease was responsible for 15.3%. Of the 31 deaths from Malignant conditions, 4 were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus (5 in 1962).

The Standardised Death-Rate for the year was 12.3 per 1,000 of the population, which approximates very closely to the average for the country as a whole (12.2)

Deaths, 1963.

Male	-	105
Female	-	98
Total	-	203

"Crude" Death-Rate per 1,000 of population	-	13.5
Standardised Death-Rate per 1,000 of population	-	12.3
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1963.		12.2

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1963.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	-	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung or bronchus ..	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	7	17
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .	21	24	45
Coronary disease, angina	17	11	28
Hypertension with heart disease .. .	2	5	7
Other heart disease	11	9	20
Other circulatory disease	5	3	8
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Bronchitis	10	3	13
Other disease of respiratory system ..	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	20	25
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	3	-	3
Suicide	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	1	1
 All Causes	<u>105</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>203</u>

4. INFANT MORTALITY.

3 infants under the age of 12 months died during 1963, 6 less than in 1962. Of these 2 died during the first month of life.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was therefore 12.3 per 1,000 live births. This is well below the Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1963 (which was 21.1 per 1,000 live births) and is a pleasing drop from our own Rate of 40.2 for 1962.

The Neonatal Mortality Rate mentioned in the list below refers to those infants dying in the first month of life. It also is well below the national average for the year.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 1963.

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	2	-	2
Female	1	-	1
Total	3	-	3
Rate per 1,000 related live births	13.3	NIL	12.3

Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births	-	12.3
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (England and Wales, 1963)	-	21.1
Neonatal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births	-	8.2
Neonatal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (England and Wales, 1963)	-	14.2

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No deaths associated with pregnancy or childbirth occurred in the Borough during the year under review.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES.

The Hospital and Specialist Services are provided and administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and its Hospital Management Committees.

The District is well served, being within easy reach of various general hospitals in the neighbourhood. Consultants from the larger centres hold regular out-patient clinics at the two small general hospitals at Broseley and Much Wenlock.

Tuberculosis cases are treated in Copthorne Hospital, or in Cross Houses Hospital, and other Infectious Disease cases requiring isolation and hospital care are admitted to Copthorne Hospital or Monkmoor Children's Hospital.

The Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge, takes the elderly and chronic sick, and also has accommodation for mental defectives.

2. GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

The Authority responsible for these services is the Salop Executive Council, Shrewsbury.

3. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

Salop County Council as Local Health Authority is responsible for the following "Personal" Health Services:

Care of mothers and young children.
Domiciliary Midwifery.
Health Visiting.
Home Nursing.
Vaccination and Immunisation.
Ambulance Services.
Prevention of illness, care and after-care.
Domestic Help Services.

(a) Maternal and Child Welfare.

There are four Child Welfare Centres in the District where afternoon sessions are held as follows:

Victoria Institute, Broseley	- 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays.
Severn Bank House, Ironbridge	- Each Friday.
Welfare Centre, Church Street, Madeley	- Each Wednesday.
British Legion Hall, Much Wenlock	- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

(b) Welfare Foods.

The National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin Tablets) are available at the Welfare Centres during clinic hours and at various conveniently situated distribution-points throughout the district.

(c) Domiciliary Midwifery, Health Visiting, Home Nursing.

Details of these services may be obtained from the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(d) Vaccination and Immunisation.

Under the County Council's scheme, vaccination against Smallpox, and Immunisation against Whooping-cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis may be carried out by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Welfare Centre by appointment.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis is offered each year to all children aged 11 - 13 years who are found by preliminary testing to require this protection. Only very few parents refuse their consent for this procedure, which is carried out at the schools.

(e) Ambulance Services.

There were no changes in the Ambulance arrangements during the year. The Central Ambulance Depot for the County is in Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331), and all calls for ambulances are dealt with centrally.

One ambulance is stationed in Much Wenlock for use on local journeys.

(f) Domestic Help Services.

The service of a Home Help is available in the words of the Act for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age".

There are no Domestic Help Offices in the Borough of Wenlock. The nearest are at Bridgnorth Welfare Centre (open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons), and at Wellington (42 Tan Bank).

SECTION C.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, HOUSING, FOOD,
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The information contained in this section has been contributed by the Public Health Inspectors, whose assistance in this respect is gratefully acknowledged.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

(a) Water Supplies:

The main piped supplies in the Borough are under the control of the East Shropshire Water Board. Copies of the reports on all samples are sent to the Board for information.

46 water samples were taken in 1963 and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Shrewsbury. The results were as follows:

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Main supplies	18	5
Private supplies	3	20

The reason why the number of unsatisfactory samples from private supplies is high is due to the fact that, when an unsatisfactory result is received, further samples are immediately taken to check the contamination, and as a check on the steps taken to improve the standard of purity.

The unsatisfactory samples from the main supplies were only slightly below standard and further samples taken later from the same localities proved to be satisfactory.

(b) Sewage Disposal

Nightsoil is collected weekly in the Madeley Ward by emptying pails into a removable container placed on one of the Council's vehicles. The provision of a cesspool emptier with a pail emptying attachment would be more hygienic, and would enable a service for cesspool emptying to be provided for those ratepayers who are not so fortunate as to have main drainage available. At present Dawley U.D.C. empty cesspools in the Borough on request, but the charge is necessarily high.

The Aqueduct Sewerage Scheme was completed late in 1961. A start was made in connecting premises to the sewer early in 1962 and during 1963 a further 20 premises were connected, and arrangements made in respect of other premises.

Grants were made to owners in respect of conversion of earth closets to water closets and connection of premises to the sewer. The average grant was £20 0. 0. Where the previous sanitary accommodation was shared, separate water closets were required.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse is collected by direct labour weekly throughout the Borough except in the outlying parts where the collection is fortnightly.

Three refuse tips are in use in the Borough; disposal is by tipping and surface dressing. The method of tipping leaves much to be desired but is mainly governed by finance. The refuse tip at Iron Bridge has a deep face which renders the control of rat and fly infestation most difficult to keep within reasonable limits.

(d) Rodent Control

One Rodent Operator is employed, spending two weeks of his time with the Borough of Wenlock and every third week with Bridgnorth Borough. This arrangement means that the Public Health Inspectors must deal with infestations needing urgent attention during this week. This arrangement is most unsatisfactory, since treatment of premises cannot always be followed through.

Contracts for Rodent Control this year decreased by one to thirty.

Refuse tips and sewage works are regularly inspected for the presence of rats and any infestation promptly dealt with. Sewers were test-baited twice during 1962, and the small infestations found were treated. The old culverts draining properties in Iron Bridge direct to the River Severn are a constant reservoir of rat infestation in this area. It is impossible to treat these sewers adequately, and in most instances not at all, because of the absence of manholes or other access points.

2. HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.63	- 4,858
Number of Council-owned houses	- 1,290
Council houses completed in 1963	- 49
Council houses under construction at 31.12.63	- 466
Number of applications for discretionary improvement grants	- 26
Number of applications for standard improvement grants	- 13

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The necessity for a systematic survey of houses in the whole of the Borough remains as no such survey has ever been made. When prospective purchasers approach the Public Health Inspector to ascertain whether a house is in the Council's slum clearance proposals he has to refer to an incomplete list of suspected unfit houses and then use his own judgement as to the possibility of a house being condemned. This position was referred to in the 1962 report and is unchanged.

The Council's slum clearance proposals were expected to be clearly defined after a survey, which should have been made in 1955. The compensation an owner/occupier may claim in respect of a house purchased between 1939 and 1955 is compulsory purchase value less site value. An owner/occupier purchasing after this date is not entitled to this compensation. It is therefore rather difficult for the Public Health Inspector to answer enquiries in the absence of clearly defined slum clearance proposals knowing that his reply may affect the purchase price of a property or even influence a prospective purchaser not to proceed with the purchase.

The requisite staff to make a full survey has never been available until 1st November, 1963 when an unqualified assistant was appointed. It is possible that some progress may now be made with this work.

The allocation of some 543 houses which built up to a peak about the middle of the year created a problem because of the extra work involved and the problems associated with the housing of so many families. It was found that the rents which it was necessary to charge for the new houses precluded many families in Clearance Areas from accepting the accommodation offered.

Housing within the Borough is the same problem, scaled down, of many midland industrial cities. There are a large number of substandard houses from 100 - 150 years of age, and these have not always been well-maintained. Their replacement is one of the most urgent needs of the district.

The following is the progress made during the year in respect of Clearance Areas:

Legges Alley (3 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 13.10.58

These houses have not been demolished, although negotiations to this end were proceeding.

Madeley Ward

High Street, Coalport (10 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 23.2.60.

The houses were demolished and the site cleared by 31st March, 1963.

Park Lane, Madeley (9 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 19.7.61

One further family rehoused in Dec. 1963, three families remaining.

Aqueduct Bank, Madeley (9 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 12.9.61

Two families were rehoused in the year of report.

Blists Hill, Coalport (12 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 23.8.61

A further four families were rehoused in 1963. Six families remaining.

Lincoln Hill, Iron Bridge (9 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 10.8.61

Another family from this area was rehoused in 1963. Two families remaining.

Park Lane, Madeley (7 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 1.3.63 and one family from this area was rehoused.

Hodge Bower, Iron Bridge (3 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 9.1.1963, following a Public Enquiry on 23.10.62.

One family remains.

Dale Road, Coalbrookdale (16 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 19.3.63

6 families have been rehoused. One family remains.

Woodside, Coalbrookdale (4 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by Ministry on 19.3.63

One family has been rehoused. All houses now vacant.

Lincoln Hill/Paradise (18 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 27.3.63

6 families remain. 3 families rehoused during the year.

Wenlock Ward

Presthope, Much Wenlock (6 houses)

Clearance Order confirmed by the Ministry on 21.3.61

Houses demolished early in 1963.

Barrow Ward

No action was taken regarding slum clearance under part 3 of the Housing Act, 1957 during 1963.

Individual Unfit houses

Action taken in the Borough under this heading in 1963 was as follows:

Houses demolished	13
Unfit houses closed	46
Undertakings from landlords to make fit accepted	1

4 - 8 Victoria Road, Much Wenlock

Following a successful appeal against three demolition orders late in 1962 in respect of three of the houses, the Wenlock Committee decided to extend the time limit for the demolition of the other two houses for a period of two years to allow the owner to carry out repairs and improvements. Improvement Grants were agreed to against the advice of the Public Health Inspector who contended that the houses would have to be rebuilt before they could be made fit for human habitation, since the materials of which they were constructed were seriously decayed and perished and there was much instability in the structure.

RENT ACT, 1957.

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	- 0
No. of applications approved	- 0
No. of proposals to Issue a Certificate of Disrepair	- 0
No. of Undertakings of Disrepair issued	- 0
No. of Undertakings received	- 0
No. of Repairs completed	- 0
No. of Applications by Landlord for cancellation	- 1
No. of Certificates cancelled	- 1

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

On 31st December, 1963 there were 90 caravans in the Borough of Wenlock on 36 sites. Each was licensed under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

	Cattle including cows and bulls	Cows and bulls	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
No. inspected	104	11	1	517	250
All diseases except tuberculosis and brucellosis	104	11	1	517	250
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Some part of carcass con- demned	8	-	-	1	13
Percentage affected	7.7%	-	-	0.2%	5.2%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>	104	11	1	517	250
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Some part of carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage affected	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>	-	-	-	-	-

The total quantity of meat and offal exported from the slaughterhouse was approximately 170 lbs.

All meat is inspected at each of the two slaughterhouses in the Dudley Ward. The two slaughterhouses comply with the Slaughterhouses (England) Regulations, 1954.

Carcasses of animals are inspected at the slaughterhouses and at the abattoir. The abattoir is licensed under the Slaughterhouses (England) Regulations, 1954.

3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection:

The table below gives details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Borough during 1963:

	Cattle excluding cows and heifers	Cows and heifers	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. inspected	101	11	1	517	280
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Some part or organ con- demned	8	-	-	1	13
Percentage affected	7.92%	-	-	0.19%	4.6
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Some organ or part condemned	-	-	-	-	6
Percentage affected	-	-	-	-	2.14
Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-

The total quantity of meat and offal condemned at the slaughterhouse was approximately 170 lbs.

All meat is inspected at each of the two slaughterhouses in the Broseley Ward. The two slaughter houses comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

The following foodstuffs were condemned in 1963 as unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the shop-keepers:

Meat (mostly canned meat) 127 lbs.

Fruit and vegetable (canned) 33 lbs.

In addition 8 pint cans of stout were surrendered.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 and 1960

Routine inspection of food premises continued to be made during the year, and some improvement in equipment and methods of handling were obtained.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

The Council is responsible, by the provisions of Part I of the Factories Act, 1937, for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary conveniences in all factories in the district, and in the case of factories in which mechanical power is not used, is also responsible for inspecting the premises to ensure that working conditions are satisfactory.

A total of 42 inspections of factories were made during the year and six defects were found.

Part VIII of the Act also gives the Council the responsibility for ensuring that premises in which any persons are employed as out-workers are not injurious or dangerous to health.

The prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937, are set out separately at the end of the report.

Destruction of Rats and Mice and other pests.

The Rodent Operator dealt with 282 complaints mainly of rat infestation, a few house mouse infestations and in the summer months a few complaints of wasps and insects.

SECTION D.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications of cases of Infectious Disease were received during 1963:

Measles	12
Acute Pneumonia	8
Whooping cough	8
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3
Scarlet Fever	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Erysipelas	2
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1
Meningococcal Infection	1
	<hr/>
	40
	<hr/>

As in 1962 (when only 34 notifications were received) the Borough again remained remarkably free from the notifiable Infectious Diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Three new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year and one case of a non-respiratory form of the disease.

The following numbers of cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1963.

	<u>Respiratory Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.</u>
Male	69	14
Female	49	19
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	118	33
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

PART I OF THE ACT.

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspection s (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prose- cuted. (5)
(a) Factories in which Secs. 1-4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	-	-
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	21	2	-
(c) Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	14	3	1	-
Total	75	26	3	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work).	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	3	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK
(Sections 110 & 111)

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Stuffed Toys	-	-	-	-	-	-



