[Report 1961] / Medical Officer of Health, Newton Abbot R.D.C.

Contributors

Newton Abbot (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1961

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a6rkn3rm

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

N E W T O N A B B O T

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

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 1

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

H. M. DAVIES.
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

TELEPHONE No. Teignmouth 1200

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BITTON HOUSE,
TEIGNMOUTH

NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1961.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1961.

The statistics concerning the Birth and Death rates approximate to those of the Administrative County and England and Wales and therefore call for no comment.

The table giving the ages at death is of interest, showing that of the total of 340 deaths only 14 occurred in persons under 44 years of age, whereas 154, or nearly half of the total, were aged 75 years or more.

The incidence of infectious disease continues to decrease and of those diseases for which there is adequate protection available, either by Vaccination or Immunisation, it will be noted that no cases of Smallpox, Diptheria, Poliomyelitis or Tetanus occurred. Only 13 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year. All these diseases continue to exist and are as dangerous as ever they were. Parents must be constantly reminded that it is their duty to see that their children do receive the protection which is available.

Regarding Tuberculosis, only nine new cases were notified. Two deaths occurred. The constant fight against Tuberculosis is now nearing its end and, provided that there is no relaxation, this disease should become a rarity within but a few years. Lung Cancer is taking the place of Tuberculosis and the rise in the incidence of this disease over the past

20 years is about equal, in the same time, to the fall in the number of cases of Tuberculosis. The prime cause of Lung Cancer is cigarette smoking - a fact now beyond dispute. At the present state of our knowledge the only factor which will reduce the incidence of this disease is to eliminate cigarette smoking. A simple procedure! In any case parents are advised to see that their children are discouraged from starting this most dangerous habit.

The long delayed scheme for providing a piped water supply for the Parish of Bickington was almost completed by the end of 1961. This will inevitably lead to a far greater use of water in the village, and I am sure that the provision of an adequate sewerage system will become very urgent within the next year or so. This matter should be considered without any undue delay.

In my Report for the year 1959 I expressed an opinion that too many large Council houses were occupied by one or two older people whose families had grown up and gone away. I also made the suggestion that it would be a good thing to encourage those older people to move to smaller bungalows. This would be of assistance to the older persons and would also make the larger houses available for the younger families. My comments were well received, but no positive action was taken.

In the following year I made a similar suggestion. As a result of this a survey of the Council's houses was undertaken and the extent of the problem revealed. Little or no positive action was taken.

The housing problem remains very acute in the Rural area and the simplest, the most satisfactory and the cheapest solution is to encourage a much fuller interchange of houses by offering every help, financial and otherwise.

I should like to thank, once again, the Chairman, Councillors and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A K Davis

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1962.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29909338

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres).....	92,650
Population Mid 1961.....	25,510
Population 1951 Census.....	25,795
Population Administrative County of Devon.....	529,780
Rateable Value as at 1st. January, 1961.....	£267,269
Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1961.....	£275,059
Product of 1d.rate as at 31st. March, 1961.....	£1,078

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	175	156	331
Illegitimate	7	13	20
	182	169	351

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	13.76
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	15.96
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	14.25
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	15.39
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	17.4

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	1	1

Still Birth rate per 1000 total population	.24
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births	16.81
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births Administrative County of Devon	16.94
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births England and Wales	19.1

Deaths

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 70.34 years. It is of interest to note that the average age of all male deaths is 68.02 years and for female deaths 72.81 years.

Male	Female	Total
175	165	340

Crude Death rate per 1000 total population	13.33
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population	10.93
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	14.72
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon	11.63
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	12.0

Infant Mortality
(Death of Infants under One Year)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births	19.94
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	15.88
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	21.6

Neo-Natal Mortality
(Death of Infants under Four weeks)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under Four weeks) per 1000 related live births	14.25
Neo-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	11.04
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	15.5

Peri-Natal Mortality
(Death of Infants under One week)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Peri-Natal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and death of Infants under One week) per 1000 related live births	14.25
Peri-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	26.33
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	32.2

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the Newton Abbot Rural District during 1961. No maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

AGE AT DEATH

	Male	Female
Infants under One week	4	1
Infants under Four weeks	-	-
Infants under One year	1	1
1 - 4	1	1
5 - 14	1	-
15 - 24	2	1
25 - 44	3	3
45 - 64	37	30
65 - 74	55	45
75 and over	71	83
	175	165

Total: 340

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
All causes	175	165
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	15	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	23
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-
carried forward	43	35

CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

	Male	Female
brought forward	43	35
Diabetes	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	26	25
Coronary disease, angina	27	26
Hypertension with heart disease	7	6
Other heart disease	29	33
Other circulatory disease	8	9
Pneumonia	3	4
Bronchitis	8	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	6	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Congential malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	14
Motor vehicle accidents	3	2
All other accidents	3	3
Suicide	1	-
	175	165

Total: 340

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough	7	6	13
Measles	139	136	275
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Erysipelas	-	1	1
	147	143	290

Total: 290

TUBERCULOSIS

Nine cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1961. No cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. Details of the pulmonary cases are set out in the following table:

AGE PERIODS	CASES M	CASES F
Under five years	-	-
5 - 14	-	-
15 - 24	1	2
25 - 44	1	-
45 - 64	3	-
65 and over	2	-
	7	2

Total: 9

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

In no case was official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 necessary during 1961.

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

O F T H E

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

A. R. SMITH, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.San.I.

FOR THE YEAR

ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1961.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

I herewith submit my report of the administration of the Chief Public Health Inspector's Department for the year 1961.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministries of Health, Housing and Local Government, Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, the necessary tables and statistics have been included in the report, together with the progress made in the important work of Housing and Food Hygiene.

The year under review has once again proved very satisfying inasmuch as work has progressed satisfactorily in the varying duties my Department is called upon to carry out.

Miss A. P. Clark who has given excellent service for a number of years tendered notice of her intended resignation from her post in the fall of the year on account of the fact that she had decided to marry. Following her marriage in December she continued with the Department for a few months carrying on into 1962, when a new shorthand typist took up her duties. Miss M. Coaker has worked untiringly for the two departments as heretofore and I must add a comment here that with the present amount of work for such a post, which is increasing weekly it has become evident that there is an urgent need for a whole time typist to be appointed in each department. I refer of course to the Public Health Department and the Treasurer's Department.

Mr. J. A. McPherson, Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, has carried out all the duties attaching to the post in a manner which leaves no doubt as to his ability and conscientious outlook on all phases of the work of the Department.

Mr. C. Rand who commenced duties with us on 6th February, found himself with all the duties to carry out for the first fortnight on account of the fact that the remainder of the staff, including myself, were laid aside with influenza. He carried out these duties very satisfactorily.

Once again 100% Meat Inspection was carried out in the seven slaughterhouses, and a great addition to these duties was occasioned by the commencement of operations at Milber Down Abattoir where a considerable amount of additional slaughtering is carried out.

Controlled tipping continued in a most satisfactory manner and the acquisition of a John Deere Bulldozer has given most satisfactory results.

A Slum Clearance Survey was undertaken during the period under review, details of which are included in the following.

I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and other Committees of the Council for the continued encouragement and assistance received; also to express my appreciation to all other Officers for their friendly advice and co-operation.

A R Smith

Chief Public Health Inspector

Sanitary Inspection of the District

The approximate number of verbal complaints received in the Department during the year 1961 was three hundred and fifty, whilst written complaints received numbered one hundred and seventy-six.

The following tables show the amount of Routine Inspection work carried out by the officers of the Department

Summary of Public Health Inspectors' Visits

TABLE I

General Sanitation

Water Supplies and Sampling	754
Drainage	586
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	26
Caravan Sites	286
Public Conveniences	10
Refuse Collection, Litter, etc.	185
Refuse Disposal	182
Rodent & Pests Control	166
Schools	27
Sewage Works	18
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	124
Interviews in district	256
Total	2,620

TABLE II

Housing Visits & Inspections

Under Public Health Acts	
Number of houses inspected	17
Revisits	4
Under Housing Acts	
Number of houses inspected	419
Other visits	880
Overcrowding	
Number of houses inspected	15
Revisits	12
Verminous Premises	
Number of houses inspected	22
Revisits	30
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	128
Total	1,527

Housing

One of the most important duties the Public Health Inspector's department of any local authority is called on to carry out is the frequent inspection of houses within the district to ensure the provisions of the various Housing Acts are complied with.

During the period under review particular emphasis was placed on such duties and a preliminary survey was carried out mainly in eighteen of the twentyfive Parishes of the District.

As a result, two hundred and ninetyfive properties were classed as being sub-standard, and owners were notified informally of the Council's intention to consider taking action in respect of these dwellings. At the same time, the owners' attention was drawn to Improvement Grant facilities available.

It is too early to judge the success of these efforts but it is gratifying to record that over fifty per cent of owners either (a) applied for Grant Aid, or (b) expressed willingness to consider such aid, or (c) carried out repairs and improvements on their own initiative and expense.

At the outset of this work it was readily appreciated that many scores of cases would arise where it would be physically impracticable for owners to carry out repairs, alterations and improvements with the properties remaining occupied and a policy was determined whereby (1) the Council would press ahead with the construction of council houses in order to accommodate such families, and (2) take Statutory action only in cases where such properties became untenanted. Fortythree such cases were reported to the Council for necessary action.

The extent to which the Public Health Inspector's department was engaged in housing work alone during this period will readily be appreciated when reference is made to TABLE II of this report which records a total of one thousand five hundred and twentyseven visits and inspections made.

TABLE III

Food Premises - Visits and Inspections

Inspection of Meat	
Visits to Slaughterhouses	1,855
Visits to other premises	12
Inspection of Premises	
Slaughterhouses	57
Butchers Shops	65
Bakehouses	28
Grocers Shops	44
Dairies	10
Ice-Cream Premises	22
Food preparing premises, cafes etc.	580
Bed & Breakfast premises	161
Licenced Premises	43
Food inspection and condemnation visits	10
	2,887
Totals of TABLES I, II & III	7,034

FOOD PREMISES - GENERAL REPORT

A survey of the food premises in the Rural District was commenced during the year with particular reference to hotels, restaurants, cafes and bed and breakfast houses. Whilst most occupiers maintained reasonably hygienic premises there were several which fell below the standard required by the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. The owners of food premises usually co-operated willingly with the Department but one great difficulty was the lack of builders and plumbers able to carry out necessary structural works within a reasonable time due to them having such a great amount of general housing work on their books. However, many owners overcame this difficulty by carrying out such works themselves even to the extent of laying new floors, building and plastering walls and fitting sinks and wash-hand basins. In premises where the standard of cleanliness was low occupiers usually attributed this to either lack of staff generally or to food handlers of poor quality.

Bed and breakfast houses present a great difficulty by their numbers alone and whilst some occupiers seemed to think that their method of earning "pin money" should not be subject to scrutiny by Public Health Inspectors most were generally agreed that such inspections would help to raise the standards and eliminate those few houses where occupiers provided little and relied for trade on holidaymakers desperate for accommodation during peek periods.

Of the shops inspected most were found to be satisfactory but there are still some shopkeepers who rely too much on attractive deep freeze cabinets and impervious surfaces in the front shop and tend to forget that the back shop and storerooms are equally important. Whilst all this modern equipment is sound both from the sales technique and hygienic point of view these shopkeepers must realise that it is where the customers cannot see that the food is most handled and, therefore, most liable to contamination.

Food Inspection

During the course of the year the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption.

3 x 6 lb.	Tins Corned Beef
2 x 10 lbs.	Tins Imported Livers
2 x A2½'s	Tins Pineapple
442 lbs.	Boxes Grapes
1 x 11½ lbs.	Tin Pork

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses

In the first quarter of the year there were twelve Licenced Slaughterhouses in the district. With effect from 1st April, 1961, the number was reduced to eight, the other four premises ceased being used due to the implementation of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, which demanded certain minimum constructional standards, which the owners were not prepared to carry out.

Licences were issued to thirtyfour applicants to slaughter or stun animals in accordance with the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

Meat Inspection

Reference to TABLE IV will show that a total of 12,413 animals were slaughtered and inspected during the year under review, entailing 1,855 visits by the officers of the department.

As a results of the coming into being of the Milber Down Abattoir, privately owned, the number of animals slaughtered in the district rose from 5,746 (the previous year's slaughtering figure) to 12,413, an increase of 114·28%, entailing an extra 790 visits for inspection purposes.

TABLE IV

CARCASES INSPECTED - NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

	CATTLE	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	TOTALS
NO. KILLED	1,201	203	302	8,168	2,539	12,413
NO. INSPECTED	1,201	203	302	8,168	2,539	12,413
All diseases other than Tuberculosis (i) Whole carcase condemned	3	15	4	25	2	49
(ii) carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	135	54	3	74	77	343
% of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	11.49%	33.99%	2.31%	1.21%	3.11%	3.15%
Tuberculosis only (i) Whole carcase condemned	-	2	-	-	-	2
(ii) carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	25	25
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis	Nil	0.98%	Nil	Nil	0.98%	0.63% (Excluding Sheep)
Cysticercus Bovis	8	1	-	-	-	9

TABLE V

CARCASES TOTALLING REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1961

DISEASE CONDITION	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS	TOTALS
uising General	2	-	-	5	-	7
ngestion General	-	1	-	3	-	4
aciation-Pathological	-	2	-	8	-	10
ver	-	-	1	-	-	1
int-ill	-	-	1	-	-	1
stitis-Acute Septic	-	-	-	-	1	1
phritis-Acute Septic	-	1	-	1	-	2
dema-General	1	-	-	2	-	3
eumonia-Acute Septic	-	2	1	1	-	4
ritonitis-Acute Septic	-	6	-	2	2	10
aemia	-	1	1	2	-	4
pticaemia	-	2	-	-	-	2
berculosis-General	-	2	-	-	-	2
TOTALS	3	17	4	25	3	51

Informal Notices and Letters Served, 1961

Public Health Act	33
Public Health Miscellaneous matters	425
Housing Act	457
Food & Drugs Act	12
Food Hygiene Regulations	256
	1,183

Water Supplies

454 Public water samples were taken during the year
342 Samples were equal to Class I piped supply
112 Samples were shown to be contaminated in some degree

Caravan Sites

The implementation of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, continued its demands throughout the period under review, necessitating a total of two hundred and eightysix visits and inspections by the Public Health Inspectors.

There were fortyeight licenced caravan sites within the district during the period, of which thirtyone were strictly for Residential use only, eleven for Holiday caravans only, and six mixed sites.

The fortyeight sites provided accommodation for some six hundred and eighty caravans, and approximately two hundred and sixtyfive families were permanently residing on these sites.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, each Site Licence when issued was subject to various conditions which had to be complied with in a given period, normally one year from the date of the issue of the said Licence. It was considered that one year's grace, in which the owner had to bring the caravan site up to the level suggested by the Model Standards issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, was a reasonable demand.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

The steady increase in the number of dwellings in the district naturally makes a greater call on the staff and resources of the department in the matter of the collection and disposal of refuse. Existing arrangements which have, to date, met the requirements throughout the district have to be altered from time to time and some rounds have been re-arranged altogether where it has become necessary to improve the frequency of collection.

It must obviously be our policy to improve the collection arrangements throughout the area and naturally all new development must be catered for.

Statistical details are given below showing operational arrangements:-

Area of District	92,650 Acres
Weight of Refuse Collected (Est.)	13,214 Tons
Population Registrar General's Est.	25,510 Persons
Weight in Cwts. collected per 1,000 population per day	28·96 Cwts.
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	8,357
Collections made weekly (% of whole)	75%
Average haul in miles	1½ Miles
Kerbside Collection (% of whole)	100%
Total Refuse Disposed of within Rural District	13,214 Tons
Method of Disposal	Controlled Tipping
Number of Collection Areas	50
Weekly Collection (Urbanised Areas)	6
Fortnightly Collection	20
Monthly Collection	16
Quarterly Collection	8

DISPOSAL

The acquisition of a Bulldozer has greatly improved the measure of control in the consolidation and covering of the refuse as it is brought in and tipped.

Fortunately a good supply of covering material has been made available by local builders and contractors and this ensures the effective covering of the top of the tip in addition to the tipping faces.

DISPOSAL (Cont'd)

Regular treatment is given by spraying the surfaces with insecticide to control flies which are brought in with the raw refuse and control measures are also taken to cut to a minimum any Rodent Infestation which may arise.

Since the commencement of the regular use of the Bulldozer complaints of house-fly infestations, all too frequent in previous years, have been very few. Compliments have in fact taken the place of Complaints, a state of affairs most gratifying to the Department and Council alike.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

RODENT CONTROL

Sewer Test Baiting and two Maintenance Treatments of the whole of the Sewerage Systems in the Area have been carried out with excellent results.

All the Council's Sewage Disposal Works have also received regular treatment. In point of fact Local Authority properties, apart from Council Houses, numbering 38 have been dealt with and 576 other premises including some Council Houses have also received attention. The number of actual visits involved is of course considerable - being almost 2,500.

It has not been possible to give the attention which should be given to Agricultural properties but complaints and Specific Cases coming to our notice are dealt with by co-operation with a Private Contractor who undertakes works on a Contract basis with anyone needing his help. This system works very well and subsequently an inspection is made to ensure that the requirements of the Act have been complied with.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

1. Inspections	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	16	564	10	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	151	160	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	28	50	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found	Found	Remedied	Ref. to H.M. Insp.	Ref. by H.M. Insp.	Prosecution
No. of cases in which defects were found:-					
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-