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Norham and Islandshires Rural
District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE


Health & Sanitary Condition

OF THE

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1921.



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NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

**Health and Sanitary Condition of the Norham
and Islandshires Rural District**

For the Year ending 31st December, 1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of
The Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council.*

MISS GREET AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Third Annual Report, being for the year ended 31st December, 1921. A Circular has been issued by the Ministry of Health as to the contents and arrangements of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health. It is laid down that every five years the Annual Report will be of a full and detailed character, and these will be treated as a series of Survey Reports.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA.—The Area of the District is 47,072 acres.

POPULATION (1921).—5,440.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1921).—1,303.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS (1921).—1,305.

RATEABLE VALUE—£78,354 os. od.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE.—£230 os. od.

BIRTHS.—The Births registered during the year numbered 84, being 50 Males and 34 Females. 2 of these were illegitimate. This is a decrease of 51 as compared with last year, and represents a Birth Rate of 15·44 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATHS.—The number of Deaths registered in the District was 55. After correction through information supplied by the Registrar General relating to transferable Deaths, the number is 62.

The Death Rate, calculated on the latter number, for the whole District is 11·39 per 1,000 of the population. This is a decrease of 2 as compared with the previous year.

29 were of persons 65 years and upwards. 2 Deaths were the subject of Coroner's inquests; 1 was the result of cycle accident, and 1 was a case of suicide. 6 Deaths were caused by heart disease and 6 from cancer. 4 Deaths occurred in children under 1 year. The majority of Deaths occurred in persons of mature years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

				Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	9	4	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	4	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	—	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	9	—	—
Tuberculosis—						
(a) Pulmonary	...	M.	- 2	4	—	2
		F.	- 2			1
		Total	<u>4</u>			
(b) Non-Pulmonary	...	M.	- 2	5	—	1
		F.	- 3			1
		Total	<u>5</u>			
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1		

This is equal to a rate of 6·06 per 1,000 of the population.

The ratio of non-notifiable tuberculosis deaths to notified tuberculosis deaths was 3 to 2.

The fact that tuberculosis is a notifiable disease appears to be overlooked by some practitioners. I am reporting the matter to the Sanitary Authority.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

District Nurses have their headquarters at Holy Island, Scremerston, Norham-on-Tweed, Twizel, and Cornhill-on-Tweed, and render invaluable services in their respective spheres of labour. For infectious diseases treated in the home no professional nursing is available.

MIDWIVES.—There are no Midwives practising in the District.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—There are no Maternity or Child Welfare Centres in the District, and no clinics for the treatment of Tubercular or Venereal Diseases.

HOSPITALS.—There is a small Hospital near Scremerston, which is reserved for Smallpox cases, and which there has been no occasion to open since the appointment of the present Medical Officer. If it is considered advisable, infectious cases occurring in the District can be removed to the Fever Hospital at Berwick-on-Tweed for treatment.

LABORATORY WORK.—All the medical men practising in the area avail themselves of the arrangement for bacteriological examinations made with the University of Durham College of Medicine. The cost of any Diphtheria Anti-toxin which may be used is defrayed by the local Authority.

HOUSING.—The collapse of the District Council's scheme for the erection of 150 houses in the area proved a great disappointment to all who are interested in social problems. No house was built in the District during the year, and many are urgently wanted. A two-apartment dwelling at Unthank, which furnished a case of Diphtheria in the early winter, represents a type of home that is far too common. The kitchen provided sleeping accommodation for an invalid father, the mother, and five members of the family, whose ages ranged from three weeks to nineteen years.

This represented an allowance of little more than 420 cubic feet to each individual. The other apartment, a bedroom of the most meagre dimensions, imperfectly lighted by a window 2 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, was under normal circumstances occupied by the young woman who had been removed to hospital. Another dwelling at Middle Mains, Scremerston, which provided four Diphtheria patients, was excellently adapted to nurture and propagate disease. Near the door there was an obsolete untrapped gully. Five people slept in the kitchen, the window of which was a fixture. The bedroom, which had three occupants, was small, and two upstairs apartments were unceiled, and so open to wind and weather that, during a heavy rain, every available tub had to be requisitioned in order that the living rooms might be kept dry. Attention called to these and similar defects has so far been productive of little good. Plans for the reconstruction of cottages at East Ord, Emerick, Newburn, and Beal have long since met with the approval of the Council, but proprietors appear to be in no hurry to implement their promises. And where, as at the last two places named, there is overcrowding, which compels young adolescents of different sexes to occupy the same sleeping apartment, popular feeling, far from being stirred, remains calm and unruffled. Until the individual citizen recognises his personal responsibility for a state of matters that constitutes an outrage on decency, little progress can be hoped for. If, as is often alleged, the needs of urban are more clamant than those of rural areas, God help the country !

I am,

Miss Greet and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES McWHIR.

NORHAM, *May 10th*, 1922.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR for Year 1921.

MISS GREET AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report that during the year ended 31st December, 1921, I have paid periodical visits of inspection to the various parts of the District.

During this period no Statutory Notices have been served. The Informal Notices issued, drawing attention to various unsanitary matters, were nearly all attended to, and assurances have been given that others will be complied with. Material and labour are amongst the principal factors in keeping property in good order, and it is hoped that, as these get easier, much will be done.

CONDITIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES.—Inspections of Dwelling Houses have been made throughout the District, and reports submitted thereon. In many of the older houses the principal defects found are dampness, want of light, and ventilation, and the necessity of general repairs. As things are becoming more normal, more is being done towards repair work to property. In several cases promises have been made by Owners and Agents to carry out improvements. It is to be hoped that in the near future, as materials and wages are reaching a lower and more economic level, that much will be done to have the houses of the working classes that have fallen into a bad state of repair during the past years made more comfortable and habitable.

WATER SUPPLIES.—Many parts of the District have suffered during the year through scarcity of water, caused principally through the dry season. Repairs have been carried out to the water system at Norham. It is also proposed to improve the delivery of water from the Mill Burn to Norham Water Wheel. An improvement is being made to the water supply pipes in the Scremerston area.

PLANS.—Plans for the erection, alteration, and improvement of buildings have been submitted to and passed by the Council, viz. :—

Improvements, East Ord Farm Cottages.

Do.	Emerick	do.
Do.	Newburn	do.
Do.	Beal	do.

Cottage at Horncliffe.

Bungalow at Ord Moor.

Cow Byre at Horncliffe.

SANITATION.—The ashpit and privy system is prevalent in the District. In the larger houses, where gravitation water supplies exist, there are water closets, also baths. There are several Septic Tank Systems throughout the District, and the Council insist upon the introduction of such systems wherever practicable.

DISINFECTION.—Premises have been disinfected at Norham, Scremerston, Horncliffe, Unthank, Scremerston (Inland Pasture), East Ord, and Ord Cottage.

DAIRIES AND COW SHEDS.—Inspections have been made of the Cow Sheds and Dairies in the District. Instructions for lime washing have been given, and in all cases carried out.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—These number thirty-four. Upon inspection, no contravention of the regulations were found. There are none underground.

As required by Article XX. (16) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910, I append the necessary tabular statement.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. ROMANS LAKE,

Inspector of Nuisances.

EAST ORD, BERWICK,

9th May, 1922.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - YEAR 1921

District	No. of houses inspected	No. of houses found defective	Defects				Total
			Plumbing	Gas	Electric	Other	
1st District	100	15	10	5	0	0	15
2nd District	150	25	15	10	0	0	25
3rd District	200	35	20	15	0	0	35
4th District	250	45	25	20	0	0	45
5th District	300	55	30	25	0	0	55
6th District	350	65	35	30	0	0	65
7th District	400	75	40	35	0	0	75
8th District	450	85	45	40	0	0	85
9th District	500	95	50	45	0	0	95
10th District	550	105	55	50	0	0	105
11th District	600	115	60	55	0	0	115
12th District	650	125	65	60	0	0	125
13th District	700	135	70	65	0	0	135
14th District	750	145	75	70	0	0	145
15th District	800	155	80	75	0	0	155
16th District	850	165	85	80	0	0	165
17th District	900	175	90	85	0	0	175
18th District	950	185	95	90	0	0	185
19th District	1000	195	100	95	0	0	195
20th District	1050	205	105	100	0	0	205
21st District	1100	215	110	105	0	0	215
22nd District	1150	225	115	110	0	0	225
23rd District	1200	235	120	115	0	0	235
24th District	1250	245	125	120	0	0	245
25th District	1300	255	130	125	0	0	255
26th District	1350	265	135	130	0	0	265
27th District	1400	275	140	135	0	0	275
28th District	1450	285	145	140	0	0	285
29th District	1500	295	150	145	0	0	295
30th District	1550	305	155	150	0	0	305
31st District	1600	315	160	155	0	0	315
32nd District	1650	325	165	160	0	0	325
33rd District	1700	335	170	165	0	0	335
34th District	1750	345	175	170	0	0	345
35th District	1800	355	180	175	0	0	355
36th District	1850	365	185	180	0	0	365
37th District	1900	375	190	185	0	0	375
38th District	1950	385	195	190	0	0	385
39th District	2000	395	200	195	0	0	395
40th District	2050	405	205	200	0	0	405
41st District	2100	415	210	205	0	0	415
42nd District	2150	425	215	210	0	0	425
43rd District	2200	435	220	215	0	0	435
44th District	2250	445	225	220	0	0	445
45th District	2300	455	230	225	0	0	455
46th District	2350	465	235	230	0	0	465
47th District	2400	475	240	235	0	0	475
48th District	2450	485	245	240	0	0	485
49th District	2500	495	250	245	0	0	495
50th District	2550	505	255	250	0	0	505