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Contributors

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RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR 1961.



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RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL as at 31/12/61.

Chairman : C. W. Green

F. T. Allen, R. Bedford, R. Bojdys. J. R. Bridgestock,
F. G. Cooke, H. W. Haddon, E. H. C. Jones,
A. E. Papworth, A. J. Robinson, S. Senior,
A. H. Warde.

STAFF :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. O. MARCH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	15,980 acres
Estimated Population (mid-1961)	5,690
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1961	1,863
Rateable Value, March 31st, 1961	£50,468
Value of Penny Rate 1960/61	£196

To the Ramsey Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fourth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

The District is almost entirely devoted to agriculture, the town itself acting as a centre for the outlying areas, the chief of these being Ramsey St. Mary's, Mereside, Forty Foot, and the Heights. The agricultural land consists largely of Fens which were reclaimed several hundred years ago, it is extremely flat and is drained by dykes, there being several pumping stations in the area.

The Registrar General has estimated the mid-year population as being 5690. This is 320 less than last year's estimate, but is likely to be much more accurate owing to the recent census. The figure is almost identical with what it was ten years ago.

There were 104 live births during the year, twenty less than last year, but the birth rate of 18.3 per 1000 is still slightly above the national average of 17.4.

The death rate of 11.5 per 1000 is a little below the national average (12.0).

The incidence of infectious disease has been low during the year. At the start of the year an epidemic of measles which principally occurred in 1960 was finishing, and after this ceased there were few more infectious diseases notified.

From time to time small outbreaks of gastro-enteritis occur in the area. A causative organism is rarely isolated and I hope that they will reduce in frequency in the town now that the water carriage sewerage system is about to come into operation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year. A triple vaccine is now in use, which immunises against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus (lockjaw) in one course of three injections. This is very convenient. Although only about 40 persons in the country die each year of tetanus, the disease is always a bogey which may spring up at any time, following an accident on the roads or in the fields for example, children being a large proportion of cases.

At the end of the year, immunisation against poliomyelitis was about to change from the injection method to the new idea of giving the vaccine by mouth, on sugar or in syrup.

The new sewage works came into operation at the beginning of the year, and throughout the year house connections have been in progress.

From the Public Health Inspector's Report it will be seen that during 1961, 314 W.C.'s were newly constructed for old property, in addition to 32 being constructed for new houses. This is indeed a remarkable achievement and it is hoped that by the Autumn of 1962 the collection of night soil in the town will be able to be abolished.

The laying of the sewerage system with its lateral connections has played havoc with the roads throughout the town, and caused an appearance of depression. It is hoped that quick reinstatement will now be achieved, so as to make driving better and give the town a tidier and cleaner appearance. All this, with an improved lighting system which is envisaged, does a lot to improve the contentment and morale of the people.

The number of animals killed at the new abattoir during the year greatly exceeded that of any preceding year, for example there were 22,796 pigs killed, compared with approximately 4,040 in 1960. Inspection of this meat, in addition to other work in connection with the sewerage scheme, road reinstatement, and lighting, has made the work of the Surveyor/Public Health Inspector too much for one man to handle, and additional qualified staff is needed without delay.

In concluding, I acknowledge with thanks the help given to me throughout the year by Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Number	...	...	...	...	...	104
Rate per 1,000 population			...	...	...	18.3

Illegitimate Live births per cent of total live births ... 6.7

Still-births

Number	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				...	...	Nil
Total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	104
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	3

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ... 28.9

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per
1,000 total live births) ... 19.2

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week
per 1,000 total live births) ... 19.2

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths ... Nil

Rate per 1,000 live and still births ... Nil

Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 10.7

Infant Deaths 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961

Actual No. of Deaths	3	3	2	4	2	3
Rates all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	26.1	28.8	19.8	36.7	16.1	28.9

Deaths from Cancer (total)	....	...	...	...	12
Cancer of Lung or Bronchus	....	...	...	...	4
Coronary Disease - Angina	....	....	....	....	8
Other Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	2
Total No. of Deaths	....	....	....	...	61

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales

	Per 1000 Population.				Per 1000 live births	Per 1000 total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Ramsey U. D.	18.3	18.3	10.7	11.5	28.9	Nil
England & Wales		17.4		12.0	21.4	18.7

Comparability Factor Births 1.00

Comparability Factor Deaths 1.07

The comparability factors are figures by which the crude birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country. The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning amongst other things the age and sex structure of the population.

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

					M.	F.	Total
Causes of Death.					37	24	61
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases				-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	1	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.				3	1	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms				4	-	4
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	..	...	1	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	7	5	12
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	5	3	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	-	2	2
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	2	1	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	-	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	-	1	1
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	-	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	...	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	-	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				4	5	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	2	3
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	...	-	-	-

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR for the YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961

To the Medical Officer of Health

Sir,

I Beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

Housing :

Limited action has been taken for Closing Orders and Demolition Orders. A review of the survey made in 1956 to show the estimated number of unfit houses in the district has been carried out. In the six years that have elapsed 101 houses have been demolished or closed either by orders, informal action or general wastage and 18 huts have been vacated at the Wood Lane Camp.

Many of the unfit houses, because of the numbers involved and the lack of rehousing accommodation, will have to be retained for a number of years. The estimated number of unfit houses within the meaning of Section 4 of the Housing Act 1957 and suitable for action under Section 16 is 149, plus 15 temporary huts. The figures in 1957 were 211 houses and 33 huts and it will be noted that since then the condition of a further 26 houses has deteriorated so as to warrant their inclusion for action.

There is no known statutory overcrowding, although there are cases where families are living in overcrowded conditions.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	29
Number of inspections made for the purpose	75
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	21

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1
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Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	....	....	....	....	1
Number of families displaced	....	....	....	....	....	2
Number of houses demolished by agreement	....	....	....	....	....	4

New Housing :

There were 124 active applicants on the list for Council houses at the end of the year, 21 families having been found accommodation

Four two-bedroomed houses were completed and occupied.

Three sites have now been purchased and it is planned to build approximately 58 houses. Site works have been started on the Station Road site.

The Council have a total of 530 houses and bungalows, and there are 15 huts at the Wood Lane Camp occupied for temporary housing.

There were 28 houses erected by private enterprise.

Improvement Grants :

The Council approved 5 applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants and 16 applications for Standard Improvement Grants.

Work of improvement on 19 houses was carried out.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action	32
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Analysis of complaints received :

Premises	3
Accumulation of Refuse	1
Drains	23
Disinfestation	....	....	....	1
Overflowing Cesspools	....	....	....	4
Animals	....	....	....	1
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	1

—
34
—

Inspections and Visits :

New Buildings	....	....	....	....	....	134
Public Health Acts	....	....	....	....	....	137
Drain Tests	....	....	....	....	....	181
Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	75
Meat Inspections....	....	....	....	....	....	225
Food and Drugs Act	....	....	....	....	....	2
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	....	....	....	....	28
Factory Acts	....	....	....	....	....	2
Sewers	....	....	....	....	....	94
Cemetery ....	....	....	....	....	....	174
Mortuary	....	....	....	....	....	5
Moveable Dwellings	....	....	....	....	....	29
Petrol Storage	....	....	....	....	....	1
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	174
						<hr/> 1,261 <hr/>

Closets :

Number of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s	1,374
Number of houses at the end of the year with Pail Closets	484
Number of houses at the end of the year with Privy Vaults	5
Number of W.C.'s constructed during the year for new houses	32
Number of W.C.'s newly constructed for old property	314

Water Supply :

Samples from the water supply from Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board are taken at regular intervals and forwarded to the Pathological Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough

Number of water samples taken from main supply	....	8
Number of satisfactory water samples	....	8
Number of unsatisfactory water samples	....	Nil

The average daily consumption was 127,100 gallons, representing 23 gallons per head per day. It was necessary during the summer to impose restrictions on the use of water for gardens, washing vehicles, etc.

Eighteen burst mains and sixty-three burst services were located and repaired. A water crisis arose at the end of December when, owing to high water consumption caused by frost bursts and burst mains part of the town was deprived of water for up to 24 hours.

Poor pressure is still being experienced in the higher parts of the district and difficulty is had in maintaining an adequate supply during peak demands in dry weather.

The proposed new water tower at Biggin Lane, Ramsey, has been approved, which will increase the storage capacity and should solve the problem of low pressure.

A water scheme for the Hollow and Benwick Road areas has been approved, and when completed the whole of the District, with the exception of a few outlying farms, will be served by water mains.

No. of houses with mains supply	....	....	....	1,750
Population on mains supply (Est.)	....	....	....	5,368
No. of houses served by standpipe	....	....	....	100
Population served by standpipe (Est.)	....	....	....	300
Water services provided for new properties	....	....	....	23
Water services provided for existing properties	....	....	....	11
No. of houses without mains water supply	....	....	....	113
Population without mains water supply (Est.)	....	....	....	323

Meat and Food Inspection.

The privately owned slaughterhouse is operating satisfactorily except that difficulty is experienced in the disposal of wastes, both trade refuse and sewage effluent.

Owing to the increased throughput, the times of slaughtering, which is carried out late at night and weekends, and lack of Public Health Staff, it is not possible to give 100% meat inspection.

The following table shows the results of the meat inspection service :—

Number of slaughterhouses on register	....	....	....	1
Number of visits for meat inspection	....	....	....	225

Carcases inspected and condemned :

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected	.... 285	17	17	584	10293

All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—

Whole carcases condemned	....	....	—	—	—	1	13
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	....	30	2	—	2	86	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	....	10.5%	11.8%	—	.5%	.96	

Carcases inspected and condemned :

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	12
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis ....	.35%	—	—	—	.13
Total weight of meat condemned				2,838 lbs.	
Total weight of other food condemned				18 lbs.	
Cysticercosis was not found during the year.					

Food Premises :

- (i) The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as under :—

Butcher's Shops	10
Grocers and General Stores	23
Greengrocers	4
Bakers	5
Confectioners....	3
Fish Premises	3
Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels	3
Total	51

- (ii) Number of Premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 25
- (iii) Number of inspections of registered food premises 6
- (iv) There has not been a food hygiene education course during the year. Proprietors are aware of the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.
- (v) Condemned food is buried at the tip.
- (vi) Usually small quantities of food are examined, and the lot condemned.
- (vii) There are no Ice Cream manufacturers in the area, it is all pre-packed.
- (viii) There have been no prosecutions under the Food Hygiene Regulations during the year.

Public Swimming Baths.

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The construction of the new sewage disposal works and the laying of foul sewers in the Town have been completed, including the majority of the drain connections to individual properties. Owners have in the main co-operated in the conversion of pail closets to water closets. At the end of the year only 126 pails were being collected in the Town, and work was in progress on the conversion of many of these.

Instructions have been given for a report to be prepared on the provision of sewerage schemes in the areas outside the Town.

The Council give a free emptying service, when necessary, 180 septic tanks etc. being emptied this year.

Factories Act 1937.

Total number of Factories (including Bakehouses)	....	24
Number of visits during the year	....	2
Number of defects remedied	....	Nil

Refuse Collection :

Refuse is collected by direct labour weekly in the Town Area and fortnightly in St. Mary's, The Heights, Mereside and Forty Foot Bridge, disposal being by controlled tipping at Brick Kilns Farm.

The collection of night soil is carried out by Contractors twice weekly in the Town Area and weekly in the outside areas. Night soil is disposed of by composting, but this is proving increasingly difficult. We can at least see an end to this collecting system in the Town as it is estimated that all properties will be connected to the new sewer by the Autumn of 1962.

Moveable Dwellings :

The number of licences issued under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 was 18, all for single vans except one, which was for three vans. During the year three sites were cleared.

Rodent Control :

A Rodent control service is provided for private and business premises in the area under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Rodent Operator carried out the following inspections and treatments :—

	Properties Inspected	Rat Infested	Mice Infested	Treated
Houses	183	66	5	71
Business Premises	16	12	2	14
Agricultural Premises	32	26	-	26
Local Authority	13	10	2	12
Totals	244	114	9	123

Regular test baiting of sewers is carried out, but only minor rat infestation was found and treated.

In addition, 2 houses were treated for ants, 10 houses for wasps nests, 1 house for bees nests and 1 house disinfested of fleas.

General :

In conclusion I would express my appreciation of the interest and support of the Chairman, C. W. Green, Esq., and Members of the Council, the guidance and advice of the Medical Officer of Health and the co-operation of the Council Staff.

G. O. MARCH,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

New Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground.

Phone : Peterborough 68010

