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RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1968.



RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AS AT

31.12.68

Chairman Mr. E. Bridgestock

W.F. Churchman

E.C.H. Jones

K. Clements

J. Pickard

A.S. Cross

J.R. Major

H.W. Haddon

Miss. C.M. Riddy

Mrs. E.M. Hertzog

E.F. Slote

STAFF:

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

Medical Officer of Health

HAROLD G. BELL, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my eleventh Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1968.

The mid-year population was estimated by the Registrar General to be 5620 a fall of 200 persons since the previous year.

There were 74 live births during the year, giving a crude birth rate of 13.2 per 1,000 population. The adjusted birth rate is 13.1 per thousand which is well below the rate for England and Wales of 16.9.

One infant aged under twelve months died giving an infant mortality rate of 14 per thousand live births.

There were 51 deaths during the year, 27 males and 24 females. The crude death rate was 9.1 per 1,000 population, and the adjusted rate 9.8 per 1,000. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.9 per 1,000 population the ratio of the local adjusted rate to this being 0.83.

There was remarkably little notifiable infectious disease during the year; Measles being the most frequent, with 14 cases. Only one new case of Tuberculosis (non pulmonary) occurred.

Mill House, the block of flatlets for elderly people, was completed and opened during the year. It contains 12 single and 8 double flats, and will I am sure be greatly appreciated.

Steady progress continues to be made in the closing or demolition of unfit houses and cottages, and the number of pail closets is being constantly reduced. During 1968, 34 were done away with and the remainder now total 200. Many of these will disappear as the sewerage of the four villages is completed. Work at Mereside and Forty Foot is now under way.

Rodent control has been constantly watched throughout the year. A private firm carry out treatments on behalf of the Council, and the farmers have co-operated well.

I wish again to thank the Members of the Council and their Officers and Staff for all the help which they have given me during the year

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	15,980 acres
Estimated Population	5,620
Density of Persons per acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.35
Number of Inhabited Houses as at 1st April 1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,992
Rateable Value, March 31st 1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£175,347
Value of Penny Rate 67/68	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£687

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.7
Still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Still-birth Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Infant deaths under one year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infant Mortality Rates								
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births								14
Perinatal Mortality Rate, per 1000 total births								14
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)								
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of deaths (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.1
Deaths from Cancer (total)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer of lung or bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Table showing Infant Deaths and the Mortality Rate
Over Six Years

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Actual Number of Deaths	3	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1
Death Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	28.6	Nil	9.6	Nil	Nil	14

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Ramsey U.D.	13.2	13.1	9.1	9.8	14	Nil
England & Wales	-	16.9	-	11.9	18	14

Comparability Factor Births 0.99

Comparability Factor Deaths 1.08

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.

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Age Group</u>	<u>15 - 20</u>			
Pulmonary			Nil	Nil	Nil
Non Pulmonary			1	Nil	1
Total Cases			1	Nil	1

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during 1968.

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

<u>Causes of Death</u>					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
Diabetes Mellitus	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Mental Disorders	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	8	10.	18
Other forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
Other Diseases of Circulatory system	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Influenza	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Total Deaths all Causes					27	24	51

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (Other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1968.

DISEASE	TOTAL	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & upwards	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
ERYSIPELAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SMALLPOX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SCARLET FEVER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DIPHTHERIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PNEUMONIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MEASLES	14	-	1	4	1	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHOOPING COUGH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
JAUNDICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DYSENTERY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
POLIOMYELITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FOOD POISONING	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARA-TYPHOID	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

I am,

Your obedient servant

Philip V. Cant.

Medical Officer of Health.

Child Health Centre,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough.

Phone : Peterborough 68010.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1968.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1968.

Housing:

No statutory notices for disrepair were served during the year. Necessary repairs to dwelling houses were secured by informal action. A twenty unit old persons block of flats with warden's flat attached were completed during the year and all but three let. The flats are centrally heated by gas fired ducted warm air, and have a communal lounge, T.V. lounge, laundry and hobbies room provided.

The rents appear high to some of the applicants on the waiting list but once a tenant has moved in they soon appreciate the amenities provided and I feel Mill House will be a valuable addition to the council's housing accommodation.

Seven unfit cottages were vacated during the year with either closing orders, demolition orders or undertakings not to relet being given by the owners.

Twenty three houses were demolished during the year, several of which have been standing empty for many years.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	159
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	...	...	5
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	12
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.	...	...	...	47

Action under Statutory Powers:

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
Number of written undertakings given by Owners not to relet cottages for human habitation	2
Number of families displaced	9
Number of houses demolished by agreement	19

New Housing:

There were 145 active applicants on the list for Council houses at the end of the year 41 of these requiring one bedroom or single persons accommodation. 42 families were rehoused during the year.

22 houses were erected during the year by private enterprise.

Improvement Grants:

7 applications for Standard Grants were received and approved during the year.
8 Standard Grant works of improvement were carried out during the year.

A scheme to modernise 28 Council houses, outside the proposed sewerage scheme has been let to the contractors. 12 houses were completed by the end of the year. The improvements included bathrooms, sink units, internal W.C.'s, hot water systems and drainage systems to glass fibre septic tanks.

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received.

Nuisances:

Abated as the result of informal action	24
Number of complaints received	33
Analysis of complaints received:-	
Premises	9
Accumulation of Refuse etc.	5
Drains	5
Disinfestation	1
Overflowing Cesspools	9
Animals	4
Miscellaneous	0

Inspections and Visits:

Housing Waiting List ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Public Health Acts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Housing Acts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Food and Drugs Acts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Food Hygiene Regulations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Refuse Collection and Disposal ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	515
Factory Acts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Moveable Dwellings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Petroleum Regulations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Water supply and Sampling ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Sewerage and Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
Infectious Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Keeping of Animals ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Swimming Pools ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Infestations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Council Houses (Inspections, welfare and repairs) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	292
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Total									<u>1,727</u>

Closets:

Number of houses at the end of the year with W.C.'s ...	...	...	...	1768
Number of houses at the end of the year with Pail Closets ...	...	...	...	200
Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses ...	...	...	...	22
Number of W.C.'s constructed for old houses ...	...	...	...	20

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

22 new drainage systems were installed and tested during the year.
 20 alterations to existing systems were also tested.

The Council give a free cesspool/septic tank emptying service where necessary - 197 cesspools/septic tanks being emptied in 1968.

At the end of the year there were still 200 pail closets in the outlying areas, 191 of which are emptied twice weekly by a contractor. 9 pail closets are in remote cottages and are emptied by the occupiers.

Of the five groups of Council houses outside the proposed sewerage schemes, four are in the process of being improved and provided with septic tank drainage.

The fifth group of 8 houses are in poor shape and will be closed as the present tenants are rehoused.

Stage one of sewerage the four villages is under way, rising mains and sewers have been completed at Mereside and Forty Foot. Work is continuing at the two pumping stations, an ejector station at Bodsey and extensions to the main sewage works.

Water Supply:

33 water samples were taken from householders taps on the mains water supply and taken to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough. Two samples were unsatisfactory one had one coliform bacillus per 100 m.l. but no Bact. coli. (type 1) the other had two coliform bacilli per 100 m.l. but no Bact. coli. (type 1.)

The water company were informed and the service pipes and mains flushed and further samples proved satisfactory.

The water supply (Cambridge Water Company) contains less than 0.2 parts per million of fluoride.

There are 6 houses without a mains water supply, three are on the slum clearance programme. The three remaining are houses built since 1900, owner occupied but are over half a mile, up a drove, away from the nearest water main.

Swimming Baths

There is a medium sized outdoor swimming pool at Ramsey Secondary Modern School, an indoor learners pool at Ramsey Junior School and an outdoor learners pool at Ramsey St. Marys County Primary School. They all have teachers responsible for filtration and chlorination of the water and a system of testing the free chlorine available is carried out regularly whilst the pools are in operation.

All the pools have continuous filtration and chlorination plants.

10 samples were taken during the year, only one sample having a count of 64 colonies per m.l., all the other samples had a count of less than 6 colonies per m.l. None of the samples tested had coliform bacilli.

Meat and Food Inspection:

There are no licenced slaughterhouses in the district.

The following foodstuffs were condemned after inspection at the request of the shopkeeper.

3 x 6lb tin of Corned Beef (blown)
 6 tons 4 cwts of Potatoes (blight scab and rot)
 Contents of a refrigerated display cabinet (storm damaged)
 13 x 4lb tins of Pork Luncheon Meat
 15 lbs of hindquarter Beef (bruising and blood splashing)

Food Premises:

1. The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as follows:-

Butchers shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
School Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total										<u>46</u>

All food premises comply with Regulation 16 and are fitted to comply with Regulation 19.

2. Number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act ... 35
 3. Number of inspections of registered food premises ... 44

4. Most food premises were visited at least once during the year, many receiving more than one visit. No serious contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were discovered. All shops dealing with cooked meats, pies etc. were visited during the year. Notices requesting customers not to bring dogs into food shops were distributed free of charge and replacements are available on request.

Premises provided with additional screens	...	...	...	...	2
Premises provided with additional dustbins	...	...	...	...	2

Premises repaired (floor, walls, ceilings etc.)	...	...	...	5
Premises redecorated	...	...	...	8

5. Condemned food is burnt at the Refuse Tip.
6. Small quantities of food are examined, usually at the request of the shopkeeper and unfit food condemned.
7. There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.
8. There were no prosecutions under the Food Hygiene Regulations although one shopkeeper was severely reprimanded for selling moth infested chocolates.
9. There are no poultry processing premises in the area.

Factories Act 1961:

Total number of factories (including bakehouses)	...	...	...	25
Number of visits during the year	...	...	...	14
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	0

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour, two driver/loaders and one loader providing a weekly collection to the whole area. The town is given a weekly backdoor collection and the outlying areas a weekly kerb-side collection. Where elderly people are unable to put their bins at the kerb-side the men will call and give a back-door service.

A 35 cubic yard Bedford/Eagle Crushload refuse vehicle is used and apart from Mondays and Fridays usually manages to hold a complete days' collection.

Refuse is disposed of at Ramsey Heights Tip, which involves a 10 mile round trip for emptying the vehicle. Refuse is burnt and then tipped in fingers. Topsoil from the next tipping area being scraped and stockpiled for final cover of the refuse. Since the refuse has been burnt daily at the tip no fly nuisances have arisen and only two small rat infestations have occurred.

Test weighings of the refuse were taken during the summer and winter to enable a reasonable estimate to be made of the weight of refuse collected. Summer weekly collection weighed 22 tons 1 cwt 1qr and the winter collection 24 tons 1 cwt 1qr giving an average weekly weight of 23 tons 4 cwt 1qr and an estimated gross tonnage of 1,206 tons 17 cwts of refuse collected and disposed of annually.

Rodent Control:

Rentokil have continued to carry out treatments to dwelling houses and council property on contract. There was no test baiting of the sewerage system as there was frequent flooding from August onwards and suitable conditions never occurred. Only at Westfield was there any evidence that sewers were infested.

Rodent Control:

The long drawn out harvest and mild conditions prevailing at the latter half of the year gave ideal breeding conditions for rodents. Happily very few infestations have occurred in the town area and most farmers in the district are carrying out treatments for rats voluntarily.

Rentokil still have several farm contracts for carrying out rodent control on farms and another contractor Ratsouris also operates in the urban district.

The Ministries Officers also help by reporting infestations on farms which they visit and in all cases the farmers concerned have co-operated in treating the infested areas. There has been no need to serve written notices on occupiers.

The following table shows the inspections and treatments carried out:-

Properties other than sewers		<u>Type of Property</u>	
		<u>Non Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1.	Number of properties in district	1969	331
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	121	-
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	47	-
	(ii) Mice	3	-
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats/or mice for reasons other than notification	15	-
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	14	-
	(ii) Mice	1	-

General:

With the sewerage of the outside areas a lot of work will be necessary to improve the sub-standard council houses in these areas. There will also be service of notices, informal discussions and agreements to be made with owner/occupiers to secure the disconnection of septic tanks and connection of drainage systems to the new sewers. Already a noticeable drop in the number of pail closets has occurred and this should drop rapidly in the next two or three years.

The inspection of council house property to ensure that tenants are complying with their tenancy agreements regarding decoration, cleanliness and good repair is proceeding.

Appreciation is expressed of the interest and support of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Health Committee, Members of the Council, the guidance of the Medical Officer of Health and the co-operation of the Council Staff.

HAROLD G. BELL.

Public Health Inspector.

