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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEPTON MALLET

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR

1963

SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

for the

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

(including the report of the
Senior Public Health Inspector)
for the year ending 31st December 1963.

Council Offices,
Market Place,
Shepton Mallet.

SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS - 1963

-----oOo-----

Medical Officer of Health

Deryck E.Clare. M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

W.L.Barnsley. M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Certificated Meat & Foods Inspector.
(Also Surveyor to the Council)

Additional Public Health Inspector

R.F.Blinkhorn, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Certificated Meat & Foods Inspector.

Clerical Staff

Medical Officers' Clerk - Mr.T.W.Foster.

Public Health Inspectors' Clerk - Miss M.Borland.

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SHEPTON MALLET

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER 1963

Tel: (Office) Shepton Mallet 2237
(Residence) Wells 2643

Area Health Office,
U.D.C. Buildings,
Market Square,
Shepton Mallet,
Somerset.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1963, prepared in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations (1959) and Ministry of Health Circular 1/64.

It will be noted that this year, for the first time, Causes of Death have been broken down by the Registrar-General into the various age groups according to each sex.

In spite of the exceptionally severe weather conditions in the early months of the year, overall mortality was less than in the previous year, and there was no infant or maternal mortality. Measles was prominent in the District during the year, and its spread may well have been encouraged by close living conditions due to the hard weather.

Progress was maintained on the environmental side, as detailed by the Senior Public Health Inspector, to whom I am grateful for his contribution to the Report.

My thanks are due to Council members and staff for their help and consideration, and in particular to the Chairman and members of the Health and Housing Committee.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient serveant,

D.E.CLARE

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District (in acres)	2,278
Estimated population (mid-year) 1963...	5,620
Number of inhabited houses	1778
Rateable Value	£199,142
Product of a Penny Rate... ..	£819. 11. 9d.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1963

(With comparative figures for Somerset and England & Wales where available).

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>S.M.U.D.C.</u>	<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
				<u>Recorded</u>		<u>(Provisional)</u>
				<u>Corrected</u>		
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	36	35	71			
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>			59,048
Totals	<u>38</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>74</u>			856,276
Rate per 1,000 population.....				13.17	13.85	18.15
(Area Births Comparability Factor 1.05)						18.2
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u>						
(Per cent of total live births)				4.06	4.88	6.9
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	2	2	4			
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>			
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>		139	15,000
Rate per 1,000 live & still births.				51.3	15.4	17.2
<u>TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS</u>	40	38	78		9,016	871,232
<u>DEATHS</u>						
<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u>						
(all ages)	37	34	71		6,967	572,881
Rate per 1,000 population.....				12.62	10.73	11.23
(Area Deaths Comparability Factor 0.85)						(Corrected) 12.2
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>						
<u>(under 1 year)</u>						
Legitimate	-	-	-		122	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>8</u>	
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>130</u>	18,043
<u>(Under 4 weeks)</u>						
Legitimate	-	-	-		89	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>8</u>	
Totals.	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>97</u>	12,176
<u>(Under 1 week)</u>						
Legitimate	-	-	-		80	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>8</u>	
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>88</u>	

<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>	<u>S/MALLET U.D.C.</u>		<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
	<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>		
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-		14.64	21.1
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	-		14.45	
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	-		18.48	
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATES</u>				
(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-		10.92	14.2
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>				
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-		8.79	
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>				
(Still births & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live & still births)	51.3		24.07	29.3
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u>				
(Including abortion)				
Number of deaths	-		1	244
Rate per 1,000 total live & still births	-		0.22	0.28

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	165
Pneumonia	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	2
Scarlet Fever	2
Meningococcal Meningitis	1
Total	<u>174</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1963

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 wks	4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & up- wards
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Diabetes.	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Coronary Disease, Angina.	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Other Heart Disease.	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	8
Other Circulatory Disease.	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases.	M	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Accidents.	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	37	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	3	10	19
	F	34	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	8	22

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1963

(The figures are in general too small for much importance to be attached to them but certain broad statements can be made)

Population

The Registrar-General estimated an increase of 50 over the mid-year population for 1962, and births exceeded deaths by 3.

Births

Live Births - totalled 13 less than in the previous year, with a corresponding fall in the Recorded Birth Rate, and even when this figure is adjusted by the Area Births Comparability Factor, which makes allowance for the age and sex structure of the population, the Birth Rate is well below the national average.

Stillbirths

With 4 stillbirths this year, the Stillbirth Rate rose above the County and National figures for 1963.

Deaths

Deaths at all ages - were some 11 less than in 1962 and when adjusted by the Area Deaths Comparability Factor the Death Rate is better than that of Somerset or England & Wales.

Infant Mortality - it is a pleasure to record that there were no deaths under 1 year.

Perinatal Mortality - due to the 4 stillbirths, this was the same as the Stillbirth Rate.

Maternal Mortality - once again no women died in the District as a result of pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

Causes of Death in 1963

Diseases of the Cardio-Vascular System - again caused the greatest number of deaths in the District but totalled 5 less than in 1962. Of these Coronary and other Heart Diseases caused 35 deaths, followed by Vascular Diseases of the Nervous System with 6.

Cancer deaths - again took second place with 9 deaths and of these cancers of other sites than stomach or lungs caused 7 deaths.

Respiratory Diseases - accounted for 4 deaths less than in the previous year and were restricted to Bronchitis.

Accidents - were the cause of 2 deaths, both unfortunately under 25 years and one was connected with a motor vehicle.

Notifiable Diseases

Measles - as was the experience in neighbouring districts, this disease was prominent amongst the children of the town following a comparative lull the previous year.

Tuberculosis - there were 2 new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis notified during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SEC.47) AND AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

No cases occurred requiring action under the provisions of these Acts, but regular visits were made to elderly persons living in borderline conditions.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

There were no Food Poisoning Notifications during the year.

VACCINATIONS AND INOCULATIONS

(Figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health)

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

(1) Primary Courses. Number of children in the District who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31.12.63.

Children born in the years :-								
	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1954-58	1949-53	Total
	11	28	3	1	-	14	2	59

(2) Reinforcing Injections

Children receiving reinforcing injections in year ended 31.12.64.

	-	-	1	4	5	69	47	126
--	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	-----

TETANUS IMMUNISATION

(1) Primary Courses. Number of children in District who completed a full course of primary immunisation in year ended 31.12.63.

	11	28	3	1	-	14	2	59
--	----	----	---	---	---	----	---	----

(2) Reinforcing Injections. Children receiving reinforcing injections in year ended 31.12.63.

	-	-	1	4	5	69	44	123
--	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	-----

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

Number of children in District who have completed a primary course of Pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in year ended 31.12.63.

	11	28	3	1	-	-	-	43
--	----	----	---	---	---	---	---	----

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

(1) Primary Course. Number of persons in District who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections of Salk vaccine, three injections of quadruple vaccine or three doses of Oral vaccine) during the year 1963.

Children born 1963		Children born 1962		Children born 1943-61		Young persons born 1933-42		Persons under 40 yrs of age & priority groups.	
Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral	Salk	Oral
-	-	2	21	-	35	1	4	2	4

(2) Reinforcements, 1963

Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a 3rd Salk Injn. or 4th injn. of quadruple vacc.	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a 4th Salk injn. or 5th injn. of quadruple vacc.	Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a reinforcing dose of Oral vacc. following 2 Salk injns.	Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a dose of Oral Vacc. after 3 Salk injns. or 3 Oral doses or 2 Salk injns. plus 2 Oral doses.
-	-	21	73

SMALIPOX VACCINATION

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) in the District in year 1963.

0-3 mths		4-6 mths		7-9 mths		10-12 mths		1 year		2-4 years		5-14 years		15 or over	
P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
1	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	5	12	10	18

P = Primary vaccination.

R = Re-vaccination.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR 1963

1. WATER SUPPLY

The public supply is operated by the Bristol Waterworks Company and no restrictions on use were imposed during the year. The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and two samples from the supply were submitted for qualitative examination during the year both proving satisfactory. A full scale investigation into a private supply serving six houses is to be undertaken in the coming year.

The distribution of water supplies in the district is, so far as can be ascertained, as follows:-

- (a) Mains supplies: 1770 Population: 5546
- (b) Houses supplied by the wells or springs: 8 Population: 24

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the premises in the Urban District are connected to the public sewers discharging to biological treatment works at Darshill, but approximately 70 properties in outlying parts of the area are not connected to the main drainage system.

Work on the construction of additional biological filters continued throughout the year. The operation of double filtration was also continued with gratifying results as is evidenced by the following table showing the results of analysis.

Forty four samples of sewage were taken during the year as follows:-

Trade effluent.....	11
Crude Sewage.....	11
Final Effluent.....	22

(no samples were taken in January because of bad weather conditions)

Difficulties have again been experienced in connection with the drying of sludge and it seems inevitable that additional drying areas will be required in the foreseeable future.

SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Darshill Sewage Works - Summary of Analysis

Date	Sample	pH	Suspended Solids	Organic Nitrogen	Nitrate	5 days B.O.D.
January			No samples taken			
18.2.63	C	7.4	315.0	13.4	NIL	380.0
	P	7.3	42.0	5.2	NIL	46.0
	F	7.3	13.0	3.5	4.0	22.0
19.3.63	C	6.8	165.0	8.4	NIL	300.0
	P	7.3	39.0	3.7	NIL	36.0
	F	7.3	21.0	2.1	2.0	14.0
17.4.63	C	7.3	125.0	8.0	NIL	330.0
	P	7.3	40.0	3.8	NIL	29.0
	F	7.3	17.0	2.7	3.2	18.0
23.5.63	C	7.3	120.0	-	-	380.0
	P	7.3	50.0	-	-	65.0
	F	7.3	50.0	-	-	30.0
17.6.63	C	7.3	245.0	25.5	NIL	450.0
	P	7.2	123.0	10.0	13.0	43.0
	F	7.6	17.0	2.6	15.0	13.0
16.7.63	C	6.9	290.0	13.2	NIL	550.0
	P	7.3	30.0	3.8	4.0	20.0
	F	7.5	16.0	1.8	4.0	12.0
21.8.63	C	7.6	155.0	13.2	NIL	400.0
	P	7.5	50.0	4.3	NIL	35.0
	F	7.8	42.0	3.4	6.0	18.0
19.9.63	C	7.3	210.0	15.0	NIL	400.0
	P	7.9	27.0	2.9	15.0	20.0
	F	7.9	26.0	4.3	9.0	15.0
21.10.63	C	6.4	210.0	14.1	NIL	550.0
	P	7.5	38.0	2.8	15.0	18.0
	F	7.5	14.0	2.7	15.0	15.0
19.11.63	C	7.3	75.0	5.7	8.0	88.0
	P	7.7	30.0	1.9	8.0	13.0
	F	7.9	20.0	1.75	8.0	10.0
17.12.63	C	6.7	250.0	16.9	NIL	800.0
	P	7.1	66.0	6.7	NIL	160.0
	F	7.3	20.0	4.2	4.0	28.0

Sample code: C - Crude Sewage; P - Primary Filter Effluent;
F - Final filter effluent.

Method of Sampling - $\frac{1}{4}$ gallon at $\frac{1}{2}$ hour intervals - 7a.m. - 6 p.m.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL continued.....

During the latter part of the year nuisance arose from sewage gaining access to springs in the Darshill area and investigation showed that this was due to the fracture of the main outfall sewer on a section which is constructed in tunnel. The effects were worsened by partial blockage of the sewer by tree roots and it seems certain that within the next two or three years a length of approximately 100 yards of this sewer will have to be exposed and either re-laid in iron pipes or the sewer encased in concrete.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The estimated total number of water closets in the district on the 31st December 1963 was 2,000 and although it has not been possible to carry out a factual survey there are approximately 10 pail closets in the district.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly collection of domestic refuse has been maintained without an increase in the number of operators engaged on this work. For approximately six weeks in the beginning of the year refuse collection was impossible because of extremely bad weather conditions. Under these conditions householders disposed of a considerable bulk of their refuse by burning in their own fireplaces etc. and the public could no doubt assist greatly if a good deal more combustible material was individually burned. In general at least 50% in volume of the content of an average dustbin is combustible and it is inevitable that as the installation of central heating systems is increasing, the position will become worse. Apart from the difficulty in making a well consolidated tip with the material being received there is an added risk of fly nuisance and fire and I believe that the whole concept of controlled tipping will have to be re-assessed.

The salvage of waste paper etc. continued throughout the year in a modified form the quantity baled being strictly governed by the quota imposed by the pulp mills.

PUBLIC CLEANSING cont.....

Street sweeping throughout the district cannot be regarded as satisfactory and it must be pointed out that this service is not carried out in the strict sense of the term. Two men are engaged on sweeping with hand brooms but they can only be regarded as scavengers removing litter from footways and channels. The carriageways of roads are never swept thoroughly and reliance must be placed on weather conditions to affect cleansing. The improvement in road surfacing has considerably reduced the dust nuisance but it is contended that thorough street sweeping is still an important part of environmental hygiene.

5. CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the district.

6. SWIMMING BATHS

There is one public swimming pool at Eastfield in the Urban District owned by the Council. The water is continually circulated, filtered and chlorinated and its temperature is maintained at about 70°F. Chlorination is affected by a Wallace & Tiernan Automatic Chlorinator and the purification plant is of the Horsley Figgott horizontal type. The turnover period is estimated to be 12 hours the pool being filled at the beginning of the season from the mains of the Bristol Waterworks Company. The filtering media was renewed at the beginning of the season and there is evidence that many other parts of the plant will require a complete overhaul in the near future.

Samples are taken twice daily to determine the pH value of the water and the residual chlorine reading.

There is one privately owned pool in the district.

7. HOUSING

(a) Number of dwellings owned by the Local Authority..... 463

Total number of permanent dwellings in the District...1778

The repair and maintenance of the council owned houses is carried out by direct labour. The severe weather conditions at the beginning of the year caused 316 burst pipes. The maintenance staff, consisting of plumber, mason and joiner should in my view be increased by the addition of two painters - this would facilitate the execution of a painting programme and would undoubtedly reduce, in the long run, the amount of repairs to be executed.

(b) Unfit properties. During the year a start was made on the inspection of 50 houses in Garston Street to be dealt with as a Clearance Area in implementation of the Council's policy of dealing with the older parts of the town in the first instance as opposed to dealing with scattered isolated pockets. The Kilver Street Clearance Order (10 houses) was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. The following list indicates the action taken with regard to unfit properties:-

Number of houses included in clearance area (Kilver Street)	10
Number of individually unfit houses represented.....	13
Undertakings not to re-let entered into.....	4
Schemes of repair accepted.....	1
Demolition orders made.....	2
Closing orders made.....	3
Deferred pending schemes of repair.....	3

(c) New Buildings.

(1) Houses erected during the year

Local Authority..... 12

Private enterprise.. 32

(2) Houses in course of erection at the year end

Local Authority..... Nil

Private enterprise.. 23

Housing cont.....

(3) Number of houses erected from 1.4.45 - 31.12.63

Local Authority.... 344

Private enterprise. 184

(d) Redevelopment. Discussions concerning the development of part of Draycott and Cowl Street continued throughout the year. The site, because of the differences in levels, is not an easy one to develop but the outcome of these discussions was the production of a scheme acceptable to the Council and the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. 141 units of accommodation are to be provided consisting of flats and maisonettes. Details for the completion of the Ridgeway Estate by the erection of 34 houses were also approved and a start is to be made on both projects in 1964.

8. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Four applications for standard grant were approved; in two cases for the provision of all standard amenities; the remaining two in respect of individual amenities. There were no applications for Discretionary Grant.

9. FOOD

(a) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 All food establishments were inspected during the year. The shop referred to in my previous report as unsatisfactory was brought up to standard. Action was necessary in the case of a cafe where the standard of hygiene was low and the conditions were improved by informal action.

(b) Unsound Food The following food was surrendered voluntarily as unfit for human consumption:-

4 - 4lb. tins of chopped pork.

3 - 6lb. tins of corned beef.

(c) Milk

(1) Number of registered distributors..... 5

(2) Number of registered dairy premises(excl.farms).. 5

The sampling of milk is carried out by the Somerset County Council.

(d) Icecream

(1) Number of premises registered for retailing....18

Icecream cont....

(2) Number of premises registered for manufacture...Nil

No samples were taken for bacteriological examination. In all cases supplies are obtained from well known manufacturers either wrapped or in cartons.

(e) SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are none in operation in the district.

10. FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced * by Local Authorities	22	20	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	30	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	42	50	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - Nil

FACTORIES ACT 1961 continued

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list reqd. by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel: Making etc.	14	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning & washing	-	-	-	-	-	-

11. CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

No action was necessary during the year.

12. KNACKERS YARDS

There are none in the district.

Deryck E. Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.,
(Medical Officer of Health)

W.L. Barnsley, M.I. Mun. E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
(Senior Public Health Inspector.)

