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Southam Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1963

BY

D. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts

Leamington Spa

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1964



38, HOLLY WALK,
LEAMINGTON SPA.

18th Aug., 1964.

To the Southam Rural District Council

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report for the year 1963. The population increased by several hundreds. The birth rate did not quite reach last year's high level but was above average for recent years. The death rate was once more a low one in relation to the country as a whole. Apart from a measles epidemic and some cases of dysentery there was little notifiable infectious disease.

The pattern of mortality followed the usual lines. By far the largest group of deaths (74 out of 154) was made up by the lesions or diseases of the heart and circulation. Cancer and Respiratory Diseases each caused 20 deaths while 8 were due to motor vehicle accidents. These four groups together accounted for some four-fifths of the total mortality. One in five cancers were situated in lung or bronchus.

Your water undertakings due for absorption by the South Warwickshire Water Board were taken over in April 1963; certain services were however merged with those of the Rugby Water Board. A marked advance was the inception of the plan to increase the frequency of household refuse collections and to give a back door service. This seemed to be capable of realisation without prohibitive increases in costs if a change was made to the paper sack system. The Council has therefore decided to provide sacks and fittings throughout its collection area in lieu of dustbins since this seemed the only way to make the desired improvements with the labour force likely to be available.

It is with much regret that I refer to the death earlier this year of Councillor A. V. HODGES, J.P., who had been troubled for some time with failing health. As part of a long career of devoted public service he had for many years been Chairman of the Public Health Committee and won both the respect and affection of the officers of the Health Department by his integrity and human qualities. For many of the sanitary improvements of the

post-war period the public owes much thanks to the hard work of this unassuming man.

I have in conclusion to thank the Chairman and members of the Council sincerely for their kindness and support at all times. It is also a pleasant duty to thank Mr. WHITEHEAD and all his staff as well as many in other departments for their help and courtesy to me at all times.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

D. LIVINGSTONE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Southam Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1963

	1963
Population (estimated) Mid-year	16,740
Area	62,527 acres
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	19.2
" " " " " (corrected)	20.4
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	18.3
Death Rate per 1,000 population (Crude)	9.2
" " " " " (corrected)	11.8
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	21.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

The population figure increased by 290 of which only 168 can be accountable to natural increase.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

1 (a) *Staff of Health Department.*

Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

Dr. F. D. M. LIVINGSTONE, M.B., B.Chir.(Cantab), M.R.C.P.(London), D.C.H., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

Dr. K. D. YOUNG, O.B.E., B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., T.D.D., D.P.H. (resigned 5.xi.1963).

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

S. C. WHITEHEAD, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

G. S. H. PEATY, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector

D. B. SUTHERLAND, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (commenced 11/3/63).

Clerks :

Mrs. B. R. STEELE (joined in June, 1962), Miss C. FAULKNER, Mrs. R. FRENCH, *S. BUCKLEY and Miss B. GIBBONS-WARD.

*Members of Local Health Authority Clerical Staff with part of time allocated to services of the Joint Sanitary Committee, Medical Officer of Health's office.

2. (a) *Laboratory Facilities*.—Routine bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry, in regard to water sampling, the prevention of infectious disease and other tests not requiring chemical methods of analysis. Thanks are due to Dr. J. E. M. WHITEHEAD and his laboratory staff for their help.

(b) *Local Health Authority Services*.—Child Welfare Centres are held within your district as follows:—

Southam—W.I. Hut, Craven Lane; *Bishops Itchington*—Memorial Hall; *Long Itchington*—Village Hall; *R. A. F. Gaydon*; *Harbury*—Village Hall; *Fenny Compton*—Village Hall, 3rd Tuesday in each month; *Stockton*—Village Hall; *Napton*—Village Hall.

District Nurse Midwives resident in the district are:—

Southam (2)—Miss G. B. A. KOHLER, Miss V. WILD. *Fenny Compton*—Miss HANCOX. *Long Itchington*—Miss M. WORTHINGTON. *Bishops Itchington*—Miss WRIGHT.

Health Visitors—Miss F. M. BOODEN, Miss S. M. MALARKEY.

Ambulance service is provided from the County Council's Montague Road Station in Warwick. Inquiries regarding local health services should be made to the Area Health Office, 38, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa. (Tel. 27284).

Messages regarding nursing and midwifery or child welfare may be sent to the same address for the attention of the Area Nursing Officer, Miss M. G. AUSTIN. Domestic Help enquiries are handled at the above office by the Area Home Help Organiser, Miss J. MILES.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

(i) *Water Supply*.—During the year the Council's responsibility in respect of water supply for part of the district was transferred to the newly formed Rugby Joint Water Board. The Council will also have representation as a constituent member of the South Warwickshire Water Board which commenced operations early in 1963. The sources of supply are those which this Council developed

and handed over to the Board which has kept open the Holy Well supply at Southam. The Board's Engineer has reported that there are directly connected to his systems 3,070 houses having 13,950 inhabitants and that no properties are served by way of standpipes.

The chemical analysis of the Holy Well supply was as follows :—

Received on 27th August 1963.

From : C. O. INNES JONES Esq.

Description : Holy Well, Southam. 1 p.m. 27-8-63.

Appearance : Bright, few small particles.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	60.0
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	1.8
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours	...	...	...	0.1
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	950
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	0
pH	...	...	...	7.2
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	0
Hardness	{	Temporary	...	295
		Permanent	...	355
		Total	...	650
Radioactivity	...	...	...	—
Electrical Conductivity @ 20°C.	1,255 micromhos.			

This sample is organically of good quality and suitable for use as a Public Supply.

(ii) *Sewerage Schemes.*—During the year the Shotteswell, Farnborough, Ratley & Warmington schemes were completed and work continued on the Fenny Compton, and Lighthorne schemes.

New schemes were commenced at Avon Dassett, Gaydon, Radway and Lower Shuckburgh and a tender in respect of the Priors Hardwick scheme was accepted with a starting date of July, 1964.

A scheme for the village of Wormleighton was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during the year and was approved in principle subject to minor modifications.

An outline scheme for the further extension of the Southam Disposal works to deal with a larger future popu-

lation increase was submitted to the Ministry and was approved subject to minor alterations. The preparation of the detailed plans by the Council's Consulting Engineers was then put in hand.

A joint scheme for the sewerage of Ladbroke and the extension of the Deppers Bridge Disposal works to deal with the sewage from (a) Ladbroke and (b) future population increases at Harbury and Bishops Itchington was prepared and submitted to the Ministry.

The conversion of pail closets to water closets and the installation of bathrooms and hot water systems continued during the year. In most cases the work was carried out with the assistance of a grant from the Council.

(iii) *Refuse Collection*.—With a view to the complete modernisation of the refuse collection methods and the introduction of a weekly back door collection, a pilot scheme of the paper sack system was commenced at the beginning of the year. This proved to be most successful and it was decided to use the system in all parts of the District commencing in the larger villages. A complete survey of properties in the area was made by your existing staff and delivery and distribution of the first 2,000 stands and sack holders commenced in November.

A new 35 cubic yard compression type refuse vehicle was ordered in March and delivered in the Autumn to be in service at the commencement of the paper sack scheme. The Council's equipment comprised, one gully emptier, one 35 cubic yard compression type refuse vehicle and three side loaders. The large vehicle and the latest side loader were in use throughout the year, and the second side loader was in use regularly on two days every week. The third side loader was in reserve.

D. HOUSING

The Council made 43 Standard Improvement Grants and 28 Discretionary Improvement Grants during the year.

During the year one Clearance Order was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This related to 7 properties in two Clearance Areas at Stockton.

In addition action was taken under Section 16 Housing Act, 1957 in respect of seven individual unfit houses.

Demolition was in progress during the year of unfit properties in Southam, Harbury, Long Itchington and Bishops Itchington.

Caravan Sites Act, 1960.

Number of Site applications during year	12
Number of Sites approved	10
Number of Sites refused	2
Number of Site Licences at 31-12-63	27
Number of Vans at 31-12-63	52

E. FOOD AND DRUGS

No prosecutions were taken. Routine inspection of food premises was curtailed somewhat in view of work carried out on the complete re-organisation of the refuse collection system.

Meat Inspection was maintained 100% following the re-commencement of slaughter at the local slaughter house in March.

Slaughterhouse (Southam)

Work on the modernisation of the premises was completed in March. It had been intended by the owner to have made by the end of 1962 all alterations necessary to comply with the licencing regulations but delays arose in the execution of the works.

Food and Drugs Section 16.

86 premises are registered for the following trade purposes :—

Storage and Sale of Ice-cream	79
Manufacture of Sausages	3
Preservation of Meat (or fish)	4
Total	86

There is thus no change to report from the totals registered in 1962.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 31.

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly provided information regarding the samples of milk which his officers took within your district and sent for biological tests. Twenty-five samples were submitted to the laboratory and all were negative for tuberculosis organisms.

MEAT INSPECTION.

YEAR 1963

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	97	None	None	405	290	None
Number inspected ...	97	None	None	405	290	None
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i> ... Whole carcasses condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	None	None	3	12	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	5.2%	None	None	0.74%	4.1%	None
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i> Whole carcasses condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	None	None	None	None	None	None
<i>Cysticercosis:</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	None	None	None	None	None	None
Generalised and totally condemned	None	None	None	None	None	None

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1956

		Dysentery	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1956	...	3	10	5	—	14	3	—
1957	...	1	212	5	—	5	1	—
1958	...	—	146	17	—	6	—	—
1959	...	—	143	12	—	5	—	—
1960	...	5	1	—	—	5	—	—
1961	...	3	345	7	—	8	—	1
1962	...	30	75	—	—	3	—	—
1963	...	16	152	2	—	3	—	—

The main component in this year's tables is the incidence of Measles which was prevalent in the locality this year. Apart from this there is little to note except the tally of 16 dysentery and 2 food poisoning cases. This may be regarded as too high a figure to be normal for a district of this size. It is therefore advisable that the Council should appoint as soon as possible the Public Health Inspector to be added to the establishment. This will permit of more detailed work being done in the fields of housing and food hygiene.

Immunisation against certain infectious diseases is a major preoccupation of the local health authority's officers. There is a ready public acceptance of the need for these procedures. A high level of prophylaxis is thus being maintained among the child population of the district.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1963

Tuberculosis.—Only four new cases were notified both in 1962 and in 1963.

There were however slightly more inward transfers of previously notified patients which is to be expected in a district where a large percentage of the population are men serving in the Armed Forces or their families. Only one death took place and so the district has the creditable record of only three deaths from this cause in the past seven years.

Age Periods	New Cases				Transfers into District				Deaths			
	Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.		Pul- monary		Non- Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	3	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	1	—

Tuberculosis.—The following table shows the notified cases and deaths during the past 21 years:—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases ...	9	14	10	11	18	20	19
Deaths	7	4	7	6	6	3	6
	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Cases ...	12	15	12	22	20	21	20
Deaths	6	1	1	1	1	1	2
	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Cases ...	13	7	13	7	3	4	4
Deaths	—	—	1	—	1	—	1

3 patients were admitted to Sanatorium during 1963 and 4 were discharged.

B.C.G. Vaccination (Scholar's Scheme).

It was not possible to carry out this programme at Southam High School during 1963 but arrangements were in hand for the work to be carried out early in 1964.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Section 47 of the 1948 Act provides that where persons—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, and the Medical Officer of Health gives a written certificate in the prescribed form, the local authority may apply to a court, having jurisdiction, for an order to remove the person to a suitable and convenient place, e.g. hospital. Seven days clear notice must be given to the person concerned of the intended application and it must also be given to the person managing the premises or institution. The order, if granted, may authorize a person's detention for a period not exceeding three months at the place specified in the Court's order.

Enquiries were made during the year to three aged persons concerning whom reports or complaints had been received.

Case 1. Mr. W. A— (74). This old man had for some time accommodated a male lodger who died in 1962. The premises were found to be in a dirty and untidy state and help was then given by the Public Health Inspector. In 1963 the man took ill and was admitted to hospital. Dirty conditions were again found at his house and his consent was obtained to cleanse the premises and to destroy articles therein which were insanitary.

Case 2. Miss R. L— (73). This old lady, living alone, had been in hospital owing to heart disease and the Council had previously had to cleanse her house and remove substantial accumulations of rubbish. Complaints were received from time to time of mouse infestation and insanitary habits. The cottage, which she owned, had fallen into extreme dilapidation and the Council made a Demolition Order. Efforts were made to persuade her to move to a modern council house when available and to accept Home Help but she proved resistant to proposals of change.

Case 3. Miss S—. This elderly spinster had been the subject of action in 1961 but returned home after the

premises, belonging to her companion, had been cleansed. Her health failed in mid-year and she died in hospital during September.

RODENT CONTROL

There were no major infestations in the district during the year. Routine monthly inspection and treatments on 79 farms under Contract were carried out by the Council's Rodent Operative.

Treatment of private premises following notification were promptly dealt with, in addition to routine preventive measures on refuse tips and sewage disposal works.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1960

The Council gave further attention to the air pollution problem at Stockton and Long Itchington. A representative of the local cement industry attended a meeting of your Council's Public Health Committee and gave details of the Company's immediate and long term proposals. The Committee was also informed by Dr. Beighton, District Alkali Inspector, as to the progress being made towards the installation of dust arrestment equipment.

During the year additional recording instruments supplied by the Warwickshire Clean Air Council have been sited near the Cement Works at Long Itchington.

REGISTER OF PLANS SUBMITTED TO SOUTHAM R.D.C. DURING YEAR 1963

Surveyor's Department

New Dwellings	...	...	...	...	128
Conversions to dwellings	...	...	...	...	17
Alterations and improvements to dwellings	...	...	...	...	164
Extensions to dwellings	...	...	...	...	19
Garages and Vehicular Accesses	...	...	...	...	101
Agricultural Buildings	...	...	...	...	27
Sheds and Pavilions	...	...	...	...	1
Retention of Temporary Buildings	...	...	...	...	16
Outline Applications, Sites for developments	...	...	...	...	161
Business premises	...	...	...	...	33
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	667

S. C. WHITEHEAD,
Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

TABLE I.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING YEAR 1963

	Inspections & Observa- tions made	Notices Served		Nuisances abated after notice
		Statutory	Informal	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	132	—	9	9
Overcrowding	2	—	—	—
Verminous Houses	3	—	—	—
Milkshops and Dairies	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	1	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	11	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies	—	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	2	—	2	2
Closets	79	—	79	51
Ice Cream	7	—	—	—
House Drainage	151	—	—	—
Pigsties	1	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisance	—	—	—	—
Factories and workshops	2	—	—	—
Food Shops	23	—	3	3
Rat and Mice Infestations	995	—	—	—
Refuse Collection	1,245	—	2,100	—
Sheds, Garages, etc.	—	—	—	—
Cafes	2	—	—	—
Mobile Food Vans	3	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	12	—	—	—
Unsound Food	1	—	—	—
Water Supply	15	—	4	—
Complaints	122	—	—	—
Caravans	33	—	—	—
Canteens... ..	3	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	3,845	—	2,197	65

TABLE II.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1963
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Crude Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1954	13,310	223	16.7	11	49.3	141	10.6
1955	14,470	222	15.7	5	22.5	138	9.1
1956	15,180	248	16.4	2	8.1	146	9.6
1957	15,570	298	19.1	3	10.0	125	8.0
1958	16,170	252	20.2	6	28.8	150	11.8
1959	15,970	236	14.8	4	16.9	144	9.0
1960	15,960	265	16.6	6	22.6	145	9.1
1961	16,460	266	16.2	4	15.0	135	8.2
1962	16,450	332	20.2	10	30.0	155	9.4
1963	16,740	322	19.2	7	21.7	154	9.2

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1963.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1963.**(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births.	Still Births per 1,000 Births.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births
England and Wales	18.2	17.2	12.2 21.1

TABLE III.

SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR,
1963.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.							Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.		65 and upwards.
Small-pox								
Plague								
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)								
Erysipelas								
Scarlet Fever	2		2					
Typhus Fever								
Enteric Fever								
Pneumonia	3			1	2			
Malaria								
Dysentery	16	2	5	1	7	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia								
Meningococcal Infection								
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)								
Whooping Cough								
Encephalitis Lethargica								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum								
Measles	152	6	79	66	1			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4			1	3	1		
Other forms of Tuberculosis								
Food Poisoning	2			1	1			
Totals	179	6	81	73	5	13	1	

TABLE IV.
SOUTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1963.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
1 Tuberculosis respiratory	—	—
2 Tuberculosis other	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	—
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	4	—
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	9	3
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16 Diabetes	—	—
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	5	16
18 Coronary disease, angina	20	4
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	1
20 Other heart disease	11	5
21 Other circulatory disease	4	6
22 Influenza	—	1
23 Pneumonia	8	6
24 Bronchitis	2	1
25 Other disease of respiratory system ...	1	1
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	2
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31 Congenital malformations	2	2
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	8	7
33 Motor vehicle accidents	8	—
34 All other accidents	3	2
35 Suicide	1	—
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—
All Causes	94	60



