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Contributors

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The Annual Report to the Administration & Public Health District Council will be available, not especially for the Council, but for the fact that it is the last report which the Council will receive. The proposed changes will take place in April, 1974. Accordingly with a new form of Local Government, a change in the name of medical districts the new District Authority is envisaged. As yet, the form of which it will be available is not known, but we think it certain. The title of medical districts will be changed to Health Districts. The title of medical districts will be changed to Health Districts. The title of medical districts will be changed to Health Districts.

RURAL DISTRICT OF WADEBRIDGE AND PADSTOW

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1972.

J. L. D. M.A.P.H.I.

The Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1972 and published by the Council of the Rural District of Wadebridge and Padstow. The report covers the period from 1st January to 31st December 1972. It contains a summary of the work done by the Medical Officer of Health during the year, and a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to various posts during the year. The report is published in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Local Government Act, 1972.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

S. D. Crowle, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D. J. Trebilcock, M.A.P.H.I.

T.L. Old, M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

This Annual Report to the Wabash & Erie Canal District Council will be notable, not especially for its content, but for the fact that it is the first report which the Council will receive. Two profound changes will take place in April, 1974. Concurrently with a new form of local Government, a change in the source of medical advice to the District Authorities is envisaged. As yet, the form in which it will be available is obscure, but one thing is certain. The title of Medical Officer of Health will no longer exist. The various picked upon such a post must vary widely in responsibilities or in districts, but amongst other things it has provided the Public with a ready source of appeal in a wide range of problems affecting both their environmental and personal difficulties. Security of tenure has enabled the Medical Officer of Health to express his views without fear or favour in an honest attempt to influence Council and Public Opinion. This is the aspect of the post which I believe will be the greatest loss in the change. The positive gains are still to be discovered, but it will take many years for the functions and purposes of a more remote "Community Physician" to be appreciated by the Public.

As for the report, I have nothing new to which I would draw your attention. The emphasis still remains on the urgent provision of sewerage systems for those parishes without, in particular those carrying the water supply. This is not to suggest that the system in Wabash & Erie Canal District is not sound, but I have not altered since 1971. The effects of further water abstraction and increased use of the tank discharging point are significant. The effects on all our environmental services are grossly overloaded.

If only remains for me to thank the members of the present and past Councils for the help and kindness shown to me over the past twenty six years. I could not have wished for a more pleasant relationship. I am sure that Mr. Crowe and his assistants, to whom I owe much, would wish to share in this expression of appreciation.

I remain until April, 1974,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (mid-year estimate)	17,360
Area in acres	91,804
Number of inhabited houses	7,747
Rateable value	£586,944
Product of penny rate	£5,809.03
Comparability factors	Births 1.11 Deaths 0.83

11. VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

Number of Live Births, 1972.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	116	105	221
Illegitimate	10	8	18
	<u>126</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>239</u>

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	13.8
Comparable birth rate	15.3
Live birth rate, England & Wales	14.8

Still-births.

One female still-birth was recorded.

Deaths.

Number of Registered Deaths, 1972.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	118	113	231
Death rate per 1,000 population	13.2		
Comparable death rate	11.0		
Death rate England & Wales	12.1		

Two infant deaths occurred, one male, one female.

Distribution of Deaths by Cause, Sex & Age, 1972.

Cause	Sex	Total	0-1	-14	-24	-34	-44	-54	-64	-74	75+
Heart Disease	Male	45					1	5	2	18	19
	Female	42							4	10	28
Cancer	Male	29					2	1	6	10	10
	Female	23					1	1	9	8	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	Male	14							1	4	9
	Female	19					1		1	5	12
Accident	Male	3			1					2	
	Female	3							1	1	1
Other Causes	Male	27	1		1	1	1	2	2	8	11
	Female	26	1						2	8	15
Total All Causes	Male	118	1		2	1	4	8	11	42	49
	Female	113	1				2	1	17	32	60

111. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

Outpatient Clinics for the major Specialties are held at the East Cornwall Hospital, Bodmin. Patients living in the western part of the district are frequently referred to the Newquay & District Hospital. Both units now have new Outpatient Departments. The Hospital Management Committee has not been able to institute an Ante-natal and Gynaecological Clinic in Bodmin. Patients must still travel to St. Austell, Truro or Newquay for specialist opinion.

Local Health Authority Services.

Ambulances. The district is adequately served by the County Service based in Bodmin, supplemented by vehicles of the Voluntary Organisations, St. Johns and Red Cross. Sitting cases are frequently conveyed to hospital by the Voluntary Car Service.

Health Visiting & Home Nursing. Nurses are now attached directly to General Practitioners surgeries, rather than being appointed to particular districts. The system appears to be operating smoothly.

Domiciliary Midwifery. The number of domiciliary confinements in 1972 was 19, a further considerable reduction. The proportion of births at Treliske and St. Austell increases each year, a further justification for Ante-natal services within the district.

Vaccination and Immunisation. Routine protective inoculations are available at Infant Welfare Clinics, schools and G.P. surgeries as follows:-

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus; Poliomyelitis (oral) and Measles. Smallpox vaccination is available as required. Immunisation of female schoolchildren at 13 years against Rubella is performed at school or surgeries. B.C.G. (anti-tuberculosis) is conducted in the Secondary School at entry. Yellow fever vaccination is available at a central clinic in Truro by appointment.

Screening Clinics for the early detection of cervical and breast cancer are held at regular intervals in Wadebridge. The Mass Radiography Unit visits the Priory Car Park in Bodmin on alternate Fridays at 2 p.m.

Voluntary Services. Family Planning, Playgroups, Meals on Wheels are available within the district.

Social Services. The Department has now transferred to a main Area Office in St. Austell. A branch office is open in Brooklyn each Friday morning.

School Health Service. Routine examinations were conducted in all schools in the district. The main disadvantage lies in the unsuitable conditions for conducting examinations. The general standard of fitness of pupils was good.

IV. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies.

The provision of piped water to the district is the responsibility of the North and Mid Cornwall Water Board. All parishes are supplied. Some isolated farms and hamlets still rely on springs, boreholes or wells. The mains supply is not fluoridated. Thirty four samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory by the Public Health Inspectors. Twenty eight were from private supplies, seven of which were reported to be unsatisfactory. In these cases, users were advised to boil water for drinking purposes. All samples submitted by Water Board inspectors were found to be satisfactory. Although some restrictions were placed on the use of water during the summer, no acute shortages were reported.

Distribution of Public Piped Water Supplies by Parishes as at 31st December, 1972.

Parish	Estimated Population	Total Houses	Connected	Not Connected
Blisland	454	200	122	78
Cardinham	381	177	78	99
Egloshayle	337	129	55	74
Helland	212	73	39	34
Lanivet	1155	449	339	110
Lanhydrock	148	50	18	32
Padstow	2611	1145	1128	17
St. Breock	655	250	175	75
St. Endellion	1113	566	537	29
St. Ervan	328	123	85	38
St. Eval	598	433	386	47
St. Issey	608	269	192	77
St. Kew	740	323	259	64
St. Mabyrn	510	186	134	52
St. Minver Lowlands	1332	689	648	41
St. Minver Highlands	747	452	443	9
St. Merryn	1202	610	566	44
St. Tudy	430	181	114	67
Withiel	270	99	94	5
Wadebridge	3751	1422	1422	-
	17582	7826	6834	992

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

Mains drainage is provided in the Wadebridge Town, Port Isaac, Padstow & Trevone, Lanivet, St. Issey, St. Kew Highway, St. Minver & Rock, St. Merryn, and Blisland, i.e. nine parishes out of twenty. Sadly the first three discharge untreated sewage into the River Camel or the sea. The considerable development at New Polzeath also discharges crude sewage to the sea. Contents of septic tanks conveyed from various parts of the district are discharged into the River Camel also.

Port Isaac sewerage scheme should be completed this year. Plans are prepared for St. Mabyrn and St. Tudy, for Wadebridge and for Polzeath (St. Minver Highlands), Nanstallon and Lanivet to link with Bodmin Borough Sewerage Scheme. Development in Wadebridge has been considerably restricted by the Planning Authority in the absence of proper sewerage provision.

Refuse Collection & Disposal.

Curb side collection is the standard practice for the greater part of the district on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Some isolated dwellings have no collection. The seasonal increase of refuse extends the service to the limit during the holiday months. A central disposal tip is moderately well controlled.

Rodent Control.

One full time operator is employed by the Council. Much of his time is spent surveying and treating domestic premises. Farms and business premises are also treated and a charge made.

Summary of Treatments.

	Total Properties	Non Agricultural.	Agricultural.
1. Number of properties in District	7,411	903	
2(a) Total number of properties inspected following notifications	310	56	
(b) Number infested by:			
(i) Rats	287	49	
(ii) Mice	18	0	
3(a) Total number of properties inspected otherwise than by notification	749	214	
(b) Number infested by:			
(i) Rats	723	193	
(ii) Mice	3	0	

Civic Amenities Act 1967.

Fifteen abandoned cars were removed to the refuse tip or breakers' yards. An increasing quantity of bulky refuse was cleared from roadside verges and open ground, in spite of the Council's offer to collect free during specified periods.

Caravan and Camping Sites.

Number of Licenced Sites in 1972.

	Residential.	Holiday.
(1) Individual	119	15
(2) Multiple	3	32

There were twelve breaches of licence conditions which were remedied by informal action.

Camping Sites.

Licenced Sites - 5 holding 127 tent pitches.

Unlicenced Sites in regular use - 19.

Both caravan and camping sites are generally overcrowded during July and August producing problems in sewage and refuse disposal. Numbers of unauthorised sites spring up adding to the difficulties of proper supervision. The need for more licenced sites with adequate facilities grows each year.

V. FOOD & DRUGS.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955. The number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream was 116. The results of random sampling were as follows:-

Grade 1 30. Grade 2 22. Grade 3 6. Grade 4 0.

Samples producing Grade 3 were revisited and advised on improved methods of storage and serving.

The number of premises registered for the sale and preparation of sausages and cooked meats was 20.

The number of registered milk distributors was 78.

Some inspections were made of delivery vehicles. No serious breach of regulations was recorded.

The number of food distribution premises in the district was:-

Butchers	15
Grocers	51
Cafes & Restaurants	46
Dairies	2
Bakeries	2
Total	116

No serious problems were reported in conjunction with the food industry. It is inevitable that, with the seasonal increase in population, part-time and inexperienced labour is frequently employed. Complaints about the standard of food handling are not uncommon during the holiday period.

Slaughter houses and Meat Inspection.

There are three licenced premises in regular use in the district. All slaughtered animals were inspected. A good working relationship exists between slaughter house personnel and public health staff. Fifteen minor defects were recorded, all being remedied on representation.

Summary of Meat Inspection, 1972.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1714	446	99	3265	10950
Number <u>not</u> Inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	22	6	44	36
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	108	49	Nil	115	1339
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	126
<u>Cysticerci</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	15	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase submitted to refrigeration	15	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

There are no poultry processing plants in the district.

Office, Shops & Railway Premises.

Number of Registered Premises, 1972. 215
 Number of General Inspections. 19
 Total Visits to premises 19

The following contraventions were recorded:-

Inadequate heating 1
 Lack of First Aid equipment 2
 Other Matters 1

No accidents were reported.

All registered premises have now received a general inspection.
 Follow-up visits are now continuing.

VI. HOUSING.

Housing Acts, 1937 - 71.

Number of houses closed as individually unfit	2
Number of families rehoused from unfit dwellings	2
Number of unfit houses made fit	7

Housing Improvement.

Standard Grants approved 28 £8,203
 Discretionary grants approved 89 £41,453

Cornwall being a designated Development Area, grants are available on a 75% basis until June 23rd, 1974. The number of applications and enquiries has increased dramatically involving the Staff in a considerably greater portion of their time.

Council Housing.

Number of permanent homes owned by the Council 1,117
 Number of prefabricated dwellings 26
 Number of new houses erected 103

Private Housing.

Number of new dwellings completed 56
 There are no common lodging houses in the district.

VII. FACTORIES.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	NIL	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	56	9	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises ...)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total	66	9	NIL	NIL

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases',)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To HM Inspector (4)	By HM Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	/	/	/
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	/	/	/
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)					
Total	2	2	NIL	NIL	NIL

those patients who co-operate least in treatment and prevention.

Un-notified mild gastro-enteritis occurred extensively in the coastal parishes during the summer, the blame, quite unjustifiably, frequently placed on the water supply.

Summary of Statistics

those patients who co-operate least in treatment and prevention.

Un-notified mild gastro-enteritis occurred extensively in the coastal parishes during the summer, the blame, quite unjustifiably, is frequently placed on the water supply.

Deaths and Carriage Rates	100
Shops, Cafes and Hotels	88
House Inspectors and Sanitary Clerks	65
Water Supplies and Water Vendors	61
Ice Cream, Milk, Cheese and Other Foods	51
Factories	4
Carriage - General	205
Carriage - Mileage	100
Mileage - General	111
Inspected Foods	10
Inspected Vehicles	10
Inspected	66
Sanitation Certificates	40

VI. REPORT ON A FEW OF THE MORE IMPORTANT DISEASES.

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1912.

Scarlet	4
Diphtheria	3
Scarlet Fever	1
Leptospirosis	1
Food Poisoning	2
Whooping Cough	1
Infectious Hepatitis	1

The total number of notifications was small. The interesting feature is the scarcity of infective diseases, and it is not until now that any serious epidemic of diphtheria has been reported in this area. The number of cases with strains of diphtheria is small, and it is not until now that any serious epidemic of diphtheria has been reported in this area.