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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the health of

## WARE RURAL DISTRICT

Report presented by


### THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

### THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AUGUST 1965

96 NEW ROAD  
WARE



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WARE RURAL DISTRICT  
Annual Report on the Health of the District  
for the Year 1964

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EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS  
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1964  
WARE RURAL DISTRICT

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Councillors, Ware Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health of Ware Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

For the first time since 1961 there has been an increase of some significance in the population figures, this increase amounting to 130. Last year's figures, for example, showed a decrease of 10. This increase has been reflected in a rise in building figures, both by the Council and by private enterprise.

The health of the population has been extremely good and there is nothing of importance to report in the realm of infectious diseases. Again, when one considers that over the past few years more than half the total deaths in the community occurred over the age of 70, it would seem that longevity is the rule rather than the exception in the district. The live births rose from 148 to 166 while the deaths were about the same, being 137 as against 138 last year.

The care of private water supplies are a matter of great importance in a Rural District and routine examinations have been carried out through the year. Where bacteriological samples have been unsatisfactory, steps have been taken to rectify any faults that were discovered.

In conjunction with Braughing Rural District Council a major sewerage scheme was begun in 1964. This aims to drain the villages of Widford and Wareside and it is hoped that the scheme will be completed in 1966. As was forecast in last year's report, the village of Hunsdon is now connected to the Middle Lee Trunk Sewer, the outfall being at Rye Meads Sewage Works.



Because of the sewage schemes in hand and envisaged the Council is proposing to end the collection of pail closets in the area at a time to coincide with the completion of these schemes.

The close scrutiny of food premises continued during the year.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Council for their continued interest in the work of the department and to other Chief Officers for their constant co-operation.

In particular I wish to thank Mr. Goold, Mr. Bower and Mr. Knight for their unfailing support. I am much indebted to Miss Turner for her preparation of the statistical portions of this report.

I am,  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant

GORDON M. FRIZELLE





PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Deputy (Part-time) Medical Officer of Health

Peter de Bec TURTLE, V.R.D., M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.,  
Haileybury & Imperial Service College.  
Tel: Hoddesdon 2040

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Senior Public Health Inspector (and Surveyor) A.D.G. GOOLD

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.  
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.  
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

- J. G. BOWER - M.A.P.H.I. and Certificate for Meat and  
Food Inspection. National Building Diploma.
- D. O. KNIGHT - M.A.P.H.I. and Certificate for Meat and  
Food Inspection.  
Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied  
to Buildings & Public Works.  
Diploma in Public Health & Hygiene.

Rural District Council Offices,  
97, New Road,  
Ware, Herts.  
Tel: WARE 2292/3/4

Clerical duties in the Public Health Department were undertaken  
by Miss D. Turner, Engineer & Surveyor's Department.

--ooOOOoo--

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

During the Session 1964/5 Public Health matters were dealt with  
by the Council under the Chairmanship of Councillor Mr. C.A. Spence.



S E C T I O N   A  
GENERAL STATISTICS 1964

Table 1

(Figures for 1963 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Ware Rural District

12,420	(12,290)	
Natural Increase or decrease		+ 33
Migration in or out		+ 97

GENERAL STATISTICS

<u>Area in Acres</u>	29,060
<u>Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books</u>	
3,626	(3,529)
Number of Houses per acre	0.12
Number of Persons per acre	0.43
Number of Persons per house	3.4
<u>Rateable Value of District</u>	£526,235*
<u>Estimated Sum Represented by a Penny Rate</u>	£2,040

\*As at 1st April, 1965.



VITAL STATISTICS 1964

Table 2

(Figures for 1963 are shown in brackets)

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	Total	166	(148)	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		13.37	(12.04)	
Area Comparability Factor for Births		1.01	( 1.18)	
Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		13.50	(14.20)	
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	Total	7	(3)	
Still-Births rate per 1,000 live and still births		40.55	(19.87)	
<u>BIRTHS</u>	Total Live and Still-births	173	(151)	
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	Total Number	83	83	166
	Legitimate	79	80	159
	Illegitimate	4	3	7
Still Births	Total Number	3	4	7
	Legitimate	3	3	6
	Illegitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births		4.22	( 4.73)	

COMPARISON RATES

	<u>Ware Rural District</u>	<u>Hertford County</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Live Birth Rate	13.37	18.29	18.4
Area Comparability Factor	1.01	0.95	-
Standardised Birth Rate	13.50	17.37	-
Still Birth Rate	40.55	13.46	16.3



VITAL STATISTICS  
Table 2 continued

INFANT DEATHS

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Infants under one year	Total	1	2	3
	Legitimate	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
Neo-Natal Mortality (first four weeks included above in total of infant deaths of under one year)				
	Total	1	1	2
	Legitimate	1	1	2
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	Total	18.07	(33.79)	
	Legitimate	18.08	(35.46)	
	Illegitimate	-	-	
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)		12.04	(13.51)	

MATERNAL DEATHS

Maternal Deaths, including abortion	-
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	-

COMPARISON RATES

	<u>Ware Rural District</u>	<u>Hertford County</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Infant Mortality Rate	18.07	14.45	20
Legitimate	18.08	14.35	20
Illegitimate	-	16.83	-
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	12.04	10.53	13.8
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	12.04	9.12	-
Perinatal Mortality Rate	52.02	22.83	-
Maternal Mortality Rate	-	-	0.25





VITAL STATISTICS  
Table 2 continued

DEATHS

Total Deaths of all ages	137	(138)
Males	74	(77)
Females	63	(61)
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.03	(11.22)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths	1.01	( 1.06)
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population.	11.14	(11.89)

COMPARISON RATES

	<u>Ware Rural District</u>	<u>Hertford County</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
Death Rate	11.03	8.89	11.30
Area Comparability Factor	1.01	1.17	-
Standardised Death Rate	11.14	10.38	-



PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
(Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified  
during the year).

Disease	Total all Ages	Age Groups in Years					
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 65
Measles	25	-	6	17	-	2	-
Whooping Cough	5	2	3	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Tuberculosis	4	-	-	1	-	1	2
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-	-	-	2	-

Incidence of Diseases during the different months

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Month and number of cases</u>
Measles	January (1), February (2), March (7), April (3), June (1), August (2), September (2), October (2), November (1), December (4).
Whooping Cough	January (1), June (4)
Pneumonia	February (1), June (1)
Scarlet Fever	March (1)
Puerperal Pyrexia	February (1), August (1)
Tuberculosis	January (1), May (1), July (1), December (1).
Infective Hepatitis	June (1), August (1)



DISTRIBUTION OF DISEASES AMONGST THE DIFFERENT PARISHES

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>DISEASE</u>
Great Amwell	Measles (2), Tuberculosis (2)
Little Munden	Measles (2), Whooping Cough (2)
Hunsdon	Measles (1)
Stanstead Abbots	Measles (10), Scarlet Fever (1), Puerperal Pyrexia (1), Tuberculosis (1).
Standon	Measles (6), Pneumonia (2), Whooping Cough (3), Infective Hepatitis (2), Puerperal Pyrexia (1), Tuberculosis (1).
Thundridge	Measles (4)



## TUBERCULOSIS

The following is a summary of Tuberculosis Notifications etc. during 1964.

The year commenced with 64 cases on the register.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	37	2
Females	21	4
Four new cases were notified for the first time		
Males	4	-
Females	-	-
There were three inward transfers from another area		
Males	2	-
Females	1	-
Two patients left the District		
Males	2	-
Females	-	-
One patient was pronounced CURED		
Males	1	-
Females	-	-
The year ended with 68 cases on the register		
Males	40	2
Females	22	4





CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1964

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
	ALL CAUSES	74	63
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningoccal infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2
11	" " , lung, bronchus	7	-
12	" " breast	0	1
13	" " uterus	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	3
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0
16	Diabetes	0	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	7
18	Coronary disease, angina	14	13
19	Hypertension with heart disease	1	4
20	Other heart disease	5	8
21	Other circulatory disease	2	3
22	Influenza	1	0
23	Pneumonia	2	3
24	Bronchitis	8	3
25	Other disease of respiratory system	0	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	10
33	Motor vehicle accidents	3	1
34	All other accidents	3	3
35	Suicide	1	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0



## GENERAL STATISTICS

There was, during 1964, a slight rise in the population figures. The mid 1963 figure was 12,290 while that for 1964 was 12,420 being an increase of 130. This is certainly an improvement over the figures for the past few years. The number of inhabited houses rose from 3529 to 3626 but the number of houses per acre remained at 0.12

### VITAL STATISTICS

The total number of live births rose from 148 to 166 this being the highest figure since 1961. The still-births rose from 3 to 7 while the deaths in infants under 1 year of age were 3. There were no maternal deaths. The deaths at all ages fell from 138 to 137.

### CAUSES OF DEATH

Deaths from all forms of heart disease numbered 50 or 36.4% of all deaths. Out of these 27 or over 50% were due to Coronary Disease.

All forms of malignant disease came second with a total of 23 deaths or 16.7% of all deaths. Of these malignant disease of the lung was responsible for 7.

Third in priority came vascular lesions of the nervous system which were responsible for 17 or 12.4% of the deaths.

There were 4 deaths due to motor accidents and 6 due to other accidental causes according to the General Registrar's figures. The death certificates for such causes, however, only number 5, these stating the causes to be due to burns, strangulation, crushing beneath an overturned excavator, knocked down by a train and broncho-pneumonia following a fall.

The 3 deaths in infants under 1 year of age was due to Anoxia, Respiratory Failure and a Motor Accident.

Deaths in age groups over the age of 70 are given below :-

$\frac{70-80}{36}$	$\frac{80-90}{26}$	$\frac{90-100}{7}$	$\frac{100+}{1 \text{ aged } 106}$
--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	------------------------------------



We thus get a total of 70 deaths over the age of 70 out of 137 deaths for the district. This figure - over 50% of all deaths - is again very similar to that of the past three years.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It is satisfying to report that the incidence of Infectious disease was extremely low throughout the year.

The Aberdeen typhoid epidemic had its repercussions here as elsewhere in that a search was required to be made for any tins of corned beef carrying the code numbers incriminated in the outbreak. Such tins as were discovered were returned unopened to the wholesalers according to Ministry instructions.

### TUBERCULOSIS

The year began with 64 cases on the register of which 58 were pulmonary and 6 were non-pulmonary. The non-pulmonary cases remained unchanged. Of the pulmonary cases 2 left the district, 1 was cured but there were 4 new notifications and 3 inward transfers, leaving at the end of the year 4 new cases, a total of 68 of which 62 were pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951

Once more no action was required under Section 47 of these Acts.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

The meals on wheels service, run under the direction of the W.V.S., has been active throughout the District. The following figures show what has been accomplished.

<u>Area served</u>	<u>Days per week</u>	<u>Number of persons served</u>
Dane End	2	6
Gilston & Eastwick	2	10
Great Amwell (including Stanstead Abbots)	3	13
Standon & Puckeridge	2	6
Thundridge & High Cross	2	14
Widford	2	7

### BUILDING

9 houses and 12 flats were built by the Council during 1964 and private enterprise built 55 houses.



## PUBLICATIONS

The Use of Radioisotopes  
in Agriculture, Industry  
and Medicine

Journal of the Royal Institute  
of Public Health and Hygiene  
(Paper read to the Hertford  
Meeting of the Royal Society  
of Health).

The Preservation of Food

Journal of the Royal  
Institute of Public Health  
and Hygiene.

The History of the Hertfordshire  
Seaside Convalescent Home.

Stephen Austin Ltd.

Cancer and its Prevention

Journal of the Royal Institute  
of Public Health and Hygiene.

Tobacco, Cigaretts & Ill-  
Health.

Journal of the Royal Institute  
of Public Health and Hygiene.





## S E C T I O N    B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR WARE RURAL DISTRICT

#### LABORATORY SERVICE

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge.

In emergency, certain (Medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

The following County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, are available for Ware Rural District Council. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Hertford.

#### Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres.

Number of Nurses - 5.      Welfare Centres - 6  
(including 1 Mobile Clinic).

#### Vaccinations, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Poliomyelitis Immunisations.

A Medical Officer at the Welfare Centre will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

#### Home and Domestic Help

Applications for this service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 27, Bull Plain, Hertford (Telephone: Hertford 3232).

#### Care and After Care

Applications for recuperative holidays, if recommended by the Medical Attendant, should be made to the County Medical Officer.

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A Medical Loan Depot has been established in the Town. Address available at Council Offices. A charge may be made for both the above Services.



### Ambulance Service

There are Ambulance Stations at Hertford (Tel: Hertford 3013) Bishop's Stortford (Tel: Bishop's Stortford 1101), Ware (Tel: Ware 2141). Except in emergency an Ambulance should be ordered by a Medical Practitioner.

### Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Mental Health Officer, Mr. R. L. Lingham, Collett Road, Ware, Herts. (Tel: Ware 2541).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

An Occupation Centre for defective children has been established in Hertford.

### HOSPITAL SERVICES

The area is served by the Hertford County Hospital, Hertford, and the Herts and Essex General Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

Chronic sick can receive hospital treatment at Western House Hospital, Collett Road, Ware.

Western House also provides beds under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, on behalf of the County Council.

### MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

Six doctors practise in Ware Rural District.

There are no Dental Surgeons in the District but the area is served by Dental Surgeons at Hertford, Hoddesdon, Ware, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford.

### OTHER SERVICES

There is an Old People's Welfare Committee at Standon and Puckeridge; also an independently managed "Welcome Club" with a membership of 120 persons.

Women's Institutes are active at ten centres in the District.



## S E C T I O N   C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA - REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1964

#### WATER SUPPLY

Two parishes in the southern extremity of the district, Great Amwell and Stanstead St. Margarets, are within the Statutory area of the Metropolitan Water Board and supplied by them with a public supply of water. The source is the Rye Common Pumping Station and there is a reservoir at Hertford Heath. The water is subject to filtration and chlorination. It is a hard chalk water.

The remainder of the Rural District is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company. The source of the Lee Valley Water Company's supply is a pumping station at Standon where there are two boreholes in the chalk. The water is pumped into supply after chlorination. A water tower at Old Hall Green acts as a balancing reservoir.

#### PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY

Within the district there are approximately 130 properties being served by a private water supply.

Routine samples for bacteriological examination have continued to be taken throughout the year and in several instances it has been necessary for works of improvement to be carried out. Contamination in most cases appears to gain access to main storage tanks and in these cases the cleansing of them is all that has been necessary to make the supply satisfactory. This was the cause of trouble at a Convent. In this instance the original tanks were old and afforded inadequate protection. They were completely renewed.

Unfortunately there are still a few houses in the district where the source of the supply is bacteriologically unsatisfactory and following past policy occupiers have been advised to boil all water before use.



The public are now becoming increasingly aware of the advantages of having routine samples of water taken from their premises and generally speaking there exists a close co-operation between them and the department.

### Quality of Water

#### Bacteriological

In addition to samples submitted by the Public Health Department for analysis, the Lee Valley Water Company send monthly reports of bacteriological sampling to this Council. Every result sent by the Company has been satisfactory.

### Distribution of Water Services

Dwellinghouses supplied by public water mains in 1964:-

Parish	Number of houses	Population (approx)	Main direct to house	Main to stand-pipes
Eastwick	64	170	56	8
Gilston	64	227	64	-
Great Amwell	727	2617	711	4
Great Munden	110	435	82	13
Hunsdon	375	1185	361	3
Little Munden	181	572	176	4
St. Margarets	70	252	64	-
Standon	921	3094	888	10
Stanstead Abbots	484	1605	456	6
Thundridge	261	810	240	6
Ware Rural	241	1032	205	9
Widford	138	438	123	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3636</b>	<b>12437</b>	<b>3426</b>	<b>78</b>

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

#### Standon and Fuckeridge

These two villages provide a common drainage area and sewers have been laid to a point in Paper Mill Lane, Standon, from which the sewage is raised to a Sewage Disposal Works south of the village. These works consist of a receiving chamber, balancing tank, sedimentation tank and duplicate rotary percolating filters followed by humus tanks.





### Colliers End

It is hoped that a scheme for sewerage the Colliers End area will be prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers in 1965. Disposal will be at the Standon Sewage Works.

### High Cross and Wadesmill

These two villages which are at the southern end of the Standon parish are drained to a pumping station at Wadesmill from which sewage is raised to join the Ware Urban District Council sewers at the Urban District Boundary on the main Cambridge Road. The sewage is ultimately disposed of at Rye Meads.

### Great Amwell and St. Margarets

Great Amwell parish may be divided for drainage purposes into four areas.

- (1) Hertford Heath, which is drained through an outfall ( which is a joint responsibility of the Ware and Hertford Rural District Councils) to the Hertford Borough disposal works at Hertford.
- (2) The Haileybury College area which is drained by means of a main sewer to the sewers of the Hoddesdon Urban District Council and eventually disposed of by them to Rye Meads. Some properties in Hoddesdon Urban District make use of this outfall.
- (3) The southern portion of Great Amwell village, which includes what is known as the Gypsy Lane area and the Old Mylne Estate. This is drained on each side of a water shed to ultimately join at the St. Margarets pumping station from whence the sewage is pumped into the Middle Lee Trunk Sewer and the sewage disposed of at Rye Meads. Properties in Hoddesdon Urban District are drained to this system in the Stanstead Road and St. Margarets Road areas.
- (4) The northern portion of the village is drained to a pumping station discharging to St. Margarets pumping station and ultimately to Rye Meads.

### Stanstead Abbots

This village is drained to a point in Accommodation Road where the Council once had a pumping station and connected directly to the Middle Lee Trunk Sewer. Sewage is disposed of at Rye Meads.



### Hunsdon

The village is drained to a pumping station near Bonningtons. From there the sewage is pumped on into Stanstead Abbots and connected to the Middle Lee Trunk Sewer, the outfall being the Rye Meads Sewage Works.

### Eastwick

This village is drained to the Stort Valley sewer discharging to Rye Meads sewage disposal scheme.

### Gilston

This village is sewered in conjunction with Eastwick, and is connected to Rye Meads.

### Dane End

The village of Dane End in the parish of Little Munden has been sewered and sewage disposal works constructed in the village.

### Haultwick

A scheme had been prepared to connect the drainage of Haultwick to the Dane End works via Green End but further developments in Dane End will necessitate a revision of the scheme.

### Widford & Wareside

A scheme to drain these two villages in conjunction with Much Hadham in the Braughing Rural District commenced in 1964 and is scheduled to be completed in 1966.

### Connections

The number of properties connected to the main sewers during the year was 81.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### Cesspools

The Council have continued their policy to discourage the construction of small water-tight cesspools and encourage the construction of septic tanks with either filters or land irrigation. There are few conventional type cesspools as far as is known although many old cesspools used as septic tanks are in need of improvement. The making of improvement grants has helped to improve the drainage of many houses and has provided modern type septic tanks. All new houses built where main drainage is not available must have well designed septic tanks.

The Council remove sludge from septic tanks once a year by means of their two cesspool emptying vehicles. The work is done to a definite time table and all occupiers of premises, know to within a week, when the tank will be de-sludged. Tanks which are too small or otherwise inadequate to deal with the drainage of the premises and need to be emptied more frequently are dealt under contract to the owner or by means of a request to the Council. One emptying per year allowed free of charge by the Council is carried out in rotation according to the timetable.

Any emptying taken out of turn extra to the annual emptying has to be paid for on the scale of charges in force at the time. At the moment the charge is £3 per load of approximately 1,000 gallons with a minimum charge of £3.0.0d. Cesspools or septic tanks which are in the vicinity of public sewers and lie within the area shown on the Council's resolution map are not emptied free of charge at any time.

### Pail Closets

By the end of 1966 it is hoped that sewerage schemes to Widford, Wareside, Haultwick, Green End and Colliers End will be completed and with this in mind the Council early in 1965 passed a resolution to terminate their pail collection service as from 31st December, 1966. All affected owners and occupiers were duly notified.

Until this date, however, the Council are continuing to empty pails throughout the whole district. They are emptied free of charge in an area lying outside the prescribed areas which are in the proximity of existing public sewers. The owners or occupiers of premises within these prescribed areas who require this service have to make a request and pay 40/-



(£2.10.0d. as from 1.4.65 ) per quarter for the emptying of one pail twice per week, this charge being to encourage property owners to convert their pail closets to water closets.

At present there are 270 pail closets in the district and it is anticipated that this number will reduce to approximately 100 following the completion of these sewerage schemes. All necessary advice and encouragement regarding improvement grants and septic tank drainage is being given to the owners of these remaining houses in order to reduce this figure even further.

#### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse is collected weekly throughout the district. One side-loading vehicle of 12 cubic yards capacity and a Dennis Paxit are used with a second side loader in reserve.

The refuse is disposed of at a central tip near Downfield Farm, Ware. One man is employed approximately four days per week on the tip and uses a Weatherill shovel (purchased in 1964) for the purpose of rolling and covering the refuse. There have been no fires on the tip and appropriate action has been taken in order to avoid nuisances arising from infestation by vermin, flies and crickets.

A resolution under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, prescribing the size and capacity of dustbins and approving the British Standard Dustbin has been passed by the Council and there is a Byelaw in force prohibiting the deposit of liquid matter in dustbins.

The Council undertake the collection of bulky articles of household refuse (mattresses, arm chairs, etc.) on request, free of charge.





PARTICULARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S  
VISITS DURING THE YEAR 1964

Housing	387	Total brought forward	1611
Complaints	148	Music & Dancing Licensing	1
Drainage	305	Knackers Yard	11
Water Supply	144	Slaughterhouses	668
Refuse Tips	117	Food Premises	140
Caravans	118	Rats and Mice	120
Factories	27	Licensed Premises	4
Infectious Diseases	196	Petrol Installations	130
Clean Air Act	72	Animal Boarding Establishments	7
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises	97	Miscellaneous	82
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total carried forward	1611	TOTAL	2774

HOUSING ACTS 1936 to 1954

New Housing by private enterprise

New dwellings erected -	55
Conversion or adaptations in terms of family units	-

By Local Authority

New dwellings erected	21
Conversions or adaptations in terms of family units -	-

By Other Authorities

(County Council, Police, etc.)	-
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Total properties controlled by the Council

Council Houses	1090
Temporary prefabricated bungalows	-
Sundries (including shops)	-



## Housing Repairs and Improvements

This year has seen an increase in action taken to repair or improve houses in the district.

The Council is empowered under the Public Health and Housing Acts to require the repair, closure or demolition of certain properties and also to assist financially in the improvement of property.

Eight houses were repaired by their owners following informal action by the Council under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

In addition the Council considered that five properties were in such a condition as to be unfit for habitation and could not be repaired at reasonable expense. Action to secure the closure of these properties under the Housing Act, 1957, resulted in the owners giving an undertaking not to use the property for habitation.

A closing order was revoked for one house to which improvements and repairs had been made during the year. Thirty-nine houses were improved with the aid of improvement grants, an increase of twenty five over the previous year.

This may partly be due to the higher standard grants available for constructing bathroom additions or providing septic tank drainage and the simplified procedure for obtaining grants. Another factor may be the greater number of owner occupiers who have that added interest and incentive to improve their own property.

## FOOD & DRUGS ACT

### Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The amount of slaughtering that has taken place at the two licensed slaughterhouses indicates an increase of approximately 7% on the 1963 figures. This increase follows the general trend of previous years and compared with 1956 an overall increase of 75% is shown.

No tuberculosis was found in cattle during the year, this being directly due to the excellent eradication scheme carried



out by the Ministry in recent years. Only five pigs were found infected with this disease.

Six beast carcasses were found infested with the parasite *Cysticercus Bovis* (the cause of the tapeworm *Taenia Saginata* in man) and following the procedure laid down in the Meat Inspection Regulations the carcasses were placed in cold storage for the recommended period.

Towards the end of the year, a considerable amount of mutton was condemned following the emergency slaughter of a flock of sheep attacked and savaged by dogs on a local farm.

The Meat Inspection Regulations which came into operation in 1963 appear to be working fairly well and apart from the inconvenient hours of slaughter no undue difficulties have been experienced.

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed during 1964	1194	4	43	4565	1913
No. inspected during 1964	1194	4	43	4565	1913
All diseases except Tuberculosis and <i>Cysticerci</i> -					
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	2	-	-
Part carcass or organ condemned	61	1	1	36	62
Tuberculosis only -					
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcass or organ condemned	-	-	-	-	5
Cysticercosis -					
Part carcass or organ condemned	6	-	-	-	-
Treated by refrigeration	6	-	-	-	-



## Other Foods condemned

### Canned Foodstuffs

Fruit	Nil
Meat	15 lbs.

Total weight of all foods condemned  
16 cwt. 4 qtrs.

### Food Premises

In addition to the two slaughterhouses there are the following food premises in the district.

Bakehouses	2	Sweets &	
Butchers	8	Confectionery	12
Grocers	25	Canteens	21
Fishmongers	3	Public Houses	44
Cafés	5		

### Registered Food Premises

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Ice Cream Premises	)	45
Manufacturers of	)	
Sausages and	)	8
Preserved Foods	)	

1 new licence was issued during the year for the sale of prepacked ice-cream.

### Food Hygiene Regulations

During the year frequent visits have been made to food premises throughout the district, emphasis being paid to catering premises and shops retailing open food. The general standard of hygiene remains fairly good, although in some instances, particularly regarding some of the older traders, there still remains room for improvement. However, the hygienic standards demanded by the housewife are rising year by year and consequently the proprietor who caters for these standards attracts more of the trade.





In May all food shops were visited and proprietors were requested to post notices in their shop requesting customers not to bring dogs onto the premises and to refrain from smoking. This approach was received with mixed feelings and although practically all traders thought the idea good many felt they could not dictate to their customers and feared losing trade to others.

This idea, therefore, met with limited success although one must bear in mind that such requests to occupiers of food establishments have no power in law, as the hygienic habits of customers are excluded from the Food Hygiene Regulations.

#### Typhoid Fever Outbreak, Aberdeen.

Following the outbreak of typhoid fever in Aberdeen during May, a circular letter was issued by the Ministry of Health instructing local authorities to approach all food establishments within their districts in order to ascertain whether any 6 lb. tins of corned beef bearing specific code marks as described in the circular were held in stock.

Within this district it was necessary for 94 visits to be made to food shops, cafes, canteens and other catering establishments. Three of the tins in question were found and on the instructions of the Ministry of Health were withdrawn from sale and returned direct to the suppliers.

#### The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963.

These regulations which came into force on the 1st January, 1964, make it a requirement that liquid egg be pasteurised before use, the only exception to the rule being where the eggs are removed from the shell on the premises where the food is prepared and are either used forthwith or kept at a temperature not exceeding 50° F. and used within 24 hours.

A company operating an Egg Packing Station at Stanstead Abbots have quite a large throughput of liquid egg some of it being imported from the Continent. It is usual for the commodity to be sampled and tested at the port of entry, to establish that pasteurisation has been carried out satisfactorily, but on occasions following requests by the Port Health Authority samples were taken in this district. The twenty three samples taken all satisfied the approved test.



### Caravan Sites (Control & Development) Act, 1960.

There are 10 sites licensed for the stationing of caravans in the area.

8 sites have individual caravans and 2 sites, The Duke of Wellington Public House, Barwick, and 24, High Street, Puckeridge, have 20 and 25 caravans respectively.

At Rye House there is a caravan site for winter quarters for members of the Showmen's Guild. This site is exempted from the licensing conditions of the Act but conditions regarding the standards of hygiene and sanitary arrangements are incorporated into the permission which has to be obtained under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Informal action was taken by the department to remove caravans from isolated sites in the area that had not been licensed by the Council.

### Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

This Act requires that any premises used for boarding dogs or cats should be licensed with the Council and to comply with the conditions laid down in the licence to ensure that suitable accommodation is provided and to prevent spread of disease.

Three establishments were licensed with the Council, two for dogs and one for cats. Regular visits have been made, no action was required.

### Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

The aim of this Act is to secure the health, safety and welfare of employees working in such places as grocers shops, hairdressing establishments, canteens, cafes, private schools and petrol filling stations.

63 premises employing 360 persons have been registered with the Council and in order to bring the requirements of the Act with regard to registration to the notice of employers, a considerable amount of time has been spent in visiting shops and offices.



Initial inspections were commenced late in the year and consequently only a small number of premises have been visited. The employers attention was drawn to all contraventions of the Act informally and it is envisaged that a greater proportion of the time of the department will have to be allotted to carrying out the requirements of this Act.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

The Council employ a part-time operator who is engaged on rodent control three mornings per week.

The Town & Country Pest Service at Royston are on contract to the Council to carry out control treatment at the refuse tip and Standon and Dane End Sewage Works. This firm is also employed by many farmers in the area.

The table below sets out the action taken by the Council during the year.

	Type of Property				Total
	Council Property	Dwell- ing Houses	Agricul tural	Business Premises	
No. of properties inspected	10	201	12	9	232
No. found to be infested by rats	10	201	4	5	220
No. seriously infested by mice	-	-	-	-	-
No. of properties treated for infestations	10	201	4	5	220
No. of block control schemes carried out	-	-	-	-	-

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S E C T I O N   D  
FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following is a summary of information already supplied in detail to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised) in respect of the year 1964.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Factories without Mechanical Power

Number on Register	-
Inspections	-

Factories with Mechanical Power

Number on Register	49
Inspections	27

Other Premises under the Act

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction but excluding Outworkers Premises).	9
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2. Cases in which Defects were found

<u>Defect</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary conveniences		
(a) Insufficient	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-
Total defects referred to H.M. Inspector		Nil
Total defects referred by H.M. Inspector		1

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PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK (Section 110 and 111)

12



