

[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Wigan R.D.C.

Contributors

Wigan (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1953

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/n92sgcfe>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>


Library

Wigan Rural District Council



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1953



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30277371>

Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :

J. K. HODGE, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

W. THOMPSON, ESQ.

Councillors :

I. CROPPER, ESQ.

N. GASKELL, ESQ.

J. H. GILL, ESQ.

J. PRESCOTT, ESQ.

J. SCHOFIELD, ESQ.

MRS. M. M. TARBUCK.

Clerk :

ROBERT GASKELL, F.C.C.S., F.A.C.C.A.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

H. CARRINGTON.

10, Bridgeman Terrace

Wigan.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wigan Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, compiled, as in previous years, in the form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER.

AUGUST, 1954.

Wigan Rural District Council

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA :

Area : 11,695 acres.

Population (Census 1951)	8,213
Estimated mid-1953 (Registrar-General)	8,153
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1953—	
according to Rate Book	2,513
Rateable Value	£47,069
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£183

The chief industries of the Wigan Rural District are agriculture, stone quarrying, glue manufacture, bleaching and dyeing, brick-making, malt extract manufacture, linoleum manufacture. Certain districts are mainly residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	69	63	132
(Illegitimate)	1	—	1
TOTAL	70	63	133
Still Births (Legitimate)	1	3	4
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	3	4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :			
(Legitimate)	3	1	4
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	1	4
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :			
(Legitimate)	3	1	4
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	1	4
DEATHS			87
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1953			16.3
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			10.8

T A B L E I.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		INFANT MORTALITY.			
	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	TOTAL		Neo-Natal	
									No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Year 1953	133	16.3	87	10.8	4	29	Nil.	Nil.	4	30	4	30
Year 1952	117	14.6	71	8.9	4	33	Nil.	Nil.	6	51	4	34
" 1951	117	14.8	116	14.8	1	8	Nil.	Nil.	3	26	2	17
" 1950	103	12.8	103	12.8	2	19	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
" 1949	130	16.3	99	12.4	2	15	Nil.	Nil.	3	23	Nil.	Nil.
" 1948	151	19.0	82	10.3	2	13	Nil.	Nil.	6	39	Nil.	Nil.
Avge. 5 yrs 1948-1952	—	15.5	—	11.8	—	17	—	Nil.	—	27	—	10

In the next table are shown the chief causes of Death and the number of Deaths from each cause in 1953, with comparative figures for 1952 :—

TABLE II.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	No. of Deaths			
	1953.		1952.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	1	—	2
Tuberculosis—Other	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections.....	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Cancer	6	8	4	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	5	2	4
Coronary Disease, Angina	11	1	7	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	—	1	—	—
Other Heart Disease	6	15	7	8
Other Circulatory Disease	2	1	1	1
Influenza	2	—	1	1
Pneumonia	1	—	2	—
Bronchitis	1	3	3	1
Other Disease of Respiratory System	—	—	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	—	2	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3	5	3	5
Suicide and Other Violent Causes	4	—	3	2
	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 36	<hr/> 35

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Preston. The arrangements are satisfactory, a report being received on every examination.

Five water bacteriological examination reports were received from the Wigan Royal Infirmary during the year and five from the County Analyst, Preston.

Eight private supplies were found to be unsatisfactory.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Parishes obtain water supplies from the following sources :—

DALTON	Wrightington Borehole and Spring Water.
HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C. {
WORTHINGTON	Standish U.D.C. {
SHEVINGTON	Standish U.D.C. {
PARBOLD	Own Supply Deep Well Water and Spring Water.
ANDERTON'S MILL.....	Chorley R.D.C. Upland Surface Water.

WATER SHORTAGE.—The periodic water shortage in the high level area of Shevington has caused anxiety during the year, but plans are well advanced to alleviate the complaints by the provision of a water storage tank.

TABLE III.

WATER SUPPLIES.

PARISH	Number of Dwelling houses	Supplied by Wigan R.D.C.	Supplied by Other Authorities	No. of Houses without public Water Supply
DALTON	148	110	10 (Up Holland)	28
WORTHINGTON	52	2	24 (Standish) 3(Chorley R.D.) 15(Wigan C.B.)	8
HAIGH	240	224	15 (Aspull)	1
PARBOLD.....	310	299	—	11
SHEVINGTON	1,033	1,033	—	—
WRIGHTINGTON	774	722	9 (Hospital) 1(Chorley R.D.)	42
	2,557	2,390	77	90

Table showing Consumption by Trade and Domestic Users.

Parish	Estimated "Water" Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of "Water" Population.		
		Domestic	Trade	Supplied to other Districts	Domestic	Trade	Total
WRIGHTINGTON	2,500	51,892	28,968	Bispham 5,073	20.71	11.59	32.30
SHEVINGTON	3,100	56,619	11,122	....	18.26	3.59	21.85
PARBOLD	865	17,249	4,970	....	21.10	5.74	26.84
HAIGH	750	14,823	21,973	Aspull 28,601	19.76	29.30	49.06
DALTON	400	5,894	7,404	....	14.73	18.51	33.24
TOTAL	7,615	146,477	74,437	....	19.23	9.79	29.02

Average Daily Total,
Domestic and Trade 220,914

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1953) :—

Number of Privy Middens	210
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens.....	353
Number of Pail Closets	567
Number of Freshwater Closets	1,870
Number of Dry Ashpits	25
Number of Movable Ashbins.....	2,000
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	1,720

During the year 19 privy closets were converted to fresh w.c.s and 6 to pails; 19 movable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles.

The Rural District Council makes grants towards the cost of conversions to w.c.s.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Two refuse vehicles with 10 workmen are engaged on House Scavenging.

Pails are collected by the Council's Cesspool Emptying Vehicle.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

A special Cesspool Emptying Vehicle is engaged on regular cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks. Tipping is carried out on agricultural land when suitable, or otherwise into the public sewer.

SEWERAGE.

During the year Part II of the Shevington Sewerage Scheme was completed and connections of private houses previously served by cesspools have proceeded satisfactorily.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Occasional inspections under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934 and the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices and to sanitary conveniences were carried out during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

There are two Camping Sites in the Rural District.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the District.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Seven houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by stoving and spraying with sulphur dioxide and gammexane.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manufacture of glue is carried on in the Appley Bridge area under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Frequent inspections have been made and certain alterations suggested have been carried out.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

CANAL BOATS.

No infringements of the Acts were discovered.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient, and the facilities for handling meals are considered to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—The list of urgent housing applications has been very substantially reduced by the completion of 120 houses and flats during the year. The Council has been able to turn its attention to slum clearance. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 12 houses, and Closing Orders in respect of 11, 8 of which were determined when the houses were re-conditioned.

This rate of house building will be maintained during the first half of 1954 until development of the present site at Shevington is complete. The Council is at present seeking additional land in other Parishes.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

	Houses.	Flats.
Traditional permanent houses:		
(i) By the Local Authority	84	36
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	22	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	106	36
	<hr/>	<hr/>

1.—INSPECTION of dwelling - houses during the year :		
(i)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	210
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	247
(ii)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932)	12
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	12
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	31
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	72
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices :		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	120
3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year :		
A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	1
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :	
	(a) by owners	1
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
	(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) by owners	12
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	10
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	11
(ii) Number of Closing Orders determined, premises having been rendered fit	8

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year approximately	(est.) 30
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein approx.	50
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein approx.	200
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	30
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	42
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	122

All acute cases of overcrowding have been alleviated.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—An adequate supply of milk is produced within or brought into the district. Four samples of milk were taken and subjected to the biological test for Tuberculosis. All were negative.

(b) ICE CREAM.— Two samples of ice cream were taken and found satisfactory.

(c) MEAT.—There is no slaughtering in the district other than the slaughter of pigs under Ministry of Food Licence. Occasionally pigs killed privately are inspected.

6.—FOOD PREMISES.

Number of food premises, by type of business, in the District at the end of the year :

TYPE OF BUSINESS	No.
Butcher	4
Grocer	33
Sweets, Confectionery	8
Chipped Potato	4

Number of food premises, by type, registered under S.14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under Local Acts :

Type of business	No. registered at 31/12/53	No. of Inspections of registered premises during year.
<i>None</i>	—	—

7.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

14 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, compared with no cases during 1952.

52 cases of Measles, 19 cases of Whooping Cough and 1 case of Dysentery were notified during the year.

I am pleased to report that there was no outbreak of Food Poisoning in the District during the year.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child and is performed at the Clinic by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers or by the General Practitioners in their Surgeries. During 1953, 96 pre-school and 15 school-children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. In addition, 140 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the District remains high, and cases of infestation by lice dealt with at the Clinics were few, and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

TABLE IV.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1953.

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	Un-known	Removed to Hospital
Measles	52	2	1	7	8	7	22	4	1	
Whooping Cough	19	2	2	2	1	3	8		1	
Scarlet Fever	14			2	1	2	6	3		5
Dysentery	1						1			1
TOTALS	86	4	3	11	10	12	37	7	2	6

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Distribution of Infectious Diseases over the several Parishes was as follows:—

	Cases.	Total No. of Cases.
DALTON :		
Whooping Cough	5	5
HAIGH :		
Scarlet Fever.....	1	
Measles	8	
	—	9
PARBOLD :		
Scarlet Fever.....	2	
Measles	2	
	—	4
SHEVINGTON :		
Whooping Cough	7	
Scarlet Fever.....	5	
Measles	20	
	—	32
WORTHINGTON :		
Whooping Cough	3	
Scarlet Fever.....	2	
Measles	2	
	—	7
WRIGHTINGTON :		
Whooping Cough	4	
Scarlet Fever.....	4	
Measles	20	
Dysentery	1	
	—	29
		—
		86
		—

CANCER.

14 Deaths, 6 Males and 8 Females, occurred in 1953 compared with 8 Deaths, 4 Males and 4 Females in 1952.

Cancer cases are treated at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic, which works in close conjunction with the Manchester Unit.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows:—

NEW CASSE AND MORTALITY DURING 1953 :

Age Periods	NEW CASSES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	3	3	1	—	1	1	1

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Chest Clinic is in Millgate, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctor, or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47 :

No cases were dealt with during the year under Section 47 of this Act.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

PREMISES (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	No. of Inspections (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	25	15
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	3	5	10
TOTAL		30	25

*Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:—

Four cases of unsuitable and defective sanitary conveniences were found and remedied. (S.7.).

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 110 AND 111).

The number of out-workers in the August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) was 1 Wearing-apparel maker, 3 Stuffed Toy-makers and 2 Basket makers.

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1907 and 1914
 TABLE I OF THE ACT
 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
 (including inspections made by sanitary inspectors):—

No. of Inspections	No. on Regist.	No. on Regist.	No. on Regist.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
—	—	1	(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are to be enforced by local authorities
13	23	2	(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority
16	5	2	(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)
29	30	5	TOTAL

(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are to be enforced by local authorities (section 103 (1)), institutions (section 104) and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction (sections 107 and 108).

2.—TABLES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND—
 Four cases of insanitary and defective sanitary conveniences were found and remedied.

TABLE VII OF THE ACT
 OUTWORK
 (Sections 110 and 111)
 The number of out-workers in the district has remained at 100 (100) was 1 Working special maker, 3 bonded for-
 makers and 96 other makers.

D. H. POTTER
 District Officer of Works