

[Report 1968] / Medical Officer of Health, Woodbridge U.D.C.

Contributors

Woodbridge (Suffolk, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1968

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Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Annual Report OF THE Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1968



C. H. IMRIE,
T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Late Hon. Surgeon to H.M. the Queen.

Eden Lodge,
Woodbridge.

September, 1969.

The Chairman and Councillors,
Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the calendar year 1968 which has been prepared along the lines recommended.

In spite of a rather poor Summer the year 1968 appears on the whole to have been relatively free from communicable disease and such as did occur was of a comparatively trivial type. The vital statistics were not remarkable although the number of births was the highest recorded for Woodbridge.

In this Report it will be seen that the amount of supervision of the district which is required under the various Acts, Regulations and Orders which deal with public health is growing steadily. In fact nearly every aspect of the life of the community is in some way covered by legislation.

I am sure the Council will be interested in the Environmental Health section contributed by Mr. Snowden who deals with such matters.

I would like to thank both Councillors and Officers for their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of District ... 1112 acres Population 6980
No. of inhabited houses ... 2520 Product of Penny Rate .. £860

OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

C.H. IMRIE, T.D., Q.H.S.,
M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

D.W. SNOWDEN, F.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Engineer & Surveyor:

JOHN SMITH, A.M.I.Mun.E.,
M.I.H.E.

Population

During 1968 the steady rise in the population of Woodbridge continued and the Registrar General's mid-year estimate for the population was 6,980, which is greater by 440 than the corresponding figure for the previous year.

Births

The total of 117 live births during the year is the highest number of which I have record in any year in Woodbridge and this taken with an absence of any reported still births can be regarded as very satisfactory.

Deaths

There were in 1968 a total of 99 deaths attributable to Woodbridge. This figure is a small increase over the previous year. There was only one infantile death (under 1 year) recorded. The causes of death show a similar pattern to that of previous years. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system form the largest group and this is followed in size by the group of malignant diseases. Together these two groups represent approximately 75% of the total. It is worthy of mention that there were no deaths from notifiable diseases during the year.

Notifiable Disease

During 1968 the number of notified cases of infectious disease was 11. This is the lowest figure which we have had for some years. As we had a small outbreak of measles during the previous summer (1967) we expected, as it proved correctly, that there would be little measles in 1968. In fact there was only one notification of this disease received during the year.

The last three months of the year produced several sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever. The modern form of this disease does not, however, carry with it such serious complications as was the case in the days before antibiotics.

Food-bourne infections were not found during the year.

With regard to Tuberculosis it will be seen that the total number of cases on the register rose by 2 during the year.

Summary of Vital Statistics1959 to 1968

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Estimated Population	5950	6190	6020	6070	6100	6260	6290	6360	6540	6980
Birth Rate	15.4 (92)	16.18 (100)	12.8 (77)	14.6 (89)	12.95 (79)	16.93 (106)	14.14 (89)	17.4 (111)	16.1 (105)	16.8 (117)
Still Birth Rate	10.8 (1)	10.0 (1)	nil	21.9 (2)	48.2 (4)	9.43 (1)	21.9 (2)	34.7 (4)	18.6 (2)	nil
Death Rate	12.6 (75)	11.9 (74)	12.45 (75)	13.8 (84)	15.57 (95)	12.6 (79)	11.4 (72)	11.0 (70)	13.9 (91)	14.2 (99)
Infantile Death Rate	10.8 (1)	50.0 (5)	12.9 (1)	11.2 (1)	37.9 (3)	9.34 (1)	33.7 (3)	27.02 (3)	19.0 (2)	9.0 (1)

Note: Infantile Death Rate is the rate per 1,000 live births - the other rates are per 1,000 population.

The Still Birth Rate is the rate per 1,000 live and still births.

Figures in brackets are the actual numbers.

These Birth and Death rates have not in this Table been weighted for comparison with other areas.

Analysis of Vital Statistics

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Population</u>	<u>Adjusted Rate for Comparison Woodbridge</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Population England & Wales</u>
<u>Live Births</u>						
Legitimate	61	46	117	16.8	20.8	16.9
Illegitimate	5	5				
<u>Still Births</u>						
Legitimate	-	-	-	-	-	14.0
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	
<u>Deaths all Ages</u>						
	53	46	99	14.2	13.06	11.9
<u>Deaths under 1 year of age</u>						
1	-	-	1	*9.0	-	18.0

* This rate is expressed per 1000 live births.

Causes of Death

<u>Code No.</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total 1968</u>
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	1	3
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	6	2	8
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	2	2
B19(5)	Leukaemia	1	-	1
B19(6)	Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	4	4	8
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-	1
B27	Hypertensive Disease	2	-	2
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	11	16	27
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease	4	5	9
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	8	6	14
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	1	1
B32	Pneumonia	6	5	11
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	2	7
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
B46(10)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	1	2
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	1
BE.47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1	1
		<u>53</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>99</u>

Tuberculosis

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	M	F	M	F	
<u>Number on Register</u> <u>1st January, 1968</u>	7	3	-	2	12
<u>Number of cases notified</u> <u>during the year</u>	-	1	-	2	3
<u>Number restored to</u> <u>Register</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Number added otherwise</u> <u>than by Notification</u>	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Number of cases removed</u> <u>from Register</u>	1	-	-	-	1
<u>Number remaining on Register</u> <u>at 31st December, 1968</u>	6	4	-	4	14

Details of Cases added to Register

3 - New Cases

Details of Cases removed from Register

1 - Died

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTIONHOUSINGStatistics for 1968

Number of inhabited houses including 461 Council-owned dwellings according to the Rate Books at 31st March, 1969.		2520
Average number of persons per house		2.76
Number of houses completed by the Council during the year		Nil
Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year		35
Total of post-war Council houses completed to 31.12.68.		401
Number of Improvement Grant applications approved in 1968:		
a) Discretionary	1) Owner-occupied properties	- 2
	2) Tenanted properties	Nil
b) Standard	1) Owner-occupied properties	- 13
	2) Tenanted properties	- 7
		<u> </u>
		<u>Total</u>
		22

General Inspection

a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes		128
b) Number found to be unsatisfactory in some respect		75
c) Number occupied in respect of which Demolition or Clearance Orders had been made		Nil

Housing Repairs Instigated

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action		48
Number of Scheduled (1955) unfit houses rendered fit		2

Clearance Areas

Number of Clearance Orders made		Nil
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Individually Unfit Houses

No. of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made in 1968		Nil
No. of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders made previously		Nil
No. of dwellings demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure		1
No. of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Secs. 16 & 18 Housing Act, 1957)		1
No. of informal undertakings not to re-let accepted		9
No. of families re-housed from unfit houses		4

House Improvement Grants

Details of applications received and approved during 1968 are given in the Statistical section of this Report. However, it may be of interest to note brief details of improvements which were completed during the year, as follows:-

Standard Grants

Eighteen dwellings, which comprised ten owner-occupied and eight tenanted premises were provided with the following total number of amenities:-

- 13 fixed baths, in a bathroom.
- 13 wash hand basins.
- 16 hot water systems.
- 17 water closets.
- 15 ventilated food stores.

The above schemes included five new bathroom extensions and three premises where the outbuildings were converted to form bathrooms.

The average Grant per house was approximately £193.

Discretionary Grants

Two dwellings were improved with the aid of this more comprehensive type of scheme. Both were owner-occupied.

The average Grant per separate unit of accommodation provided was approximately £335.

Compulsory Improvement of Dwellings

No formal action was requested by any tenant under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964, whereby an owner can be compelled to provide standard amenities in a rented dwelling which lacks them, subject to certain conditions.

Pail Closet Conversions

The number of pail closet conversions to water-borne sanitation during 1968 was 47, which figure also includes 23 new connections being made to the town's sewerage system.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

No formal action was found necessary in respect of any premises let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.

Public Health Conditions

- (i) Seventy-one public health complaints were received during 1968 from members of the public and included such items as choked and defective drainage; suspected dangerous structures; offensive smells; overflowing water cisterns; leaking eaves-gutters and downpipes; noise; accumulations of refuse etc., as well as several notifications of wasps, rats and mice.

The appropriate action was taken in each case.

- (ii) Eleven complaints concerning housing conditions were received during the year and alleged such defects as dampness, non-repair and overcrowding. All were investigated and where possible steps taken to rectify the defects. Some of these complaints came from persons on the current Housing List.
- (iii) A total of fifty-three informal notices were served during the year to either abate a nuisance or secure essential repairs. Thirty-five notices were complied with by the end of the year.
- (iv) In no case was Statutory action found necessary to abate a nuisance, and in general, good co-operation was obtained from landlords and their Agents.
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Rodent Control

Number of premises treated during:-

		<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
a) Dwelling houses	-	76	97	92
b) Other premises	-	6	30	39
Total treatments carried out	-	249	282	280

Eradication of Vermin

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Premises disinfested	1	1	Nil
Wasps nests destroyed	90	195	33

Water Supply

i) Thirty-four samples of drinking water were collected for bacteriological examination during the year, comprising twenty-five samples from the seven known wells where occupants have no alternative supply and nine from various mains taps throughout the district.

ii) All the samples of Town water were quite satisfactory.

One of the private wells became unsuitable for domestic purposes and steps were taken to connect the six cottages involved with a mains supply.

The other six wells continued to produce an acceptable supply.

ii) One sample was taken on request to determine the nitrate level of a certain well, and was found to be satisfactory.

River Deben Water Samples

Samples were collected at four points on an incoming tide and examined bacteriologically and the results indicated a further improvement in the standard of purity. No salmonella organisms were isolated from any of the samples taken.

Model Yacht Pond

Checks were made on the quality of the water in the Pond during the Summer season and no salmonella or dysenteric organisms were isolated from any of the samples taken.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of premises in Woodbridge in which food of one kind or another is sold to the public is 76.

The following gives the type of premises concerned:-

Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Departmental Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish & Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Greengrocers, Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers (including small general stores)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Licensed Premises (hotels, public houses, off licences)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Restaurants, cafes and snack bars...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Supermarkets, Food Halls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Food Inspection

During the year the following items were inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned, under the 'voluntary surrender' procedure:-

2	-	11	lb.	tins	Pork
1	-	4	lb.	tin	Pressed Ham
1	-	2	lb.	tin	Pork Luncheon Meat
10	lbs.				Pigs Kidneys (Canadian)
12	-	3	lb.	4	oz. tins Pork Roll
3	-	6	lb.	tins	Corned Beef
9	-	10	lb.	tins	Lambs Livers (Australian)
40	lbs.				Beef (Argentine)
6	-	7	lb.		Chickens
14	lbs.				Margarine
6	lbs.				Shortening
26	lbs.				Lard
6	gals.				Shrimps
32	-	tins			assorted vegetables, fruit and meat weighing 29 lbs.6 ozs.
28	-	tins			Italian tomatoes weighing 11 lbs. 6 ozs.
387	-	Frozen			food packets weighing 163 lbs.

TOTAL WEIGHT = 4 cwt. 68 lbs. 12 ozs.

A total of fourteen Certificates were issued to the eight food businesses who voluntarily surrendered the above food for destruction.

Note: The above amount is again very small when compared with the total quantity of food sold in the district.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Eighteen food premises or mobile foodshops received an inspection during the year. Seven had one or more items needing attention to comply with the above Regulations and informal notices were served on those persons responsible.

Six such premises or vehicles were rendered satisfactory by the end of the year.

No legal proceedings were instituted during 1968.

Foreign Bodies in Food

Four cases were reported and investigated. Steps were taken to help prevent a recurrence of the complaints which comprised a cigarette filter tip in a packet of peanuts; dirt and insects in school bottled milk; excess tin in natural orange juice and phenol in milk.

Legal proceedings were taken by the County Council, as food and drugs authority, in respect of the dirt and insects in school milk supplies.

Ice Cream

The total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream is 24,

Three premises are also registered for the manufacture of sausages or the preparation of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961ANNUAL REPORT

Type	On Register	Inspections	Defects	Remedied
Factories without Power	1	-	-	-
Factories with Power	32	2	2	1
TOTALS	33	2	2	1

Outworkers on Register - Two; satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No statutory action under Section 47 of this Act was found necessary during 1968.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963Registration and General Inspections:

CLASS of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	No. of registered premises at 31.12.68.	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
OFFICES	3	45	1
RETAIL SHOPS	4	78	2
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	Nil	3	Nil
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC	1	13	Nil
CANTEENS	Nil	Nil	Nil
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	Nil	3	Nil
TOTALS	8	142	3

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises under the Act = 81.

Note: "Registered premises" means any premises in respect of which a notice under Section 49 of the Act has been received by the local authority ... and the expression "premises registered" shall be construed accordingly.

"General inspection" means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purposes of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace:

CLASS of Workplace	No. of persons employed			
	1965	1966	1967	1968
OFFICES	263	269	280	289
RETAIL SHOPS	311	321	328	341
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	41	42	21	22
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	42	42	42	48
CANTEENS	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	9	9	9	9
TOTAL	666	683	680	709
TOTAL MALES	309	313	302	314
" FEMALES	357	370	378	395

Reported Accidents

Two accidents were notified during the year, which involved employees being off work for more than three days.

The first occurred in banking premises where a female bank Clerk slipped on a solid staircase leading to the busy basement. On investigation it was recommended that the treads be re-surfaced and the handrail extended. This work was carried out by the employers in the hope that it might prevent a similar occurrence.

The second incident happened in the preparation room of a multiple retail grocers' premises and involved a young male assistant who cut his hand when trimming swedes, and was subsequently off work nearly two weeks. The employee had received training in his work and in all the circumstances it was not possible to see how this accident could have been prevented. No further action was recommended.

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