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Urban District of Woodhall Spa

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1964



WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report,  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
1964

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.A. NORMAN, M.A.P.H.I.

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with swimming baths.

All members of the Council sit on all Committees.



To The Chairman and Members of  
The Urban District Council of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Farmery and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report  
for 1964.

The changes that come to a small urban district are either very few and dramatic - as perhaps may be the eventual outcome of the Local Government Review or stealthy and almost un-noticed as the trimming of branches from trees obscuring the street lamps.

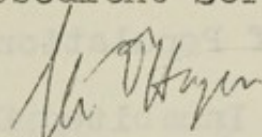
This year neither type of change was in evidence, although the latter was a continuous process. The population tends to vary as the status of the local R.A.F. establishments varies, but the recent building of a substantial number of Married Quarters is likely to reduce the future effect on Woodhall Spa.

The outbreak of typhoid fever in Aberdeen must have caused every Medical Officer of Health to ask himself "Could it happen here?". The answer is inevitably - Yes! There is always a risk that such an outbreak could happen anywhere in the country if the accepted safeguards are not enough. They rank in probability with aircraft disasters - you don't hear of the millions of uneventful flights or packages of food. In retrospect, the assistant who put the sliced meats in an un-refrigerated display where the germs could grow gave the Health Department several days notice of what might come, and possible saved many additional cases.

There is long term evidence of increasing human activity in Woodhall. Births rose from an annual mean of 23.6 in the years 1949 - 55 to 35.8 in the years 1959 - 65. Deaths in the same periods increased from a mean of 32.5 per annum to 46.5. In both instances it may be regarded as a late consequence of the war and the slow rehabilitation of Woodhall Spa as a community. These figures make an interesting contrast with a pre-war figure (1938) of 10 Births and 35 Deaths. It appears that the years have not treated Woodhall Spa unkindly and that the efforts made to improve the amenities are attracting appreciably more residents (2280 in 1964 compared with 1451 in 1938).

Once again I would wish to thank the members and officers for their courtesy and help during the year.

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICS

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Area of Urban District :  | 1874 acres               |
| Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate<br>of Resident Population : | 2280                     |
| Density of Population :   | 1.14 persons<br>per acre |
| Number of Inhabited Dwellings :                                   | 681                      |

## VITAL STATISTICS

|                       |        |        |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| Comparability Factors | Births | Deaths |
|                       | 1.39   | 0.52   |

### BIRTHS

|                          | <u>1962</u> | <u>1963</u> | <u>1964</u> |    |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----|
|                          |             |             | M           | F  |
| Live Births              | 32          | 45          | 16          | 17 |
| Rate per 1000 population | 14.2        | 20.1        | 15.8        |    |
| Standardized birth rate  | 16.4        | 28.1        | 21.96       |    |

(National birth rate 18.4)

|                          |      |     |   |   |
|--------------------------|------|-----|---|---|
| Illegitimate live births |      |     |   |   |
| % total                  | 6.25 | 4.4 | 0 | 0 |

### Still Births

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rate per 100 total live and<br>still births | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|

|                             |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|
| Total live and still births | 32 | 43 | 33 |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <u>Infants Deaths</u> (deaths under<br>1 year) | 2 | 0 | 0 |
|--|---|---|---|

### Infant Mortality Rates

|   |      |   |   |
|---|------|---|---|
| Total infant deaths per 1000<br>total live births | 62.5 | 0 | 0 |
|---|------|---|---|

|   |      |   |   |
|---|------|---|---|
| Legitimate infant deaths per<br>1000 legitimate live births | 66.6 | 0 | 0 |
|---|------|---|---|

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Illegitimate infant deaths per<br>1000 illegitimate live<br>births | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|--|---|---|---|



Neo-natal Mortality Rate

|   | <u>1962</u> | <u>1963</u> | <u>1964</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| (deaths under four weeks per<br>1000 total live births) | 62.5        | 0           | 0           |

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

|   |      |   |   |
|---|------|---|---|
| (deaths under one week per<br>1000 total live births) | 62.5 | 0 | 0 |
|---|------|---|---|

Perinatal Mortality Rate

|   |      |   |   |
|---|------|---|---|
| (stillbirths and deaths under<br>one week combined per 1000<br>total live and still births) | 62.5 | 0 | 0 |
|---|------|---|---|

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

|                  |   |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Number of Deaths | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|------------------|---|---|---|

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Rate per 1000 total live and<br>still births | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|--|---|---|---|

DEATHS

|      | <u>1962</u> | <u>1963</u> | <u>1964</u> |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Male | 17          | 19          | 21          |

|        |           |           |           |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Female | <u>29</u> | <u>35</u> | <u>13</u> |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

|  |    |    |    |
|--|----|----|----|
|  | 46 | 54 | 34 |
|--|----|----|----|

|                            |      |      |      |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|
| Deaths per 1000 population | 20.4 | 24.1 | 15.0 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|

|                                  |      |      |     |
|----------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| Standardized Death Rate per 1000 | 13.8 | 14.2 | 7.8 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|-----|

|   |      |      |      |
|---|------|------|------|
| National (England and Wales<br>Death Rate) per 1000 | 11.9 | 12.2 | 11.3 |
|---|------|------|------|



Causes of Death as shewn in the Registrar General's  
Short List

Cause of Death

|                   | Sex | Total<br>all<br>ages | Under<br>4 weeks<br>to 44<br>years | 45- | 55- | 65- | 75 and<br>over |
|-------------------|-----|----------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| Malignant         | M   | 1                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 1              |
| Neoplasm, stomach | F   | -                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | -              |
| Other Malignant   | M   | 2                    | -                                  | -   | 1   | 1   | -              |
| & Lymphatic       | F   | 2                    | -                                  | -   | -   | 1   | 1              |
| Neoplasms         |     |                      |                                    |     |     |     |                |
| Diabetes          | M   | 1                    | -                                  | -   | -   | 1   | -              |
|                   | F   | -                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | -              |
| Vascular lesions  | M   | 6                    | -                                  | -   | -   | 2   | 4              |
| of Nervous        | F   | -                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | -              |
| System            |     |                      |                                    |     |     |     |                |
| Coronary disease, | M   | 3                    | -                                  | -   | 1   | -   | 2              |
| Angina            | F   | 2                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 2              |
| Hypertension with | M   | -                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | -              |
| Heart disease     | F   | 2                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 2              |
| Other Heart       | M   | 1                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 1              |
| Disease           | F   | 4                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 4              |
| Other Circulatory | M   | 3                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 3              |
| Disease           | F   | 1                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 1              |
| Other defined and | M   | 2                    | -                                  | 1   | -   | 1   | -              |
| ill-defined       | F   | 1                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 1              |
| diseases          |     |                      |                                    |     |     |     |                |
| All other         | M   | 1                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 1              |
| Accidents         | F   | -                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | -              |
| Suicide           | M   | 1                    | -                                  | -   | -   | -   | 1              |
|                   | F   | 1                    | -                                  | -   | 1   | -   | -              |
| Total all Causes  | M   | 21                   | -                                  | 1   | 2   | 5   | 13             |
|                   | F   | 13                   | -                                  | -   | 1   | 1   | 11             |

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of infectious disease have been notably few.

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 2    |
| All others             | Nil. |

Last year I commented on the very low figure for primary smallpox vaccination and the explanation of it.

As expected, the current figure shows an increase but it will be a further year before the figures return to normal.

In respect of the other four diseases against which active immunization is advocated, the figures related to births are very satisfactory.

Table of Immunization and births in previous years

|                                  | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Births in previous Year          | 38   | 30   | 37   | 32   | 45   |
| Protected against Whooping Cough | 40   | 28   | 26   | 42   | 25   |
| Diphtheria                       | 41   | 29   | 26   | 43   | 28   |
| Tetanus                          | 56   | 29   | 30   | 45   | 31   |
| Smallpox                         | 24   | 34   | 73   | 6    | 14   |
| Smallpox re-vaccinations         | 14   | 5    | 57   | 14   | 12   |
| Diphtheria Boosters alone        | 24   | 15   | 20   | 21   | 0    |
| Poliomyelitis                    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 65   |



## The National Health Service

The only problem in connection with the National Health Service is the national shortage of beds for elderly chronic sick. Here we must face a painful decision - are the resources available to be used for the relatively young with a good expectation of life or for a fewer number of elderly for whom only a few more years remain. In every case, the decision is a personal one, involving many factors other than the age of the patient and nature of the complaint, but it is basically true that the function of the hospitals is basically curative. The accommodation of the aged is the mutual responsibility of County and County District Councils, whilst for those who live, without hope of recovering, there is a crying need for constant support for such organisations as the Cheshire Homes.

There is a generation in need who, after the first World War and the years that followed, felt unable to rear more than one child.

Now those children, often with two sets of elderly and ailing "grand-parents" have a burden that is indeed hard to meet.

## Water Supply

The children's teeth continue to decay unnecessarily whilst legal battles are fought over the question of fluoride correction. Now that the legal objection is removed by the collapse of the case against Watford Corporation it is to be hoped there will be little further delay in adding fluoride where-ever it is necessary. There can be few areas in the country where it is more necessary than Woodhall Spa.

## Sewerage and Refuse Disposal

There were no major problems in these services although it is inevitable that in any small authority, spare men and equipment are not readily available as in a larger one.

## The Park, Cafe and Swimming Pool

I group these three undertakings together since they are an increasing item in the Council's activities. Together with the sites available to the Camping Club and Caravan Club they form a very definite attraction to visitors and by their state of care, visitors will incline to judge Woodhall Spa.

Acts of vandalism do occur, as elsewhere, but are possibly fewer than in other local places.



REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING :

Total number of dwelling-houses and flats in district 681

Total number of houses erected during the year :-

- |                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| (1) By local authority         | -  |
| (2) By other local authorities | -  |
| (3) By other bodies or persons | 10 |

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 - 1957 :-

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of certificates of disrepair issued | - |
|--|---|

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) | 24 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 52 |

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 | 14 |
|---|----|

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts   | - |
| (2) Proceedings under Housing Acts   | - |
| (3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts :-   |   |
| (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made (individual unfit houses only)   | - |
| (b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (individual unfit houses only)  | - |
| (c) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders   | - |
| (d) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings  | - |
| (e) Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders   | - |
| (f) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof  | - |
| (g) Total number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957 | - |

- (h) Total number of dwelling-houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957 -
- (i) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure -

#### Housing Act - Overcrowding

- (a) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 7
- (b) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein 1
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 7

#### Housing Acts, 1949 - 59

- Number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been received - Standard 1
- Discretionary 0
- Number of dwellings subject to grant - Standard 1
- Discretionary 0
- Number of houses owned by Local authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry 0

Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc. Nil

#### Public Health Act, 1936

- Number of site licences 2
- Number of individual licences 1
- Total number of moveable dwellings permitted under above licences 13
- Number of inspections during the year
- sites 24
- dwellings 2
- Number of contraventions remedied 1
- Number of sites exempt from licence -
- Number of moveable dwellings thereon -

#### FOOD PREMISES

##### Bakehouses

- Number in district 2
- Number of inspections 4
- Number of contraventions 0
- Defects remedied 0



### Ice Cream

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of manufacturers on register               | 2  |
| Number of premises licensed for sale of ice cream | 9  |
| Number of inspections of premises made            | 11 |
| Number of contraventions found                    | 1  |
| Contraventions remedied                           | 1  |
| Number of samples taken - Grade I                 | 1  |
| - Grade II  | 1  |

### Meat Products

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products | 1 |
| Number of inspections made                                     | 2 |
| Number of contraventions found                                 | 1 |
| Contraventions remedied  | 1 |

### Other Food Premises

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of other food premises (i.e. excluding bakehouses, and premises registered for manufacture of ice cream and meat products) | 27 |
| Number of inspections made  | 36 |
| Number of contraventions found  | 2  |
| Contraventions remedied   | 2  |

### Slaughterhouses

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Number licensed - abattoir type | 1 |
| - private individual            | 1 |

### UN SOUND FOOD

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part | 1 |
| Other condemned foods                                       | 1 |
| Method of disposal - incineration                           |   |

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

#### Closets

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of houses with privy vaults in district                       | 1   |
| Number of houses with pail closets in district                       | 2   |
| Number of houses with water closets in district                      | 675 |
| Number of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults | 1   |
| Do Council operate pail closet emptying service?                     | No  |

### Cesspools and Septic Tanks

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed, etc. | 2  |
| Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished               | -  |
| Do Council operate cesspool/septic tank emptying service?    | No |

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Details of areas or villages where provision has been made for new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements improved :- | - |
|---|---|

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved :- | - |
|---|---|

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons :- | No |
|---|----|

### WATER SUPPLIES

#### Domestic

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of houses supplied from public mains  |     |
| - in house   | 680 |
| - in standpipe/outside tap   | 1   |
| Number of houses supplied from private sources   | -   |
| New sources of supply and location   | -   |
| Number of public supplies closed   | -   |
| Any part of district requiring public supply or replacement of public supply for public health reasons | No  |
| Number of samples taken for chemical examination   | Nil |
| Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination :-   |     |
| Satisfactory 1      Unsatisfactory   | Nil |



### Swimming and Paddling Pools

|  | Swimming<br>Pools | Paddling<br>Pools |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Number in operation  | 1                 | 1                 |
| Number fitted with<br>continuous mechanical<br>filtration and chlorination | 1                 | 1                 |
| Number of samples of<br>water taken for<br>chemical examination            | 0                 | 0                 |
| Number of samples for<br>bacteriological<br>examination                    | 0                 | 0                 |

### GENERAL

#### Offensive Trades

Number of premises in district 0

#### Knackers Yards

Number licensed 0

#### Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected 8

Contraventions remedied 0

#### Disinfection and Disinfestation

Rooms or premises disinfected (a) infectious  
diseases other than tuberculosis 0

(b) tuberculosis 0

Number of premises subject to disinfestation 0

#### Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is  
collected 713

Frequency of collection 7 - 9 days

Method of disposal Controlled Tipping

Is this satisfactory? Yes

Number of tips 1

Number of vehicles 1

Is collection by Local authority or  
contract? L.A.

Details of nuisance abated

|   | After Informal<br>Intimation | After Statutory<br>Notice |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Refuse                                    | 7                            | -                         |
| Foul ditches, ponds<br>and stagnant water | 11                           | -                         |
| Drainage                                  | 8                            | -                         |
| Poultry and animals                       | 0                            | -                         |
| Dangerous premises                        | 0                            | -                         |
| Miscellaneous nuisances                   | 6                            | -                         |
| Total                                     | 32                           |                           |

Rats and Mice Destruction

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Number of rodent operatives employed                           | 1 part time |
| Number of premises treated                                     |             |
| - dwellinghouses   | 36          |
| - other premises   | 30          |
| Are there any serious reservoirs of<br>rats in the district?   | No          |
| Service covers domestic, business and<br>agricultural premises |             |

Atmospheric Pollution

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Number of visits           | 0 |
| Number of nuisances found  | 0 |
| Number of nuisances abated | 0 |

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act - inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

| Premises   | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of   |                 |                      |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|  |                          | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| 1. factories in which<br>secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to<br>be enforced by local<br>authorities       | 1                        | 3           | 0               | 0                    |
| 2. factories not included<br>in (1) in which sec. 7<br>is enforced by the<br>local authority | 9                        | 20          | 0               | 0                    |
| 3. other premises in which<br>sec. 7 is enforced by<br>the local authority                   | 0                        | 0           | 0               | 0                    |
| TOTAL  | 10                       | 23          | 0               | 0                    |



| Particulars                    | No. of cases in which defects were found |          |                        |               | No of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--------------------------------|--|----------|------------------------|---------------|---|
|                                | Found                                    | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Insp. | By H.M. Insp. |   |
| Want of Cleanliness            | -  | -        | -                      | -             | -   |
| Overcrowding                   | -  | -        | -                      | -             | -   |
| Unreasonable temperature       | -  | -        | -                      | -             | -   |
| Inadequate ventilation         | -  | -        | -                      | -             | -   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | -  | -        | -                      | -             | -   |
| Sanitary Conveniences          |  |          |                        |               |   |
| (a) Insufficient               | -  | -        | -                      | -             | -   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective    | -  | -        | -                      | -             | -   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes     | -  | -        | -                      | -             | -   |
| Other offences against the Act | 1  | 1        | -                      | -             | -   |
| TOTAL                          | 1  | 1        | -                      | -             | -   |





