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**Urban District of Woodhall Spa**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

**1966**



WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
1966

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.

Eleven 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 1966.

Deaths have been divided between institutional and domiciliary with the result that 29 deaths occurred in "homes" whilst only 24 people died in private houses. Allowance is made in the Registrar Generals Office for this, so that there is a wide difference, in this district, between the crude death rate and the standardized one. This correction factor has been considerably changed this year with the result that a substantial increase in actual deaths has not materially affected the final death rate, which is still substantially better than the Country as a whole.

Noteworthy among the causes of death were 8 from influenza and 4 from pneumonia, with two from bronchitis. All except the two cases of bronchitis were over 75 years of age and but for this factor, it is probable they would not have died.

Among the causes of premature death were one cancer of the breast, two strokes and one coronary thrombosis. Early detection of cancer of the female breast receives little attention yet could save lives. Most small lumps are harmless but it does make sense to have them examined if only for peace of mind. The subject of coronary artery disease is receiving a lot of attention by research workers and somato typing gives a good lead to the section of the population who should be screened for early biochemical changes. Perhaps a similar approach might be made to hypertension and stroke illness. First, however, we must encourage full use of those measures of protection we have already available. The shortage of doctors in the country does more to preclude other preventive work than does lack of knowledge.

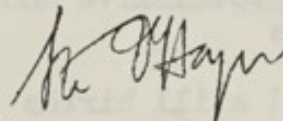
The attractions of Woodhall Spa for retirement either to private dwelling or one of the other forms of accommodation for the elderly explain the high crude death rate and also point a finger to a critical point in our services. To provide staff to help both in institutions and private houses, it is necessary to look to a wider public than the population of Woodhall Spa, yet transport is often the limiting factor in how far people will travel to work. As public transport decreases in frequency and increases in cost, sources of labour will be priced out. Just what this might mean was shown by Horncastle's survey in which out of some 360 people working out of town, nearly 200 used cars and only 110 used buses.

It is not clear however, what proportion would use buses if they were convenient and how far the family car is used for work-day transport so that the average cost per mile travelled is reduced. A certain proportion in any town who have no daily work-place must of necessity use either their own or their employers car. This proportion might prove to be quite large in a place like Woodhall Spa.

Whilst the popularity of Woodhall Spa for retirement and for those free to travel is undoubted, there could, perhaps, develop a risk of over-concentration on one facet of community service. The recreational facilities are some compensation but do not have the same demand for labour so that the difficulties of the "one industry town" remain. In saying this, however, I must add that I can foresee no decline in the relative attractiveness of Woodhall Spa so that the "industry" of caring for the elderly is unlikely to be a declining one.

In conclusion I must again thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Members and Officers for their unfailing support and friendship.

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.



## STATISTICS

Area of Urban District :	1874 acres
Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population :	2310
Density of Population :	1.15 persons per acre
Number of Inhabited Dwellings :	698

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

	Male	Female
Live Births	13	11
Rate per 1000 population	10.4	
Standardized birth rate	14.6	
Illegitimate live births % total		4%

### Still Births

Rate per 1000 total live and still births	0
Total live and still births	24
<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under 1 year)	0

### Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	0

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
(deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births)	0	0	0

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

(deaths under one week per 1000 total live births)	0	0	0
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Perinatal Mortality Rate

(stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	0	0	0
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Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of Deaths	0	0	0
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	0	0	0

DEATHS

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
Male	21	19	21
Female	13	20	32
	<u>34</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>53</u>
Deaths per 1000 population	15.0	16.5	24.9
Comparability factor		0.51	0.36
Standardized Death Rate per 1000	7.8	8.4	8.6
National (England and Wales Death Rate) per 1000	11.3	11.5	11.7



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

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years								15 & over
						1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
20.	Other Heart Disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
22.	Influenza	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
23.	Pneumonia	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
24.	Bronchitis	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
32.	Other defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
35.	Suicide	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
			1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
			1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			33	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	16
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES		20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	25

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was a complete absence of notifications of infectious disease during the year. The figures for immunization against the usual three diseases Pertussis, Tetanus and Diphtheria have been very good but there is no scheme of protection against Measles although several practitioners are free to immunize susceptible patients.

Since Measles has been notified both in 1965 and in 1967 there is no reason to think it did in fact occur in 1966. If action were taken now to immunize every child against Measles a considerable amount of suffering, both of children and parents as well as disruption of education and periodic overwork of doctors could be avoided. It is argued that vaccination against Measles might only postpone the disease to an older age group where consequences might be worse. The same, of course, was true of poliomyelitis where there was very little public hesitation to accept live vaccine.

Evidence from practices and one city (Oxford) where thorough immunization programmes were completed showed virtually complete protection during last Winter's epidemic.

### Immunization and Vaccination Statistics

Please refer to Page 16.



## The National Health Service

The service remains substantially unchanged except for a minor battle over the continued existence of the Spa Baths and the physiotherapy unit at Horncastle.

Some benefit may accrue to the district with the completion of the new Maternity Hospital in Lincoln but it is not yet clear how far its service area will extend.

## Water Supply

The former Woodhall Spa Urban District Waterworks affords adequate water for the district and various engineering works have been done to attain a more stable pressure.

Raw water from the open reservoir is always reported as unsatisfactory since, as with any open reservoir, pollution by birds is inevitable. At the same time, samples of treated water are reliably reported as satisfactory.

Plumbosolvency is a theoretical possibility with upland surface water and whilst the works were under the control of the U.D.C. alkali dosing was used to reduce this tendency.

It is fair to remind readers, however, that in the many years the water was used prior to these precautions being taken there was no evidence either of excessive erosion of lead plumbing or of lead poisoning.

## Refuse Collection and Disposal

No change is as yet contemplated. Revolutionary thoughts and experiments are taking place in neighbouring districts.

Whilst finality is unlikely to be reduced, substantial and cheap improvements such as bin-liners are worthy of consideration.

## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

No change has taken place during the year.



REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING :

Total number of dwelling-houses and flats in district	698
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 and Housing Acts)	26
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	56
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	15
(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 Acts, 1957	-

- (1) 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 -  
 (2) Number of cases concerned in such cases -
- (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 0  
 - Discretionary 0
- Number of dwellings subject to grant - Standard 0  
 - 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. 0

#### Public Health Act, 1936

- Number of site licences 2  
 Number of individual licences 1  
 Total number of moveable dwellings permitted under the above licences 13  
 Number of inspections during the year - sites 30  
 - 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 5  
 Number of contraventions -  
 Defects remedied -



### 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	-
Contraventions remedied	-
Number of samples taken - Grade I	-
- Grade II	-

### Meat Products

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
Number of inspections made	3
Number of contraventions found	-
Contraventions remedied	-

### 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	37
Number of contraventions found	1
Contraventions remedied	1

### Slaughterhouses

Number licensed - abattoir type	-
- private individual	-

### UN SOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part	-
Other condemned foods -	10 x 4 lbs Pork Luncheon Meat
Method of disposal -	Incineration

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

<u>Closets</u>	
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	691
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	-
Do Council operate pail closet emptying service?	No.



## Cesspools and Septic Tanks

Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleaned etc.	2
Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	-
Do Council operate cesspool/septic tanks 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

<u>Domestic</u>	
Number of houses supplied from public mains	
- in house	696
- 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 for public health reasons	No.
Number of samples taken for chemical examination	0
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination :-	
Regular water sampling is undertaken by the East Lincolnshire Water Board and reported to the M.O.H.	

## Swimming and Paddling Pools

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

## GENERAL

### Offensive Trades

Number of Premises in district 0

### Knackers Yards

Number licensed 0

### Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected 10

Contraventions remedied 0

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

Number of premises licenced 35

Number of inspections 40

Number of defects 3

Number remedied 1

### Disinfection and Disinfestation

Rooms or premises disinfected

(a) infectious disease 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 729

Frequency of collection 7 - 8 days

Type of Receptacle bin

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 Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Refuse	7	-
Foul Ditches, ponds and stagnant water	12	-
Drainage	9	-
Poultry and Animals	0	-
Dangerous premises	0	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	6	-
	<u>34</u>	

### Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of rodent operatives employed 1 part time

Number of premises treated

- dwellinghouses 38

- other premises 32

Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district? No.

Service covers domestic, business and 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)

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	4	0	0
2. factories not included in (1) in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	21	0	0
3. other premises in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	25	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	-	-	-

# Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Salk Vaccine			Oral Vaccine		
	Two Injections	Third Injection	Fourth Injection	Initial Course of Three Doses	Oral Booster After Two Salk Injections	Booster Dose of Oral Vaccine
1966	-	-	-	7	-	-
1965	-	-	-	17	-	-
1964	-	-	-	1	-	1
1963	-	-	-	-	-	-
1962	-	-	-	-	-	-
1961	-	-	-	1	-	8
1957 to 1960	-	-	-	-	-	8

Births in 1965 - 34.

## Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough Immunisations

Initials

Boosters

## Diphtheria and Tetanus Immunisations

Initials

Boosters

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total
13	10	-	-	1	-	-	24
-	2	10	-	1	1	-	14
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	1	1	-	8	2	12
Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 15		Total	
-		13		2		15	
-		-		4		4	
Under 1		1 - 4		5 - 15		15 & over	Total
-		-		-		-	-
-		-		1		-	-

## Smallpox

Vaccination

Re-Vaccination

## Tetanus Immunisation

Initial Courses

Boosters





