

**[Report 1972] / Medical Officer of Health, Woodhall Spa U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Woodhall Spa (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1972

**Persistent URL**

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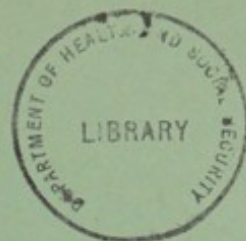
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**Urban District of Woodhall Spa**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

**1972**



# WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1972

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.  
6, Conging Street, Horncastle.  
Telephone: Horncastle 2208/9.

Public Health Inspector

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

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

#### Public Health Committee

A.H.H. Brown  
C.H. Brown  
Mrs. M.F. Farmery  
J.W. Fletcher  
L.D. Fowler  
E.W. Harber  
D.W. Harrison  
A. Leggate  
F.W. Mills  
J. Smithson  
R.G. Webb  
W. Gill

#### Housing Committee

A.H.H. Brown  
C.H. Brown  
Mrs. M.F. Farmery  
J.W. Fletcher  
L.D. Fowler  
E.W. Harber  
D.W. Harrison  
A. Leggate  
F.W. Mills  
J. Smithson  
R.G. Webb  
W. Gill



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 1972.

This will be the last report which you will receive from a Medical Officer of Health, since the office, together with the Urban District Council is dissolved upon the reorganisation. The very large number of monthly reports you have received over the years recording no action needed by your Medical Officer must demonstrate that there is no longer any justification for a M.O.H. for such a small district and since for the greater part of two years you have been without an effective Public Health inspectorate, there is indeed little upon which I can comment.

The scheme for a joint sewerage extension to bring in the Roughton Moor area of Horncastle Rural District has been finalized and work should now be starting. By the time it is complete, the Urban District will have ceased existence and the Works look as if they will become the property of the Regional Water Authority and the sewers that of the East Lindsey District. Nevertheless, the people of the area should enjoy some benefit from the abolition of cesspool smells from the Roughton Moor area and surcharging of the towns sewers.

The complaint regarding a catering premises kitchen which I was asked to investigate over a year ago has borne fruit in the form of completely re-designing and rebuilding the kitchen area - a much more ambitious programme than could have been envisaged at the outset, though very slow to occur.

The smell from the bait-breeding premises caused some complaint during 1972 and all the efforts of the operators, the Rural District inspectorate and that of the County Council failed to evolve an adequate solution. During last winter, however, I was able by courtesy of Louth Rural District Council to see, at close quarters, a similar establishment which had been the cause of similar complaint for a long period but which had suddenly stopped offending upon the installation of high-intensity mercury vapour lamps.

This is a technical matter since both the radiation from the lamps and the ozone produced can be a source of danger to the workers and both installation and maintenance must be skilled. The problem is two-fold - to produce an atmosphere tolerable to the workers and to prevent an odour intolerable to others. The possibility of passing the large volume of air needed to ventilate the factory through a furnace to destroy its organic components is impractical on grounds of cost - about £25. per hour. The alternative of odour masking has been disappointing so far, but I am impressed by the effects of ultra-violet light although it must be admitted that my visit was at a time of year when complaints are not received from Roughton.



All the same, the destruction of the smell within the premises has a very direct appeal, especially if at the same time it can eliminate offence both to workers and neighbours. The operators do know about this method and no doubt will consider it if they have further trouble.

Another line of research, originating in the U.S.A., was the use of fresh chicken droppings as the raw material. Housefly maggots were grown on it and it was rendered inodorous within four days. Whether it would be suitable for the specialized larvae required for fishing, and how much nuisance might arise during the first four days of each batch are as yet undetermined.

More recently a nuisance has been described from the dust extracted from seed-dressings and blown out into the outside air. Since mercury has been widely used as a seed dressing, this was treated seriously and detailed analysis of samples undertaken. This confirmed the presence of heavy metals but enquiry of the local practitioners revealed that heavy metal poisoning had not been suspected among their patients. The emission of dust has now been controlled and no further anxiety is anticipated. The firm concerned are to be congratulated on their whole-hearted co-operation.

Vandalism has been much complained of in the Spa - to a much greater extent than, for example in Horncastle. It is difficult to know whether, in fact, the total of vandal damage is greater or whether it merely looms larger in a more restricted environment.

Examination of the causes of death at ages under 65 - or under 75, for that matter, - does not give much scope for prevention - doubtless the two deaths from cancer of the lung might have been avoided but that and the four cases of ischaemic heart disease ("coronaries") represent the field in which health education might have found some reward.

Whilst the principal cause of lung cancer is clear and avoidable, the causation of atheroma is complex and only currently being revealed it would seem that a refined diet, too easily digested, together with a society which requires private transport and allows no time for regular physical exercise, are the causes which could be tackled by united effort. The much despised cabbage may come back into its own for its value in removing excess bile salts from circulation whilst the advocates of brown bread will rejoice that it, too, has been shown to be beneficial. In the congested city centres, the provision of peripheral car-parks and pedestrian amenities would provide some of the exercise required by Homo sedentarius.

Nationally there has been a decline in the birth rate for the past few years, at an accelerating rate, whilst the death rate has been increasing more slowly. This was to be expected as a generation whose lives reached an extended tenure, finally passed on.

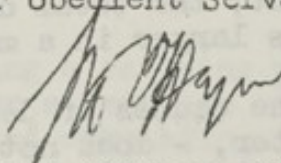


The eventual outcome should be a more virile nation, with a higher proportion of wage-earners, a higher gross national product, and so a higher standard of living. It is up to our successors to see that a higher standard of living is translated into a standard of better living which we simply cannot afford not to have. Recreational facilities, indoor and outdoor will be required on an ever increasing scale and the Park - at present under fire as an extravagance will come to be looked on as golfers look on their course - as an essential to their well being.

There is legal provision for the compulsory removal of old or disabled persons if found neglected in insanitary conditions and it is pleasant to record that this power has never been required in Woodhall Spa - one of the benefits of a small community which the Parish Council, together with the Voluntary Bodies will be proud to maintain.

May I, in final conclusion, wish all present and past Councillors, and staff, well in the future and thank them for all the courtesy and help I have received during the past twenty years.

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	2390
Density of Population :	1.22 persons per acre
Number of Inhabited Dwellings :	817 - old information only.

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### BIRTHS

	Male	Female
<u>Live Births</u>	16	15
Rate per 1000 population	12.6 (E & W 16.0)	
Ratio of locally adjusted birth rate to national rate	1.15	
Illegitimate live births % total	Nil (E & W 9%)	

#### Still Births

Rate per 1000 total live and still births	31 (E & W 12)
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<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under 1 year)	0
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#### Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	0 (E & W 17)
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Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	0 (E & W 17)
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Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	0 (E & W 21)
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#### Comparability Factors

Births	1. 31
Deaths	0. 38



# Neo-natal Mortality Rate

1970    1971    1972

(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

## Perinatal Mortality Rate

(stillbirths and deaths under  
one week combined per 1000  
total live and still births)

57            33            31 (E & W 22)

## DEATHS

Male

22            27            22

Female

28            23            27

Totals

—            —            —  
50            50            49  
—            —            —

Deaths per 1000 population

20.5

Locally adjusted death rate

9.8            7.8

National Death Rate

11.7    11.6            12.1

## Causes of Death at ages under 65 years

Cancer of Lung

2

Other Cancers

2

Ischaemic Heart Disease

1

Accident (non vehicular)

1

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 Weeks & under 1 year	Age in years							
						1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75 & over
B6(1)	Late Effects of Respiratory T.B.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
B19(10)	Leukaemia	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B46(1)	Other Endocrine ETC. Diseases	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B31	Influenza	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B32	Pneumonia	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4



Short List No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	Age in years							75 & over
						1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
B46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE48	All other Accidents	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
b59	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	22	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	7	10
		F	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	24

## The National Health Service

No changes have occurred in the National Health Service during the year.

### Notifications of Infectious Disease

Measles	49
Scarletina	2

### Maternal Mortality

Nil

### Water Supply

The difficulties in providing a colourless water have not yet been entirely overcome. Mains have been cleansed by means of plastic scrubbers forced through by water pressure. This has inevitably produced a temporary stirring up of deposit not completely removed but should produce a substantial long-term benefit.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work has gone ahead on the joint sewerage scheme with Horncastle Rural District Council but it will not be operational for some time.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

Teething troubles were experienced in using the new large vehicle but these seem to have been surmounted and complaints of delayed collection of refuse do not seem to have been received of late.

## REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

This was not called for by the County Council this year and the protracted illness of Mr. Norman would have rendered its compilation virtually impossible.



No changes have occurred in the National Health Service during the year.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Measles	
Scarlet fever	
Diphtheria	
Tuberculosis	
Mental Morbidity	
MI	
Water Supply	

The difficulties in providing a continuous water have not yet been entirely overcome. Main lines have been cleared by means of plastic siphons forced through by water pressure. This has inevitably produced a temporary lifting up of deposits not completely removed but should produce a substantial long-term benefit.

Sanitation and Sewerage

Work has gone ahead on the joint sewerage scheme with Horncastle Rural District Council but it will not be operational for some time.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Teething troubles were experienced in using the new large vehicle but these seem to have been surmounted and complaints of delayed collection of refuse do not seem to have been received of late.

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