

[Report 1968] / Medical Officer of Health, Basingstoke R.D.C.

Contributors

Basingstoke (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1968

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/uk8u74jq>

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.

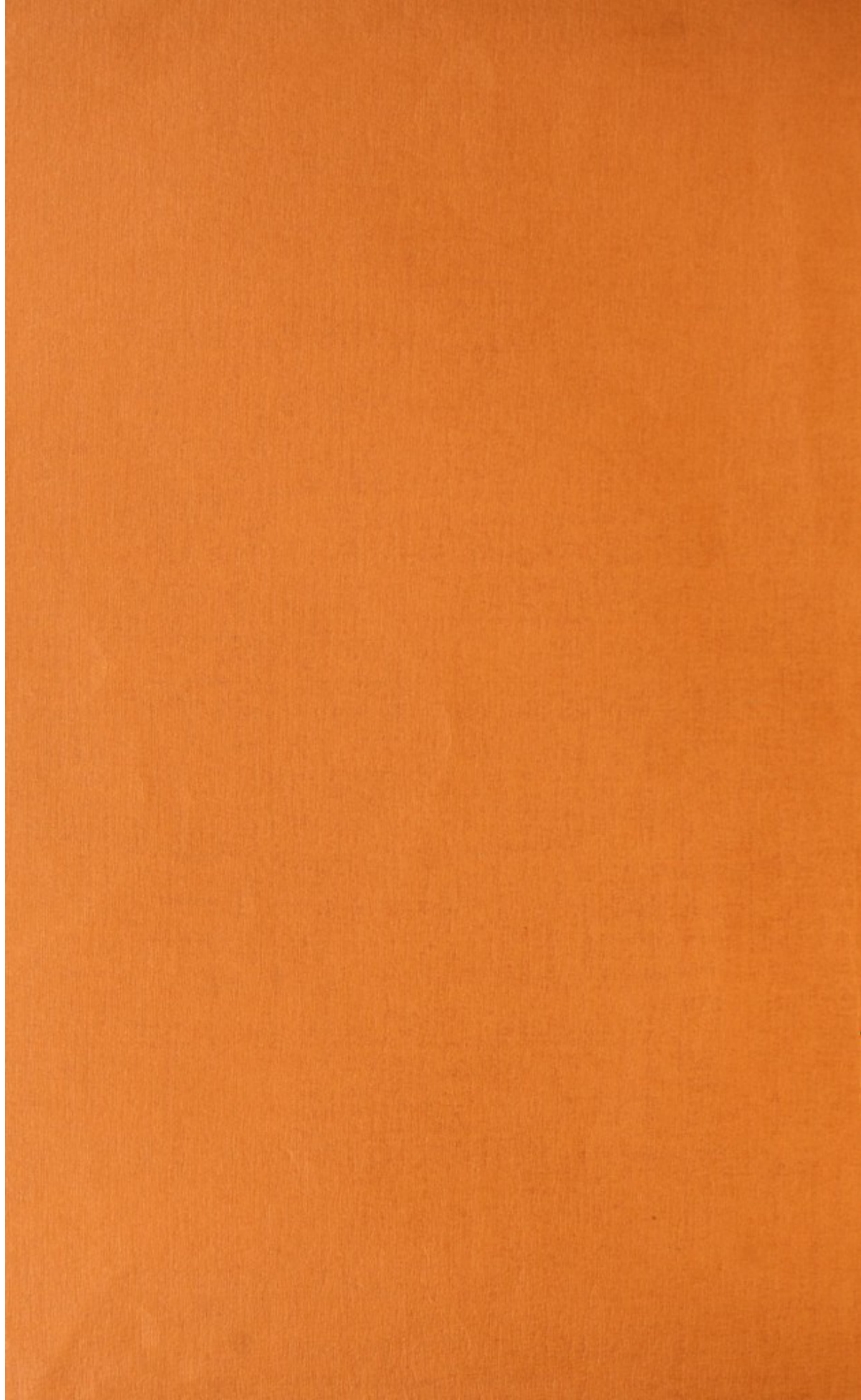
Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



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

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1968





BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
"Eastlands",
London Road,
Basingstoke.

October 1969.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 1968 as directed by the Public Health Officers Regulations.

Vital Statistics - The increase in population during the year was 580, the greatest since I took up office as your Medical Officer of Health in 1961. As the number of deaths exceeded births, the second time this has occurred since 1961, the population growth is due wholly to immigration. This no doubt has arisen from the Basingstoke Town Development as many newcomers to the town move out into the surrounding District.

Mortality - The picture is as in previous years one of great similarity, with 84% of all deaths occurring over the age of 65 years of age.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances - The main points of this section of my report are covered in the section prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector, to whom it is my pleasant duty once again to record my thanks for his contribution.

I should also like to express my thanks to the Council and staff of the Public Health Department, especially Mr. Box the Chief Public Health Inspector, for all their help during 1968.

Yours faithfully,

T.E. Roberts

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	74,390 acres
Population - Registrar General's Estimate Mid. 1968.....	21,760
Number of inhabited houses	6,213
Rateable Value	£732,145
Product of penny rate	£2,900

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Live births	333	332	334
Live birth rate per 1000 population	15.3	15.7	16.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.1	4.2	6.6
Stillbirths	3	4	5
Stillbirth rate per 1000 live and stillbirths	8.9	10.9	14.7
Total live and stillbirths	336	336	339
Infant deaths.....	8	9	4
Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births			
Total	24.0	27.1	18.0
Legitimate	18.0	27.1	12.0
Illegitimate	6.0	0.0	6.0
Neonatal (first 4 weeks) rate per 1000 live births	18.0	18.0	6.0
Early neonatal rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 live births)	15.0	15.0	6.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week)	23.8	18.0	20.6
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and stillbirths ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Comparability factors	1.10	1.10	1.10
	(births)		
	0.48	0.54	0.54
	(deaths)		

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Live Births					
Legitimate	170	146	316	318	312
Illegitimate	10	7	17	14	22
Birth rate per 1000 population (corrected)			16.8	17.2	17.7
Average for England and Wales			16.9	17.2	17.7

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Deaths from all causes	176	211	387	332	335
Death rate per 1000 (corrected)			8.5	8.5	8.8
Average for England and Wales			11.9	11.2	11.7

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	<u>Under 24 hrs.</u>	<u>Under 1 week</u>	<u>1 - 4 weeks</u>	<u>1 - 12 months</u>
Congenital Abnormality	1	1	-	-
Prematurity	2	1	-	-
Asphyxia	-	-	-	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	-	1	-	-

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1	3	5
Illegitimate	-	2	2	1	-

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
B4	Enteritis & Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	-	1
B6	Other Tuberculosis, Incl. Late effects	1	-	1
B17	Syphilis and its Sequelae	-	1	1
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	-	5	5
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	16	2	18
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	7	7
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	1	1
B19(5)	Leukaemia	2	-	2
B19(6)	Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	11	18	29
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	-	2	2
B22	Avitaminoses, etc.,	-	1	1
B46(1)	Other Endocrine etc Diseases	1	-	1
B23	Anaemias	-	1	1
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	1	1	2
B46(4)	Other Diseases of Nervous system, etc.,	2	4	6
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1	2
B27	Hypertensive Disease	8	7	15
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	31	38	69
B29	Other forms of Heart Disease	13	27	40
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	24	39	63
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	8	6	14
B31	Influenza	-	2	2
B32	Pneumonia	25	23	48
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	10	2	12
B33(2)	Asthma	-	2	2
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
B37	Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	4	7
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-	2
B46(8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	6	6
B46(10)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies	1	2	3
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.,	1	-	1
B44	Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	1
B45	Symptoms and Ill-Defined conditions	-	1	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	4	5
BE48	All other Accidents	3	4	7
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-	1
BE50	All other External Causes.....	-	1	1

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Notification of Diseases

Measles.....	31	(310)	(91)
Scarlet Fever.....	-	(1)	(2)
Meningitis.....	-	(-)	(1)
Whooping Cough.....	2	(2)	(2)
Dysentery.....	-	(13)	(2)
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary.....	6	(5)	(5)
Salmonella Typhimurium.....	-	(-)	(2)
Infective Hepatitis.....	2	(-)	(-)

(Figures in brackets refer to 1967 and 1966)

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

During the year Measles Vaccination became generally available, and the work undertaken with respect to this aspect is included for the first time in my Annual Report.

a) B.C.G.

Year	No. of Children in selected group	Parental Refusal, Absent at Tuberculosis Testing or B.C.G. sessions.	Positives	B.C.G. Vaccinated
1968	36	4	2	30

b) SMALLPOX

Age	Primary			Re-Vaccination		
	1968	1967	1966	1968	1967	1966
Under 1 year	9	20	29	-	-	-
1 year	199	197	212	-	-	-
2-4 years	68	55	54	1	2	7
5-15 years	25	6	40	54	51	38
TOTAL	301	278	335	55	53	45

c) DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH and TETANUS

Course		1968	1967	1966
Primary	General Practitioners	190	410	382
	Local Authority Doctors	127		
Booster	General Practitioners	506	701	548
	Local Authority Doctors	249		

d) MEASLES

	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	TOTAL
General Practitioners	21	133	37	191
Local Authority Doctors	27	83	53	163
TOTAL	48	216	90	

e) POLIOMYELITIS

		1968	1967	1966
Primary	General Practitioners	205	385	357
	Local Authority Doctors	303		
		508		
Booster	General Practitioners	174	301	213
	Local Authority Doctors	204		
		378		

X RAY

Year	Total No. X Rayed	No. of cases of Significant P.T. Discovered	Incidence of Sign. P.T. per 1,000 exams.
1968	1,225	3	2.4
1967	1,294	2	1.6

The following table indicates the incidence of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year:-

Year	Category 0		Category 1		Non-Tuberculosis	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1968	1	0	1	1	2	3
1967	1	0	0	1	5	0

The category 0 and 1 are according to the Ministry Definition, which is:-

- 0 - Cases of Tuberculosis referred to Chest Clinic or Hospitals and considered on investigation, to require close clinic treatment or supervision.
- 1 - Cases of Tuberculosis requiring occasional outpatient supervision only.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE - Health Visiting

The Health Visitor is informed of all births to mothers normally resident in the Rural District whether they occur inside or outside the rural boundary. They assist the mother and offer advice on all matters regarding immunisation and feeding, working at all times in close liaison with the family doctor to enable the child to receive the greatest benefit.

There are 14 Child Welfare Clinics situated in the Rural District. 10 of these clinics also have a doctor in attendance.

<u>No. of Children attending born in</u>			<u>Total No. of</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1963- 66</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Attendances</u>
267	253	431	1,010	5,865

The attachment scheme continues to flourish and continues to be the best scheme by which Local Authority staff work in conjunction with General Practitioners from their own premises.

DISTRICT MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

	<u>Midwifery</u>			<u>Visits</u>			<u>General Cases</u>			<u>Visits</u>		
Basing	27	(9)	(24)	492	(339)	(602)	76	(86)	(78)	1230	(2204)	(1880)
Sherborne St. John	13	(18)	(31)	177	(391)	(280)	13	(38)	(36)	1035	(2301)	(2032)
Preston Candover	4	(3)	(4)	51	(169)	(62)	35	(15)	(34)	790	(284)	(393)
Silchester	25	(10)	(24)	430	(415)	(676)	28	(62)	(65)	807	(862)	(2007)
Upton Grey	15	(13)	(11)	113	(359)	(161)	9	(21)	(31)	564	(564)	(1146)
Oakley	-	-	-	-	-	-	108	(109)	(85)	2461	(2273)	(455)

Figures in brackets refer to 1967 and 1966

HOME HELP SERVICE

<u>Applications</u>			<u>Weekly Case Load</u>	<u>Home Helps on Register 31.12.68</u>
<u>Total Received and Investigated</u>	<u>Assisted</u>	<u>Advance Booking</u>		
72 (68)	37 (36)	4 (4)	53 (56)	31 (33)

Figures in brackets refer to 1967

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 and 1951

There was one application under these Acts during the year.

OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

Both the statutory and voluntary welfare services work individually and co-operate when necessary to bring the greatest benefit to the elderly people of the District. A monthly Chiropody service is available for those in need of it.

VISITS, APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO WELFARE ACCOMMODATION

No. of cases visited	51	(56)	(101)	
Applications	11	(31)	(11)	including 5 short stay applications.
Admissions	9	(18)	(10)	including 5 short stay cases
Aged, Registered Handicapped Persons	29	(22)	(22)	

INVESTIGATIONS MADE AND REFERRED TO:

Ministry of Local Security	1	(-)	(-)
Hospital Bed Service	-	(2)	(-)
Home Help Organiser	-	(3)	(-)
Miscellaneous	12	(14)	(13)
Placed in Private Accommodation (under County Placement Scheme)	-	(1)	(2)
Visits in Relation to Group Dwelling Scheme - Cavalier Close, Basing	1	(15)	(70)
Protection of Property	-	(1)	(1)
Meals on Wheels	28	(-)	(-)

Figures in brackets refer to 1967 and 1966

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 is as follows:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
Private	1,540	73	108	148
Council	831	47	Nil	58

MAIN DRAINAGE

Ministry approval having been obtained for the Bramley and Chineham schemes, tenders are awaited for the former while the latter scheme is nearing completion.

WATER SUPPLY

The Mid-Wessex Water Company supply water to the whole of the rural district except for the parishes of Mortimer West End, Silchester and part of Pamber, and the following relates to this supply.

The sources supplying the area are all underground in the chalk formation. The water is hard, about 19-20 degrees (Clark's scale) or 270-280p.p.m. It is possible, however, for water of 12 degrees hardness (softened by the base exchange process) to be found at times in parts of the eastern area, the pumping station from which this originates supplying areas within and without the Rural District.

All sources are subject to treatment, and regular examination has shown that the processes are continually effective in producing a water suitable for public supply purposes.

cont/...

WATER SUPPLY Cont....

There have been no restrictions whatsoever regarding quantity.

Samples of raw and treated waters are examined bacteriologically at weekly intervals.

New mains as laid are chlorinated and sampled before being passed for supply purposes.

The waters are virtually constant in chemical composition, but chemical analyses are undertaken regularly, and full mineral analyses of each particular source carried out about once a year. The fluoride content is low, the range being about 0.1 - 0.2 p.p.m.

The waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. Treatment at all stations however includes aeration for pH correction and corrosion control, the waters would otherwise be slightly aggressive, particularly towards galvanizing.

FOOD SUPPLIES

During the year the final improvements to the kitchen at Park Prewett Hospital were completed.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twenty-first annual report concerning work carried out by your Public Health Department.

FOOD PREMISES

Inspections regarding food and food premises were as follows:-

	<u>No. in District</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
General Provision Shops	50	114
Butchers Shops	5	23
Inns and Off Licences	42	47
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	7	41
Bakehouses	3	10
Registered Ice Cream Premises	64	109
Registered Sausage Manufacturers	4	15
Hospitals and Old Peoples Homes	4	16
Premises Licensed for Sale of Milk	20	43
Schools	20	17
Clubs	11	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	230	450
	<hr/>	<hr/>

With the modern trend in pre-packed foods and self service, the emphasis in food hygiene is changing from the shop to the processing plant. However, there still remains the need for the maintenance of good hygiene standards in shops, particularly with regard to refrigeration.

In this connection, it is important to ensure strict rotation of stocks of perishable goods, notably meat and milk products, which are kept chilled. In some instances the shopkeeper is assisted by the manufacturer's use of a coding system to denote the date of production, but this practice is unfortunately all too rare. Ultimately, it falls to the retailer to ensure that the product he sells is in good condition and he must be able to ascertain how long it has been in stock. In self-service stores, this can only be done by marking the stock in some way on delivery.

During the year, several complaints were received concerning foreign matter in food. In each case, the food was pre-packed and the vendor was not at fault.

In this district there are no food processing plants. Routine inspections were made of all food premises and particular attention was paid to cafes and refreshment houses, where open foods are handled.

cont'd....

FOOD PREMISES cont'd...

It was again noted that the number of licensed premises selling meals has increased. In the past, brewers have tended to regard catering as a very minor function of public houses, it being left to the publican to make his own arrangements to supply meals if he wished. Invariably this meant food being prepared in his own kitchen which was often too small and not always complying with Food Hygiene Regulations. There are now signs that the brewers are recognising that the public expect houses to provide meals, and steps are being taken to improve catering facilities. There still remains much to be done.

MILK SAMPLING

<u>Grade of Milk</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>
Pasteurised	43
Untreated	16
	<hr/>
	59
	<hr/>

All samples were found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

There are no ice manufacturers in the district.

17 samples were taken from registered premises selling pre-packed ice cream and from travelling vendors. All were satisfactory.

HOUSING ACTS

Under the Housing Acts the Council is required to cause surveys of the district to be made from time to time to ascertain the general standard of housing and to classify dwellings according to their standard of accommodation, the amenities provided and state of repair.

It is now 20 years since the Rural Housing Survey was completed and so much has changed in that period that a re-survey might be commenced at an early date. If improved older houses, post war, Council houses and dwellings above £60 rateable value are excluded, I estimate that inspections of 2,600 houses will be necessary.

Such a survey, which will reveal details regarding unfit property suitable for improvement and overcrowded living conditions, might be undertaken on a parish by parish basis employing existing staff, but will take a few years to complete.

Improvement and Standard Grants

Grants continue to play an important part in raising the standard of housing accommodation. Since they were first introduced in 1949, 877 houses have been improved. This stock of older country cottages does much to preserve the character of the Rural District and provides a pleasing contrast to modern architecture as depicted in local housing development. During 1968, 47 further applications were approved.

cont'...

Slum Clearance

During the year:-

19 houses were demolished

1 house awaited demolition

5 houses became subject to owners' formal undertakings

During 1968, 6 families, comprising of 17 persons were re-housed from unfit properties. 59 houses were repaired as a result of formal and informal action by the Council and its Officers.

No new cases of overcrowding came to the notice of the department, during the year.

Rent Acts

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received.

Housing Act 1964

One tenant made representation that his house lacked amenities and appropriate notices were served upon the owners.

CARAVANS AND CARAVAN SITES

The Council's caravan site at Pamber accommodates 30 standings and continues to meet a real need, particularly for young couples who cannot find conventional housing in the right place or upon the right terms.

In managing this site, I am fortunate in having a resident warden who besides dealing with many of the tenants' day-to-day problems also takes pride in keeping the site trim and of tidy appearance.

Tenants are well satisfied with the amenities provided, but views have been expressed that a public telephone and a more accessible village shop would be appreciated.

Camping in the area by gipsies presented fewer problems during the year, due to the provision of sites for these persons in adjoining rural districts. On the Council's site a large family was allocated two standings, but they failed to settle and within a few weeks returned to their former nomadic life.

Caravans continue to become larger, better equipped and less mobile. Many of the large double caravans in the area are occupied by elderly, retired people who find this type of accommodation more suitable for their needs than the houses they have been occupying.

It is County policy that caravans should be situated on large licensed sites and applications in respect of individual caravans are resisted. The number of such applications received continues unabated and the need for a further large site in the area could be demonstrated. However, many of the applicants would prefer to be on individual sites and where the necessary services for water and sewage disposal are available it is often difficult to see what objections could be raised.

cont'd ...

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

There are 246 persons employed in 74 registered premises in the district. Approximately 75% of these are employed in retail shops, canteens etc., which received regular visits in respect of food hygiene. Most of the remainder are employed in small offices which continue to comply with requirements.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE

In 1968, the refuse collected increased in volume by over 20% as compared with the previous year and this has reflected in a considerable rise in cost of collection and disposal. The increase is due not only to the additional 326 houses constructed during the year but also to the growing popularity of non-solid forms of fuel for heating and the extended use of packaging and of disposal goods.

Samples of refuse were weighed and analysed and the composition was found to be :-

(i)	dust and ash screenings	-	39%
(ii)	paper and cardboard	-	31%
(iii)	vegetable, putrescible waste	-	7%
(iv)	metals, glass and plastics	-	14%
(v)	general debris	-	9%

These samples were taken during winter collections and during summer the first two mentioned percentages would be reversed.

A cubic yard of refuse now weighs 3.1 cwts compared with 4.6 cwts 10 years ago.

- - - - -

By the end of the year nearly 2,000 properties in the district were receiving a weekly house to house paper sack collection service, and the Council approved further extensions to cover 2,100 properties in 19 parishes during 1969.

Standard open trucks which are used for this type of collection, are satisfactory and reduce capital and maintenance costs.

In 1967 the Council agreed that in parts of the district where open lay-outs with small gardens are provided, grass and hedge cuttings should be removed with household refuse. Where little room is available for a compost heap or selective weedkillers have been used, then this policy is sound, but since paper sack containers were introduced, many householders with ample garden available are tending to fill their sacks with garden refuse, at no small expense to the Council and to the displeasure of employees.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Marnel Dell continues to fill rapidly and this tip will be closed for a reception of crude refuse, as soon as the Corporation destructor at Wildmoor is operating.

For a period during the summer, adequate soil was not readily available in sufficient quantities and fly control became difficult. An entomologist's advice was sought regarding an alternative to the insecticidal sprays of DDT compounds applied daily, and since his visit pyrethrum based compounds have been used with good effect. Continuous use of DDT had resulted in the breeding of flies resistant to this compound.

cont'd...

REFUSE DISPOSAL cont'd...

During the year some 26,250 tons were disposed of as follows:-

	<u>Loads</u>		<u>Cu. Yds</u>	
Basingstoke R.D.C.	2,334	(2,034)	45,232	(39,083)
Basingstoke Corporation	3,902	(2,763)	86,282	(59,648)
C.A.D. Bramley	150	(151)	1,057	(1,050)
Trade Refuse	4,957	(3,149)	29,742	(18,864)

Corresponding figures for 1967 are shown in brackets.

Large quantities of trade refuse were again disposed of and income amounted to £2,478.

During the year the following materials were salvaged:-

	<u>Quantity</u>				<u>Value</u>
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
Paper	139	4	1	7	} £1,120
Rags	4	9	2	25	
Metal	12	4	0	7	

Comparative figures for former years :-

1967	-	£1,080
1966	-	£858
1965	-	£953

WATER SUPPLIES

Since the war this Council has ensured that mains water is available in every part of the district, but for economic reasons piped supplies have never reached a few isolated properties, some of which are less than half a mile from Borough boundaries. This remains a concern to the Health Department, as they are dependent on shallow wells, bore holes or rain water tanks, where the risk of contamination and shortage of water is ever present. During the year, of 33 samples taken of these sources 15 were unsatisfactory.

Samples from mains supplies continue to be of high bacteriological and chemical quality.

MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEMES

Following surveys by your officers, the Council considered reports upon existing sanitary facilities and drainage disposal arrangements in seven villages. Being satisfied that main drainage schemes are necessary in each of these villages, the Council instructed that schemes for Monk Sherborne, Pamber Heath and Little London should receive priority.

At the end of the year, the laying of sewers at Chineham was near completion and Ministry consent to invite tenders for drainage at Bramley was awaited.

PEST CONTROL

During the year Pests Operators made 645 visits to dwellings, farms and business premises to treat infestations of rats and mice, and surveys of agricultural land were made. In addition, the Council's refuse tip and sewage disposal works were visited regularly. During Autumn and Winter there was an increase of rats particularly in fields and woodlands and was probably due to late harvesting of crops, and abundance of acorns and conducive weather conditions.

An increasing number of visits were made to investigate and treat various pests including flies, mosquitoes, wasps, ants, mites, silver fish, earwigs, beetles, and cockroaches. The Council has a duty to treat such infestations only where there is a potential danger to health by transmissions of disease or contamination of food. Most of the pests referred are a discomfort to the individual rather than a public health risk, but as time goes by, more and more householders tend to assume that an efficient free service is readily available and demand prompt attention.

The time approaches when the Council might well consider whether costs should be recovered for treating such infestations. Fortunately, complaints of rodent infestations decrease during summer months when these other pests predominate and your operatives cope with them in normal working hours.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service was again in great demand and although considerable overtime including weekend work was necessary, delays in executing orders were unavoidable. A number of properties were connected to main drainage, but this gave no relief to this service as new cesspools and septic tanks constructed in unsewered areas increased the work to be undertaken. The position was aggravated by a wet summer and autumn, and inadequate disposal facilities. Hiring of vehicles became necessary and costs rose. During the year, 4,426 loads were removed by the two vehicles in service.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

Further discussions have been held with Corporation officials and Consultants for the refuse destructor being erected at Wildmoor. Sample points are being provided in the plant for grit and dust emissions to be measured and when operating, the plant will receive regular visits to ensure that the required standards are being met.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Several complaints during the year related to noise emanating from industrial establishments near residential property. The most serious involved protracted investigations at an Agricultural merchant's depot, but the nuisance was resolved without recourse to formal action.

Towards the end of the year, preliminary works on the M3 motorway commenced. This motorway crosses the southern part of the district, which is predominately rural in character and where fortunately, the density of population is at its lowest. There is little doubt that during the course of construction considerable inconvenience will be suffered by those living near and complaints of noise and dust must be anticipated.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT AND REMOVAL OF VEHICLES REGULATIONS

During the year 21 vehicles abandoned on the highway were disposed of. A further 62 vehicles were removed to a breaker's yard, at no expense to the Council.

Publicity given to the Council's policy of removing bulky household articles free of charge, considerably increased the amount of work undertaken. This is costly to the Council as it cannot be performed during normal working hours.

On several occasions information was passed to the Police, concerning the indiscriminate dumping of rubbish and successful prosecutions followed. This fly tipping is most prevalent in gateways and lanes readily accessible from the expanding town, and is clearly the selfish and irresponsible action of persons with no appreciation of the amenities the Rural District provides.

LICENCES IN FORCE

Game Dealers	1
Caravan Sites	23
Milk Distributors	19
Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	71
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages	8
Scrap Metal Dealers	8

P.C. BOX

Chief Public Health Inspector.

