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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1972

together with the

REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

ELIZABETH J. VAUGHAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

G. L. FIELD, M.A.P.H.I.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

D. R. JONES, M.A.P.H.I.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Public Health Inspector

R. M. SECKER, M.A.P.H.I.

Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Meat Inspectors

D. F. M. FREEMANTLE

R. W. MCWHINNIE

W. G. MOODIE

A. VENABLES

(from 1st May 1972)

Secretary

Miss I. M. HUME

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Braintree,
CM7 6HB

May 1973

To The Chairman and Members of Dunmow Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information the annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Dunmow Rural District.

I am grateful to Dr. A. Afnan, Area Medical Officer, West Essex for providing statistics of the duties undertaken at the various Essex County Council clinics in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Registrar General's mid-year estimate of the population in the Council's area was 24,470 an increase of 410 over the figure for 1971.

The birth rate, corrected by comparability figure of 1.07, was 15.8 well below last year's figure of 18.1.

There were 20 illegitimate births in the area representing again 6 per cent of the total live births.

In 1972 there were 4 infant deaths giving an infant mortality rate of 11.0 per 1,000 live births, below the figure of 12.0 for last year and well below the national figure of 17.0 for 1972.

The mortality table for the area is as usual included in this report. No thinking person today can contemplate with equanimity the risks to health and to life associated with the sophisticated way of living in the Western world. If those of us who smoke stopped smoking, if most of us changed our eating habits and took a little more exercise, more years of life could be saved through avoiding disease such as coronary heart attacks and lung cancer, which often arise in middle life, than could be achieved in any other way.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

When Dunmow Rural District Council ceases to exist in April 1974 the duties of the medical officer of health will be removed from Local Government and transferred to a reorganised National Health Service. It is, therefore, of interest to compare this Annual Report, written in the Council's last year, with the earliest one in this Department,

that of Dr. P. J. Gaffikin, medical officer of health at Dunmow in 1925. One of the most striking changes in infectious disease after half a century relates to tuberculosis. In 1925 there were 19 cases of pulmonary and 8 of other types of tuberculosis in the area. This compares with no notifications of the disease in 1972 and 3 in 1971. This improvement can be attributed mainly to safer milk, to mass radiography and to B.C.G. vaccination. In 1925 "the joint smallpox hospital at Sible Hedingham" was being used for children with tuberculosis and there was one "motor ambulance" kept at the hospital. Dunmow Rural District Council had at the time provided an isolation hospital at Dunmow for scarlet fever, diphtheria and typhoid fever cases. In 1925 the population in the Council's area was 15,110 compared with 24,470 today.

The first medical officer of health in England was appointed in 1848 and the second in 1849, a year in which 54,000 people died from cholera, mostly transmitted by contaminated drinking water in South East England. Until the early part of this century large numbers of people died also from typhoid fever spread by infected food and water. These large-scale epidemics no longer exist here today although bacterial food poisoning, of which there were 8 cases in the area in 1972, continues to present problems, along with virus gastro-enteritis and chemical contamination due to food additives. The work of preceding medical officers of health in this country in having made food, milk and drinking water safe against cholera, tuberculosis and typhoid fever transcends all other achievements in the number of lives saved.

The importance of hand washing and the use of clean towels cannot be over-emphasised in the prevention of certain types of infectious disease transmitted by food especially among those who handle it or prepare meals. It is also essential that people with septic conditions of the hands should not prepare food as this can result in staphylococcal food poisoning.

There continues to be an attitude of indifference among some parents in the area towards measles and measles vaccination yet this disease can cause permanent deafness, lung damage and other serious complications which could be prevented by vaccination. What is more parents who do not wish their child to participate in the measles vaccination campaign are holding up total eradication of the disease in Britain. In 1972 there were 28 cases of measles notified in the Council's area.

There has been great success towards smallpox eradication since Edward Jenner in 1798 wrote his "Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of Variola Vaccinae". It is now national policy in Britain that infants are no longer routinely vaccinated against smallpox. This is because troublesome complications of the vaccination, although rare here are less rare than the disease itself and because the risks of importation of smallpox are expected to diminish as progress towards world wide eradication is made. In the event however of a recrudescence of smallpox in Britain there would obviously be constant reassessments of the small risks of reintroducing routine vaccination compared with the risks of developing the disease.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

With reference to your public water supplies, it is regrettable that the natural fluoride of 1 p.p.m. in drinking water in parts of Dunmow Rural District diminished still further in 1972 because of changes in the distribution system. It is to be hoped that this situation will soon be remedied. Opposition to fluoridation of water to bring the level up to 1 p.p.m. in all districts by a minority of local authorities in the Water Company's area blocks the way to providing better protection against dental decay. Dunmow Rural District Council has for some time been with the majority in favour of adding fluoride.

Home visits have continued to be made throughout the area regarding applications for rehousing on medical grounds, to decide the degree of priority in each case. In 1972 26 dwellings were completed in the Council's area.

I am very grateful to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support in 1972, also to other officers for their help in preparing this report and to my secretary, Miss M. Anness, whose special knowledge acquired in the Public Health Department during 15 years has been greatly appreciated during my three years here.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH J. VAUGHAN


Medical Officer of Health

BRAINTREE, DUNMOW AND WITHAM
UNITED DISTRICTS

With the Compliments
of
The Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department
Town Hall
Braintree
CM7 6HB

Braintree
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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	72,834
Population (Registrar General's estimate mid-1972)	...	24,470
Number of houses according to rate books	...	8,881
Rateable value as at 31st March 1973	...	£894,353
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£8,515

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	172	171	343
Illegitimate	13	7	20
Total live births	185	178	363
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	14.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	6.0
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.07	...	...	15.8
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	...	14.8

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	11.0
Total live and still births - 367	...	...	...
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	...	12.0

<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year	...	...	...
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total infant deaths	2	2	4

<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	11.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	9.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	50.0
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	8.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	8.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	19.0
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	17.0

<u>Maternal Mortality (including abortion)</u>	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	128	128	256
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	10.5
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.99	...	...	10.4
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	...	12.1

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1972

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the seventy-three headings based on the International Abbreviated List (B list) of the International Classification. The original list, circulated to Medical Officers of Health in 1968, has been changed to include additional headings in order to improve comparability with statistics published each year in the Registrar General's Statistical Review. Only those cause headings with deaths allocated to them are shown.

		Male	Female
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	...	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	...	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	13	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	...	1	-
Leukaemia	...	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	...	6	11
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	...	-	1
Diabetes mellitus	...	-	2
Anaemias	...	1	-
Mental disorders	...	1	-
Other diseases of nervous system	...	1	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	-	2
Hypertensive disease	...	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	...	41	32
Other forms of heart disease	...	3	4
Cerebrovascular disease	...	15	13
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	4	14
Influenza	...	-	1
Pneumonia	...	9	11
Bronchitis and emphysema	...	11	2
Asthma	...	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	2	1
Peptic ulcer	...	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	...	-	2
Cirrhosis of liver	...	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	...	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	-	3
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	...	-	1
Congenital anomalies	...	2	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	...	-	2
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	...	1	3
Motor vehicle accidents	...	1	1
All other accidents	...	4	3
Total All Causes		128	128

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year 1st January to 31st December 1972:-

				<u>Attendances</u>
<u>GREAT DUNMOW</u> - Essex County Health Services Clinic, New Street				
Child Health	1st Friday	10 a.m.	}	1,129
	Every other Friday	2 p.m.		
Cytology Clinic	as required	9.30 a.m.		61
School Clinic	2nd and 4th Monday	9.30 a.m.		56
Dental Clinic	Thursday all day	10 a.m.		268
<u>FELSTED</u> - Memorial Hall				
Child Health	2nd Tuesday	2 p.m.		405
<u>GREAT EASTON</u> - Village Hall				
Child Health	Last Friday	2 p.m.		132
<u>HATFIELD BROAD OAK</u> - Village Hall				
Child Health	1st Tuesday	2 p.m.		312
<u>HATFIELD HEATH</u> - Congregational Church Hall				
Child Health	3rd Tuesday	2 p.m.		175
<u>HIGH RODING</u> - Women's Institute				
Health Visitor's Advisory Clinic	1st Thursday	2 p.m.		98
<u>STEBBING</u> - Congregational Schoolroom				
Child Health	2nd Friday	2 p.m.		169
<u>TAKELEY</u> - Village Hall				
Child Health	2nd Monday	2 p.m.		211
<u>THAXTED</u> - Church Hall				
Child Health	1st Friday	2 p.m.		353

(ii) Home Help Services:-

This useful service is administered from the Social Services Department, 39 Audley Road, Saffron Walden.

(iii) Ambulance Service:-

The Ambulance Station is situated in New Street, Dunmow. A full 24 hour cover is provided.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) Chest Clinics:-

These are held at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree; Herts and Essex General Hospital, Bishop's Stortford; and Saffron Walden General Hospital, and cater for the needs of the Dunmow population.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	8	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-
Measles	28	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Non-pulmonary	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Totals	39	1	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASES	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	8	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	28	-	2	2	2	4	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	39	-	4	2	3	4	19	1	2	1	-	-	2	1

DISEASES																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASES	Total Notified	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	8	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	4	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	28	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	1	4	18
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	39	-	-	1	1	4	4	1	4	1	1	4	18

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>By General Practitioners</u>	<u>By County Staff</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	473	94	567
Diphtheria & Tetanus	24	-	24
Diphtheria	-	1	1
Tetanus	50	1	51
Poliomyelitis	551	93	644
Smallpox	-	-	-
Measles	312	50	362
Rubella	7	57	64
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	91	3	94
Diphtheria & Tetanus	257	11	268
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tetanus	200	-	200
Poliomyelitis	375	22	397
Smallpox	-	-	-

February 1973

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Due to the re-organisation of Local Government when on 1st April 1974 this district will merge with Saffron Walden Borough and Saffron Walden Rural District this will, I regret to say, be the last Annual Report I shall be able to submit to this Council. It will not be possible to submit the 1973 Report before the re-organisation as certain statistics which have to be included are not normally received from the Registrar General until the May following the year under review. Therefore as a swansong it is proposed to alter the format of the report this year and include a few photographs which should be more enlightening than columns of statistics ever could be.

Public Health, or, as it is now becoming more frequently referred to, Environmental Health has evolved over the last century, albeit at a much faster rate since the end of the Second World War. From dealing with drainage and nuisance problems it now covers all aspects of Housing in the private sector, including the improvement of dwellings and in fact whole areas with the aid of grants, the introduction and control of the public cleansing services which not only involves the collection and disposal of refuse and emptying of cesspools but subsidiary tasks such as the repair and maintenance of the vehicles and equipment employed and the management of a labour force which has increased considerably over the years as the duties have expanded. The inspection of meat and other foods and the premises associated with this industry has rapidly increased as more stringent Food and Drugs legislation has been enacted. Consequently the work of an Environmental Health Department bears very little resemblance to its equivalent department at the turn of the century. It has now in the majority of Local Authorities and at Dunmow in particular become a labour intensive department responsible for mechanical equipment of considerable value.

What does the future hold? Unfortunately at the time of writing this is unknown, but whilst I know that change is inevitable and in many instances desirable I hope that the Environmental Health Department of the future will retain the best aspects of the present and that change for the sake of change will not occur. Personally I feel that the Housing functions previously referred to and Public Cleansing must be controlled by the future Environmental Health Department as these are basically Public Health functions and would therefore be best administered by the Local Authority Department responsible for the Public Health of the area.

Work started on the Takeley and Hatfield Broad Oak Sewerage Schemes which are costing in excess of £2m. Whilst some new sewers are to be provided the work consists in the main of enlarging and improving existing sewage disposal works which have become overloaded and incapable of meeting the current, let alone the future demand. The Department of the Environment approved the Council's proposals for improving the Lower Chelmer Valley Sewage Works and the work was out to tender.

26 Council dwellings in Great Dunmow were completed and work was in progress at a group dwelling scheme of 29 units in Great Dunmow. Consideration was being given to a comparatively large development at Takeley made possible by the improvements to the Sewerage system. 46 private dwellings were constructed.

In regard to capital works the Council can look back with pride on its achievements in sewerage the majority of the populated part of the district and of providing housing of the number and various types to satisfy the needs of such a large proportion of the inhabitants.

The Council and the Essex County Council collaborated to provide a Sports Centre at the Helena Romanes School, Great Dunmow for use by the public outside school hours and providing for a full range of sporting activities.

I attended a 3 week Management Course for Senior Local Government Officers at the City of Leicester Polytechnic in March and am most grateful to the Council for this opportunity as the Course was most instructive, enlightening and generally beneficial. One of the Authorised Meat Inspectors commenced an Advanced Meat Inspection Course on day release.

No changes occurred in the technical and administrative staff but an additional Authorised Meat Inspector was appointed to cover the extra work resulting from the continued increase in slaughtering taking place in the district. I am grateful to them all for continuing to carry out their duties efficiently and with their usual zeal. I would particularly commend the efforts of my Deputy who was solely responsible for the Department's functions for a protracted period when I was not available due to illness.

I appreciate the support received from Members of the Council and thank my Chief Officer colleagues and their staffs for their assistance.

Yours faithfully,

G. L. FIELD

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Public Water Supplies

The Lee Valley Water Company are responsible for supplying water to the bulk of the consumers in the district. The Colchester Water Board supply a few properties in the extreme east of the area. Supplies during the year were adequate and on a subsequent page are given details of the population and property supplied with mains water by parishes.

Fluoride

Set out in the table below are details given by the Chief Chemist and Bacteriologist, Lee Valley Water Company of the source of supply for various areas of the district and the fluoride content of the water supplied.

Area	Source	Fluoride mg/l
Felsted	Uttlesford Bridge	Less than 0.2
Great Dunmow	Uttlesford Bridge	Less than 0.2
Great Easton	Uttlesford Bridge	Less than 0.2
Stebbing	Uttlesford Bridge	Less than 0.2
The Rodings	Uttlesford Bridge	Less than 0.2
Thaxted	Thaxted	0.4
Hatfield Heath	Sawbridgeworth	0.5

It is the intention of the Water Company to bring the Dunmow pumping station back into service in due course to supply water to Felsted and Great Dunmow. When this occurs the fluoride level of the water in the area then served by this source should rise to about 1.0 milligramme per litre, which was the level maintained before the Uttlesford Bridge supply became available.

Analyses

One sample from the public supply was taken for analysis and found to be highly satisfactory. A copy of the report by the Counties Public Health Laboratories appears on the following page.

(b) Private Water Supplies

2 samples were taken from private supplies, 1 of which proved very unsatisfactory. As a mains supply was available at the property the well was closed.

(c) Swimming Pools

Pools are provided at the Helena Romanes Comprehensive School, Great Dunmow, the Felsted School and Primary Schools at Great Easton, Stebbing, Dunmow (2) and Hatfield Broad Oak, Takeley and Great Hallingbury.

The first named was not in use during the year due to extensive building works taking place at the school. This pool will in due course be altered and form part of the Sports Complex which is being built to provide sports facilities for the school and for the general public outside school hours.

It will be observed that the district is becoming very well endowed with school swimming pools and it is known that other schools are considering providing these facilities. The Public Health Inspectors make checks on the chlorine content and acidity of the water in addition to the daily checks made by school staff.

A considerable number of swimming pools at private houses are known to exist and plans for all new proposals are scrutinised by the department to prevent the risk of future pollution. Whilst the department have no legal powers over existing private pools our advice has been sought, and freely given, on a number of occasions where problems have occurred.

Lee Valley Water Company

Tap over kitchen sink, Laburnum Cottage, Felsted

Chemical Results in Milligrammes Per Litre

Appearance: Very faint opalescence with no visible deposit.

Colour	5	Turbidity	1
pH	7.4	Odour	Nil
Electrical Conductivity	570	Free Carbon Dioxide	25
Chlorine in Chloride	17	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	380
Hardness as Ca CO ₃ : Total	335	Alkalinity as Ca CO ₃	300
Nitrogen in Nitrate	3.6	Carbonate 300 Non-carbonate	35
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00	Nitrogen in Nitrite Less than	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	Permanganate Value	0.00
Metals: Iron 0.14, Zinc 0.16		Residual Chlorine	Absent
Copper 0.04			
Lead, manganese Absent			
Cadmium: Not detected, less than 0.01			

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction slightly on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from minute traces of iron, zinc and copper. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses, from the aspect of the chemical analysis.

10th October 1972

Counties Public Health Laboratories

POPULATION IN EACH PARISH HAVING MAIN WATER SUPPLY

Parish	No. of Houses	Estimated Population 1972	No. of houses on main supply	Estimated Population on main supply
Aythorpe Roding	80	220	74	205
Little Bardfield	213	250	85	206
Barnston	210	460	156	350
Broxted	201	550	196	510
Great Canfield	139	410	131	380
Little Canfield	116	290	114	289
Chickney	13	30	5	20
Great Dunmow	1,725	4,750	1,681	4,461
Little Dunmow	138	350	129	340
Great Easton	290	770	279	728
Little Easton	149	360	126	300
Felsted	888	3,170	831	2,917
Great Hallingbury	327	940	292	870
Little Hallingbury	453	1,320	438	1,210
Hatfield Broad Oak	974	2,600	953	2,580
High Easter	218	620	202	527
High Roding	148	390	139	358
Leaden Roding	149	410	133	350
Lindsell	79	200	77	190
Margaret Roding	72	200	70	181
Stebbing	430	1,200	410	1,161
Takeley	855	2,350	617	2,212
Thaxted	866	2,250	829	1,990
Tilty	22	80	20	69
White Roding	126	300	118	373
Totals	8,881	24,470	8,105	22,777

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

I am grateful to the Engineer and Surveyor for this part of the report.

There are 16 sewage disposal works, 21 sewage pumping stations and 17 smaller works in the district. There are also approximately 60 miles of sewers.

Connections to sewers

During the year 68 new properties were connected to the Council's sewers.

Future Works

Takeley and Hatfield Heath Sewerage and Sewage Treatment. Contract 25

This combined scheme the cost of which is £520,000 started in June. By the end of the year considerable work had taken place at both Takeley and Hatfield Heath Sewage Works and in Takeley approximately 40% of the sewers were completed. Work had not started on sewers at Hatfield Heath. The Contract is due to be completed in June 1974.

Lower Chelmer Valley Sewerage Scheme Phase 3. Contract 27

Tenders were invited for this scheme and had been received by the end of the year. The scheme is estimated to cost some £300,000 and the work when completed will allow the present standstill in various parishes to be lifted.

HOUSING

Improvement Grants

51 Improvement Grants value £45,983 and 16 Standard Grants value £5,703 were approved during the year which was a total increase of 8 over 1971 and it is to be hoped that this progress can be improved upon during forthcoming years. 38 Improvement Grants value £33,797 and 16 Standard Grants value £4,473 were completed and payments made. There is little doubt that setting a time limit for the completion of work does instil a sense of urgency to the project and ensures an early completion.

The following table shows the number and value of both types of grants approved during the period 1949-69 and 1969-72. It will be observed that some 1 310 grants valued at £421,067 have been approved. This is no small achievement as it means that over 24% of the pre-war dwellings in the district have been to date improved with the aid of a grant. It is to be hoped that this progress will be maintained to enable the remaining houses needing improvement to be dealt with in the next 10 years, which is the target set by the Government for providing sanitary facilities to all the houses in the country which at present lack them.

Period	Improvement Grants		Standard Grants	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
1949 - 1969	754	£221,166	341	£55,548
1969 - 1972	150	£124,906	65	£19,447
Totals	904	£346,072	406	£74,995

This is an extremely important aspect of the Department's work and it is treated accordingly. Owners are encouraged to improve property as this results in an improvement of the housing stock in the Council's district. Consequently a very considerable amount of time is taken up in interviewing and advising applicants and their agents, in the inspection of property and in estimating the cost of the works to arrive at the amount of grant which is to be approved. 337 visits were made in this respect in addition to the office work involved. However, it is considered that this is more than adequately justified by the results achieved. The photographs will bear this out showing one property as it was before improvement and how it is now that the work has been completed.

Slum Clearance

10 Undertakings and 4 Closing Orders were revoked when the properties had been made fit for habitation or in the case of two, which were converted into a public library.

1 Undertaking not to relet was accepted.

Last year comment was made on the difficulty of determining reasonable expense in the light of the price being paid for unfit property. This has worsened as in one case nearly £18,000 was paid for two isolated cottages both subject to undertakings not to relet - this poses the question, what is reasonable expense in a case such as this?

Housing Act 1969 - Rent Provisions

3 applications for Qualification Certificates were received in respect of premises already provided with all the standard facilities, and 6 Qualification Certificates were issued.

Given below are tabulated details of housing action taken during the year:-

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... 245
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 484
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	... 210
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	... 421
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... 1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... 10

2. 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	... 8
---	-------

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

A - Proceedings under Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	... Nil
(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners	... Nil

B - Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|---|---------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By owners | ... 10 |
| (b) By Local Authorities in default of owners | ... Nil |

C - Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|---|---------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... Nil |
| (3) Number of written undertakings accepted | ... 1 |

D - Proceedings under Sections 17, 19 and 27 of the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| (1) Number of Closing Orders made | ... Nil |
| (2) Number of houses demolished | ... Nil |

E - Proceedings under Section 27 of the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|---|---------|
| (1) Number of Demolition Orders revoked | ... Nil |
|---|---------|

F - Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (1) Number of Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders substituted | ... Nil |
|--|---------|

G - Proceedings under Section 42 of the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (1) Number of houses in confirmed clearance areas demolished | ... Nil |
|--|---------|

H - Proceedings under Sections 34 and 53 of the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|--|---------|
| (1) Licences in force for temporary occupation | ... Nil |
|--|---------|

4. Overcrowding - Part IV, Housing Act 1957

No action was necessary during the year.

The following information relating to Council and Private Housing has been supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor.

Council Housing

New Building during 1972 was as follows:-

- | | |
|--|---------|
| Number of Council houses completed | ... 26 |
| Number of Council houses under construction at end of year | ... 29 |
| Number of Council houses approved but not commenced at end of year | ... Nil |

The total number of houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Pre-war houses | ... 675 |
| Cottages purchased post-war | ... 21 |
| Post-war houses | ... 1269 |

The houses by types are as follows:-

1-bed houses	...	2
2-bed houses	...	171
3-bed houses	...	1182
3-bed house/shop	...	1
4-bed houses	...	39
1-bed bungalows	...	91
2-bed bungalows	...	237
3-bed bungalows	...	1
1-bed flats	...	30
2-bed flats	...	161

No houses were sold to tenants during the year.

Housing Applications

There were 532 applications for Council houses at 31st December.

During the year there were 67 re-lettings.

Private Housing

New Building during 1972 was as follows:-

Number of Private houses completed	...	46
Number of houses built by other authorities	...	Nil
Number of Private houses under construction at end of year	...	72

Total building since 1945

The total number of houses built in the district since 1945 is:-

Council houses	...	1269
Housing Associations	...	12
Private houses	...	2113
Essex County Council	...	30
		<hr/>
		3424
		<hr/>

Maturity Loans

Whilst some enquiries were made of this scheme no applications for loans were made.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Staff

- 1 Foreman
- 1 Vehicle Mechanic
- 5 Driver/Loaders
- 1 Loader/Spare Driver
- 10 Loaders
- 1 Tractor Driver
- 1 Cesspool Emptier Driver
- 1 Female Paper Baler
- 4 Part-time Public Convenience Attendants

—
25
—

Vehicles

- 2 No. Shelvoke & Drowry 50 cu. yd. Pakamatics
- 2 No. Shelvoke & Drowry 35 cu. yd. Fore & Aft Tippers
- 2 No. Karrier 25 cu. yd. "Dual Tip"
- 1 No. Shelvoke & Drowry 1100 gallon Cesspool Emptier
- 1 No. Morris 1000 Pick-up Truck
- 1 No. International 125B Power Shift Crawler Tractor with 4 in 1 Bucket

Refuse Collection and Disposal

(i) Refuse Collection

As in recent years the regular weekly collection continued to be maintained, but not without considerable difficulties due to labour shortages in the summer months. During the period when annual holidays were being taken the position was aggravated due to a high sickness rate when apart from normal sickness 7 men were in hospital although fortunately not all at the same time. However, for several weeks, out of a cleansing labour force of 17 only 9 men were available for work. The following days lost for varying reasons such as holiday, sickness and absenteeism will give some indication of the problem.

Number of days lost due to:		
Holidays	Sickness	Absenteeism
243	539	26

Only the co-operation of the men by working overtime and our being able to obtain temporary labour (at one period 4 temporary men were on the payroll at the same time) made it possible for the collection schedules to be maintained so that all householders received a collection each week.

76 new properties received a collection during the year, ~~including~~ ^{THERE WERE} 139 dwellings on Council sites at Dunmow where plastic bin liners were employed. It was decided in view of their high cost to discontinue the use of paper sacks and provide bins with plastic bin liners instead. The rounds of the Karrier on two days were adjusted to reduce the high rate of properties on bin bonus and carry collections into the Friday which had been kept free for special collections.

One pleasing feature was the reduction in staff turnover, as only 2 men, out of the 20 employed, left the Council's employ. This amounts to only 10% which is minimal in a field of labour which is notorious for "staff turnover".

(ii) Refuse Disposal

In January tipping commenced in the extension of the Merks Hill Refuse Tip, in respect to which permission had been given by the Secretary of State following a Planning Inquiry in 1971. A great deal of work had to be undertaken before tipping started by constructing a crushed concrete road across the old tip, throwing up a perimeter bank around to new area and earth banks between the bays formed to receive the refuse. Before any of this could be done the trees had to be felled and the scrub bulldozed out and burnt to provide a clear site on which to start tipping operations, but at the same time a tree screen varying from 45 - 100 feet deep had to be retained. Whilst the site clearing was done by a contractor all the remaining work was carried out by the Council's own staff using the new International 125B Tractor shovel which proved to be an excellent piece of equipment. All earth required for covering purposes on this area has so far been excavated on site and all refuse has been disposed there by controlled tipping carried out strictly in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Working Party Report on Refuse Disposal.

Other work carried out included draining tip effluent from the finished tipping area to a new pumping station and the provision of a new pumping main making it possible to convey this effluent to the Council's foul sewer to prevent the possibility of polluting a nearby stream; the main access road from St. Edmunds Lane was surfaced with tarmacadam; land adjoining the access road across the old tip was grassed and work put in hand for an extensive scheme of tree planting. The old tipping area was finally levelled and some 4500 tons of soil spread over the surface as final cover, with a view to its being handed back for agricultural purposes in 1973.

To open up a new tip inevitably presents a challenge but particularly so in this case where such stringent planning conditions had been imposed.

The condition in which the tip can be seen shows that it is well maintained and the conditions complied with.

We now know that after 1st April 1974 refuse disposal will become one of the functions of the County Councils the new District Councils being deemed to be of insufficient size and resources to cope with this problem. Will bigger be better? Time will surely show! Furthermore will the additional staff be available. At the present time 54% of the officers responsible for public cleansing are Chief Public Health Inspectors and 41% are Engineers and Surveyors whilst the remaining 5% are Cleansing Superintendents - where then will the specialist officers for refuse disposal come from as undoubtedly the majority of the officers mentioned will continue to be employed by the new District Councils which will continue to be responsible for refuse collection? The future offers interesting speculation.

Salvage

The recession in the waste paper industry referred to in last year's report continued during the majority of 1972. It was also difficult at times to obtain road transport to collect the paper for delivery to the Mills. Despite these difficulties 57.11 tonnes of waste paper was sold resulting in a gross income of £648.88.

Litter

412 special collections of bulky domestic refuse were made, this being an increase of 65 over the previous year. This work was carried out during the week on the rare occasions when a spare vehicle and labour were available but more frequently it had to be done in overtime on a Saturday. Whilst most people appreciated the service and only asked for bulky domestic refuse to be removed we had the exceptions where we were requested to remove builders rubble, disused farm equipment and in one case the corrugated iron sheets which at one time formed a Nissen Hut. Needless to say these requests could not be accommodated! It is noticeable that some builders are becoming more reluctant to clear their rubbish after completing a job, leaving it for the householder to get rid of, in some cases the builder has informed their customer that they should contact the local authority who will move it.

On the public highway 8 lay-bys continued to be cleared on behalf of the County Council for the usual fee.

2 new litter bins were erected, 2 resited and 1 replacement provided.

Abandoned Vehicles

The removal of 14 abandoned vehicles was secured, this being done by the owner where he was known or where it was not possible to ascertain ownership the Council arranged for the removal to the scrap yard at Felsted.

Vehicle Maintenance

Keeping all the Council's vehicles on the road proved to be a difficult task at times due to staff shortages and it being necessary to commence submitting the Heavy Goods Vehicles for annual plating and testing - the requirements of this test being extremely onerous. Towards the end of the year it became apparent that improvements would have to be made to the standards of maintenance due to the vehicles becoming older, maintenance standards becoming higher and our vehicle/fitter ratio being nearly twice that recommended by the Freight Transport Association. On consideration the Council agreed to the appointment of an additional fitter.

Major work carried out included:

1. Complete mechanical overhaul and repainting of Karrier 3.
2. Fit new clutch and gearbox and repair back axle to long wheel base Land Rover.
3. Fit new clutch to Pakamatic 2.
4. Fit new crown wheel and pinion and clutch and overhaul braking system to Ford Transit.
5. Overhaul engine, replace gearbox of Karrier 2.
6. Overhaul hydraulics on David Brown Tractor.
7. Complete mechanical overhaul of short wheel base Land Rover.

In addition to this work carried out by the Council's staff, the compression mechanism of both Pakamatics was overhauled by the vehicle manufacturers. The 4 in 1 Bucket rams on the crawler tractor were replaced under warranty.

During the year 6 vans were submitted for M.O.T. testing and 2 Heavy Goods Vehicles were also tested.

Locating spare parts continued to be a problem as many instances occurred where parts were neither readily available at the main agents or in fact with the manufacturer. One particular instance was a broken half shaft. As we had been unable to obtain one to keep in stock (it had been on order for 6 months prior to a breakage) things became acute when the shaft broke. Even the vehicle manufacturer had none in stock and was experiencing such grave difficulties in obtaining fresh supplies from the part manufacturer due to a protracted strike, that when new vehicles were parked on completion, the half shafts were removed to be put into another vehicle being built on the assembly line. We were grateful to an adjoining authority for lending us a half shaft to keep our vehicle on the road, as even by "pulling a few strings" the vehicle manufacturer was unable to supply us for a week.

Cesspool Emptying

This service for the emptying of cesspools, septic tanks and small sewage plants serving Council property and for removing sludge from the sewage disposal works continued to be maintained. Some 400,000 gallons of sludge were removed from sewage works the bulk being spread on the land and a further 400,000 gallons was removed from Housing Act sewage plants, cesspools etc. and from pumping stations during breakdowns and power failures.

The Council again considered the question of undertaking the emptying of privately owned cesspools and septic tanks and agreed to commence this service at the same time as it was contemplated that the improvements to Takeley Sewage Disposal Works which is designed to treat the cesspool contents would be completed. It was therefore decided to purchase a 2000 gallon Dodge/Molex Cesspool Emptyier and commence this work in September 1973. A nominal charge is to be made for this work.

IMPROVEMENT OF A TYPICAL ESSEX PROPERTY WITH THE
AID OF AN IMPROVEMENT GRANT



Original dwelling



Dwelling after carrying out repairs and improvements.



CLEANSING VEHICLES OPERATED BY THE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Refuse collection and cesspool emptying vehicles.



Tractor shovel on refuse tip.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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100

TWO VIEWS OF A TYPICAL LARGE CARAVAN SITE
IN TAKELEY





INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Council's Public Health Inspectors made 3,901 visits and inspections in the course of the year. Details of these are given below.

Complaints received and investigated	... 125
<u>Inspections under Housing Acts</u>	
Housing inspections	... 133
Housing applications verified for other authorities	... 17
Improvement grants	... 337
<u>Inspections under Public Health Acts</u>	
Caravan Sites	... 67
Offensive accumulations	... 18
Water supplies	... 3
Drainage, cesspools, etc.	... 168
Ponds, ditches and watercourses	... 11
Refuse Collection and Disposal	... 413
Public conveniences	... 35
<u>Infectious Disease Prevention</u>	
Visits to private houses	... 80
<u>Factories, Shops and Schools</u>	
Factories	... 5
Schools	... 11
<u>Food and Drugs Act</u>	
Slaughterhouses	... 60
Knackers Yard	... 2
Butchers	... 8
Bakers and Confectioners	... 1
Food Factories	... 57
Cafes, restaurants and canteens	... 13
Fishmongers	... 1
Other Food Premises (Grocers etc.)	... 18
<u>Sampling</u>	
Water	... 3
<u>Rodent Control</u>	
Visits	... 134
Treatments	... 120

Abandoned Vehicles	...	116
<u>Petroleum Regulations</u>		
Licensing and Pressure and Seepage tests	...	95
Swimming Pools	...	6
Meat Inspection visits	...	1761
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	14
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	...	69
Searches	...	850
<u>Nuisances Detected and Notices Served</u>		
Nuisances detected	...	124
Informal notices served	...	51
Notices outstanding 1st January 1972	...	8
Notices outstanding 31st December 1972	...	12
Statutory Notices served	...	1
Legal Proceedings	...	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

For the first time for many years a decrease (2,837) in the total number of animals slaughtered occurred. Whilst slightly more pigs were slaughtered there was a decrease in cattle and sheep. The decline in the number of cattle was undoubtedly attributable to the very high cost of beef which occurred in December and which resulted in a reluctance by the housewife to buy this commodity.

In view of the general increase in the workload on the Authorised Meat Inspectors which had taken place gradually over the previous five years the Council agreed to increase the Meat Inspection establishment to four and an extra man was appointed and commenced duties in May. This made it possible to employ 2 men continuously at both of the larger slaughtering establishments and maintain the highest possible standard of inspection.

Imported Meat

The practice of importing meat into this country in sealed containers is becoming more prevalent. This saves much handling as these containers are loaded direct from road vehicles onto the ship at the port, the reverse takes place at the port of entry in this country and the container is then taken unopened to the wholesaler or purchaser whose premises may be well inland. Consequently the normal inspection of meat imported by this method no longer takes place at the docks by the Port Health Inspectors but at the ultimate destination by the inspection staff of the district concerned. This has had its effect in this district as 21 containers containing 2,120 sides of beef have arrived in the district, usually on a Sunday morning when inspection had to be carried out prior to distribution to other wholesalers or retailers. Whilst notification of consignments are received from the Health Authority at the port of entry invariably due to delay in the postal services this notification arrives 24 to 48 hours after receipt of the containers. This problem was however obviated by the management of the company receiving the imported meat notifying us in advance.

Carcases inspected and condemned:

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Slaughtered	10,532	84	10	10,022	140,030	-
No. Inspected	10,532	84	10	10,022	140,030	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and</u> <u>Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	9	1	1	15	185	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,843	22	1	234	10,575	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.5	27.3	20.0	2.4	7.6	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	1,034	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.01	-	-	-	0.7	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Slaughterhouses

Six premises remained licensed. Slaughtering recommenced at the premises at Great Hallingbury after having been temporarily unused for well over a year. The new owner of these premises wished to increase the throughput and submitted a scheme for enlarging the premises to accommodate this and it was still being considered by the planners when the year closed. An application for permission to establish a large abattoir adjoining the aforementioned premises was refused following a public inquiry.

Comment was made last year on the odour nuisance which occasionally occurred from the blood dewatering plant at the Hatfield Heath Abattoir. An after burner was installed to consume all the odours, this proved a very successful method of controlling the problem and eliminated the nuisance.

Hygienic conditions were satisfactory at all premises.

Knackers Yards

The one knackers yard in use in the district which is at Little Hallingbury, continued to be run in a most satisfactory manner. The statutory returns under the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 showed that 41 horses, 371 cattle and 1,209 pigs, sheep and calves were slaughtered during the year.

The Meat (Sterilizing) Regulations 1969 which are now in force results in knacker meat no longer being sold from these premises as all meat and offal is now sent to a plant situated outside the district for sterilization.

Licensing

The number of licences in force at the end of the year was:-

Private slaughterhouses	6
Knackers Yard	1
Licensed Slaughtermen	37
Game Dealers	7

Food Inspection

The following complaints were received:-

1. Beetle in tin of tomatoes.
2. Mouldy meat and vegetable pie.
3. Mouldy Scotch pancakes.
4. Screw in loaf of bread.
5. Foreign body in can of baked beans.
6. Tin foil in tin of fruit salad.
7. Mouldy loaves of bread.
8. Cigarette end in packet of tea.

The matters were all investigated, discussions taking place with the retailers and suppliers or manufacturers. No action was considered appropriate except in the case of the screw in the loaf of bread where the baker was successfully prosecuted and fined £10 plus costs. In the remaining cases letters of warning were sent.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned:

contents of 5 shop refrigerators

577 melons
8 honey dew melons
133 green melons
14 Israel Ogen melons
1668 cucumbers
3287 lettuces
204 x 28 lbs. carrots
7 x 20 lbs. carrots
1 sack carrots
407 avocado pears
2 x 12 lbs. aubergines
1 x 54 nectarines
17 x 3 lbs. mushrooms
12 x 2½ lbs. mushrooms
559 coconuts
4 bags coconuts
15 x 5 kilo trays cherries
47 x 5 kilo grapes
4 x 18 lbs. grapes
555 peaches
21 trays peaches
1 x 6 lbs. capsicums
18 lbs. capsicums
3 x 5 kilo capsicums
2 x 20 kilo capsicums
6 kilo capsicums
2 x 6 kilo capsicums
7 x 65 boxes pears
2 x 11 kilo Italian pears
3 x 13 lbs. tomatoes
6 x 6 kilo Spanish tomatoes
6 x 6 lbs. 8 oz. processed peas
1 x 25 kilo white cabbages
12 English cabbages
6 pineapples
6 x 56 lbs. pickling onions
1 tray chow-chow
30 x 6 oz. pkts. radishes
5 x 5 lbs. chicory
12 x 5 lbs. Belgian chicory
4 x 28 lbs. turnips
5 x 144 Spanish lemons
4 x 30 toffee apples
3 x 3½ lbs. Ross Herring Mitts

Poultry Inspection

Intermittent slaughtering of turkeys continued to take place at the 2 processing establishments operating in the district. Only home bred birds are processed which in the year totalled 48,000 , none of the birds being eviscerated. Slaughtering is normally restricted to the period immediately prior to Easter and Christmas. Birds showing evidence of unsoundness are rejected by employees engaged in the processing.

visits of inspection were made by Public Health Inspectors.

1.7% of the birds slaughtered were rejected as unfit for human consumption which amounts to a weight of 5 tons 2 cwts.

High standards of hygiene at both premises continued to be maintained.

Ice Cream

130 premises are registered under section 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the storage and sale of ice cream.

Food Premises by Type of Business

Grocers and General Provisions	... 67
Bread and Confectionery	... 12
Butchers	... 12
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	... 4
Fishmongers	... 2
Sweets	... 12
Cafes and Restaurants	... 24
Public Houses and Hotels	... 64
Works Canteens	... 9
School Canteens and Cooking Centres	... 16

Included in the above lists are the following premises as registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955:-

Manufacture of sausages and preserved food	... 18
--	--------

Food Processing Premises

Bacon Curing Factory	... 1
Beet Sugar Factory	... 1
Brewery	... 1
Egg Packers	... 2
Banana Ripening Plant	... 1

Atmospheric Pollution

3 complaints of dust emission from the Beet Sugar Factory were received. Investigations showed that this was beet pulp dust being emitted due to a temporary failure of the cyclone dust extractors. It is the intention of the British Sugar Corporation to carry out major modernisation of the factory and its mechanical plant which includes the provision of the most modern dust extraction equipment available.

The plans of 4 boiler installations requiring the checking of chimney heights were examined and approval given.

Disinfestation

4 disinfestations were undertaken in respect of fleas.

Section 60 National Assistance Act 1948 Burial of the Dead

It was not necessary during the year to arrange for the burial of any persons.

PETROLEUM

Licences were in force in respect of the following:-

Storage of petroleum spirit 141

Storage of petroleum mixtures 2

1 new installation was brought into use after passing a pressure test and complying with the Council's licensing conditions.

3 installations were closed and the tanks made safe by filling with weak mix concrete.

The testing of 40 tanks which had been in existence for more than 20 years was started. At the end of the year only 3 had not been done and of the 32 tested 4 failed and had to be taken out of use and rendered safe.

A complaint was received of a smell of petrol emanating from a well which formed a feature in the saloon bar of a public house. This complaint was considered to be well founded and on our advice the bar was temporarily closed. Two underground petrol tanks of long standing were situated within 20 feet of the well. The well was immediately pumped out to remove any petrol and a close fitting cover provided as a temporary measure to allow the bar to be re-opened. The tanks had been successfully submitted to a pressure test two years previously and the licensee had been notified some three months earlier that they were due for retesting. As we had the year before, had trouble with leaking pipelines in this village arrangements were made for these to be tested, the use of the pumps having been discontinued. As the pipelines proved satisfactory the bulk of the petrol was removed from the tanks which were then tested and one found to leak. The remaining petrol was immediately removed by the petrol company, the tanks were filled with weak mix concrete and the pumps dismantled. For a period the well was frequently pumped out to remove any petrol draining in from the surrounding subsoil. The speed with which this problem was solved and dealt with was due to the co-operation received from all concerned and their ready acceptance of the advice given by the Public Health Officers in their capacity of the Council's Petroleum Officers.

This is another function for which the District Council will no longer be responsible after March 1974. It is to be transferred to the County Council.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963 came into force on 1st January 1964. Standard conditions were approved by the Council and following a prior inspection premises were licensed as under:

The Chestnuts, Latchmore Bank, Little Hallingbury
Simpkins Farm, Lindsell
Pyes Farmhouse, Barnston
Normandale Farm, New Barn Lane, Little Hallingbury
Apple Tree Cottage, Gaston Green, Little Hallingbury
Whitedale, Canfield Road, Takeley
Paddocks, Wrights Green, Little Hallingbury
Silver Pines, Little Hallingbury

SCRAP METAL DEALERS

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964 came into force on 1st April, 1965. This requires all dealers to be registered. The number registered is 14.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

	Number of Premises Registered During Year	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of year	Number of Registered Premises Receiving General Inspection	Number of Persons employed
Offices.	1	33	12	154
Retail Shops	-	77	13	293
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	11	3	93
Fuel storage depots	-	2	-	15
	1	123	28	555
Total Males				247
Total Females				308

RODENT CONTROL

The staff of the Public Health Department as in the past continued to be responsible for the control of rats and mice in the area. This being done by the Public Health Inspectors and to a very large extent by the Cleansing Foreman. The number of visits made amounted to 128 in the case of rats and 6 in respect of mice. 458 packets of rat poison were issued.

The Council's Refuse Tip was treated when considered necessary but continued to remain virtually free from infestation, which is considered to be largely due to the high standard of tipping adopted by the Council with the refuse being levelled daily and kept well covered with earth, particularly on the sides of the tip where earth banks are erected and the refuse tipped up continuously to these banks rather than endeavouring to cover with earth on angled face which is, in my experience, never successful.

The Engineer and Surveyor's staff treat the sewage disposal plants and also carried out a treatment of sections of the Dunmow sewers.

The following details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are given in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:-

	Type of Property		
	Dwelling Houses (ii)	Agri-cultural (iii)	Total (iv)
Number of properties in Area	3710	250	3960
Premises inspected as a result of notification	134	-	134
Premises inspected as a result of Survey under the Act	-	-	-
Total number of inspections (including re-inspections and inspections primarily for other purposes)	134	-	134
Number of properties found to be infested with rats (common rats)	128	-	128
Major infestations	-	-	-
Minor infestations	128	-	128
Number of properties found to be seriously infested with mice	6	-	6
Number of infested premises treated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors	53	-	53
Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act	-	-	-

CARAVANS and other MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The number of caravans in the district remained virtually static but, although caravans were occupied on the Connought Carapark at Takeley it was not possible to issue a licence due to the fact that planning permission had expired and renewal refused. Consequently an appeal had been lodged and a Public Inquiry arranged to be held in January 1973 when the matter would finally be resolved. Moves were also afoot to attempt to enlarge the Hall Caravan Site but planning permission to do this had first to be obtained.

Conditions on all the sites continued to be satisfactory. With the larger caravans now available and being provided by the occupants it became increasingly necessary to extend the hardstandings to accommodate these larger caravans. One tendency becoming evident on the large sites was to provide caravans with their own individual water closets and bathrooms inside the dwellings, rather than in the communal blocks, which is to be recommended.

Parishes	Sites	Caravans	Tents	Huts
Barnston	3	3	-	-
Broxted	1	1	-	-
Little Canfield	1	1	-	-
Great Dunmow	2	3	-	-
Great Easton	2	2	-	-
Felsted	1	1	-	-
Little Hallingbury	3	3	-	-
Leaden Roding	3	3	-	-
Stebbing	3	4	-	-
Takeley	6	290	-	-
Thaxted	2	2	-	-
White Roding	1	2	-	-
Totals	28	322 315	-	-

FACTORIES

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act 1961, and the inspections made are to be found as follows:-

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register			
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	45	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities	86	45	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities (excluding out-workers premises)	4	4	-	-
	135	52	-	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to out-workers)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	-	-	-

BYELAWS

The following is a list of the Council's Byelaws now in force:-

Byelaws with respect to new streets.

Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery
of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air.

Byelaws for the sanitary conditions and management
of private slaughterhouses.

Byelaws for the sanitary conditions, management and
keeping of records for Knackers' Yards.

Byelaws as to Hairdressers and Barbers.



