

**[Report 1972] / Medical Officer of Health, Downham R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Downham Market (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1972

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DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

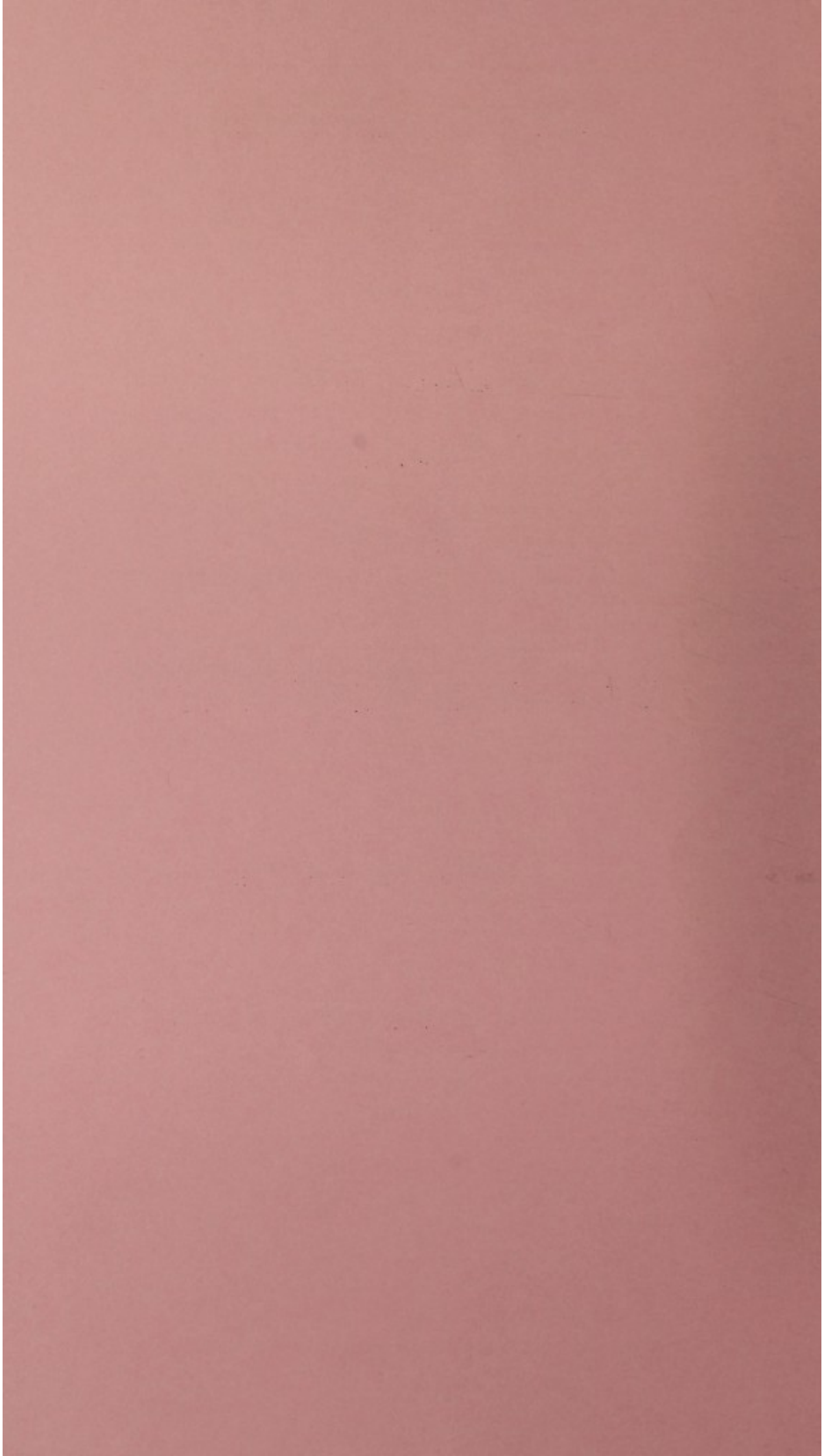
YEAR 1972

Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector  
(Mr. G.S. Sennitt, F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., A.R.S.H.)

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Dr. J. Mc.D. Hanley, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P., & S., D.P.H.



DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Offices: Priory Road, Downham Market.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND GENERAL  
PURPOSES COMMITTEE:-

Chairman:	Mr. G.E. Garfoot
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. A.J. Blott
Mr. J.S. Bailey	Mr. F.W. Hyam
Mrs. M.E. Bliss	Mr. J.W. Kellingray
Mr. W.A. Carley	Mr. J.D.E. Lane
Mr. A.K. Dewing	Mrs. E.M. Neville
Mr. W. Eyres	Mr. R.H. Payne
Mrs. J.R.F. Forgan	Mr. E.R.M. Pratt
Mr. A. Fox	Mrs. M.I. Smith
Mr. H.H. Grazier	Mr. J.W. Turrell
Mr. A.J. Hawkins	Mr. J.R. Waterfall
Mr. B.L. Hawkins	Mr. R.R. Wilde

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Committee.

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Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health:-

Dr. J. McD. Hanley, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P., & S., D.P.H.  
Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.  
Tel. Downham Market 3241.

also holds appointments of:-

County Departmental Medical Officer.  
School Medical Officer.  
Medical Officer of Health, Downham Market Urban District Council.  
Medical Officer of Health, Marshland Rural District Council.  
Medical Officer of Health, King's Lynn Borough Council.  
Medical Officer of Health, Freebridge Lynn Rural District Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector:-

G.S. SENNITT, F.A.P.H.I., F.I.P.H.E., A.R.S.H.,  
Tel. Downham Market 3287. Residence D.M. 3364.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector:-

J.G.W. HURST, CERT. S.I.B.

Additional Public Health Inspector:-

K. STEELE, M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector:-

T.S. HUGGINS (until 29th October, 1972).

Clerk to the Health Department:-

MISS S.B. COX

Clerk/Typist:-

MISS C. NICKERSON

Works Superintendent (Shared with Surveyor's Dept.)

A.E. REED, A.M.I.W.H.S.

BOARD OF HEALTH REPORT

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH, 1901

Members	Deputy Members
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...
Mr. J. M. ...	Mr. J. M. ...

The Chairman and the members of the Board are authorized to accept the minutes of the Board.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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Mr. J. M. ...

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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Mr. J. M. ...

Mr. J. M. ...

Mr. J. M. ...

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1972.

The mid-year population of the area was estimated by the Registrar General as 24,320. There were 418 live births and 236 deaths giving a natural increase of 182. There was therefore a movement out of the area of 182 persons.

There were 8 infant deaths and this has naturally affected our figures unfavourably. There were no maternal deaths.

The pattern of deaths remains much the same as in previous years with the main causes shown as Ischaemic Heart Disease, Cerebrovascular Disease and Cancer.

The County Services in this department continues at level, with protection continuing to be given against measles and rubella. In general, the health of the school population remains satisfactory.

Smallpox vaccination is no longer recommended as a routine procedure in early childhood.

I would like to thank the Chairman and the members of the Public Health Committee for their constant interest and support, and to the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am

John Mc.D. Hanley  
Medical Officer of Health

Section A

Live Births .. .. .	418
Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	17.4
Ditto for England and Wales . . . . .	14.8
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births .. .. .	5
Deaths (all causes) .. .. .	236
Rate per 1,000 population .. .. .	11.0
Ditto for England and Wales .. .. .	12.1
Still Births .. .. .	1
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births .. .. .	2
Ditto for England and Wales .. .. .	12
Total Live and Still Births .. .. .	419
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) .. .. .	8
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births .. .. .	19
Ditto for England and Wales .. .. .	17
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Births .. .. .	18
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births .. .. .	45
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total Live Births) .. .. .	12
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total Live Births) .. .. .	12
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Still Births and Deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births) .. .. .	14
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths .. .. .	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births .. .. .	Nil

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1972

Number of Parishes .....	33
Area (in acres) .....	124,152
Population, 1931 (Census) .....	19,962
Population, 1961 (Census) .....	23,655
Population, 1971 (Census) .....	24,320
Estimated number of separate dwellings occupied 1972 .....	£7,773.00
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1972 .....	£718,042
Estimated Product of 1p Rate 1972-73 .....	£6,894

Section B

County Medical Services

(a) District Nursing Sisters, District Midwives and Health Visitors

Attachment to General Practitioners is now fully implemented and information regarding these services may be obtained from the Area Nursing Officer, Local Health Office, 15, Nelson Street, King's Lynn. (Tel. King's Lynn 3643).

(b) Ambulance and Hospital Car Services

All Ambulances are now under overall supervision by the Ambulance Control Centre, County Hall, Norwich.

All ambulance calls for West Norfolk are dealt with by the ambulance sub-control centre, Wellesley Street, King's Lynn. (Tel. King's Lynn 4686) and Emergency (Tel. King's Lynn 4298/9).

Infectious Diseases cases are conveyed by King's Lynn or Norwich Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service is administered from the Ambulance Sub-Control Centre, Wellesley Street, King's Lynn (Telephone King's Lynn 3503 & 3910).

(c) Child Health Clinic

- (i) Downham Market - 2nd Thursday of each month 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- (ii) Wimbotsham - 1st Thursday of each month 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- (iii) R.A.F. Marham - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A Medical Officer is in attendance at the above Sessions. Clinics are also held monthly between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the following villages:

Methwold - 1st Wednesday  
Southery - 1st Tuesday  
Wereham - 1st Tuesday  
Feltwell - 2nd Wednesday  
Watlington - 1st Friday

(d) Vaccination and Immunisation

Shown below are figures for immunisation carried out by general practitioners and medical staff in my Local Health Area during 1972. This area also embraces Downham Urban and Marshland Rural Districts.

Smallpox Vaccination

Primary vaccination		Total	Revaccination		Total
Under 5	5 - 15		Under 5	5 - 15	
3	7	10	-	13	13

Tetanus

Primary Courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 8	8 - 15		Under 8	8 - 15	
259	11	270	402	396	798

Whooping Cough

Primary Courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 8	8 - 15		Under 8	8 - 15	
238	-	238	42	5	47



Diphtheria

Primary Courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 8	8 - 15		Under 8	8 - 15	
259	7	266	399	87	486

Poliomyelitis

Primary Courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 8	8 - 15		Under 8	8 - 15	
258	9	267	381	377	758

B.C.G. Vaccination

Number given the preliminary skin test	Number Vaccinated	Number referred for Chest X-ray
367	333	-

Measles Vaccination

Under 8	8 - 15	Total
353	26	379

Rubella Vaccination

Females 13 - 14
169

General Medical Services

Norfolk Executive Council, Horse Fair House, 17, St. Faith's Lane, Norwich. Clerk: F.H. Adams, Esq.

Venereal Disease Clinic

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

Males: Tuesday 5-30 p.m. - 7-00 p.m. Friday 4-00 p.m. - 5-00 p.m.

Females and Children: Tuesday 3-00 p.m. - 5-00 p.m. Friday 3-00 p.m. - 4-00 p.m.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

Treatment of premises and articles is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

Laboratory Services

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.  
Under the direction of Dr. I.M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst, Dr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,  
Clarence House, 6, Clarence Road, Norwich.
- (c) Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

SECTION C  
STATISTICAL TABLES, 1972

Causes of Death

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases .....	1	-	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc. ....	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	5	4	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine .....	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	15	1	16
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate .....	3	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	-	4	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms .....	4	7	11
Leukaemia .....	1	2	3
Diabetes Mellitus .....	-	2	2
Other Endocrine etc., Diseases .....	1	1	2
Anaemias .....	1	-	1
Mental Disorders .....	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System .....	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease .....	1	1	2
Hypertensive Disease .....	2	1	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease .....	47	23	70
Other Forms of Heart Disease .....	5	3	8
Cerebrovascular Disease .....	22	15	37
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	10	1	11
Pneumonia .....	6	3	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema .....	7	4	11
Asthma .....	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory system .....	1	-	1
Appendicitis .....	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	2	-	2
Congenital Anomalies .....	-	1	1
Birth injury, difficult labour etc. ....	3	-	3
Symptoms and Ill defined conditions .....	-	1	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality .....	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	1	-	1
All other Accidents .....	1	5	6
Total All Causes	149	87	136

Table No. 2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1972  
Notification in Age Groups

	Ages													TOTAL	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Age un-known			
MEASLES	1	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-
SCARLET FEVER	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
INFECTIVE JAUNDICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
MENINGITIS	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	14	-	-

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM, DIPHTHERIA, DYSENTERY, ENCEPHALITIS, WHOOPING COUGH.

No cases recorded.

Table No. 3

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1972  
(Other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
MEASLES	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
SCARLET FEVER	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
INFECTIVE JAUNDICE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
MENINGITIS	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	6	1	-	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	14

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM, DIPHTHERIA, DYSENTERY, ENCEPHALITIS, WHOOPING COUGH.

No cases recorded.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS - 1972

1 Male age 46 - Respiratory.  
1 Female age 66 - Respiratory.  
1 Female age 25 - Other.

There were no deaths from the disease.

Section D

Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A short report on the environmental health work of the Council follows. Discussion on the Reorganisation Proposals for Local Government, the National Health Service and Water and Sewerage administration provided the background for all the Council's work which was maintained at a high level, particularly in relation to housing. The number of grants made for housing improvement work started to rise dramatically towards the end of the year. It was obvious, however, that an environmental problem at Stoke Ferry due to the increase in production at the animal feed factory of Favor Parker Ltd., was becoming quite serious and solutions, particularly in relation to noise and dust nuisance were being sought.

I thank the Council and my colleagues for support, understanding and continual co-operation.

Summary of Visits by Public Health Inspectors

Water Supply .....	1
Drainage .....	402
Refuse Collection and Disposal .....	183
Rodent Control .....	39
Petroleum .....	3
Factories .....	8
Housing .....	2360
Street Naming and Numbering .....	20
Animal Boarding Establishments .....	11
Shops and Offices Act .....	5
Infectious Diseases .....	9
Fried Fish Shops .....	7
Miscellaneous Food .....	3
Ice Cream Premises .....	4
Grocers .....	16
Slaughterhouses .....	3
Meat Inspection .....	481
Butchers .....	19
Licensed Premises .....	3
Noise Abatement .....	7
Civic Amenities Act .....	3
Bakers and Confectioners .....	2
Caravan Sites .....	93
Clean Air .....	38
Miscellaneous Visits .....	390
Catering Establishments .....	11
Diseases of Animals .....	1
	<hr/>
Total:	<u>4122</u>

1967 - 4584    1968 - 4688    1969 - 4049    1970 - 4209    1971 - 4221

It should be noted that only the primary purpose of each visit is recorded to give the monthly and annual report statistics. Enquiry is often made on matters covered by several Acts of Parliament at one premises.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES REGISTERED

Drainage .....	64
Housing Defects .....	12
Refuse Collection .....	31
Smell various .....	25
Noise .....	41
Various .....	<u>42</u>
	<hr/>
Total:	<u>215</u>

Total 1969 - 378

Total 1970 - 276

Total 1971 - 182

In the latter part of the year, complaints of nuisance from noise, dust and smell arising from the operations at the Stoke Ferry Mill of Messrs. Favor Parker Ltd., reached a climax in December. The firm had greatly expanded production of animal feed, and new grinding plant proved to be very noisy, the mill itself being situated in the centre of the village.

The firm had agreed, however, to employ Noise Consultants and carry out work shown to be necessary. A report was to hand in November which advocated lining the grinding houses with sound absorption material and the fitting of silencers to all five mill exhaust systems. It was considered that this should reduce sound levels outside the mill from the Noise Rating Curve between N60 and N65 to between N35 and N40.

Favor Parker Ltd., accepted the noise levels as being too great and placed the necessary order with the Consultants at the end of the year; it was expected that the work would be completed within three months.

Smell seemed to arise mainly from the fish meal and fish oil components of the feed, and difficulty was expected in reducing this complaint. Measures to reduce dust were being prepared.

## NOTICES

47 informal letters and 4 formal notices were served in addition to Housing Acts Notices, and in addition verbal notice was often sufficient to bring about improvements required.

31 Notices were complied with, as were 25 Notices served in previous years.

## FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

### (a) General

At 31st December, the following food businesses were operating from premises within the District:-

- 8 Fried Fish and Chip Shops (in addition, two of the businesses operate mobile units).
- 15 Butchers Shops, all of whom manufacture sausages etc.
- 4 Licenced slaughterhouses, where 100% meat inspection is carried out by the Council's Officers.
- 5 Cafes.
- 46 Licenced houses, including 5 clubs.
- 2 Greengrocers.
- 92 General Food Shops.
- 1 Factory Canteen.
- 1 Flour Depot.
- 92 Businesses selling ice-cream, but no ice-cream is manufactured in the district.

There were no businesses operating mainly as poultry slaughtering premises or where imported food containers required to be opened and inspected.

It is considered that, generally, hygienic conditions were maintained satisfactorily at the food premises in the area, although much more frequent inspections were required than could be given by your staff. Several onion peeling premises became established in the district in September, but these were immediately closed when it was pointed out that the premises were not satisfactory as laid down by the Food Hygiene Regulations.

27 inspections at School Canteens were carried out by the County Council's staff during the year, and none of the foodstuffs inspected were unfit.

### (b) Meat Inspection

No charges were made for the service as allowed by the Meat Inspection Regulations as all meat so inspected is for local consumption; in addition, no control on the hours of slaughter has been considered necessary.

Again, there was no evidence of tuberculosis in cattle and no case of cysticercosis.

Effective liaison is maintained with the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture at Norwich.

A table setting out the statistics follows later.

### (c) Food Contamination

No serious complaint was made, and no formal action was necessary.

### (d) Milk and Dairies

There were 9 distributors and 18 dairies as in 1971.

Tests of milk taken from this District by the County Council's staff during 1972 were all satisfactory as follows:-

<u>Test</u>	<u>No. of Examinations</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>
Methylene Blue (Untreated Milk)	6	6	-
Methylene Blue (Pasteurised Milk)	25	25	-
Phosphatase	25	25	-
Turbidity	1	1	-

Six samples of untreated milk were submitted from the one producer/retailer in the area, and all were found negative to brucella abortus on biological examination.

Six samples of school milk were submitted for examination, and all satisfied the methylene blue and phosphatase tests.

(e) Slaughtermen

At 31st December, there were again 12 licenced slaughtermen living in the District.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART DURING THE YEAR

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number Killed	685	-	-	1369	1509	-
Number Inspected	685	-	-	1369	1509	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>	-	-	-	-	5	-
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	5	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	36	-	-	1	91	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	5.26%	-	-	0.0702%	6.04%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	33	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.11%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

(f) Condemned Food

<u>Meat at Slaughterhouses</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>Other Meat and Foods</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
<u>Beasts</u>		Beef & beef offal	999
Head and Offal	561	Mutton and sheeps offal	78
<u>Pigs</u>		Bacon	39½
Head and Offal	608	Pigs Liver	10
Carcase Meat	1256	Pork Pies	3
<u>Sheep</u>		Chicken	13½
Head and Offal	8	Flour	70

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There were none established in the District.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During August there were, as far as could be ascertained, 148 permanent residential caravans in the district, 5 holiday vans (touring) and 15 holiday vans (static) together with fisherman's tents.

The largest sites are situated at Feltwell, Marham and Shouldham, and at the end of the year, action was being considered to secure the observance of licence conditions at several sites which were considered to have fallen below standard.

Again, there was no solution to the problem of an occupied van parked on a public road verge. No site had yet been established in the vicinity by the County Council for Gypsies and other itinerant persons under the Caravan Sites Act, 1968. There is no particular problem in this Council's district.

HOUSING

(a) General

As very full tables were submitted in 1971, a summary is provided this year, with a comparison of figures for previous years:-

Housing Progress - January to December, 1972

<u>Year</u>	<u>Private Dwellings Completed</u>	<u>Council Dwellings</u>		<u>Discretionary Grants</u>		<u>Standard Grants</u>	
		<u>Completed</u>	<u>Under construction</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Comp.</u>	<u>App.</u>
1968	154	30	14	5	4	67	76
1969	90	33	37	2	3	58	62
1970	168	41	53	-	17	50	65
1971	103	51	81	15	30	57	50
1972	99	60	32	30	82	39	60

The provisions of the 1969 Housing Act making Discretionary Grants much more attractive were beginning to have a dramatic effect, and the work of the Department was very greatly increased in this sphere.

45 of the Council's Houses were provided with washbasins during the year, and 24 houses were re-roofed and insulated to a modern standard.

The clearance of unfit property was continued at a reasonable rate as compared with previous years, as evidenced by the figures set out below:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>D.O's. made</u>	<u>C.O's made</u>	<u>Unfit dwellings demolished</u>	<u>Unfit dwellings Orders removed after repair</u>	<u>Families rehoused by Council from unfit dwellings.</u>
1968	41	24	40	14	23
1969	45	25	17	11	20
1970	32	23	32	11	23
1971	68	23	61	15	37
1972	55	22	35	11	38



At 31st December, the Council had:-

	420	Pre-war Houses
	1230	Post-war Houses
	39	Other dwellings and flats
Total:	<u>1689</u>	dwellings

It was estimated that there were still some 600 very unfit dwellings in the District to be dealt with by demolition, extensive repair or modernisation.

By the end of the year, 395 Discretionary Improvement Grants had been given since October, 1951, and 623 Standard Grants since August, 1959.

(b) Rent Act, 1957

No applications were received for either Certificates of Disrepair or cancellation of existing Certificates.

(c) Waiting Lists for Council Houses

At 30th June, 1972, there were 520 individual applicants for accommodation, 84 of these being from persons living outside the district, 82 wanting exchanges to larger or smaller accommodation, 26 were under Notice to Quit, 17 awaited marriage and 46 lived with parents. 23 applicants lived in caravans.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The once weekly kerbside collection under incentive bonus conditions continued and there were few complaints.

The Government called for a thorough survey of waste disposal sites, both in use and recently used and a good deal of work in compiling the information was necessary. It was considered essential, however, to really 'get to grips' with the pollution situation so that proper control of the deposition of toxic and other polluting wastes could be achieved as soon as possible. It was not thought, however, that a real problem existed in this District. Tipping ceased at Fordham, Wormegay and Feltwell in the Autumn, and cessation at Fincham was expected at an early date.

Adequate cover was applied, and it was expected that the Fordham Site would yield crops in the Spring of 1973.

The removal of several old car bodies was secured informally under the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act.

(b) Pail Emptying

A Contractor continued to collect in Ten Mile Bank, Downham West, Salters Lode and Fincham.

(c) Cesspool Emptying

An increased number of cesspools etc., were emptied, and two contractors carried out the bulk of the work. The charge of 63p per emptying regardless of tank capacity was continued. Increased attention was given to Council sewage installations.

No. of Cesspools emptied

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PURLE WASTE DISPOSAL LTD.</u>	<u>COUNCIL</u>	<u>EGMORE</u> <u>(latterly HALES)</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1966	1013	325	-	1356
1968	1169	484	58	1732
1969	574	295	1197	2066
1970	432	370	1502	2304
1971	220	669	1720	2609
1972	279	907	1605	2791

## Sewage Plants and Special Tanks Emptied

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PURLE WASTE DISPOSAL LTD.</u>	<u>COUNCIL</u>	<u>EGMORE</u> <u>(Latterly HALES)</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1967	-	114	-	114
1968	-	77	-	77
1969	-	104	2	106
1970	-	79	2	81
1971	-	85	-	85
1972	-	126	-	126

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The County Public Health Engineering Department continued to supervise work on the first phase of No. 5 Area Scheme at Runcton Holme and Watlington, and the Works at Magdalen were commissioned during the year. At the end of the year, work at Watlington and Runcton was virtually complete, and a new Contractor had established site offices at Wiggshall St. Germans for the second phase involving the Wiggshall Parishes.

The Council approved the No. 6 Regional Scheme for Northwold/Methwold Hythe/Brookville/Whittington/Stoke Ferry/Boughton/Wretton/Wereham/West Dereham and Crimphesham in January, and design work went ahead during the year, as it did for the proposed Marham Regional Scheme involving, in addition, the Parishes of Wormegay, Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe and Fincham.

A scheme for Wimbotsham was also being prepared by your Surveyor's Department in conjunction with the County Public Health Engineer.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Sec. 50

No burials were carried out during the year.

## DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957

Administration of this Order is delegated to the Council by the County Council. One person only is licenced. The aim of the Order is to see that the prevention of animal disease is minimised by proper sterilisation.

## OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL, WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD, DOWNHAM MARKET.

There were no public health problems, and the water and changing rooms were again kept by the staff in a first class condition.

The Joint Management Committee decided in April that the pool should be heated by an oil fired boiler, and a firm was instructed to prepare a suitable scheme for execution in the 1972/73 close season.

## THE ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Four establishments at Methwold, Stoke Ferry, Runcton Holme and Wereham were licenced, and conditions were maintained satisfactorily. It had been agreed by the owner that the Methwold establishment should be re-sited at Methwold Hythe as soon as possible, planning permission having been obtained.

## THE SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

At the end of the year 13 registrations were in force.

## THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in shops, offices and railway premises.

15 visits were made under the Act.

TABLE A REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Class of premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
	Offices	-	6	-
	Retail Shops	-	39	2
	Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	-
	Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	-	-
	Fuel storage depots	-	4	-
TOTALS	-	51	2	

TABLE C ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED	Class of workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
	Offices	15
	Retail Shops	69
	Wholesale departments, warehouses	9
	Canteens	-
	Catering establishments open to the public	-
	Fuel Storage Depots	4
	TOTAL	97
	Total Males	38
Total Females	59	

The response to letters requiring compliance with various provisions of the Act was good, and it was not necessary to recommend any formal action. The reduction in the number of small businesses is indicated in the above figures.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

##### (a) Main Piped Supplies General

The District is well served by water mains, and the number of properties not able to have mains water is now very low. Quite a large number, however, are supplied by standpipes, and many terraces have joint standpipes. The policy of the Council is to require water to be provided in pipes inside the house whenever reasonable and practicable.

The Wisbech and District Water Board were responsible for three sources of supply to the Rural District, viz., the northern half from the River Nar and bore at Marham and the southern half from the bores at Denton Lodge, Feltwell and Beechamwell.

I am indebted to the Board's Engineer and Manager, Mr. C. Llanwarne, B.Sc., Tech., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., for the following information:-

Water Analyses 1972 - Rural District of Downham

Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1972 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

There was one case of contamination of the water supply during the year. On the 22nd September, 1972, a positive bacteriological sample was obtained from the outlet of Denton Lodge reservoir. Samples taken a few minutes earlier of both the raw water and of the chlorinated supply were excellent. Two repeat samples taken the following day from the outlet of the reservoir were excellent as were samples taken of the raw water and the chlorinated supply. All subsequent samples were excellent.

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD  
SUMMARY OF EXAMINATIONS AND ANALYSES

<u>Samples Taken</u>	<u>Bacteriological Examinations</u>			<u>Chemical Analyses</u>
<u>Board's Works</u>	<u>No. of Tests Taken</u>	<u>No. of Tests Negative</u>	<u>No. of Tests Positive</u>	
Raw Waters	781	725	56	
Treated Waters	747	746	1	
Taps (Consumers)	84	84	0	
Totals	1,612	1,555	57	288

Total of all examinations and analyses = 1,900

Out of the total of treated water samples and samples taken from consumers' taps 99.9% were negative on examination for organisms of the coliform group. This represents a very high standard of bacterial purity.

31st January, 1973

J.S. Collins  
Chemist and Bacteriologist.

Small Water Supplies

No samples of well water were tested during the year.

WATER SAMPLE

Received 14th December, 1972 Lab. No. T 1831

From Denton Lodge Pumping Station

Labelled Denton Lodge Raw Water

Taken by J.S. Collins Date and Time 14/12/72 10.15 a.m.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance	<u>Clear and Bright</u>	pH	<u>7.3</u>
Turbidity (units)	<u>Nil</u>	Odour	<u>Nil</u>
Colour (Hazen units)	<u>Nil</u>	Taste	<u>---</u>

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Free carbon dioxide	<u>14.3</u>	Copper (Cu)	<u>Nil</u>
		Aluminium (Al)	<u>Nil</u>
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	<u>0.08</u>	Calcium (Ca)	<u>70</u>
Ammoniacal nitrogen	<u>Nil</u>	Iron (Fe)	<u>Trace</u>
Albuminoid nitrogen	<u>Nil</u>	Magnesium (Mg)	<u>3.58</u>
Nitrate nitrogen	<u>5.8</u>	Manganese (Mn)	<u>Nil</u>
Nitrite nitrogen	<u>Nil</u>	Lead (Pb)	<u>Nil</u>
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	<u>165</u>	Sodium (Na)	<u>Not examined</u>
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>		Zinc (Zn)	<u>Nil</u>
Total	<u>194</u>	Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )	<u>7.0</u>
Carbonate (temporary)	<u>165</u>	Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	<u>13.2</u>
Non-carbonate (permanent)	<u>29</u>	Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> )	<u>99</u>
Residual chlorine	<u>---</u>	Chloride (Cl)	<u>15</u>
Total solids, dried at 180°C	<u>250</u>	Fluoride (F)	<u>0.05</u>

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 24 hrs. at 37°C	<u>0</u>
Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 72 hrs. at 20° - 22°C	<u>2</u>
Coliform count per 100 ml.	<u>0</u>
E. coli count per 100 ml.	<u>0</u>

REPORT

The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character which will be suitable after precautionary chlorination as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

Date: 23rd January, 1973.

J.S. Collins

Chemist and Bacteriologist

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

WATER EXAMINATION LABORATORY

ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE

Received 10.15 a.m. 29th December, 1972 Lab. No. T 1919

From Distribution System off Marham Pumping Station and Bexwell Reservoir

Labelled Tap, Water Board Offices, Oldfield Lane, Wisbech.

Taken by J. Jeffries Date and Time 29/12/72 10.15 a.m.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance	Clear and Bright	pH	7.1
Turbidity (units)	Nil	Odour	Nil
Colour (Hazen units)	Nil	Taste	Nil

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Free carbon dioxide	29.0	Copper (Cu)	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	0.10	Aluminium (Al)	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil	Calcium (Ca)	100
Albuminoid nitrogen	Trace	Iron (Fe)	Faint trace
Nitrate nitrogen	9.9	Magnesium (Mg)	5.55
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil	Manganese (Mn)	Nil
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	207.5	Lead (Pb)	Nil
Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>		Sodium (Na)	Not examined
Total	274	Zinc (Zn)	Nil
Carbonate (temporary)	207.5	Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )	6.5
Non-carbonate (permanent)	66.5	Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	33.7
Residual chlorine	0.40	Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> )	124.5
Total solids, dried at 180°C	360	Chloride (Cl)	26.5.
		Fluoride (F)	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 24 hrs. at 37°C	0
Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 72 hrs. at 20° - 22°C	0
Coliform count per 100 ml.	0
E. coli count per 100 ml.	0

REPORT

The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character. It is suitable both chemically and bacteriologically as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

Date: 23rd January, 1973.

J.S. Collins

Chemist and Bacteriologist

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Particulars on the Administration of the Act.

Part I of the Act

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	97	8	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). (These are building sites).	88	-	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	-	1	-	-
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

3. Part VIII of the Act

18 outworkers were known to be employed in the District.

4. The District Council is mainly concerned with the enforcement of the law relating to sanitary conveniences at Factories in which mechanical power is utilised, although general powers are provided under the Public Health and Food and Drugs Acts to deal with certain conditions at Factories, and in relation to infectious diseases.

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the District.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was necessary this year.

DESTRUCTION OF PESTS

(a) Rats and Mice

The Council employs one Rodent Operator who is provided with a small van and the necessary equipment. A lock-up store is provided for poisons and baits.

The Council is charged with the duty of ensuring that owners and occupiers keep their land free of rats and mice. Whilst free treatment or advice was given at domestic premises, a charge of 70p per hour was made at 24 business and 27 agricultural premises.

373 separate treatments were carried out and 1512 visits were made during the year.

(b) Other Pests

The refuse tips were treated regularly with insecticide against fly and cricket infestations, and private premises were occasionally treated for cockroach, flea, ant and silverfish infestations.

Twenty-eight wasps nests were also destroyed.

G.S. SENNITT,  
Senior Public Health Inspector.



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