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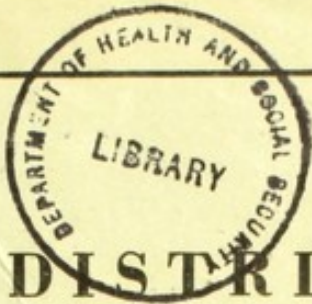
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I



LEEK URBAN DISTRICT

**ANNUAL
REPORT**


1972

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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Senior Additional Public Health Inspector

E. N. Whitehead, M.M., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

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J. Clough

K. H. Wickham (as from 3/7/72)

Senior Clerk

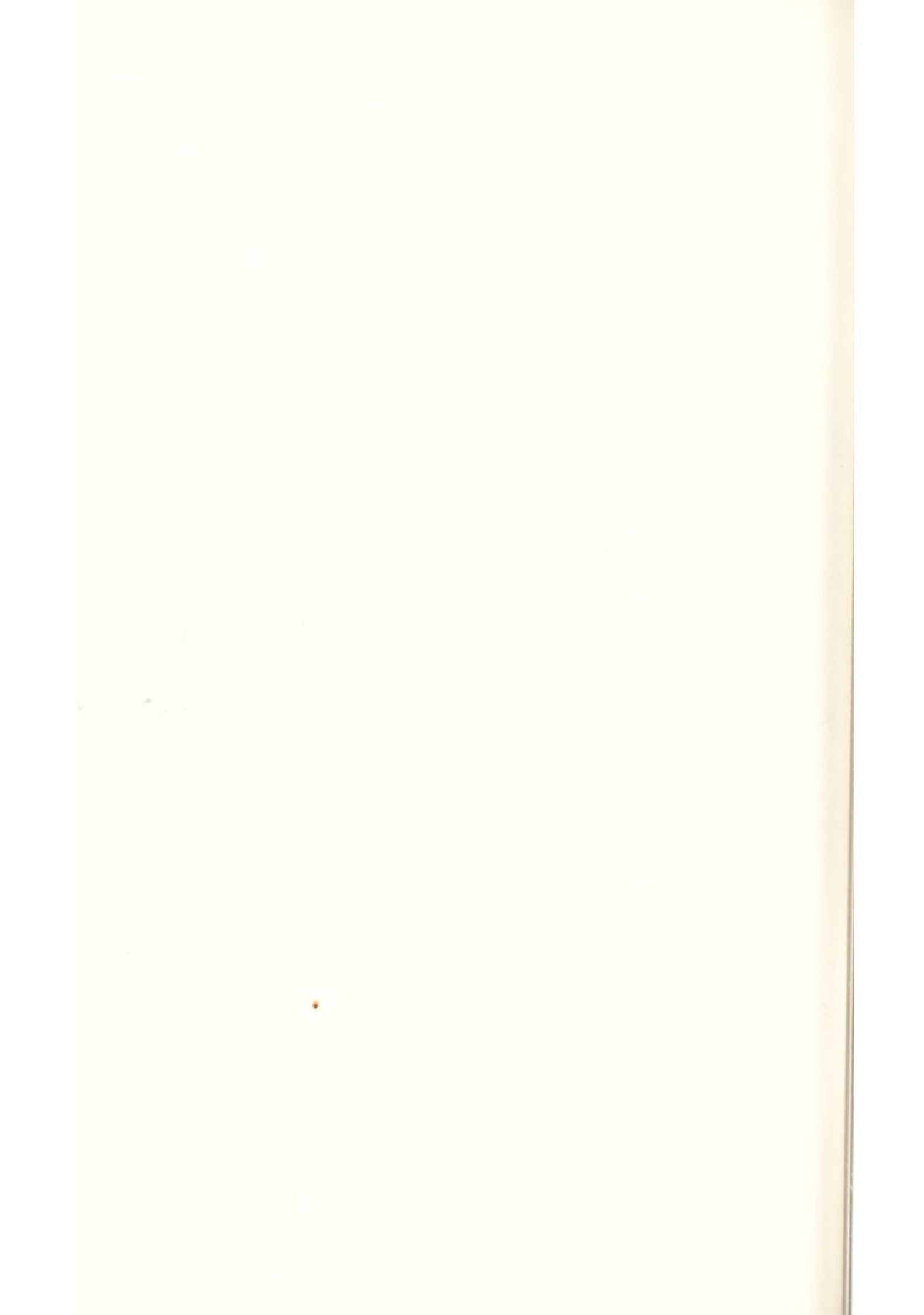
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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
LEEK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my twelfth Annual Report. The Annual Report for 1972 has been prepared in accordance with Circular 1/73 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

POPULATION: The Registrar General's figure for the estimated mid-year home population is 19,340 the same as 1971.

BIRTH RATE: There has been an increase in the number of live births compared with the previous year. In 1972, 293 births occurred whilst in 1971 there was a total of 272. Further details will be found on page 6.

Adjusted birthrate is 16.6 (comparability factor 1.10) compared with a national birthrate of 14.8 or 1.12 times the national average. The proportion of illegitimate live births was 5%, there being 15. The national figure for 1972 is 9.0%.

STILL BIRTHS: The number of still births per 1,000 of total births during the year was 3 against the national average for England and Wales of 12.

INFANT MORTALITY: In 1972 a total of 5 deaths occurred under one year of age. Further details will be found on page 7.

DEATHS: There were 295 deaths in 1972 compared with 294 in the previous year. Of the 295 deaths 137 were males and 158 females.

The major causes of death were : —

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system	171	58.0%
Malignant Disease	53	18.0%
Respiratory Disease	32	10.9%

As might be expected women died at a later age than men. Before the age of 65 years only 17% of females died compared with 34% of the males, and less than half the death of females (41%) occurred before 74 years compared with 61% amongst the men. 73 deaths or 24.7% of all deaths, male and female, occurred before 65 years.

Numerically the most important single cause of death was due to heart disease in all its forms (excluding hypertension with heart disease) accounting for 103 or 44% of the total, comprising 43% of all male deaths and 32% of all female deaths.

The second largest single cause was due to cerebrovascular disease, that is diseases of the blood vessels of the brain causing 63 or 21% of all deaths, 6% were males and 15% females.

Deaths from heart diseases and diseases of the blood vessels are often grouped together as diseases of the heart and circulatory system. In 1972 this combined group caused the deaths of 171 individuals or 58% of all deaths (80 males and 91 females).

Malignant diseases accounted for 53 deaths, 25 men and 28 women or 18% of all deaths. Of the malignant diseases, cancer of the lung formed the largest single group and accounted for one quarter of all the cancer deaths.

Not only is it important to establish the causes of death in a community but the age at which death results from those various causes. Of those dying from cancer of the lung 69%, that is more than two-thirds, died before the age of 65 years. The relationship between lung cancer and smoking is of course well known. Taking deaths from all malignant diseases which includes lung cancer and therefore influencing the result 43% died before reaching 65 years.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for 28 deaths under 65 years, or only 16%. Among the group of heart diseases, ischaemic heart disease (disease of the heart's arteries) caused a greater proportion of death below 65 years than any other. This amounted to 24% or about the average proportion of deaths from all causes of death under 65 years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: During 1972 the total number of confirmed notified diseases during the year totalled 56 compared with 28 in 1971.

The more serious diseases are becoming a rarity and no cases of poliomyelitis have occurred in Leek Urban District since 1957, while no cases of diphtheria have been recorded for more than 20 years. 1972 is interesting in that no cases of whooping cough were notified for the first time since 1962. The absence of these diseases is a tribute to parents who have wisely had their children vaccinated and immunised. There is however no room for complacency, and it is disappointing to have to record 43 cases of measles, 23 were under 5 years of age.

Vaccination against measles provides a very substantial degree of protection for the individual concerned and there is overwhelming evidence in favour of advising parents to include this with other protective procedures which can be obtained free of charge for their children from their family doctors or County clinics. Vaccination and immunisation is available for protection against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, tuberculosis where this is necessary, and German measles in the case of girls.

Three cases of respiratory tuberculosis occurred during the year, one female aged 46 years and 2 males aged 55 years and 66 years. All known contacts were traced and found to be free from infection.

Four cases of food poisoning were notified but only one case was confirmed, a girl aged 8 years. The infection was due to *Salmonella enteritidis* phage type 4, other members of the family were free from infection.

Further information regarding notifiable infectious diseases can be found on page 15

BRUCELLOSIS: This infectious disease is not notifiable. Man most commonly acquires the disease from infected animals as a hazard of working in close proximity with them such as do veterinary surgeons or farmers etc. or as in the case of the general public by drinking infected raw milk. Raw milk is milk which has not been sterilised or pasteurised.

The disease if present in cows does not invariably cause the milk to be infected, and may result in an intermittent infection of the milk making isolation of the organism difficult. The disease in man is often a protracted illness with continuous, intermittent or irregular fever of variable duration. There is often headache, weakness, profuse sweating and generalised aching. The disease may last days, months or occasionally several years. Specific treatment unfortunately is uncertain and the protection of the public lies in drinking only pasteurised or sterilised milk unless the raw milk comes from an accredited burcella free herd.

The County Council's milk sampling officer takes milk from herds in the district which is then tested for the presence of brucellosis or tuberculosis by the Public Health Laboratory. In connection with brucellosis, of the 255 samples of milk taken only one was found positive on biological test, all direct culture samples were negative.

The positive sample was notified to me on the 26th July. This sample was taken from bulk and not representative of the small amount retailed for human consumption in its raw state from five cows set aside for this purpose. With the co-operation of the County Council these five cows were investigated but as a precaution while tests were proceeding all general practitioners were asked if they had any patients who had recently contracted the disease. No cases were notified and no milk samples were found to be infected from the five cows used for retailing raw milk. The retailer ceased selling raw milk and the number who still do so in the Leek Urban District has now been reduced to five.

FOOD HYGIENE: Strange emergencies do arise from time to time. Early in the year information was received that certain food samples destined for Leek would be deliberately poisoned. This threat was made anonymously to a newspaper but in fact not put into effect. However, the amount of work involved in safeguarding supplies was considerable and the assistance was sought from Medical Officers of Health in those areas in which the food concerned was stored before delivery to Leek. It is a pleasure to record the immediate assistance given by all who were approached including the police. In particular I wish to record the valuable work done by your senior public health inspector, Mr. E. N. Whitehead.

A householder who received a consignment of deep frozen food made a complaint to me that there was a fly on one of the pork chops. The incident was unusual in that there were other complaints against this firm and the whole matter was pursued by the Weights and Measures Department of the Staffordshire County Council for legal action.

Food hygiene is a very important preventative measure against food poisoning. Staff of the Health Department not only make regular inspections of food premises but take food samples for bacteriological analysis and give advice to those engaged in the food industry in Leek.

WELFARE SERVICES: These services are provided by the County Council and the local office is situated at 1A Market Place, Leek. A close working relationship has developed between this Department and the Social Services as a result of problems arising of mutual interest or concern. Such problems are mainly related to the welfare of the elderly or the young but no age group is exempt. Monthly co-ordinating meetings are held on which are representatives from the Social Services, Local School Teachers, The Samaritans, The Probation Service and others including the Area Youth Officer and myself.

The general health of an elderly lady living alone in Leek began to deteriorate. She rejected the services of a district nurse and home help. Later she refused hospital admission in spite of the advice of the family doctor, relatives and friends. Finally it became obvious that unless she was admitted to hospital her life would be seriously at risk. Application was therefore made under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951 to a magistrate for an Order for her compulsory admittance to a hospital in Stoke-on-Trent on 19th May, 1972. She made excellent progress and was later discharged to a hospital in Leek where she was quite happy and in no way resentful of the action taken to remove her from home.

HOUSING: An inquiry was held by the Department of the Environment at Leek on 25th January, 1972, into the Leek Urban District Council's proposals to demolish a number of houses in Joliffe and Cornhill Streets. The Council had declared the area to be a Clearance Area and had applied for a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of 21 dwellings and two other buildings. The Minister confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order on 27th June 1972. The rehousing prior to clearance is almost completed.

WATER SUPPLY: From April 1st 1972 Leek ceased to have its own Water Undertaking when it was amalgamated with the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board. Samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis continue to be taken and details will be found on pages 11 and 12.

SEWERAGE: During the year the Cheddleton Heath Sewerage Scheme was completed and 77 existing dwellings in the Basford Lane, Cheddleton Heath Road and Spicer Stone Areas were connected to the sewer. The sewerage system has been designed to drain the whole land lying between Cheddleton Road and Cheddleton Heath Road, the use of which is at present undesignated on the draft Town Map for Leek.

The sewers gravitate to a pumping station whence the sewage is pumped to the sewage treatment works at Leekbrook.

Tenders have been accepted for the carrying out of the Westwood Sewerage Scheme and it is anticipated that work will begin early in 1973. The scheme is required to relieve the present unsatisfactory conditions in which flooding takes place from time to time and also to provide for the completion of the development of this area. The work involves the laying of foul and storm water sewers from 9 ins. to 36 ins. diameter, together with a stormwater overflow chamber and the cost is expected to be about £140,000.

Work is nearing completion on the reconstruction of the Leekbrook Sewage Treatment Works. Since the flow of the past year has risen to an average of 3 million gallons per day this is none too soon.

The preliminary and primary treatment sections of the works which were commissioned some twelve months ago are reported by Mr. Tricker the Sewage Works Manager to be operating satisfactorily.

It is interesting to note a reduction in strength of the crude sewage over the year. This is a direct result of the efforts by the trade effluent dischargers in Leek to reduce the strength of their effluents and hence the charges for treatment. Nearly all effluents now comply with the newly imposed chemical limits and most Industrialists have accepted the need for charges to be raised. However, despite reaching the required chemical limits imposed by the Trent River Authority, it is unlikely that the effluent will be completely devoid of colour. Experimental work is being carried out by Mr. Tricker at the works, investigating the economic viability of colour removal, and if successful will make a great difference to the River Churnet.

Industry already accounts for two thirds of the flow to the Leekbrook Sewage Works and a great problem in the future will be the availability of water to keep up with the demands of this industry.

The sewerage of a relatively small area containing approximately 112 houses has been completed. The greater proportion of these houses has now been connected to the sewer, and the use of a cesspool which received the effluent from a group of twenty houses has been discontinued.

An additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. K. H. Wickham was appointed 3rd July, 1972, to replace Mr. R. Tabbinor who resigned to take up an appointment with a neighbouring authority. Mr. Tabbinor will be remembered as a conscientious colleague who worked hard during a period when the Department was understaffed as a result of illness. All wish him well in his new appointment.

Great changes will take place in Local Government Administration in April 1974 and above all staff must be adaptable in a constantly changing world. However, if the Members and Officials in the new unit of local government of which Leek Urban District forms a part, show the same interest and enthusiasm as in the past the residents of Leek will be well served in the future.

Once again it is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance I have received from the staff of the Health Department, the willing co-operation of other Departments of this Council, and the interest and support of the Chairman and Members in our work.

H. E. WILSON
(Medical Officer of Health).

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

	1971	1972
Area in Acres	4,306	4,306
Registrar General's mid-year estimate of home population (all ages)	19,340	19,340
Number of inhabited houses in the Rate Book at end of year	7,321	7,377
Number of persons per house	2.6	2.6
Number of persons per acre	4.4	4.4
Rateable Value at 31st March	£770,013	£783,623
Sum represented by 1p rate for financial year ended 31st March	£7,450	£7,540

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total
Live births	155	138	293
(Illegitimate births)	8	7	15
Live births, rate per 1,000 population			15.1
Adjusted birthrate (comparability factor 1.10)			16.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 5.1%			
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births (England and Wales) 9%			

NOTE ON ADJUSTED BIRTHRATE

Local birthrates are usually expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including many who quite obviously have no influence on the reproductive process. These latter do, however, affect the birthrate in that a preponderance of them in the population of an area tends to lower and a small proportion of them to raise, the true rate. Considerable variation in the size of this proportion exists in different areas, and it is therefore apparent that the elimination or standardisation of such a factor enables a truer comparison between areas.

A result on these lines is obtained through the issue by the Registrar General of a comparability factor for each area for use with birthrates. The adjusted birthrate resulting from the multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by its comparability factor may be regarded as being comparable with the adjusted rate of any other area or with the crude rate for England and Wales.

	Male	Female	Total
Still births	0	1	1
(Illegitimate)	0	0	0
Still birthrate for 1,000 live and still births 3			
Still Birthrate (England and Wales) ... 12			
Total live and still births	155	139	294
(Illegitimate)	8	7	15

INFANT DEATHS	Male	Female	Total
Deaths under 1 year of age	2	3	5
(Illegitimate)	0	1	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			17
(Legitimate)			14
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)			67
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales) (Legitimate)			17
(Illegitimate)			21
Neonatal mortality, deaths under 4 weeks of age (Legitimate and Illegitimate)	2	3	5
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first 4 weeks)			10
Neonatal mortality rate (England and Wales)			12
Early neonatal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births			10
(Deaths under 1 week were 3)			
Perinatal mortality rate (still births plus deaths during the first week) per 1,000 total live and still births ...			14
Perinatal mortality rate (England and Wales)			22

DEATHS — ALL AGES	137	158	295
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			15.3
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.79)			12.1
NOTE: This comparability factor is obtained and used on a similar principal to that for comparability for births.			
Death rate (England and Wales)			12.1

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1972	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	0	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	6	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	4	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	3	13
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	0	3
Leukæmia	1	0	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	3	4
Diabetes Mellitus	0	1	1
Avitaminoses, etc.	0	1	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	0	1	1
Anaemias	1	1	2
Meningitis	1	0	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	0	1	1

Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	0	2	2
Hypertensive Disease	2	4	6
Ischaemic Heart Disease	47	29	76
Other Forms of Heart Disease	12	13	25
Cerebrovascular Disease	19	44	63
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	3	5
Influenza	0	1	1
Pneumonia	9	13	22
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	2	5
Asthma	0	2	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	2	0	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	0	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	2	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	0	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	0	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	0	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	2
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	2	3	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	0	3
All Other Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	0	1
	<hr/> 137	<hr/> 158	<hr/> 295

NOTE ON CAUSES OF DEATH :

MALIGNANT DISEASE (Cancer): This caused 53 deaths, i.e., 18% of all deaths (in 1971 it was 20.4%).

Cancer of the lung killed 10 men and 3 women in 1972 i.e. 25% of all cancer deaths (in 1971 it was 25% of all cancer deaths).

Those deaths due to cancer of the lung were in males between 45 and 54 (1), 55 and 64 (5), between 65 and 74 (2) and 75 and over (2). There was one female death between 45 and 54, and two between 55 and 64.

HEART DISEASE: 103 deaths were due to this i.e. 44% of all deaths (in 1971 it was 29.6%).

BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA: This complaint caused 5 deaths in 1972, 1.7% of all deaths; (in 1971 it was 3%).

ACCIDENTS: This accounted for 5 deaths, 3 of which were motor vehicle accidents.

SUICIDE: One male was reported during the year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1972

Deaths under 1 year of age — 5.

2 males under 1 year — under 4 weeks (1); under 1 week (1).

3 females — under 1 year of age (3); under 4 weeks (2); under 1 week (2).

There was one illegitimate death under 1 year 1 female under 1 week of age.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES:

The Urban District Council is the sanitary authority responsible for the environmental services.

The County Council is the Local Health and Local Education Authority. It is responsible for the following services. Maternity and Child Welfare, The School Health Service, Domiciliary Midwifery, Vaccination and Immunisation and Ambulance Service, a Health Visiting Service, the administration of the Mental Health Services "care and after care" and the provision of Home Nursing and "Home Helps". It also has the duty of providing Health Centres.

There are two County Clinics within the Urban District and facilities provided include Child Welfare, Speech Therapy, Chiropody, Cervical Cytology and Ante-Natal Clinics. Visits to one of these clinics are made by an Ear Nose and Throat Specialist and Ophthalmologist as part of the School Health Service.

The County Social Services Department which came into being on 1st April 1971, with the amalgamation into one department of the former County Welfare and Children's Department, together with certain aspects of the County Health Department, is responsible for the provision of the following services previously administered by the County Health Department.

The provision of domestic help for certain households. The regulation of day nurseries (play groups) and child minders. The welfare of the mentally ill and subnormal.

In addition, certain welfare services are now required under the provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970.

The Social Services Department is also responsible for the care of children deprived of a normal home life. The protection of the young in relation to criminal proceedings; the supervision of children awaiting adoption; support for families where children may be at risk; accommodation for the elderly and promotion of their welfare, including residential, day and night care, and promotion of the welfare of the disabled and physically handicapped.

The Social Services Department's Office at 1A Market Place, Leek, is responsible for the administration of these services in the Leek Urban, Leek Rural and Biddulph Urban Districts. The work is carried out by a team of eight Social Workers and four Assistant Social Workers with three Seniors.

Further addition to staff is a Voluntary Liaison Officer working mainly under the direction of the County Welfare Development Officer but based at the Area Office and whose task it is to further the development of voluntary work in the area by co-ordinating the activities of the existing voluntary organisations, advising on the setting up of new schemes and maintaining and developing links between the voluntary bodies and the statutory services to the community.

During the past year Wardens have been appointed in Biddulph and Leek, whose duty it is to visit daily, elderly and handicapped persons living alone in their own homes who are thought to be at risk. The task of the Wardens is to ensure that the person is well and does not require immediate assistance. This service has been greatly appreciated by the

elderly and handicapped people concerned, and, on a number of occasions, the Wardens have been able to summon needed medical and other assistance which has averted distress, and possibly tragedy, at the time. At present two Wardens are operating in Biddulph visiting twenty persons each day and two Wardens in Leek, calling on twenty-five households.

There is also a Handicraft Instructor and a Domestic Help Organiser with 74 Domestic Helps working in the Leek Urban and Rural Districts visiting a total of 394 households.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Leek is served by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford, and is a component of a free national laboratory service for England and Wales. The work of the Laboratory is designed to assist the Medical Officer of Health and the general practitioners, in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. Its activities include the examination of throat and nose swabs, sputum, blood and excreta of human origin as aids to diagnosis of suspected or actual infectious diseases. Its sanitary work includes mainly the bacteriological examinations of drinking water, the testing of sampled milk for cleanliness and for the presence of the tubercle bacillus and other pathogenic organisms, and the bacteriological testing of food samples, ice cream, synthetic cream, and shellfish as distributed to the user or consumer.

MILK: The laboratory continues to report on the results of general bacteriological tests and biological tests for tubercle bacilli and Brucellosis in samples of milk submitted to it by the County Council Milk Sampling Officer of milk sold in the Leek Urban District.

105 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the METHYLENE BLUE test, a test for ordinary bacteriological cleanliness, one sample failed to pass the test.

Of the 106 samples of pasteurised milk examined by the PHOSPHATASE TEST — to ascertain the effectiveness of the process — there were no failures.

No samples of sterilised milk were submitted to the TURBIDITY TEST.

3 samples of ULTRA HEAT TREATED milk gave a negative colony count test.

BIOLOGICAL TESTS: Tests for the presence of tubercle bacilli and Brucellosis are carried out on samples submitted. All tests for tubercle bacilli were negative. One sample was positive for Brucellosis.

Farmers in the Leek Urban District retail varying amounts of their total milk production, sending the remainder for heat treatment. Of the 134 routine bulk milk samples by the County Council 11 gave positive ring tests.

MORTUARY

The Council's mortuary is situated in Condlyffe Road. Essential equipment is provided by the local authority and a mortuary attendant is available when required.

The mortuary was used for 15 persons during 1972. No post mortems were performed.

WATER SUPPLY

The Town's Water Supply is obtained from two sources; a series of springs at Upperhulme, and a borehole at Pool End.

The supply from Upperhulme flows by gravity to the point at which it joins the distribution system; part is fed directly into the mains the remainder passing direct to the Mount Reservoir.

The supply from Pool End is derived from a borehole, and is pumped directly to the Mount Reservoir. Part is then pumped to the Kniveden Reservoir to supply those parts of the town which are too high to be supplied from the Mount Reservoir.

From Upperhulme a supply is afforded to the Blackshaw Moor Camp and to other properties in the vicinity of Blackshaw Moor and Upperhulme.

Water is supplied from Pool End to a number of properties in the Leek Rural District Council area. Water from Pool End also passes via a water tower in the Rural District to properties at the top of Ladderedge in the Leek Urban District.

As from April 1st, 1972, Leek ceased to have its own water undertaking and was amalgamated with the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board. Samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis continue to be taken.

Four dwellings in the district have independent water supplies. Two dwellings are without piped supplies of water, both in isolated situations.

There are no common stand-pipes for domestic supplies.

RESERVOIRS: There are now no open reservoirs in the district. This has eliminated the problem of contamination of the water by insect larvae and by algae, both sources of considerable trouble to the water department in times past.

The covering has also very much reduced the likelihood of casual contamination by birds or animals.

WATER TREATMENT

FILTRATION: The water from neither Pool End nor Upperhulme is subjected to filtration. The water is clear and free from sediment.

CHLORINATION: Chlorination is necessary for the water from both sources of supply. Untreated water from either source displays bacterial contamination.

Chlorine is introduced into the system in the form of hypochlorite solution. It is administered by drip feed at the Upperhulme dosing chamber, and by injection under pressure at the Pool End Pumping Station.

A new chlorination plant was installed at Pool End pumping station during the year. The plant provides for chlorine gas to be taken into solution and the solution injected into the pumping main under pressure as it leaves the station. The system is provided in duplicate in the case of failure of a component.

FLUORIDATION: The advisability of adding a controlled dose of fluoride to drinking water has been proved beneficial in reducing the incidence of dental caries in children. The practice involves a dosage of 1 part of fluoride per million parts of water.

The fluoridation of domestic water supplies has been recommended by the Central Government and to this the Urban District Council has agreed. The County Council have signified their willingness to meet the cost.

SAMPLING: Samples for bacteriological examination are taken weekly. The samples go to the Public Health Laboratory at Stafford for examination.

The samples are taken from points which are representative of the sources of supply and also from a point after the supplies have been mixed.

During the year 169 samples of treated water were taken, and were all found satisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY

Samples of untreated water were taken from each source and submitted for chemical analysis. The results are submitted below.

Upperhulme Source: Upland Springs

Chemical Examination — Sample taken 7/11/72.

pH 6.9

	Parts per million
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C)	120
Chlorides (as Cl)	16
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	78
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	60
Carbonate Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	60
Non-Carbonate Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	18
Free Ammonia	0.03
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.05
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Oxygen Absorbed in 4hrs. at 27°C	0.40
Fluoride (as F)	0.05
Free Residual Chlorine	4.45
Total Residual Chlorine	4.45
Metals (p.p.m.) Zinc	0.09
Copper	0.05

Opinion: Satisfactory chemical quality.

Pool End Supply: Borehole.

Chemical Examination — Sample taken 31/10/72.

pH 6.5

	Parts per million
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180°C)	155
Chlorides (as Cl)	15
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	92
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	58
Carbonate Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	58
Non-Carbonate Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	34
Free Ammonia	0.03
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.05
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.8
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Oxygen Absorbed in 4hrs. at 27°C	0.10
Fluoride (as F)	0.15
Free Residual Chlorine	0.05
Total Residual Chlorine	0.06
Metals (p.p.m.) Zinc	0.12
Copper	1.51
Lead	Nil

Opinion: The amount of dissolved copper in the Poolend sample was attributed to the circumstances of sampling. Samples by the Staffordshire

Potteries Water Board have shown a lower level of copper, in the general supply. Previous years sampling before the advent of the Potteries Water Board would seem to confirm that the general level of copper dissolved by the water is not high, but in certain circumstances where the water passes through long runs of relatively new copper pipe in a warm situation it is possible for the level of copper in the water to increase quite markedly. It must be stated that the level reported in the sample is not regarded as dangerous.

SWIMMING BATHS: Samples of water from the swimming baths are also submitted weekly for examination. The samples taken during the year were 80 in number, of which 2 displayed a high colony count.

SECTION C

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Full details of notifiable diseases can be found in the tables on the following pages.

Leek is fortunate in that the Infectious Disease Isolation Hospital for the area is at Bucknall — a comparatively short distance away. This receives all types of infectious disease apart from smallpox, which is treated at the Catherine de Barnes Hospital, Solihull. Bucknall Hospital is administered by the Stoke-on-Trent Management Committee. Admission is arranged directly by the local general practitioners and transport is provided by the County Council ambulance service.

ADMISSIONS TO BUCKNALL HOSPITAL

1. NON-SPECIFIC GASTRO-ENTERITIS — 8 cases from 4 months to 3 years.
2. E. COLI URINARY TRACT INFECTION — 1 female aged 60 years.
3. SEPTIC PAROTITIS — 1 female aged 70 years.

TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during 1972 and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis. At the end of the year the position of the register was as follows :

TOTAL CASES	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
50	24	17	41	3	6	9

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Urban District of Leek

for the year ended 31st December, 1972

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (excluding rubella)		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningo-coccal infection	
					Paralytic		Non-paralytic									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (All Ages)	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Final numbers after correction																
Under 1 year									4	2						
1—									3	5						
2— years		1							2	2						
3—									3	2						
4—	1	1							10	9						
5—9	1	4								1						
10—14		1														
15—24																
25 and over																
Age unknown																
Total (All Ages)	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Leptospirosis		Smallpox		Acute poliomyelitis				Enteric or Typhoid fever		Paratyphoid fever		Infective Jaundice		Food poisoning	
					Infective		Post-infectious									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Total (All Ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Final numbers after correction																
Under 5 years																1
5—14 years																
15—44																
45—64																
65 and over																
Age unknown																
Total (All Ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Tuberculosis								Total of new cases coming to the knowledge of Medical Officer of Health otherwise than by formal notification	Other notifiable diseases		Original		Final		
	Respiratory		Meninges and C.N.S.		Other											
	M	F	M	F	M	F						M	F	M	F	
Number originally notified	2	1	—	—	—	—						—	—	—	—	
Total (All Ages)	2	1	—	—	—	—					—	—	—	—		
Final numbers after correction									Male	Female	Ophthalmia neonatorum Anthrax					
Under 1 year								—	—							
1— year																
2—4 years																
5—9																
10—14																
15—19																
20—24																
25—34																
35—44																
45—54		1														
55—64	1															
65—74	1															
75 and over																
Age unknown																
Total (All Ages)	2	1	—	—	—	—										

† Specify Disease and Sex but not age

LEEK U.D. — INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1963-1972 (Confirmed Notifications)

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Scarlet Fever	35	—	24	15	6	24	18	12	3	9
Whooping Cough	8	38	10	6	44	11	11	4	10	—
Measles	358	24	344	39	439	133	10	62	6	43
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	28	15	3	6	1	—	1	—	5	—
*Infective Jaundice								3	2	—
†Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	2	2	1	1	—	6	2	1	—	1
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary	3	6	5	2	2	—	1	2	1	3
Non-Pulmonary	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Infective Jaundice made notifiable in 1968

†Not notifiable since 1968

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Population	19,140	19,100	19,210	19,180	19,150	19,340	19,340
No. of inhabited houses	6,937	7,015	7,086	7,199	7,289	7,321	7,377
No. of live births	264	280	305	313	292	272	293
Birth rate (crude)	13.79	14.7	15.88	16.3	15.2	14.1	15.1
No. of still births	5	2	2	1	4	2	1.
Maternal mortality	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infant mortality rate	30.31	32.14	19.67	29	10	22	17
Infant mortality (No. of deaths) ...	8	9	6	9	3	7	5
No. of deaths (all ages)	280	287	295	293	266	294	295
Death rate (crude)	14.6	15.0	15.36	15.3	13.9	15.2	15.3

Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Leek Urban District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting to you my third Annual Report it is pleasing to be in a position to say that 1972 was a year not dominated as 1970 and 1971 were by the urgencies of petroleum duties; for the first time in three years it became possible to programme and promote activities more directly concerned with public health.

There was a degree of impedence to this in that Mr. R. P. Tabbinor resigned and subsequently Mr. K. H. Wickham was appointed and commenced duties in July.

Despite this temporary setback it is pleasing to record that the year was one of increasing activity, the essential basics being finally established upon which the Department could effectively contribute towards the achievement of better standards in many spheres of activity.

I would like to draw particular attention to the increased involvement in Housing, Food Hygiene, Offices and Shops etc. as described under these headings in the Report.

At the time of preparing this report (i.e. mid 1973) the benefits of adequate staffing and the pursuance of programmed schedules of work are more positively identifiable by the results being clearly demonstrable both statistically and in fact.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS UNDER THE ACTS

Public Health Acts etc:

Complaints	260
Nuisances	258
Drainage	356
Keeping of Animals	34
Infectious Diseases, food poisoning etc.	55
Water Supplies	298
Dirty and/or Verminous premises	18
Pet Shops	3
Animal Boarding	4
Agricultural Premises	6
Scrap Metal Dealers	2
Theatre Licences	6
Caravans and Sites	39
Rodent Control (Inspectors Visits)	145
Miscellaneous	43
Informal Notices Served	116
Statutory Notices Served	2

Housing Acts:

Inspections for Representations	151
Revisits	154
Inspections — Searches and Survey	532
Improvement Grants — Standard	217
Improvement Grants — Discretionary	26
Qualification Certificates	20
Multiple Occupation	74

Food and Drugs Acts etc:

Meat Inspection — Abattoir	507
Inspection of Abattoir	4
Fried Fish and Chip Shops	60
Ice Cream — Vehicles	28
Ice Cream — Registered Premises	64
Other Registered Premises	82
Other Food Premises	647
Unsound Food	55
Informal Notices/Letters	214

Cleansing:

Re Dustbins and Storage	30
Business Premises	21
Miscellaneous	37

Factories Acts:

Factories with power	48
Factories without power	7

Petroleum Spirit:

Inspections	278
-------------	-----

Indoor Market:

Inspections	101
-------------	-----

Street Market:	
Inspections	64
Clean Air Act 1956:	
Smoke Control Areas	31
Factories — boiler plant	57
— chimney heights	10
Noise:	
Investigation and assessment	80
Informal notices	2

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS ETC.

During the year some 285 complaints were received from various sources. Of these only some 4 were complaints of housing defects, reflecting the continuing trend of increasing owner occupation, the clearance of unfit houses and the improvement of older property.

The majority of complaints (128) arose from rat or mice infestations. None were major infestations, and a summary of the work carried out over the year shows that some 304 properties were inspected. The treatment of these showed that 70 had evidence of rat infestation and some 38 were troubled by mice. As a percentage of the total of all properties in the area this represents 0.9% and 0.5% infested properties respectively, which is a comparatively low figure, the national average for this type of area being respectively 2.2% and 0.6%. These figures demonstrate a low infestation rate as compared to years prior to 1969 and are, I believe, the result of more comprehensive treatment procedures which have been adopted.

As a continuing and concurrent policy the treatment of the sewers of the town was carried out in May and October. Some 213 and 240 manholes respectively were baited, checked and further treated where necessary.

Some 42 complaints regarding defective drainage were dealt with in the year in addition to drainage work required where inspections for other purposes were carried out. The rectification of drainage defects and investigating unrecorded drains and sewers put down 100 years ago can involve time and patience to a high degree; and in the year some 356 visits and inspections are recorded in respect of this work alone.

It is interesting to note that the overall complaint level dropped by 20% (of the 1971 figure), and by 33% of the 1970 figure. Drainage complaints being slightly lower in number, necessitated a level of inspection etc. nearly 20% lower than in 1971.

During the year 169 water samples were submitted for bacteriological analysis.

It is the normal practice to submit a distribution sample (treated) from each of the two sources and a distribution mixed supply sample each week.

These samples are further supplemented by direct source samples (i.e. untreated) being taken from each source in order to give a better overall picture of the situation in the event of proven or suspected contamination. The results of these examinations indicates that during 1972 the distributed water supply was bacteriologically satisfactory.

Chemical sampling was also carried out as was sampling for lead and other metals. All were satisfactory.

The condition of the water in the public baths was also kept under investigation. Some 80 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and 2 were reported as unsatisfactory (colony counts). The control of the purity of baths water, attempting as it does to produce a water of the same purity as drinking water requires close supervision to vary and adjust the various dosing and treatment media, under continuously changing and often unpredictable situations.

With the everchanging variations in load (number of persons using) and associated contamination from contact with the bathers' bodies, including perspiration, saliva, urine etc. the main aims are to provide a clear water with sufficient free chlorine available to kill off all bacteria and destroy organic matter at the same time controlling the pH within a narrow range (7.5—8.0).

Investigation into reported unsatisfactory samples was undertaken with the full co-operation of the Baths Manager, in a continuing effort to maintain a satisfactory and safe water in the baths.

During the year the licensed caravan site came in for continuing attention but although facility conditions on the site were to the standards laid down in the Model Code and the licence conditions imposed, the manner of use of the site by both the licensee and the van occupiers left much to be desired.

Generally, the many duties and responsibilities under the Public Health Acts and closely allied legislation received prompt attention as did complaints as and when they came to our notice.

HOUSING ACT

A great deal of activity during the year arose partly as a result of more active pursuance of action being initiated on unfit houses and also as a result of the requirement to provide statistical information to the Department of the Environment on the condition of the houses in the area, this to be based on a statistically accepted method of assessment rather than by "educated" guesswork.

A Public Inquiry was held on 25th January 1972 into the Cornhill Street/Jolliffe Street Clearance Area and Compulsory Purchase Order, evidence being given on behalf of the Council by the officers involved.

On 27th June the Minister confirmed the Order without modification thereby accepting the assessment of the houses and the Councils proposals for dealing with the Area.

During the year some 22 houses were made the subject of Demolition Orders etc. and a further 19 properties had been represented for such action (Orders subsequently made). 13 houses were demolished and 10 families rehoused as a consequence of action under the Acts.

The requirement to provide the Department of the Environment with detailed information on the housing stock required categorisation of a random sample of some 1100 houses. Whilst many could be readily assessed (Council houses, new and comparatively modern properties), it became necessary to visit and inspect approximately 400 older houses and this necessitated the involvement of all the Inspectors during July.

During May and September publicity was given (in the "Leek Post and Times") to Improvement Grants, and an article was published on that subject. There was an initial increase in interest after the earlier issue but this was not maintained although there was an increase in applications over previous years (37 in 1970, 42 in 1971, 62 in 1972).

It became possible for the first time to initiate investigation and identification of houses in multiple occupation. This was an unknown quantity, and we came upon many problems not so much concerned with the standard of accommodation which generally was found to be good but with the inadequacies of means of escape in case of fire and fire precautions generally. Advice was sought, where appropriate, of the Building Inspector or of the Fire Service and owners advised of the works which were necessary.

Applications for Qualification Certificates remained at a low level and as half were refused it would seem that applications are often made optimistically by the owner rather than with the intent of ensuring justification of their desire to obtain an increase of rental income.

In total there were 1174 housing visits and inspections (632 in 1970, 541 in 1971) reflecting the increased involvement in housing matters during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year a total of 62 applications for Grants were received and the following statistics are relevant.

(1) Standard

	Owner/ occupiers	Tenanted
1. Number of applications Received	56	4
Number of applications Approved	56	4
Number of applications Refused	Nil	Nil
2. Number of dwellings improved	37	Nil
3. Amount paid in grants	£8835.44	
4. Average grant per house	£238.79	
5. Amenities provided		
(a) fixed bath	35	
(b) shower	—	
(c) wash-hand basin	35	
(d) sink	—	
(e) hot water supply (to any fittings)	35	
(f) water closet (1) within dwelling	37	
(2) accessible from dwelling	—	

(2) Discretionary

1. Number of applications received
2. Number of applications Approved
3. Number of applications Refused
4. Number of dwellings Improved

Owner/ occupiers	Tenanted
1	1
1	1
Nil	Nil
2	2

5. Amount paid in grants £2421.00
6. Average grant per house £605.25

It is estimated that there are some 750 or more older houses in the town which still do not have all the standard facilities (i.e. bath, wash hand basin, sink, hot and cold water, internal W.C.); it would seem that with local and national publicity the level of grant applications has increased to a somewhat higher level (50% above earlier years) and it is to be hoped that level will be at least maintained. If it should be, there is the possibility that by the late 1970's it may be said for the first time that all houses have at least all the standard facilities.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

During the year 6 applications were received, 3 Certificates being granted and three refused. Whether this procedure (enabling landlords to have the rents increased for property in good repair and with all facilities) will encourage the repair and improvement of tenant property remains to be seen. At the present time it is making little impression upon owners of tenanted properties in Leek, and in view of the effect of rent phasing and rent allowances under the Housing Finance Act 1972, one does not expect any further improvement in the situation to develop.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS ETC.

Meat Inspection

The one hundred per cent detailed inspection of all animals slaughtered in the local abattoir involves some 12-14 hours per week of your Inspectors' time. The frequent visits necessary to the abattoir for the purpose interrupts the continuity of other duties which must, on many occasions, take second place to the statutory responsibility for ensuring that all carcasses are inspected and marked as having been inspected and found fit for human consumption.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	754	Nil	Nil	2710	1230
Number Not inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	109	Nil	Nil	86	59
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Cysticerci					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

	Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
1. Meat at Slaughterhouse		19	
2. Meat at wholesale premises			14
3. Meat at retail shops			90
4. Cooked meat and meat products			17
5. Canned meats			66
6. Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown		8	56
7. Other Foods		14	56
Total ...	2	3	75

Food Hygiene Regulations

The following numbers of the various classes of food premises are recorded :

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	19
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	54
Licensed Premises (Catering)	...	...	...	...	...	54
Licensed Premises (not catering)	...	...	...	...	...	12
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	28
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	56
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	18
Wet fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	16
Market Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	16
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total						301

In previous years there has been cause to comment on the concern felt from the inability to ensure adequate enforcement coverage under the Act and Regulations

During the year, as advised in the 1971 Report, this aspect of our work was given a fairly high priority and by the end of the year the snowballing effect of comprehensive coverage was beginning to be felt and shown by the progress made in premises and by the increasing inquiries and approaches for advice.

Inspection levels were trebled over previous years and, as expected, many premises were identified as food premises not having previously been recorded.

Three times as many premises complied with the law at the end of the year as did at the beginning, and there is little doubt that there will be a continuance of this improvement into 1973.

I believe that important factors in securing compliance have been the increasing awareness of the Council's support, the demonstrably responsible attitude of the Inspectors in carrying out their inspections, and it being clearly seen that the application of legal standards was being effected impartially and with complete coverage.

During the year a programme of sampling for bacteriological examination of soft ice cream, raw minced meat and sausage meat etc. was undertaken:—

Sausage Meat	...	...	...	41	Meat Products	...	...	...	15
Uncooked Pie Filling	...	...	...	6	Soft Ice Cream	...	...	...	38
Raw Minced Meats	...	...	...	61	Ice Cream Mix	...	...	...	7

There is little doubt that this programme developed an awareness in the food handlers of our concern in their methods of handling etc. and although the initial approach and indication of intention was received with a degree of suspicion, it is true to say that full co-operation was received once the purpose and extent was explained.

The satisfactory reports received were extremely pleasing. In one instance however (minced raw meat) Salmonella Thompson was isolated and immediately extensive swabbing of equipment and working surfaces in the premises concerned was undertaken, all food handlers and others associated with them being investigated as possible carriers.

All swabs and samples were negative and despite further inquiry it was not possible to trace back positively to source. Subsequently sampling from the premises concerned resulted in negative reports.

A further development during the year was the steady increase of containerised imports into a large food premises in the town. This food requires our attention under the Imported Food Regulations 1968. It is fairly clear that 1972 is only the beginning, there being just over 2000 tons of butter, cheese, cream, yoghurt, milk products being imported, comprising some 2,150,000 individual articles of food. The likelihood is that this may well be only about one eighth of the 1973 figure.

We received only a few complaints about purchased food: — Minced meat, fish, jam, a potato crisp and a rye slice were the subject of complaint. In only the last instance was the complaint substantiated and, on Committee's instructions a warning letter was sent to the retailer concerned.

CLEANSING

A weekly collection of refuse is provided, 3 x 35 cu. yd. vehicle being used; disposal being by controlled tipping at Fowlchurch tip.

In the year some 1,487 loads were collected.

During 1972 a total of 753 tons of paper and board salvage were baled, realising an income of £8,435.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prose- cuted (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.	133	55	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † Section 1, 2, 3, 4 (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	133	55	5	—

* To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authority and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

† i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

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)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Notifications were received under Section 110 (1) of a total of 46 outworkers employed in the making of wearing apparel. No action arose from these notifications.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Extracts from the Annual Report statistics statutorily required by, and submitted to, the Safety Health and Welfare Division of the Department of Employment, are shown below.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of Premises newly registered during the year	Total Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	4	63	34
Retail Shops	10	139	54
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	Nil	7	5
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	2	13	3
Fuel Storage depots	Nil	3	1
Totals	16	225	97

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES — 257.

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR	
Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	686
Retail Shops	510
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	24
Catering establishments open to the public	64
Canteens	6
Fuel Storage depots	9
Total	1299
Total Males	546
Total Females	753

Analysis of contraventions found:—

Section	Number of Contraventions found		Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	22	11	Supply of drinking water	1
6	Temperature	9	15	Eating facilities	1
7	Ventilation	14	16	Floors, passage and stairs	16
8	Lighting	1	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	1
9	Sanitary conveniences	15	24	First aid	6
10	Washing facilities	10		Hoists and lifts	1
				Other matters	6
				Total	103

As with food premises it was possible to step up the rate of inspection under the Act very considerably during the year, particularly in the matter of revisiting once infringements had been found under the Act — in fact more visits and inspections were done in 1973 than in the two previous years together.

It is surprising that so many people work in inadequate premises (welfare wise) and never complain. As will be seen, 97 premises receiving a general inspection revealed the contraventions produced above.

Whilst toilet accommodation, washing facilities and conditions of floors etc. continue to be the main features of inadequacy in either provision or maintenance, there appears to be an increasing degree of failure to maintain cleanliness and ventilation of premises and these two items are shown for the first time in 1972 as being significant factors in the analysis of conditions found.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936

During the year there was a finality achieved in the heavy load of work on petroleum which had dominated the previous two years.

Some seven underground tanks were infilled with concrete, and at the end of the year three further installations had been closed down, one by revocation of licence and two by refusal to issue further licences.

A summary of the three years work demonstrates the degree of attention which had been given subsequent to the 1969 incident:

Number of installations permanently closed :	...	8
Number licensed by Home Office :	...	1
Number to be (possibly) licensed by Home Office :	...	1
Number closed pending future intentions :	...	2
Number of tanks infilled	...	29
Tank use changed	...	9
Tanks etc. tested	...	28
New tanks installed	...	6
Pumps renewed or dismantled	...	34
Partial or complete rewirings	...	31
Interceptors installed	...	10
Inspections etc.	...	1521

On 6th March 1972 an incident occurred involving petrol loss into drains and sewers in Bath Street; this was brought to my attention at 9.30 p.m. on that day. Investigation indicated a necessity for immediate uplifting of petrol and diesel stored in a split compartment underground tank, this being achieved under conditions of great difficulty in a dark yard, there being an electricity shut down at the time. By 3.15 a.m. uplifting under supervision, and with Fire Service fire fighting equipment on site, was completed.

Subsequently the licence was revoked and the installation infilled with concrete, the licensee being unwilling to properly deal with those matters requiring attention in order to ensure no further similar occurrence.

At the end of the year 33 licences were issued for 1973.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Domestic

The original Smoke Control Area continues to be infilled with the final stages of the housing development in the area. Only a comparatively small number of properties in the Area depend upon a supply of solid smokeless fuel, and the problem of enforcement is minimal.

Factories

The conversion or replacement over the years of hand fired coal burning installations has resulted in marked improvement in industrial pollution. Whilst automatic stokers are not, unfortunately, fault free and difficulties do at times arise, these are usually unavoidable and every effort is made to speedily rectify the situation and ensure efficient operating and consequent minimal smoke emission.

During the year a considerable amount of investigation and advice was given on visits to industrial boiler plant, as was the necessary investigation and assessment of chimney heights for new and extended plant.

NOISE

The incidence of complaints has continued to increase and again has involved factory noise in the main — fan noise, compressor noise, machinery operation causing both noise and vibration — and these complaints are becoming (in an industrialised area) associated with 24 hour operation of machinery etc. — “it is always worst after midnight” or “worst at between 5 and 6 a.m.”

In fact of course the emitted noise is much the same as during the day but there is considerable difference in its impact upon the senses during the night with the lower ambient noise levels, as against the higher levels of daytime.

Various methods of achieving a reduction of noise had to be employed, the greatest initial difficulty being to convince the owner a) that he must effect an improvement and (b) that the approach must be to employ known quantified methods to ensure a satisfactory result.

It is anticipated that there will be new legislation but, as often happens, the general situation will have deteriorated even further by the time it does arrive and the reduction of noise levels to a sensible level will be all the more protracted for that reason.

GENERAL

As Members are aware, we have had more than our fair share of difficulties during the last three years, and, as this may be the last occasion on which I will present a Report to the present Members, I am taking the opportunity to thank all the staff for the conscientious manner in which they have carried out their duties and for the loyal assistance which they have at all times given to me personally.

Three members of the Department are particularly worthy of mention at this time, being long serving staff having given of their best for many years. Mr. E. N. Whitehead, who has served since 1951, has contributed to the welfare of the people of this town to an exceptional degree over the years. There is no doubt in my mind that there are very many people living in better houses and enjoying better circumstances both at home and at work as a result of his direct and determined involvement in public health work in the town.

Mr. J. Traynor, who has served the Council since 1944 has also in his way (often forgotten and certainly unsung), made a positive and appreciated contribution. Promotion of public health results from a combination of application in matters both large and small; and there are very many who have reason to be grateful for his services and the way in which they have been carried out.

Lastly, but certainly not least, Mrs. H. A. Hulme has run the office for ten years. It has been an invaluable contribution which is really only properly understood and valued by those of us who work with her and are aware of her quiet and unassuming efficiency.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Council for their support. In particular the Chairman of the Health Committee, Mr. K. V. Rushton has, by his personal advice, support and interest in the objectives of the Department, contributed in no small way to the establishment of a happy Department and to the high morale of the staff — would that it could always be so!

R. GOUCHER

Chief Public Health Inspector.

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