

[Report 1972] / Medical Officer of Health, Lewes Borough.

Contributors

Lewes (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1972

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LEWES BOROUGH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR ENDED - 31st DECEMBER, 1972.



LEWES BOROUGH COUNCIL

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1972

Chairman: Councillor A. F. Hayward, J.P.

Vice Chairman: Councillor W. Fuller

Alderman G. E. Hayward

Councillors:

Birkbeck	Jacobs
Denton	Martin
Mrs. Greene	Nicholl
Hoile	Mrs. Reed

Mrs. Tapp

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

J. L. Cotton, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. from November,
1960.

The Grange, Southover, Lewes.
Telephone No. Lewes 4282

Public Health Inspectorate

C. W. Mann, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.P.H.E., Chief Public Health
Inspector (from 1st November, 1970)

E. Peter, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector (from 1st May, 1967
to 13th November, 1972).
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (from
14th November, 1972).

G. E. Rutland, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector (from 10th April,
1972)

Office Staff

A. J. Shepherd (died 30th November, 1972)

Mrs. A. M. Hill (temporary from May 1st, 1972, permanent from 1st
December, 1972).

HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTION AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1972

Councillor A. V. Hayward, J.P.

Chairman:

Councillor W. Palfrey

Vice Chairman:

Alfred G. E. Hayward

Councillor:

James

Blacklock

Kevin

Donson

Nicholas

Mrs. Green

Mrs. Seed

Ellie

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J. L. Gordon, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., D.R.C.P., D.P.M. from November, 1960.

The Grange, Southover, Lewes.
Telephone No. Lewes 4582

Public Health Inspector

C. W. Mann, M.B.E., M.A., B.S., A.I.P.H.S., A.I.P.H.S., Chief Public Health Inspector (from 1st November, 1970)

H. Peter, M.B.E., M.A., B.S., Public Health Inspector (from 1st May, 1967 to 1st November, 1972)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (from 1st November, 1972)

D. E. Butler, M.A., B.S., Public Health Inspector (from 10th April, 1972)

Office Staff

A. J. Shepherd (from 30th November, 1972)

<https://archive.org/details/b29730223>

To the Mayor, the Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee, the Aldermen and Members of the Lewes Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the state of public health and on the sanitary circumstances of Lewes Borough for 1972.

The vital statistics of the area compare very favourably with those for England and Wales. The almost stationary population in Lewes makes the decline in births very noticeable. The figure is down by almost one third compared with the 1960's. The number of births in England and Wales has been steadily declining since 1964, but the rate of decline was particularly marked during 1972. It is very likely that the 1973 births in England and Wales will be the lowest since 1955, when the population was $4\frac{1}{2}$ million less.

Only seven cases of infectious disease were notified, none of which were of particular significance. Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were also notified during the year.

There were 73 new dwellings built during the year, 12 by the local authority and 61 by private enterprise. Details are to be found in the report of the House Condition Survey, which revealed that there were 581 substandard houses within the Borough, the vast majority of which are capable of being fully improved. A future policy of improvement of properties will bring to an end the demolition of numbers of unfit houses as has happened in the past. Some 31 properties were made fit by the use of improvement grants during 1972.

This will be the last Annual Report to be received by the present Council. The reorganisation of Local Government and of the Health Service provide for the transfer of the Medical Officer of Health from employment in Local Government to employment by the new Area Health Authority as a Community Physician. At the time of writing the details of the proposed system of collaboration between the National Health Service and Local Government were still not available. Whatever the ultimate details are, it is obvious that the system will have to allow for medical advice to be readily available to District Councils on certain matters. To function effectively in this role, the medical adviser must continue to be accepted as a member of the District Councils' team of officers whilst, at the same time, looking to the Area Health Authority for perhaps the major part of his future work. Medical Officers of Health have served the community well during the past 120 years. There are reasons of administrative convenience for integrating the Health Services and hopes thereby that the effectiveness of the Health Services will increase. Over the years, the Medical Officer of Health has been a good friend to the general public, who will gain no benefit from his disappearance and the emergence of the Community Physician, unless very close links are preserved between Local Authorities and Area Health Authorities.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and support I have received from them during the year. My thanks are also due to Mr. Mann, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and to Mr. Peter and Mr. Rutland, the Public Health Inspectors, for their valuable assistance. To the other officers of the Council, I offer my thanks for their courtesy and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. L. COTTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	1,993
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 1972)	14,140
Population (1931 Census)	10,993
Population (1951 Census)	13,106
Population (1961 Census)	13,645
Net increase of population during year	60
Number of occupied houses 1951	3,915
Number of occupied houses 1961	4,386
Number of occupied houses 1972	4,980
Rateable Value (1st April, 1972)	£940,318
Product of a penny rate	£8,550

(b) VITAL STATISTICS

1. Births & Birth Rates

	LEWES BOROUGH	ENGLAND & WALES
Live Births	147	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude)	10.4	14.8
* Corrected birth rate	11.6	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.0	9.0
Still births	-	
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	-	12.0
Total live and still births	147	
Live births		
Male		
Female		
Total		
Legitimate	68	72
Illegitimate	7	-
	75	72
	147	

2. Deaths & Death Rates

Deaths	162	
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude)	11.5	12.1
* Corrected death rate	10.4	
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)		
Male		
Female		
Total		
Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-
	-	1
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	7	17.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	7	17.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0	21.0
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	12.0

Deaths & Death Rates Cont'd

	<u>LEWES</u> <u>BOROUGH</u>	<u>ENGLAND</u> <u>& WALES</u>
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Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	10.0
Peri-natal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	-	22.0
Maternal mortality (including abortions)		
Number of deaths	0	
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0	

* In order to compare death rates and birth rates in different parts of the country, the Registrar General supplies comparability factors for every district, so as to adjust for irregularities regarding age and sex in the local population. Applying a comparability factor of 1.12 to the crude birth rate of 10.4 the adjusted rate becomes 11.6. Similarly a comparability factor of 0.90 applied to the crude death rate of 11.5 makes the adjusted rate 10.4. This is below the rate for England and Wales at 12.1.

POPULATION

The population of Lewes for the last ten years is given below:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Adjusted Death Rate</u>
1963	13,870	200	191	14.4	16.4	13.8	12.7
1964	13,890	214	170	15.4	17.6	13.7	12.6
1965	14,020	210	179	15.0	17.1	12.8	11.7
1966	14,070	187	181	13.3	15.2	12.9	11.9
1967	14,080	218	158	15.5	17.7	11.2	10.4
1968	14,160	210	174	14.8	16.9	12.3	11.4
1969	14,030	175	179	12.5	14.3	12.8	11.3
1970	14,080	195	160	13.8	15.7	11.4	10.3
1971	14,080	186	175	13.2	15.0	12.4	11.2
1972	14,140	147	162	10.4	11.6	11.5	10.4

The population figure has increased by 60 from 14,080 in 1971 to 14,140 in 1972.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No case of maternal mortality occurred in Lewes during 1972. The last previous maternal death of a Lewes resident occurred during 1965.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

One infant death occurred during 1972 giving an infantile mortality rate of 7 per 1,000 live births. In small populations, too much importance should not be attached to these figures since a difference of one death make a very large variation in the rate per 1,000. There were no significant features about the cause of death in the death recorded.

BIRTH RATE

The crude birth rate for the year under review was 10.4 per 1,000 population. The figure is considerably lower than the rate for 1971. Applying the area comparability factor of 1.12 the adjusted birth rate becomes 11.6 which is lower than the rate for England and Wales.

DEATH RATE

The crude death rate for Lewes for 1972 was 11.5 per 1,000 population. This figure is higher than the rate for 1971 of 12.4. Applying the area comparability factor of 0.90, the adjusted rate becomes 10.4 which is lower than the rate for England and Wales at 12.1.

The average age at death was 70.5 years
The highest age at death was 99 years
The lowest age at death was 6 months

SPECIFIC CAUSES OF DEATH

		<u>% of deaths</u>
(1) Disease of the heart and circulatory system	92	56.8
(2) Cancer (all sites)	29	17.9
(Cancer of the lung and bronchus accounted for)	11	6.8

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT 1951

It was not necessary to take action under the above legislation which gives the Council power to remove to suitable premises persons who are not able to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, adequate care and attention.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & Over
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity Etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Blood Etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	11
	F	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	14
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5	1
	F	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	9
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2
Pneumonia	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	F	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Causes of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks & Under 1 Year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & Over
Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Diseases of Musculo- Skeletal System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill- Defined Conditions	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	74	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	14	25	29
	F	88	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	6	12	19	46

By whom provided	Day and Time of Attendance	Description and Situation
East Sussex County Council	2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon 5 - 6 p.m.	Child Health Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.
East Sussex County Council	Monday and Thursday all day Friday 2 - 4 p.m.	Speech Therapy, Castlegate House, LEWES.
East Sussex County Council	Friday mornings 10 a.m. to 12 noon (open clinic or by appointment for children with minor behaviour and habit disorders)	Family Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

During the period under review the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lewes also acted as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Newhaven and Seaford and the Rural District of Chailey. The East Sussex United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Joint Committee, by which the Medical Officer of Health for the four districts is appointed, provides an efficient means of administering the Joint Appointment.

The Chief Public Health Inspector of Chailey Rural District fills the post of Chief Public Health Inspector with the Borough in a supervisory and consultative capacity, whilst retaining his post with Chailey Rural District Council. In addition, a Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and a Public Health Inspector carried out duties during the year.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The provision of the ambulance service is the responsibility of the East Sussex County Council, which houses the ambulances available in the district at the St. John Headquarters, Timberyard Lane, Lewes. During 1972 these vehicles were available for the conveyance of both infectious and non-infectious cases, and arrangements are in being for the disinfection of ambulances, bedding, clothing etc., after use for the transport of an infectious case. All vehicles are staffed and serviced by the County Council. If a further call is received while all vehicles are out on duty, arrangements are in being for the call to be dealt with by other depots in the area. Should this prove necessary, it is done by radio control.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME

The East Sussex County Council is responsible for the provision of nursing and domiciliary midwifery services in the district.

5. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Description and Situation	Day and Time of Attendance	By whom provided
Child Health Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon 2 - 4 p.m.	East Sussex County Council
Speech Therapy, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Monday and Thursday all day Friday 2 - 4 p.m.	East Sussex County Council
Family Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Friday mornings 10 a.m. to 12 noon (open clinic or by appointment for children with minor behaviour and habit disorders)	East Sussex County Council

Description and Situation	Day and Time of Attendance	By whom provided
Child Guidance Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Every Wednesday by appointment	East Sussex County Council
Cytology Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	1st and 3rd Thursday in) the month) as 10 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and) neces- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Wednes-) sary day at 6 p.m.)	East Sussex County Council
Chest Clinic, Victoria Hospital, LEWES.	By appointment Monday 2 p.m. Wednesday 9.15 a.m. Friday 11.15 a.m. once a month	Regional Hospital Board
Dental Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Monday to Friday by appointment	East Sussex County Council
Nervous Disorders Clinic, Victoria Hospital, LEWES.	Tuesday from 2.15 p.m. onwards	Regional Hospital Board
Family Planning Clinic, Castlegate House, LEWES.	Tuesday 6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m. 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Thursday in the month 6.30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Friday 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th 2 - 4 p.m. (by appointment only) 2nd Monday 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.	Family Planning Association

6. HOSPITAL FACILITIES

Hospital facilities are available in the area at the Lewes Victoria Hospital and are administered by the Brighton and Lewes Hospital Management Committee.

7. PROVISION FOR DEALING WITH THE NEEDS OF THE MENTALLY DISORDERED

The County Council, through the Social Services Department, administers the Mental Health Services in respect of patients outside Institutions. All institutional care is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.

SECTION III

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of a few private wells, which are used for recreational and trade purposes, the water supply is derived from the Brighton Corporation Waterworks, which are situated at the South West end of the Borough.

The water is pumped from the well into four covered distributing reservoirs, namely Jubilee Park, Rose Hill (2) and Western Road.

Brighton Corporation Water Department have taken a daily sample from consumers premises for bacteriological examination: a fortnightly sample from the reservoirs for bacteriological and abbreviated chemical examination: and from Southover Pumping Station, weekly samples of the water before treatment for bacteriological and abbreviated chemical examination, and after treatment for bacteriological examination; and monthly for complete chemical and mineralogical examination.

The following is a copy of the results of analysis of a sample of water taken at Southover Pumping Station:-

Brighton Water Department. Sample No. 5284.

Results of Examination of sample of water from Southover Pumping Station.

Raw; Borehole No. 3.

Taken on 20th December, 1972.

Bacteriological Examination

Colonies per ml.	Counts per 100 ml.
Nutrient Agar at 20°C 3 days. . . -	Coliforms. . . . 0
Nutrient Agar at 37°C 1 day . . . -	E. Coli. 0

Physical Character

Colour (Hazen).	3
Turbidity	Clear
Taste	Normal
Odour	Nil

Chemical Analysis (Expressed in mg. per litre)

pH.	7.35
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃).	181.0
Chlorides (Cl).	23.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.012
Nitrite Nitrogen (n).	Nil
Oxidised Nitrogen (n)	4.65
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs at 27°C)	0.08
Temporary Hardness (CaCO ₃).	181.0
Permanent Hardness (CaCO ₃).	50.0
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃).	231.0
Total Solids (dried at 180°).	290.0
Silica (SiO ₂)	8.0
Calcium (Ca).	88.4

Magnesium (Mg)	2.2
Sodium (Na)	12.2
Potassium (K)	1.0
Sulphate (SO ₄)	14.5
Iron (Fe)	-
Manganese (Mn)	-
Conductivity (mho)	420
Synthetic Detergent	-
Fluoride (F)	0.1

Remarks

Probable Combination of Mineral Constituents

CaCO ₃	181.04	mg/l.
CaSO ₄	20.55	"
CaCl ₂	27.45	"
MgCl ₂	7.32	"
NaCl	2.07	"
NaNO ₃	25.85	"
SiO ₂	8.00	"
Total	272.28	"

No form of contamination of the supply has occurred during the year, and as the water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action it has not been necessary to take any action against this.

All dwelling houses in the Borough have a direct supply from the public water main, with the exception of the houses on the Cuilfail Estate which receive their supply via two private reservoirs, which are supplied from the public water main.

Low pressure due to old pipes of insufficient diameter has been experienced in certain houses in the Malling area. A new main is to be laid to these properties at the same time as the major road improvement scheme is carried out on the A26 Highway.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Main drainage is provided throughout the Borough, there being only a small number of houses which are drained to cesspools or septic tanks.

The sewage from both high and low levels sewers discharges to the Outfall Works at Southeram, where the effluent - after passing through a detritus chamber, screens and sedimentation tanks, - is stored in holding tanks prior to release into the River Ouse at suitable states of the tide.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of domestic and trade refuse is carried out once weekly over the whole district, although additional trade refuse collections are made where requested. Disposal of refuse has been restricted on the whole to low lying land at Malling Brooks where despite its proximity to dwelling houses it has given little cause for local complaint. Careful attention has been given to screening, covering of the tip, disinfection, and rodent control to minimise the possibility of any source of nuisance arising which would be detrimental to the residents in the immediate vicinity of the tip.

Trade waste and household effects are tipped on land within the boundary of the Outfall Works but, due to the innocuous materials involved, gives no rise to insect or rodent infestations.

The provision of refuse skips at certain strategic points in the town for the disposal of waste by householders has again given rise to a number of complaints from local residents. This would appear to have arisen as a result of the abuse of the facilities by persons other than householders.

The construction of fencing around the skip area has effectively screened them from the direct view of the public. Nevertheless, the sites are often unsightly due particularly to indiscriminate dumping of refuse when the skips are full, and to the practice of children scavenging. No control can be effectively implemented to limit the type of material deposited in these areas and concern must be expressed at the possibility of poisonous materials or explosive containers finding their way on to the skips.

4. INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Houses and Premises Inspected..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,652
Complaints attended to	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68
Visits to Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
Visits to Milk Shops and Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Visits to Bakeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Visits to Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
Visits to Hairdressers' Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Visits to Swimming Baths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Visits to Pet Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Visits re. Sickness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Inspection of verminous houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Visits under Petroleum Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Visits under Noise Abatement Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Visits under Factories Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Visits under Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Visits under Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129
Visits under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	225
Visits under Scrap Metal Dealers Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Visits re. drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	133
Visits for sundry purposes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138

5. HOUSING

(a) New Dwellings

There were 73 new dwellings built during the year; 12 by the Local Authority, and 61 by private enterprise.

(b) House Condition Survey

Section 70 of the Housing Act 1969 placed a duty on the Local Authority to undertake a comprehensive survey of houses within the private sector to ascertain their condition, age and tenure. To this end, a detailed survey was carried out and a report submitted to the Committee on 26th October, 1972, when it was resolved to call a joint meeting of the Housing and Public Health Committee and Planning and Public Services Committee to determine future policy on housing. The survey indicated that there were 581 substandard houses within the Borough, and all but a few were capable of being fully improved.

The Council have taken the view that every effort should be made to improve properties and they have resolved to actively pursue a policy of encouraging rehabilitation of the older dwellings by improvement, either to be undertaken by the owners or the Council themselves purchasing the properties for improvement, thus increasing the housing stock and at the same time providing improved living conditions for the occupants, some of whom have lived in sub-standard conditions for many years.

This is a heartening and positive policy which should prevent the need for any further major slum clearance programme.

It is hoped that the housing blight which has followed in the wake of the original Lewes Relief Road will also shortly be resolved with the approval of the Bye Pass Proposals and that this will enable those houses which for so long have been empty to be rehabilitated.

The response to advisory letters and leaflets on grants etc. sent out by the Health Department has been encouraging, though much work and enthusiasm is yet required before all the housing in the Borough is of a desirable or even an acceptable standard. The number of houses in multiple occupation in the town i.e. those properties occupied by persons of more than one family and not converted into self-contained flats, has been found to be increasing slightly. The Council policy is to discourage this type of occupation since whilst it can be shown that there is some need for student accommodation of this type, it invariably leads to overcrowding of the property and the inevitable burden being placed on the already long housing waiting list.

(c) Houses made fit

6 houses were made fit after formal action.

(d) Improvement Grants

Set out below are the Improvement Grants approved and completed during the year. This is an increase over the previous year and it is anticipated, due to the publicity campaign, that there will be a further increase in 1973.

<u>Grants Approved</u>		<u>Grants Completed</u>	
Improvement Grants	15	Improvement Grants	22
Standard Grants	6	Standard Grants	9

(e) Qualification Certificates

Applications for Qualification Certificates were approved in 5 cases. The effect of a Qualification Certificate is to convert a Controlled Tenancy to a Regulated Tenancy.

(f) Common Lodging Houses

There are no registered common lodging houses within the Borough.

6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Samples

Most of the milk consumed in the Borough is heat treated. A small proportion, however, is untreated and samples of such milk were taken from time to time for examination by the Public Health Laboratory. All were found to be satisfactory with regard to Tuberculosis; keeping quality; brucella abortus; and antibiotic residue.

A complaint was received during the year of a spherical object in a bottle of milk delivered to the consumer. The matter was investigated and authority given to instigate legal proceedings against the suppliers. The case was heard on 5th December, 1972, and the defendants were fined £100, the maximum for this offence.

A sample of goat's milk purchased from a stall operating from within the Market was found to be satisfactory in all respects.

(b) Ice Cream

There are 23 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, and none for manufacture.

(c) Meat

There are no licensed slaughterhouses within the Borough, the greater part of home killed meat being received from adjoining districts.

Two persons resident within the Borough are licensed as slaughtermen.

(d) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations

There are no egg pasteurisation premises within the Borough.

(e) Poultry

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

(f) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations

The food premises subject to the regulations grouped in the categories of trade, are:-

Bakers and confectioners Shops.	5)	
Bakeries.	1)	Regulations 16 and 19
Butchers shops.	10)	apply and complied with
Canteens.	13)	
Cooked meats shops.	2)	
Confectioners	17)	All comply with Regulation
		16; Regulation 19 applies
		and complied with in 13
		premises
Dairies	4)	
Fishmongers	3)	Regulations 16 and 19
Fried Fish Shops.	4)	apply and complied with
Restaurants and Cafes	19)	
Hotels.	3)	
Public Houses	24)	
Greengrocers.	14)	

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are:-

Sale of Ice Cream	23
Manufacture of Sausages	3

Informal notices requiring compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations were served in respect of 30 premises.

(g) Unsound Food

The following summary lists food which was found on examination to be unfit for human consumption and was voluntarily surrendered by the owners for destruction:-

Assorted Frozen Foods	793 packets
Chickens	79 lbs.
Processed Meats	60 lbs.
Liver	25 lbs.

A number of complaints were received of food being sold which was unfit for human consumption or otherwise unsatisfactory. They included:-

Mould in Pie
Mould in loaf of bread
Insect larvae in wing of chicken
Snail in jam tarts
Foreign matter in milk
Spherical object in milk
Fabric in can of steak
Discolouration in fish spread
Mineral oil in Shredded Wheat
Poor quality and condition of Capons
Muslin in buttered bun
Nail in dates

Court proceedings were pending in respect of three of the complaints.

7. PEST CONTROL

Individual complaints of rat and mice infestation in both commercial and domestic premises were investigated and regular inspection made of land which has a record of previous infestations.

The Council's refuse tips were kept under close surveillance, and treatment carried out as and when found necessary.

The number of infestations cleared during the year was 172. This showed an increase over the previous year.

Pigeon Control

Further complaints were received from occupiers of premises in the town of nuisance caused by Feral Pigeons roosting on window sills, roofs, etc. and some control measures have been introduced in various parts of the town to avoid any marked increase in the pigeon population.

Other Pests

A number of other treatments were carried out for the destruction of insect pests, namely:-

Wasps, fleas, carpet beetle, and bed bugs.

8. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

With the appointment of additional staff in the first quarter of the year, it was possible to carry out general inspections of the premises registered by the Local Authority under the Act.

The number of premises registered under the Act by the Local Authority is 273 of which 144 received general inspection. Contraventions were found in 26 premises.

Notification of accidents to employees was given in 4 cases and investigation carried out.

9. SHOPS ACT

An order entitled the Lewes Weekly Half-holiday (No. 2) Exemption Order 1972, was confirmed by the Council in respect of the Category "Grocers and Provisions". This has the effect of exempting this classification of shops from the requirements of the Shops Act 1950, which relates to compulsory closing on one half day per week.

10. PETROLEUM

27 licences for the storage of Petroleum Spirit were issued in respect of 27 premises. Periodic inspections were carried out and advice given where necessary.

11. SWIMMING BATHS

The Council's open air swimming pool at the Pells was substantially reconstructed during the close season. The bulk of the work carried out was for the provision of a new bath within the old unit and for the inclusion of a more comprehensive system of chlorination and filtration.

Regular samples, both bacteriological and chemical, were taken from the bath and the Paddling Pool during the season. All were found satisfactory.

12. NUISANCES

The majority of the nuisances brought to the notice of the Council were dealt with informally.

The principal nuisances in respect of which informal notices were served fell into the following categories:-

- Noise
- Smoke Emission
- Drainage Defects
- Dumping of Refuse
- General Public Health

13. DRAINAGE

133 inspections were made in connection with defective drainage at premises in the town.

It was found necessary to take formal action requiring investigation and repair in respect of 3 systems.

14. CLEAN AIR ACT

Throughout the year it was possible to carry out continuous air pollution monitoring at three points in the town.

The main point was the land immediately across the river from Southeram Cement Works which may ultimately be used for residential development. Comparison of the readings obtained were made against the other two points, one at Horsfield Road, Landport and at De Montfort Estate.

15. FOOD POISONING

9 cases of suspected food poisoning were investigated during the year, and the appropriate action taken.

16. NOISE

During the year the Department undertook a noise survey at all of the major roads in the town to ascertain the existing levels of noise from road traffic to which the householders and pedestrians alike are being subjected. The principal object of the survey was to provide data from which it could be shown in subsequent years the extent by which the traffic noise situation had either improved or deteriorated either by virtue of increased traffic or traffic management schemes.

Observations were also made on the effect that the proposed Lewes Bypass would have on various points in the Borough.

There is a now well established method of measuring noise, known as the L₁₀ which, put simply, is the level which is exceeded for 10% of the time over a working 18 hour day. (6 a.m. to 12 midnight).

The Noise Advisory Council recommends that in no circumstances should existing residential development be subjected, as an act of conscious public policy, to L₁₀ levels in excess of 70 dB(A) unless some form of remedial or compensatory action is taken by the responsible authority. It is therefore interesting to note that of the twelve points surveyed in the town the recommended maximum L₁₀ of 70 dB(A) was exceeded at no less than 10 of the sites.

17. FACTORIES ACT

There are 14 factories in the Borough in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Act are to be enforced by the Council. During the year 8 inspections were carried out in this class of factory.

There are 48 factories registered under Section 7 of the Act. 22 inspections were carried out at these premises and 1 defect concerning sanitary conveniences was remedied. 18 visits were also made to other premises to which the Act applies.

There are 6 persons employed as outworkers making or repairing wearing apparel. No instance of work in unwholesome premises was found.

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Particulars	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	14	8	-	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.....	48	22	-	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (Excluding Out-Workers' Premises)	18	-	-	Nil
TOTALS:	80	30	-	Nil

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:-

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH defects were	
	FOUND	REMEDIED
Want of cleanliness	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences		
(a) Insufficient	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-
TOTALS:	1	1

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK
(SECTIONS 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	
Wearing) Making Apparel) etc.,) Cleaning) and) Washing	6	-	-	-

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

7 cases of infectious disease were notified in Lewes in 1972. The details are as follows:-

DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES	DEATHS
Measles	3	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-
Food Poisoning	2	-
Dysentery	1	-
TOTAL	7	-

SECTION V

TUBERCULOSIS

In 1972, two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one new case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified amongst Lewes residents. One case re-entered the district, having previously moved away from Lewes. Nine cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were removed from the register during the year. Two of these cases left the district, and eight, one of which was non-pulmonary, recovered. There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

The incidence of two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1972 is 0.14 per 1,000 population.

NUMBER OF CASES ON THE REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1972

<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
42	38	8	5	93

Whereas at 31st December, 1971, the number of cases on the register was:-

42	44	8	5	99
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