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Contributors

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NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

and Isle of Ely

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1971

B. W. M. Macartney

B. M., B. Ch., M. F. C. M., D. P. H., D. C. H.

Medical Officer of Health

Shire Hall,

Cambridge

Tel. No. Cambridge 58811

D. Howells

F. A. P. H. I., M. I. P. H. E., M. R. S. H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

Council Offices, Park Lane

Newmarket

Tel. No. Newmarket 2362



Area	1971
Population	10,000
Number of Parishes	23
Estimated value of G. I. P.	100,000
Estimated number of full-time jobs	2,000
Estimated 201-year total production	20,000
General Population 1971	10,000

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land	80, 856
Water	245
Number of Parishes	22
Rateable Value (1. 4. 72)	£684, 409
Sum represented by a new penny rate for the year	£6, 523
Estimated number of inhabited houses	8, 925
Estimated mid-year Home Population	23, 890
Census Population 1961	20, 879

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- * R. B. Taylor (Chairman)
- * Col. D. R. B. Kaye, D.S.O., J.P. (Vice-Chairman)

- B. M. Ayres
- * E. Cooper Bland
- * E. Bowers
- J. M. Bucknell
- D. T. Camish
- Mrs. M. R. Cook
- Rev'd R. J. Davies
- * F. S. Fuller
- * A. F. Gathercole
- * W. J. Gidney
- * Rev'd J. B. Goodchild
- * Mrs. S. Horwood-Smart
- C. P. Hurrell
- A. S. Kent
- * K. P. Leonard (Chairman, Public Health Committee)
- * D. K. Maclaren
- * J. A. Newport
- C. R. Osbourn
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- * Mrs. G. M. McMinnis-Scott
- Mrs. J. O. 'N. Smith
- Mrs. B. A. Taylor
- K. A. Trinder
- * Mrs. H. J. Waddilove
- * L. G. Warren
- R. C. Wells
- * Mrs. M. West

(* Member of Public Health Committee)

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	B. W. M. Macartney, B.A., B.M., B.Ch., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., D.C.H., D(Obst.) R. C. O. G.
Chief Public Health Inspector	D. Howells, F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	F. H. Mason, A.R.S.H. J. Townsend, A.R.S.H.
Clerk	Miss G. M. White

GENERAL STATISTICS AND ANALYSIS

Area	1,000
Population	100,000
Number of Houses	20,000
Estimated Value (£, £ 100)	1,000,000
Estimated number of inhabited houses	18,000
Estimated number of uninhabited houses	2,000
Estimated number of houses	20,000

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION



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To the Chairman and Members of the
Newmarket Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1971, prepared in accordance with Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/72.

When I set pen to paper to write my report for 1970 comparatively little was known of the detailed form of reorganised local government, which is to come into being on 1st April, 1974.

Although the legislation is now passing through Parliament and although the report of the local boundary commission indicates that the three Districts that I serve will be amalgamated and together with the Urban District of Newmarket and the parishes of Moulton and Kentford will form a new County District, there is still little definite information as to the functions and responsibilities of the new Councils. Time is getting short.

The White Paper on the Reorganisation of the National Health Service has yet to be published.

Times of change are full of opportunity but perhaps too much change in too short a time prevents full advantage being taken.

Vital Statistics

After the easing off of recent years, the population sharply increased in 1971 by something over 1,000.

The general pattern of births and deaths remains the same and it is reasonable to conclude that the population increase is due to newcomers to the District.

The death rate remains substantially below, but the District birth rate approximates to, the National rate.

Deaths from both malignant disease and ischaemic heart disease continue to show an upward trend.

Infectious Disease

The number of notified cases of measles remains relatively high at 129, 132 in 1970, 32 in 1969 and 271 in 1968.

Certainly one neighbouring district has experienced a substantial increase in the number of cases and it is perhaps therefore both satisfactory that this District should have held its own but disappointing that in the face of the availability of an effective vaccine as many cases as have, have occurred. It is, however, true the maximum incidence is in the 5 - 9 year age group for whom vaccination in toddlerhood was possibly unavailable.

The Environment

As usual the Chief Public Health Inspector presents an excellent report upon the environmental health of the District. It remains for me to make only one or two brief comments.

Although few new Council houses were completed during 1971, the Council continues to improve the quality of its housing stock and plans are well advanced for further old peoples housing schemes at Stetchworth, Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck. The quality of privately owned houses is also being improved by the steady use of standard and discretionary grants.

The Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board provides most of the District with a wholesome water supply and where this is not possible, private sources are generally satisfactory. It is unfortunate that the public supply of water in this District continues to be deficient in one of the naturally occurring minerals that is essential for dental health, but equipment suitable for small sources is now available for repairing this deficiency. The Council has in hand schemes for providing the villages of Ashley, Cheveley, Woodditton, Wicken, Upware and Kennett with sewage collection and treatment services, and during 1971 work started on enlarging the treatment works at Soham.

I have nothing to add but my wholehearted support for the Chief Public Health Inspector's comment on the proper handling of food.

It is fitting to record my thanks to Mr. Howells and the staff of the Environmental Health Department for the helpful and efficient way in which they discharge their many duties and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and of the Council for their help and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. W. M. Macartney

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for
the statistical calculations)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate	180	170	350
Illegitimate	6	12	18
	<u>186</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>368</u>
Birth rate per thousand estimated population			15.4
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.02)			15.7
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			16.0
<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Rate per thousand live and still births			5.0
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)			12.0
<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	117	109	226
Death rate per thousand estimated population			9.5
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.93)			8.8
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			11.6
Infant mortality (deaths of infants under one year of age)	3	1	4
Infant mortality rate (infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)			11.0
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)			18.0
Neonatal mortality rate (infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)			11.0
Early neonatal mortality rate (infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)			5.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)			11.0
Legitimate infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births			11.0
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births			Nil
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5%
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)			Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births			Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)			52 (50)
Deaths from ischaemic heart disease			63 (60)

(1970 figures in brackets)

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1971

Age in Years	Infective Hepatitis	Measles	Pulmonary T. B.	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Total
Under 1 year	-	4	-	-	-	4
1 -	-	12	-	-	-	12
2 - 4	1	47	-	-	1	49
5 - 9	-	60	-	1	-	61
10 - 14	-	3	-	-	-	3
15 - 24	1	1	-	-	-	2
25 - 44	2	2	2	-	-	6
45 - 64	2	-	-	-	-	2
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	1	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	7	129	2	1	1	140

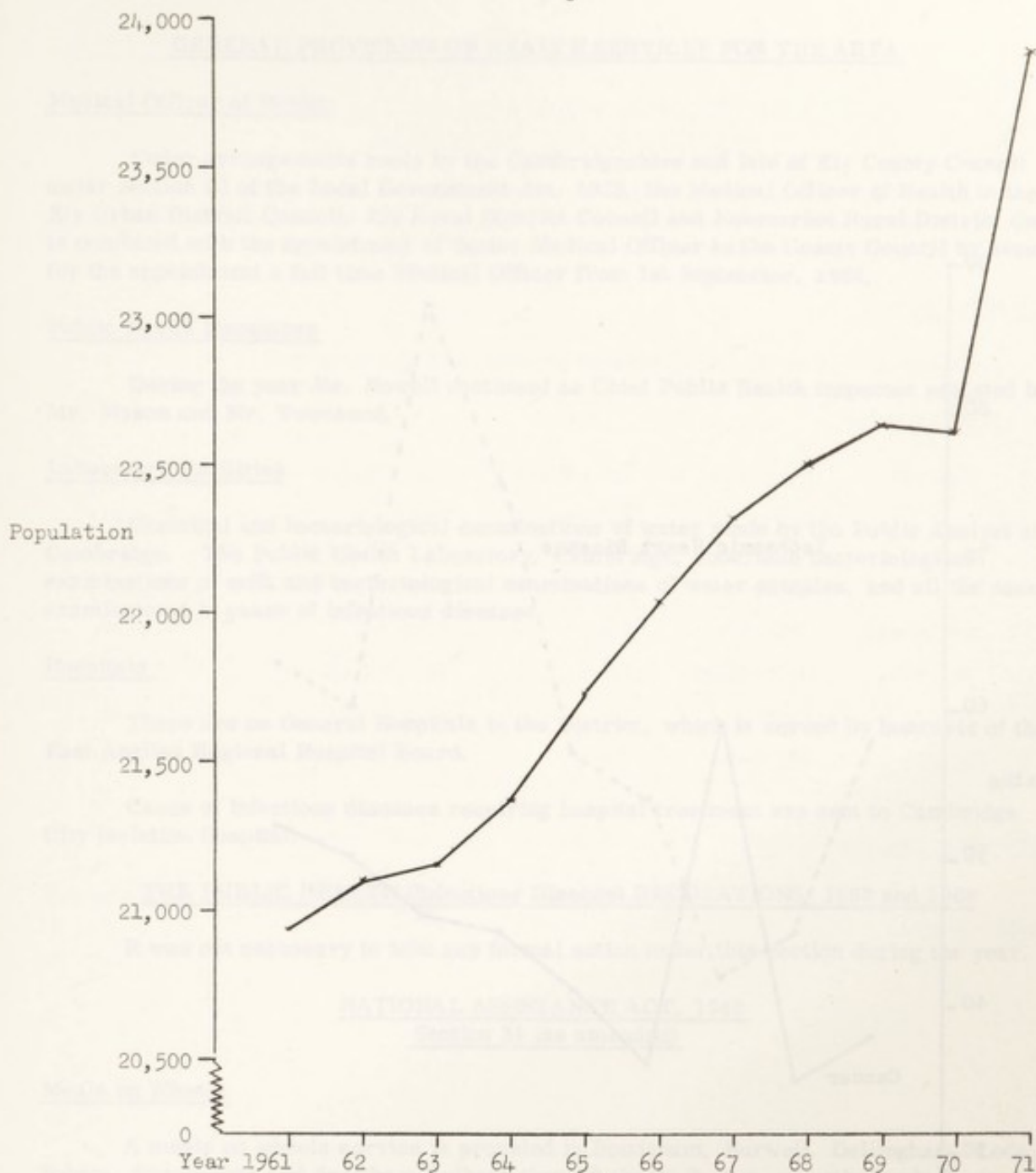


Fig. 1

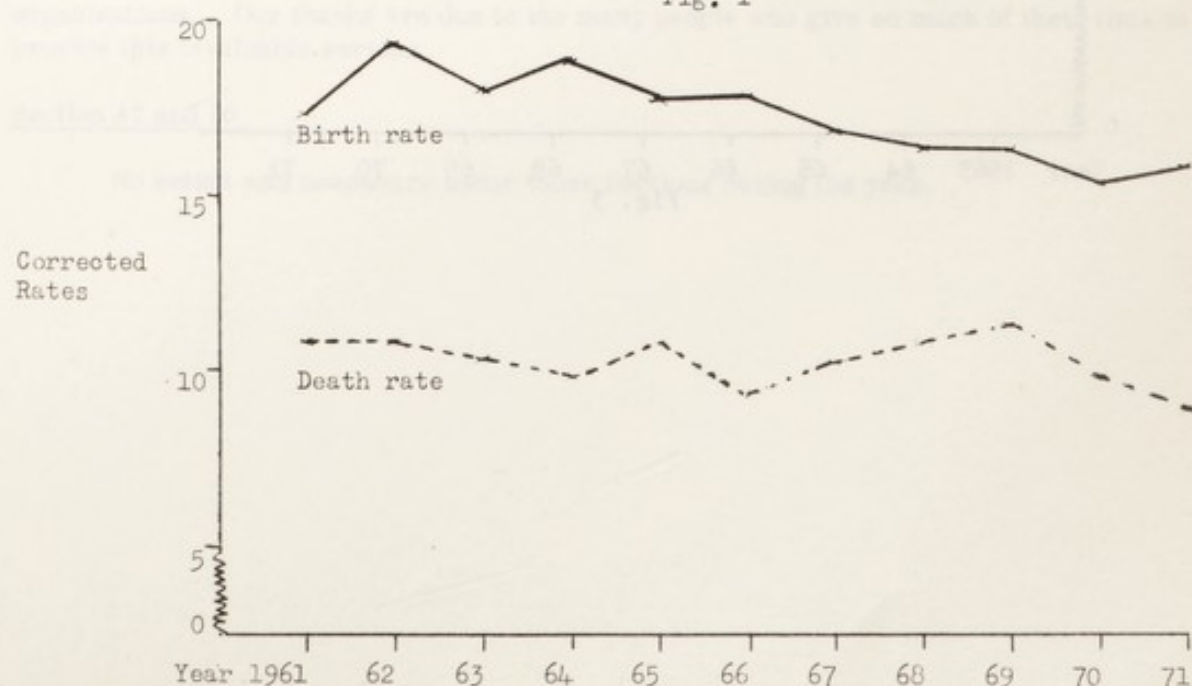


Fig. 2

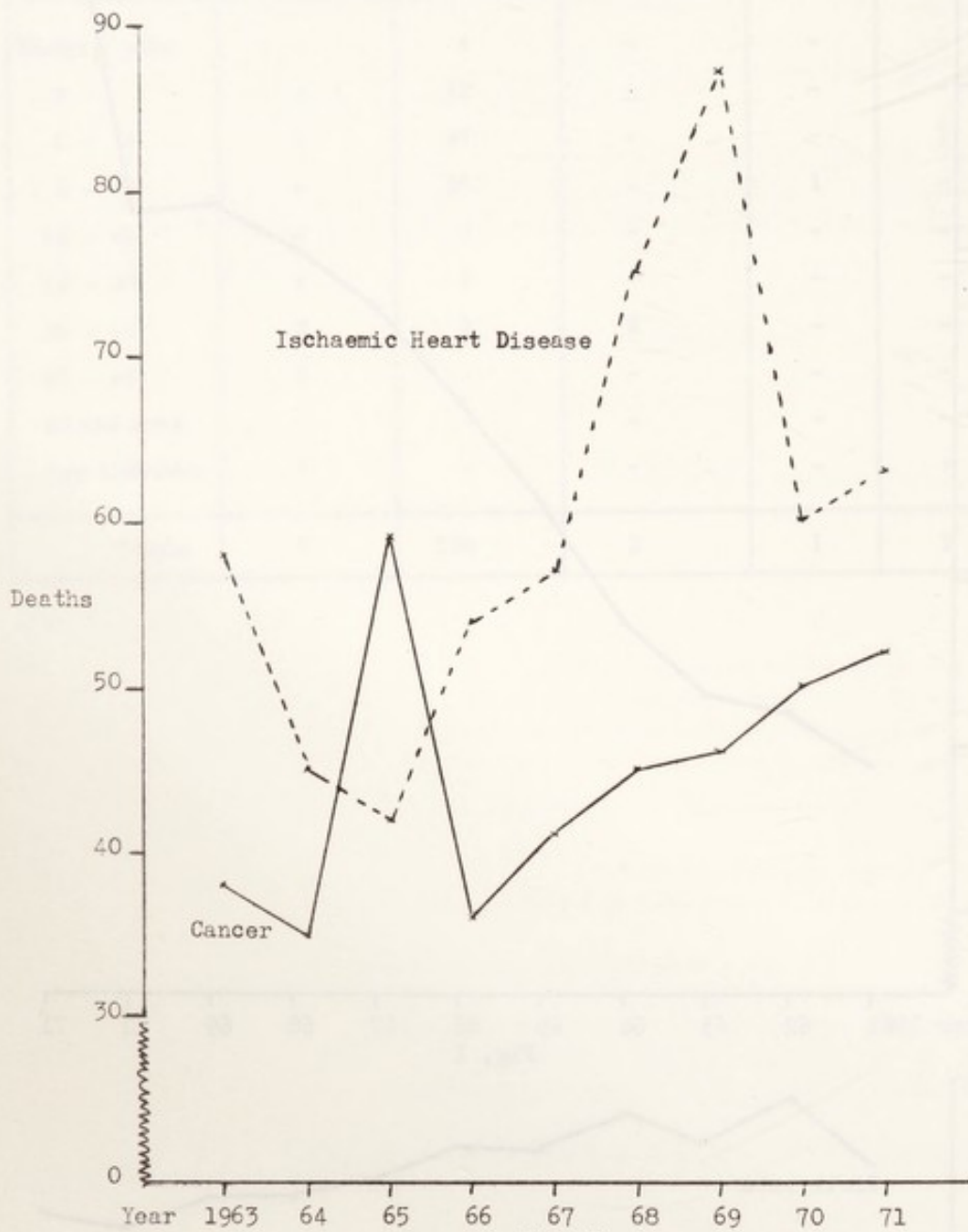


Fig. 3

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

Under arrangements made by the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council under Section III of the Local Government Act, 1933, the Medical Officer of Health to the Ely Urban District Council, Ely Rural District Council and Newmarket Rural District Council is combined with the appointment of Senior Medical Officer to the County Council by securing for the appointment a full time Medical Officer from 1st September, 1968.

Public Health Inspectors

During the year Mr. Howell continued as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason and Mr. Townsend.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all the necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals

There are no General Hospitals in the District, which is served by hospitals of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953 and 1968

It was not necessary to take any formal action under this section during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948
Section 31 (as amended)

Meals on Wheels

A meals on wheels service is provided in Bottisham, Burwell, Dullingham, Lode, Soham, Stetchworth and Swaffham Bulbeck through the W. R. V. S. and other voluntary organisations. Our thanks are due to the many people who give so much of their time to provide this invaluable service.

Section 47 and 50

No action was necessary under these Sections during the year.

NURSING SERVICES FOR NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT
PROVIDED BY COUNTY COUNCIL

The trend of nursing is towards team work rather than nurses working on individual districts. Nurses and health visitors are now being attached wherever possible to general practitioners and midwifery is being mainly undertaken in hospitals.

Ante Natal Care

At home and at surgeries by general practitioners and midwives.

Child Health Clinics

Tuesday	Bottisham	1st and 3rd	The Surgery	3. 00 p. m.
	Burwell	2nd and 4th	Gardiner Memorial Hall	2. 30 p. m.
	Soham	every week	Health Centre	2. 00 p. m.
Wednesday	Cheveley	1st	Flint Hall	3. 00 p. m.
Thursday	Dullingham	1st	Taylor Hall	2. 30 p. m.
Friday	Isleham	1st	Village Hall	3. 00 p. m.
	Fordham	3rd	Congregational Hall	2. 45 p. m.

Educational Classes

Education classes for parents and others are arranged as required by midwives and health visitors.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1952

Particulars	1952	1951	1950	1949
Salaries and Wages	10,000	9,500	9,000	8,500
Grants-in-aid	5,000	4,800	4,600	4,400
Expenses	15,000	14,500	14,000	13,500
Income	20,000	19,500	19,000	18,500
Balance forward	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total	31,000	30,800	30,600	30,400

REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. HOWELLS, F. A. P. H. I., M. I. P. H. E., M. R. S. H.,

Chief Public Health Inspector, Newmarket Rural District Council,

Council Offices, Park Lane, Newmarket.

Tele. No: Newmarket 2362

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1971.

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	723
Bakehouses	29
Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955	192
Canteens and Cafes	66
Licensed Premises	129
Food Vehicles	53
Miscellaneous Food Premises	437
Offices and Shops Act Visits	102
Factories	25
Public Cleansing	337
Infectious Disease Enquiries	34
Drainage and Sewerage	387
Caravan Sites	103
Dwellinghouses (including re-visits)	226
Re-Improvement Grants	437
Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling)	6
Swimming Pools	123
Nuisances (including re-visits)	152
Noise Abatement	10
Schools	6
Animal Boarding Establishments	3
Clean Air Act	12
Civic Amenities Act	111
Miscellaneous	386
Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956	18
	<hr/>
	4,107
	<hr/>

Number of samples taken:-

Drinking Water	56
Specimens Collected	19
Informal Notices Served	23
Statutory Notices Served	-

PARISH STATISTICS

Parish	Acreage	Population (1961 Census)	Rateable Value at 1. 4. 72	1p Rate Product 1971/72
ASHLEY	2, 225	465	14, 297	131
BOTTISHAM	2, 854	975	51, 665	497
BRINKLEY	1, 303	204	77, 343	70
BURROUGH GREEN	2, 272	289	4, 981	47
BURWELL	7, 010	2, 734	143, 693	1, 388
CHEVELEY	2, 559	1, 624	47, 803	462
CHIPPENHAM	4, 301	366	8, 120	76
DULLINGHAM	3, 387	520	11, 146	107
FORDHAM L. A.)	4, 331	1, 709	57, 576	554
FORDHAM N. L. A.)			430	4
ISLEHAM	5, 230	1, 392	27, 278	262
KENNETT	1, 431	340	21, 493	193
KIRTLING	3, 126	357	14, 669	130
LODE	3, 133	607	12, 099	116
REACH	1, 134	269	4, 152	39
SNAILWELL	2, 034	216	5, 075	47
SOHAM	12, 999	5, 077	150, 430	1, 425
STETCHWORTH	2, 891	514	15, 530	148
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4, 110	633	15, 879	154
SWAFFHAM PRIOR	4, 889	634	12, 803	123
WESTLEY	1, 149	165	2, 191	20
WICKEN	3, 965	655	10, 812	100
WOODDITTON	4, 768	1, 134	34, 416	326
GAS				
ELECTRICITY)				
DISTRIBUTION)				
ELECTRICITY)				
GENERATING)			10, 528	104
TOTALS	81, 101	20, 879	684, 409	6, 523

HOUSINGHouses not included in Clearance Areas

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS	
(1) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	6
(2) Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act, 1957	NIL
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	NIL
(4) Houses on which Demolition Orders were made	1
REPAIRS	
HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED	
(5) After informal action by Local Authority	21
(6) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
(a) by owners	NIL
(b) by Local Authority	NIL
(7) After formal notice under Housing Act, 1957	
(a) by owner	NIL
(b) by Local Authority	NIL

ACTION TAKEN DURING THE POST WAR PERIOD

Parish	Demolished		Outstanding Orders on Existing Houses			Parts of Buildings Closed	Purchased by N. R. D. C.	D. O's etc. Cancelled
	Houses	Hutments	D. O's	C. O's	U/T			
ASHLEY	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
BOTTISHAM	48	12	-	1	1	-	5	15
BRINKLEY	12	-	-	-	1	-	9	1
BURROUGH GREEN	17	-	-	-	1	-	13	-
BURWELL	58	-	4	2	6	-	-	10
CHEVELEY	15	-	-	3	-	-	-	2
CHIPPENHAM	5	-	2	-	-	-	2	1
DULLINGHAM	31	-	1	-	1	-	8	1
FORDHAM	37	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
ISLEHAM	53	-	8	5	4	-	-	4
KENNETT	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
KIRTLING	5	-	1	-	5	-	-	-
LODE	15	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
REACH	11	-	3	1	-	-	-	1
SNAILWELL	8	37	-	1	-	-	-	2
SOHAM	110	-	8	1	4	2	-	6
STETCHWORTH	9	-	-	1	-	-	4	-
SWAFFHAM								
BULBECK	20	-	2	3	1	-	-	5
SWAFFHAM								
PRIOR	16	-	7	-	-	-	7	4
WESTLEY								
WATERLESS	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WICKEN	20	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
WOODDITTON	23	-	2	1	-	-	4	4
TOTALS	542	49	40	20	28	3	52	62

New Dwellings

During the year, 162 dwellings were constructed by private enterprise and the Council built 3 three bedroom houses and one special bungalow for a disabled family.

NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

Year	By the Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1962	36	100	136
1963	33	145	178
1964	64	211	275
1965	62	244	306
1966	42	180	222
1967	45	200	245
1968	8	169	177
1969	10	112	122
1970	26	151	177
1971	4	162	166
Total	330	1,674	2,004

Housing of Old People

Under this heading, the Council's record can be claimed to be excellent. During the next three years it is proposed to construct old persons' grouped bungalows at Stetchworth, Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck.

Council Houses

All Council houses, including pre-war dwellings, are provided with bathrooms and indoor sanitation and many tenants now enjoy partial central heating following the modernization scheme which was completed last year. The Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. A. Grant, is responsible for housing management, improvements and the building of new dwellings.

Housing Improvements - Housing Act, 1969

Applications for grants, costing, committee reports and completion certificates form part of the housing duties of the public health department. The following were reported during 1971:-

(a) Number of applications received for Standard Grant	41
Standard Grant applications approved	49
Number of applications received for Improvement Grants (discretionary)	44
Improvement Grants approved	40

(b) Number of houses on which improvement grants have been paid:-

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Discretionary Grants	24	22	25	23
Standard Grants	41	47	37	41

(c) Amount paid in grants:-

Discretionary Grants	£10,439	£9,257	£8,320	£7,785
Standard Grants	£8,954	£10,064	£7,799	£8,202

(d) Average Discretionary Grant during 1971 £435 per house
Average Standard Grant during 1971 £218 per house

(e) Number of Properties improved since the scheme came into operation:-

Discretionary Grants	772
Standard Grants	<u>514</u>
	<u>1,286</u>

(f) Amount paid on above:-

Discretionary Grants	£201,860
Standard Grants	£88,366

These figures do not include 706 Council dwellings which have been modernised with the aid of grants. No housing improvement areas have been declared.

It is not possible to report an increase in the number of applications for standard grant or completion of schemes since the Housing Act, 1969, came into operation in August of that year. The discretionary grant scene is rather better and a good number of schemes are in the pipeline.

The Council contribution is 50% of the "approved expense" in the case of discretionary grants.

This type of environmental health work gives considerable satisfaction to the public health inspectors who have been striving for many years to raise the general standard of housing.

It was anticipated that many owners of "Controlled" dwellings would apply for qualification certificates to enable a "fair rent" to be charged. However, this has not been the case as indicated in the following figures:-

Housing Act, 1969

Total applications for Qualification Certificates	37
Certificates granted	18

The outstanding applications call for property repairs before the certificates can be issued.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

The following information summarises the licensing figures:-

New site licences granted	10
Site licences renewed	3
Site licences expired and not renewed	5
Planning refusals	NIL
Total number of licensed sites	48
Total number of vans permitted to occupy licensed sites	81

An application was received relating to a site at the Rowley Mile Racecourse and close liaison followed between the Jockey Club and this department. The facilities for 120 camping units includes excellent sanitary accommodation, showers, waste disposal unit, bar and good pitches on grass and tarmac for both touring caravans and tents. We are indebted to the Fire Prevention Officer for his advice on suitable fire precautions.

Most of the sites are for single caravans and licences are usually granted for no longer than two years. The largest sites are at Soham, where two operators control 16 vans each. A site at Lode is licensed for five caravans. As stated in previous reports, a caravan is a very poor substitute for a family dwelling but the outstanding improvements over the past ten years should not pass unnoticed. It should be noted, however, that the "mobile home" can become far from mobile and develop into a permanent feature on a site where a dwelling would not be permitted.

Gypsies and other travellers have not created the problems one sees on roadside verges in some counties. A caravan site has not yet been provided by the County Council under the provisions of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968. Casual land workers arrive during the summer and some use small plots in the district as winter quarters but the figure does not give cause for concern if one is to have regard to government policy on this thorny problem.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses

The five licensed slaughterhouses continued to operate throughout the year at Soham, Burwell and Fordham. The Fordham establishment is limited in size and not equipped with a stunning pen; it is therefore not licensed for the slaughter of cattle. All carcasses and offal are inspected by the Additional Public Health Inspectors in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations and nothing must leave the premises until the carcass has been endorsed with the inspector's official stamp, by which he can be identified. No charge is made for this service.

Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis were not identified during the year but, if and when these conditions arise, the appropriate drill is put into operation to safeguard the consumer.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part during
the Year 1971

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Horses
Number killed and inspected	348	-	-	1,402	8	582	6	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-</u>								
Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	27	-	-	62	1	2	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	7.7	-	-	5.2	12.5	0.4	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>								
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:-</u>								
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Meat and Offal Condemned

	Bovine	Sow	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Hindquarters (part)	-	1	-	-
Heads	1	-	2	-
Lungs	-	-	23	-
Livers	21	-	33	2
$\frac{1}{2}$ Livers	4	-	-	-
Hearts	-	-	27	-
Hocks	-	-	9	-
Trimming	24 lbs.	-	9 lbs.	-

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-58

Slaughtermen's Licences renewed	-	Sixteen
New Licences issued	-	None
Licences not renewed	-	Two

Not all licensed slaughtermen are actively engaged in slaughtering and some part time men are licensed by other local authorities.

No action was necessary under the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

The Meat (Sterilization) Regulations, 1969

These regulations require strict control over unfit meat at slaughterhouses and knackers' yards. There is no longer a knacker's yard in the district and the disposal of unfit meat receives careful attention.

Unfit Foods

The sale of unfit, unsound or unwholesome food is an offence under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (Section 8). The sale of food which is not of the nature, substance or quality is also an offence under the same Act (Section 2). Generally, the fitness and quality of our food is excellent and manufacturers, packagers, canners and others engaged in the early stages of food distribution are fully alive to modern methods and use every device which science has made available within the law.

Deep freezing is a first class method of food preservation providing the article is in good condition at the time of entry and the temperature is kept at about 0°F (32 degrees of frost). Not all foods are suitable for deep freezing of course. Ordinary refrigeration at about 40° to 45°F is a tremendous improvement over the "cool" pantry or marble slab in the shady part of the shop but all refrigerated display cabinets in shops ought to display an accurate and easily read thermometer. At least one multiple store is pleased to pass this information to its customers.

An impatient reader may wonder when we are coming to the main point! It is this - there is a disturbing amount of ignorance in the retail trade in connection with the storage and display of perishable foods. This applies chiefly to articles which can become lethal such as cooked meats, sausages and pies. Providing these products are kept at the appropriate temperature, they may be displayed for up to 48 hours, or even 72 hours in some cases, but beyond that the shopkeeper is running the risk of selling unfit food. The national manufacturers usually provide adequate technical information short of an easily understood coding system to assist stock rotation. The customer is buying in the dark, not knowing whether the pie should have been eaten this morning or a week last Thursday. Even the fresh pie could be covered in condensation, followed by mould, because the retailer does not appreciate it should have been kept consistently at about 45°F and not moved from 35°F to the 70°F "impulse sales" counter. The risk is of course reduced where the stock turn-over is rapid and providing the articles at the back are properly rotated. The "sale or return" system alarms inspectors because van men are entrusted with time-expired merchandise which could easily arrive at other shops, by accident or design.

One could write many pages on this topic but in the meantime we await the report of the Food Standards Committee.

Finally, it is obvious that a foolproof system of stock rotation must be devised by manufacturers and/or retailers - the housewife should have visible evidence that the expiry date has not been reached - the "sale or return" incentive should be effectively banned -

foods known to be potential killers should not be displayed at room or window temperature.

On this subject, one complaint was made about a mouldy cake which was sold over three weeks beyond the coded expiry date. We have reason to believe the shopkeeper was the unfortunate recipient only a few days before the sale.

The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

2 x 7 oz tins Danish Pork Luncheon Meat
 One Date and Walnut cake
 One Coffee Cake
 1, 173 items of frozen foods were condemned
 following refrigerator breakdowns

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970

These Regulations apply to the following premises within the rural area:-

Bakehouses	7
Butchers	12
Grocers and General	55
Fish and Chips	3
Cafes and Snack Bars	3
Sweets and Confectionery	9
School and L. A. Kitchens	13
School Meals	13
Hotels	1
Factory Canteens	4
Licensed Premises	62
Racecourses	2
Supermarkets	1
Miscellaneous	6
	<hr/>
	191
	<hr/>

Every effort is made to give some priority to this side of the department's work but pressures in other directions makes one feel that routine inspections are not as frequent as they ought to be. However, the spadework which was done in 1955 under previous Regulations has borne fruit and the standard in our shops is generally good.

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

53 vehicles were inspected and owners' attention drawn to any deficiencies. These Regulations apply not only to vehicles like butchers' vans but to fair grounds, garden fetes and village carnivals where food is sold from stalls. At the risk of repetition, it must be said that much depends on the operator and his attitude to food hygiene.

Registration of Food Premises

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

(a) Sausages and Cooked Meat Premises	23
(b) Fried Fish Shops	4
(c) Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream	83

One new registration certificate was issued during the year and 201 visits were made to the above premises. The premises at Soham are no longer used for the manufacture of ice cream.

Milk

All fourteen dairy farms are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and there are no registered dairies other than those attached to dairy farms. No action has been necessary under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Poultry

There are no poultry processing establishments within the area but most of the butchers dress poultry from time to time.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no samples have been submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test.

Licensed Premises

129 visits were made to the 62 licensed premises in the area.

There is little to add to last year's report on these premises. Special attention is always paid to glass washing, food preparation and sanitary accommodation. All plans submitted under the Building Regulations are examined to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. At the time of writing this report there are 62 licensed premises in the district; in 1960 there were 77. This social amenity must be sadly missed at Reach and Barway where a pub is no longer provided.

Bakehouses

29 visits were made to the seven bakehouses in the area and these were found to be generally satisfactory.

Ice Cream

The 83 premises registered for the storage of ice cream receive regular attention when routine visits are made to various food premises. It is submitted that wrapped ice cream sold from an efficient refrigerator provides a safe and nourishing food. If the article thaws out, it is unsaleable and the law prohibits refreezing if the storage temperature rises above 28°F.

WATER SUPPLY

The Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board is responsible for the raising of water from underground sources, treatment, storage and distribution to all parishes in the rural area. The supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality and we are indebted to Mr. F. W. Sanders, the Engineer to the Board, for the information he provides in his annual report.

Hardly any public standpipes are used by householders and the few outside taps are being rapidly eliminated by improvement schemes.

Where main water is not reasonably accessible, farms and farm cottages, along with stud premises, are provided with private sources of supply which are found to be

generally satisfactory. A main supply was extended to these properties at Chippenham where, in two cases, improvement grant schemes were under way.

Sampling

The Water Board Staff collect samples twice a year from each source and these are submitted for chemical analysis. Samples of untreated water from each source are submitted for bacteriological examination every month.

In addition, the following samples were collected by the Public Health Inspectors and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory:-

Water Sampling during 1971

Sample	Mains Supplies		Private Supplies		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Bacteriological	54	-	2	-	56

Water Consumption

	Chippenham Pumping Station	Swaffham Prior Pumping Station	Bottisham Pumping Station	Lower Links Pumping Station
Average daily output over year	Gallons 416, 906	Gallons 119, 759	Gallons 149, 211	Gallons 204, 630

Typical Results of Analysis of Public Supplies

Test	Chippenham	Swaffham Prior	Bottisham	Lower Links
Physical Characters	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction	pH 7.3	pH 7.9	pH 8.1	pH 7.2
Parts per million				
Chlorine	21	250	136	20
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Absent	0.24	0.25	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C	0.15	0.30	0.20	0.10
Nitrate Nitrogen	8.1	0.3	Absent	7.8
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Poisonous Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Total Hardness	280	81	51	305
Iron	0.04	0.08	0.04	0.03
Fluoride	less than 0.1	0.2	0.25	0.15
Bacteriological Examination				
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of micro- organisms per ml. developing at 37°C	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of micro- organisms per ml. developing at 21°C	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

387 visits were made in connection with the drainage of premises, excluding improvement grant advisory inspections. All new drains are examined and tested by the building inspector from the Engineer's department and a close liaison exists.

Soham

The fringe areas are now sewered and one is pleased to report that dwellings at Qua Fen Common, East Fen Common, Broad Piece, The Shade and Berrycroft are being provided with a drainage system for the first time.

In August work commenced on enlarging the Soham Sewage Treatment Works to cater for a population of 10,000 including flows from Wicken and Upware.

Ashley, Cheveley, Woodditton, Wicken and Upware,
Kennett and Kentford

The Council's Engineer reports that preparation of these schemes has proceeded during the year and it is expected that construction will commence in 1972.

Brinkley, Burrough Green, Westley

These parishes were surveyed by the area public health inspector in anticipation of a sewerage scheme. Our records include the provision or lack of modern amenities along with existing sewage disposal facilities and obvious nuisances. This information will be available at any D. of E. enquiry.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The 1970 report describes the problem of the century, i. e. the collection and disposal of waste, both domestic and industrial. Since that report the subject has hit the headlines in the national press, triggered off by the dumping of cyanides in various parts of the midlands.

The Council's contributions towards a solution were listed and the following can be added:-

- (a) The sack system of refuse collection was extended to all parishes.
- (b) A new 50 cub. yd. "Pakamatic" refuse vehicle replaced an old vehicle.
- (c) The joint pulverizing plant, financed by the Rural and Urban Councils, operated from the end of May.
- (d) The number of abandoned cars removed was more than trebled.

Following complaints from nearby residents, the Woodditton refuse pit was closed on the 10th May and steps were taken to fill up with soil and pulverized refuse with a view to handing the pit over to the owner. Part of the pit is designated as a place of scientific interest and this has created the sole delay in finishing this land reclamation project.

The Reach Pit is not used for the dumping of household refuse but provides a standby for disposal under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967. The Kennett pit, operated jointly by the Newmarket Rural and Urban Councils, receives all pulverized refuse from the plant at the Exning Road depot in Newmarket. Transportation is by heavy vehicle carrying one of three large removable containers with a capacity of about 7 tons. Day to day management is covered by the Urban Council's Engineer under the general direction of a Joint Management Committee. All expenses are shared on a tonnage basis, on a combined weight of approximately 35 tons per day.

Working Party Report

The Working Party Report was studied and it was noted with pleasure that our Joint Councils were ahead of the report's recommendations in some respects. At least two members of the party emphasised that treatment of refuse is essential before dumping and it was stated that refuse pulverization is becoming increasingly popular with the smaller authorities. It would appear that Local Government Reorganization will result in refuse disposal being taken over by County Councils, in spite of the report.

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

Under part 3 of this Act it is the Council's duty to provide disposal points for abandoned cars and bulky household refuse. A local scrap merchant will receive worn out cars or transport them on behalf of the Council. Unauthorized dumping is regarded as a serious offence and abandoned cars receive prompt attention. The inspectors recorded

111 visits under this heading and the following information summarises the action taken:-

Cars

Removed by owners on request	9
Removed by Council for destruction	8
On private land - no further action	<u>1</u>
Total cases investigated	<u>18</u>

Bulky household articles may be deposited at the Exning Road depot and this has been well advertised. Where householders have a transport problem, domestic articles are collected free of charge, but this service is increasing beyond the labour available. The Council is particularly concerned with this problem and steps are already being taken to organize a regular service in an effort to avoid pollution of our countryside.

The privately owned pit at Dimmock's Cote, Upware continued to be used for fly tipping but occasional bulldozing under the provisions of the Act kept the nuisance within reasonable limits.

Salvaged Materials

	Year ended 31st March, 1972				Year ended 31st March, 1971			
	T.	C.	Q.	£ p.	T.	C.	Q.	£ p.
Waste Paper	23	8	2	201 50	70	11	1	681 79
Ferrous Metals					4	5	0	21 25
Non-Ferrous Metals						3	2	14 84
Rags and Sacking					4	13	1	121 91
Sundries								28 50
Miscellaneous Iron	1	14	0	8 45				
Totals	25	2	2	209 95	79	13	0	868 29

Public Participation

It is fitting to record our appreciation of work carried out by pupils of Soham Village College who made a very special effort to clear up the junk which had been scattered over Qua Fen Common by thoughtless and irresponsible persons. A refuse vehicle was made available to transport the huge collection.

Trade Waste

One contractor was granted planning permission to use a pit at Brinkley for the disposal of dry trade refuse, subject to satisfactory control. Another privately owned pit is available beyond the district boundary. It was discovered that waste oil had polluted a ditch and pond at Qua Fen Common, Soham but the discharge ceased after taking action under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

9 Scrap Merchants are registered and the police are kept informed.

Cesspool Emptying

The department's cesspool emptier was kept fully operational and the following figures indicate the extent of the work.

Clearances during the last five years

Year Ended March	Private		Council			Total Loads
	Cesspools Cleared	Loads	Cesspools Cleared	Sewage Plants	Loads	
1972	817	952	138	165	490	1,442
1971	799	950	155	258	731	1,681
1970	807	949	202	494	1,185	2,134
1969	870	1,041	234	484	1,226	2,267
1968	747	919	347	284	1,120	2,039

The disposal of sewage and sludge from the tanker continues to be a problem and we look forward to more satisfactory methods.

519 annual free clearances were carried out on request in unsewered areas.

Statistics for the year ended 31st March, 1972
compared with previous year

Refuse Collection and Disposal

	March 1972	March 1971
Total Mileage	33,854	33,943
Refuse Collected - loads	985	1,180
Net cost of service	£34,216	£27,597
Cost per load - collection and disposal	£34.74	£23.29
Annual cost per 1,000 population	£1,431.63	£1,221.11
Vehicle Costs - including renewals	£7,290	£5,921
Cost per mile	£0.22	£0.17
Vehicles - Actual running costs	£4,693	£3,887
Vehicles - Actual running costs cost per mile	£0.14	£0.11
Fuel consumed:- gallons - Derv	4,576	4,509
Average miles per gallon	8.2	7.5
Income from salvage sales NETT	£433	£593*
* After deducting men's bonus		
<u>Cesspool Emptying</u>		
Total Mileage	14,541	13,688
Cost of Service	£3,630	£3,827
Number of loads cleared	1,442	1,681
Cost per load - collection and disposal	£2.52	£2.27
Fuel consumed - gallons	1,256	977
Fuel consumption per load - gallons	0.87	0.58

Chargeable work came under the following headings:-

Private Householders	£535
Housing Management	£296
Sewerage	£117
	£948
Deficit to General Rate	£2,682

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREAOffices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

At the end of the year, 104 premises, employing 356 persons, were entered in the public health department's register, as detailed below:-

Table A - Registrations		
Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year
Offices	1	28
Retail Shops	3	66
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	1
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	7
Fuel Storage Depots	-	2
Totals	4	104

B. Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises 102

Table C - Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace	
Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	113
Retail Shops	185
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	35
Catering Establishments open to the public	18
Canteens	1
Fuel Storage Depots	4
Total	356
Total Males	145
Total Females	211

Informal notices served during 1971 1

All offices attached to registered factories are excluded from the above figures because the inspection of these premises falls within the duties of H. M. Factory Inspectors.

EXEMPTIONS

No exemption certificates have been applied for during the year.

ACCIDENTS

No accidents were reported during the past year.

PROSECUTIONS

There have been no prosecutions for non-compliance with the Act during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools

123 visits have been made to the 15 school swimming pools in the area. There is little to add to the comments made in last year's report. All pools are provided with filtration and chlorination facilities and head teachers are supplied with comparators for the checking of free chlorine and pH. Spot checks are made by the public health inspectors as frequently as possible.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A full time Rodent Officer is employed on survey and treatment duties under the Act. This officer made 2,667 inspections and re-inspections during the year and dealt with 219 infestations. No statutory notices were served under Section 4 and no infestations were treated in default.

The free service to householders continued throughout the year and small business premises were treated for a nominal charge.

The test baiting of sewer manholes was carried out in the following parishes:-

	<u>Manholes baited:</u>	<u>Infested</u>
Burwell	14	-
Bottisham	14	-
Soham	18	3

Second treatments rapidly cleared the minor infestations.

Disinfestation and Disinfection

The Rodent Officer dealt with the following complaints:-

Fleas - 1 Flies - 6 Ants - 16 Carpet Beetles - 6

117 Wasps' nests were destroyed on request. A charge of 25p is made to private householders for this service.

Special attention is paid to the refuse pits and tip dressing is sprayed when necessary.

Pet Animals

No applications were received for licences to keep pet shops.

Infectious Disease

All notified diseases are investigated by the health inspectors and, where necessary, specimens are collected, particular attention being paid to food handlers. 34 visits were made in connection with infectious disease enquiries and 19 specimens were despatched to the Public Health Laboratory for routine examination.

Atmospheric Pollution

Last year's report outlined the duties of the department under current clean air legislation. A replacement boiler was installed at a Burwell factory and it was necessary to call for a much higher chimney.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

One complaint was received relating to a loud-speaker used by a food vendor during the late evening. An informal approach had the desired result. It will be recalled that a mobile shop keeper who sells perishable foods may use chimes or similar amplified methods during the hours between 12 noon and 7 p.m., providing a nuisance is not created. One person who complained about a noisy donkey was referred to the County Council Good Rule and Government Byelaws.

Rag Flock

There are no premises registered in the area.

Radioactive Substances Act, 1960

No radioactive waste is received in the area under the provisions of the above Act and no firms using radioactive isotopes are registered.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Three establishments are licensed for the boarding of 25 dogs, 10 dogs and 9 cats. Occasional visits are made to these premises and no action has been necessary.

Factories Act, 1961

The public health inspectors' duties at most of the factories is limited to ensuring that adequate and satisfactory sanitary accommodation is provided under the provisions of Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1961.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1971 for the Rural District of Newmarket in the County of Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities (i. e. factories not having mechanical power)	5	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) of which Section 7 is enforced by the L. A. (i. e. factories having mechanical power)	70	23	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L. A. (excluding outworkers' premises)	26	17	-	-
TOTAL	101	42	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
			To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	3	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	2	-	-	-



