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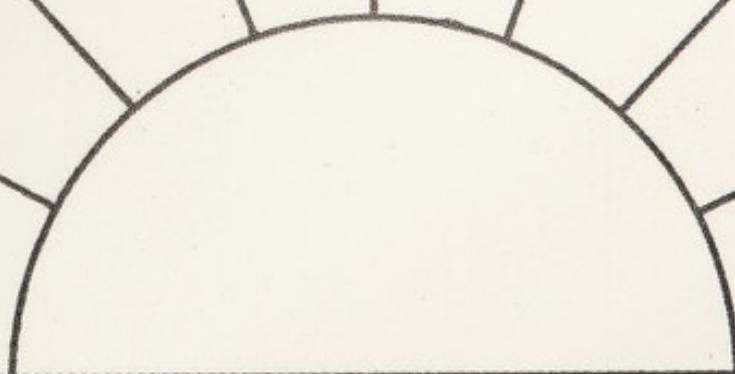
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THE
HEALTH
OF
RYDE
1970





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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1970

(as constituted at 21st May, 1970)

The Mayor - Councillor H.E. Morey, B.E.M., F.Inst.L.Ex.

Alderman W.G.F. Sutton, M.R.S., J.P. (Chairman)

Councillor Major R.T. Butler (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor J.A. Allen

Councillor Mrs. G.M. Burridge

Councillor L.S. Cavilla

Councillor Mr. E.A.B. Copper

Councillor B. G. Donald

Councillor D.H. Gordon

Councillor A.F. Holland

Councillor Lt.Cdr. Hollis

R.N.(Rtd.) A.C.P., F.R.G.S.

Councillor A.C. Lewis

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS 1970

Dr. D.W. QUANTRILL, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
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Chief Public Health Inspector S. DUNMORE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector L.N. JORDAN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant N. A. HILLIER, B.E.M.

Clerk MISS D. G. BOYCE

Rodent Operator W. A. GOBLE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
5 LIND STREET,
RYDE, I.W.

Tel: RYDE 2262

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1970.

There were 289 births compared with 258 in the previous year. The comparative birth rate (15.6) varied only slightly from the rate for the rest of the country (16.0). The illegitimacy rate (10.0) was slightly lower than in recent years but was still above the national figure (8.0). The problem of a high illegitimacy rate in Ryde is still being looked into by a working party of doctors and nurses at the request of the County Council.

There were 338 deaths and this was the highest total recorded. However, when account is taken of the size and age distribution of the community, the adjusted death rate (10.7) is still below the rate for England and Wales (11.7).

The infant mortality rate (17.3) was slightly below the national figure (18.0) and there were no maternal deaths. Coronary thrombosis was still the major cause of death in adults, especially in men.

As regards infectious diseases, over three hundred cases of measles were notified but as in all recent epidemics complications were rare. Vaccination against this infection is now available and seems to be quite safe, but should not be given priority over any other immunisation procedures. Protection against diseases such as smallpox, diphtheria and poliomyelitis is far more important.

Thousands of young people passed through Ryde on their way to the great 'Pop' Festival, held on the Late Summer holiday weekend. The toilet facilities in the region of the Pier would have been quite inadequate for this vast crowd if the Borough Surveyor, Mr. M. Occomore, had not made additional arrangements, especially at night-time. The young people were well-behaved and no public health problems arose. The British Red Cross Society organised an efficient first aid service.

During the Summer the people of St. Helens were concerned over the deposit of sewage on the beach. It was thought that this problem resulted from the increased use of the harbour by visiting yachtsmen plus the lack of suitable sanitary arrangements on the shore. In co-operation with the Rural District the Bembridge Harbour Improvement Company was persuaded to make more adequate provision and it is hoped that in future years this problem will not arise.

There was still a long waiting list for council houses during 1970. Over fifty applications were supported by medical reports from family doctors, but even these cases may have to wait several years unless more houses are built.

A number of complaints were made regarding polystyrene fumes emanating from a local factory. The Company concerned was most helpful in trying to eliminate this unpleasant nuisance but it was unfortunate for people living nearby as although the fumes were not a danger to health, they prevented people from having windows open and enjoying the fresh air.

A major improvement in the method of refuse disposal was made during the year when the Pulverisation Plant was put into operation. The Borough's rubbish, instead of being dumped on the Nettlestone tip, will now be dealt with in a modern and more hygienic way and the tip will cease to be a breeding ground for flies, rats and other vermin.

My thanks are again due to the staff of the Department for their loyalty and support and finally I respectfully express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation of their co-operation and consideration during the year.

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS QUANTRILL

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

GENERAL

Area in acres	7,876
No. of inhabited dwelling houses according to rate books (as at 31.3.71)	8,852
Rateable value (as at 31.3.71)	£915,003
Sum represented by 1 n.p. (1970/71)	£ 8,760
Rainfall	32.95 inches
Sunshine	1747.6 hours

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's figure)	22,690
Live Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.7
Comparative factor	1.23
Comparative birth rate	15.6
Still Brith rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	17.0
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.9
Comparative factor	0.72
Comparative Death Rate	10.7
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	Nil
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-	
All infants per 1,000 live births	17.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	34.5
Death from Cancer (all ages)	66
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil

BIRTHS

The total number of live births was 289 of which 260 were legitimate and 29 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 12.7 per 1,000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 16.0.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths was 338 which gives a death rate of 14.9 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The Infantile Mortality rate was 17.3 per 1,000 registered live births; the rate for England and Wales generally was 18.0

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	-	1
Syphilis and its sequelae	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity	-	1
" " " " , Stomach	6	3
" " " " , intestine	3	9
" " " " , lung, bronchus	12	2
" " " " , breast	-	8
" " " " , uterus	-	5
" " " " , prostate	2	-
Leukaemia	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms	7	8
Diabetes Mellitus	1	5
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1
Anaemias	1	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	2
Hypertensive disease	3	6
Ischaemic heart disease	44	25
Other forms of heart disease	12	19
Cerebrovascular disease	21	30
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	10
Influenza	4	1
Pneumonia	11	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	15	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	1
Diseases of skin, Subcutaneous tissue	1	-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	2
Congenital Anomalies	-	1
Birth injury, Difficult Labour etc.	3	-
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	-	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	3	7
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1
All other external causes	1	-
All causes	173	165

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED

DURING 1970

<u>AGES</u>	<u>MEASLES</u>	<u>SCARLET FEVER</u>	<u>WHOOPIING COUGH</u>	<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u> Pulmonary - Non Pulmonary	
Under 1 Year	12	-	-	-	-
1 and under 2	28	-	1	-	-
2 " " 3	36	-	-	-	-
3 " " 4	57	-	-	-	-
4 " " 5	49	1	-	-	-
5 " " 10	126	1	-	-	-
10 " " 15	9	-	-	-	-
15 " " 25	4	-	-	-	-
25 " " 35	3	-	-	1	-
35 " " 55	-	-	-	-	-
55 " " 65	-	-	-	-	1
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-
	324	2	1	1	1

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my twenty-first Annual Report, with the approval of Dr. Quantrill, the Medical Officer of Health.

My report follows my established pattern and is set out in four sections.

The year under review was an important one in that it was specifically scheduled as European Conservation Year - not a moment too soon to try and emphasize the many forms of pollution which jeopardize our health, and the need to alert the public's attention to save the environment from part or total destruction. Subsequently in my Report I hope it will be seen to have been a year in which a number of major projects were completed by the Council which could justifiably be said to contribute considerably towards countering pollution and aiding conservation in the Borough. However, I hope that we all accept that much remains to be achieved, and a 'state of alert' must be maintained.

Again, it is a pleasure to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of both the Public Health Committee and Housing Committee for their confidence and to the departmental Chief Officers and their staffs for their co-operation and help. In particular we have much appreciated the many instances of co-operation received from the Borough's new Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. M. Occomore. It now hardly needs saying that Mr. Jordan, my Assistant, has again got through a vast amount of work, especially in the town area, where almost everyone must now have met him in one or other facet of his duties. Mr. Hillier, B.E.M., likewise through his duties administering in particular the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act is now a well known member of my staff, as is Mr. Goble, our Rodent Operator, who in the course of a year makes hundreds of visits to local residents to solve their rodent problems. Miss Boyce, increasingly assisted by Mr. Hillier, manages the office duties, and at the end of the year a number of back-logs of work which had been building up had been overcome.

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY DUNMORE
Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION 1 - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

COMPLAINTS

253 complaints were received and dealt with during the year. This figure does not include complaints concerning housing, food and rodent infestations.

WATER SUPPLY

The I.W. River and Water Authority are the body responsible for the provision of water supplies throughout the Island, and an adequate supply of pure and wholesome water was maintained to all parts of the Borough throughout the year.

No contamination of supplies has occurred.

There are approximately 8,852 inhabited dwellings in the Borough, with a population of 22,690. All houses, etc., are connected direct to the mains supplies and no well or stand-pipes are in use.

Mains water is supplied to:-

Domestic premises	8,514
Commercial premises	1,361
Industrial Undertakings	29
Other Undertakings	14
Entertainment and Recreational premises	57
Educational and Cultural premises	21
Crown premises	14
Miscellaneous	223
	<hr/>
	10,233

The last available chemical analysis indicated that the flouride content was less than 0.1 p.p.m.

Drainage Matters

The bulk of the Borough's foul drainage, and much of its surface water, is discharged, untreated, through long outfalls, well beyond low-water mark, into the strong currents of the Solent flowing eastwards into the open sea. The purification works serving St. Helens and Havenstreet have dealt satisfactorily with the sewage of these localities. Having commented adversely during past years on the lack of proper and efficient drainage of the dwellings in the Fishbourne area, I am now able to report that the overall sewage scheme comprising sewers, pumping stations and a full treatment works to serve Eleanors Grove, Fishbourne and Kitehill was completed and came into operation in the latter part of the year, thus enabling a considerable number of septic tanks and cesspools to be taken out of use. It remains to be seen if and when the sewage from

the Council's three trunk sewers can be diverted and receive full treatment before discharge - a works site has been purchased for this purpose, but the Government financial policy does not support treatment works to serve seaside resorts. However, despite all that has been said and written of late, I would expect to find the Solent less polluted by crude sewage now than in the past, since a large number of full or partial treatment plants have, in recent years, been installed by Authorities bordering the Solent. Undoubtedly, far the greatest pollution danger comes from oil accidentally or deliberately discharged from the great number of tankers travelling to and from the Fawley Refinery and the fuel depots in Southampton Water. The accident risk amongst shipping in the Channel and the approaches to the Island become ever greater, and, when these do occur, pollution on a vast scale is near inevitable.

The Government Department concerned has again enquired whether any areas in the Borough remain in need of sewage disposal schemes, and I again repeat that the properties in Corbett Road and the western end of Playstreet Lane should be dealt with, since they are at present served by septic tanks or cesspools. The area offers no serious engineering problems to a sewerage scheme.

Alterations or new drainage works relative to existing buildings are supervised by myself or Mr. Jordan, depending upon the district concerned. Fifty-eight such works have been supervised, including five which necessitated action under Section 24, Public Health Act, 1936.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This service is operated by the Borough Surveyor. All districts in the Borough receive at least a once-weekly collection, and a trade refuse collection service is also provided.

Since the present extended borough came into operation in 1931, the refuse has been collected and dumped at the Tip near Nettlestone, and this tipping area has gradually contracted as filling in progressed, and so the Public Health Committee, with Council approval, have installed a Tollemache Pulverisation Plant at the tip at a cost of approximately £50,000, which deals with the whole of the borough's refuse, plus that of the Sandown/Shanklin U.D.C. and part of the Isle of Wight R.D.C. In the past, the tip has always been a problem and a pollution hazard because of, amongst other things, a serious insufficiency of suitable covering material. Now that pulverisation is in full operation, it is anticipated that the tip will become an innocuous area, without attraction to vermin or flies.

The tip has received regular checks by the Rodent Operator, and, during the summer, exposed surfaces of refuse received regular spraying with suitable insecticides.

Revenue from salvaged paper and cardboard during the year amounted to £999, and £243 from the sale of rags and metals.

VERMINIOUS PREMISES

Disinfestations were carried out at 65 premises - cockroaches (22) fleas (22), ants (10), flies (3), and other pests (8). None of these infestations was of a major nature, and they were generally not difficult to eradicate, although it is accepted that often cockroaches are difficult to dislodge once they get themselves established in a premises.

351 wasps' nests were destroyed - an all-time record and a remarkable wasp year - and I think this may well have contributed to the small numbers of flies seen during the later warm summer days, since, in a nest's growing stage, great numbers of insect grubs are caught and transported to feed the young wasps. In addition, reluctant as we are to deal with bees' nests, in five cases where they were adjacent to dwellinghouses they were destroyed.

RODENT CONTROL

The rodent (rats and mice) destruction service is operated by the Department, which provides a contract service for 62 business premises and a free service for householders. Business premises not having a contract were treated if requested, and charged for work done. Mr. Goble, our Rodent Operator, again dealt efficiently with the necessary destruction work, and some details of what this involved are set out as follows:-

During the year, 544 complaints were received, and 3,779 visits were made for the purposes of treatments and routine inspections.

<u>Council Properties</u>		<u>Dwellinghouses (including Council Houses)</u>				<u>Agricultural Premises</u>		<u>All other premises (including Business Premises)</u>			
Inspected	Infested	Inspected	Infested	Inspected	Infested	Inspected	Infested	Inspected	Infested	Inspected	Infested
	rats mice		rats mice		rats mice		rats mice		rats mice		rats mice
47	12 1	444	310 45	32	24 2	151	34 17				

During the past year, the work of rodent control, although not remarkable for any spectacular incidents, has nevertheless resulted in the steady reduction of infestation by rats and mice being maintained. Large colonies of rats have almost ceased to exist and the few situations of this type which remain are confined mainly to agricultural holdings. Many complaints are still received of relatively minor infestations in and around dwellinghouses and business premises, but all these have responded satisfactorily to conventional methods of control. In this connection it is worth noting that there is still no evidence of resistance to anti-coagulant poisons such as has been experienced in certain other counties.

Whereas statistics compiled by the Ministry of Agriculture indicate a considerable increase in the number of infestations by mice in other parts of the country, this tendency has not been apparent in our area, and

in fact there seems to be a distinct improvement in this situation.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING

There are five caravan sites situated in the Borough, and these all have permanent licences. None of the sites is very large, and all are in full accordance with conditions of licence, and have been operated very efficiently. No special comment is called for.

There are also five licensed camping sites in the Borough. The sites are well sited, well equipped, and very well operated, as a result of which they are popular, and last year in particular demands for camping space far exceeded the space available, particularly at the height of the holiday season, and this resulted in greatly increased camping activity in fields bordering the Borough's rural areas. With all the lightweight, sophisticated camping equipment now on the market, this type of holiday is extremely popular with people of all ages.

The chalet-type holiday establishments (i.e. Warners, Puckpool and St. Clare, the Nodes Holiday Centre and the Pondwell Centre) were again very popular and catered for many hundreds of holidaymakers. All are excellently operated, due in no small extent to the fact that these establishments are operated by highly efficient managers, all of whom have worked here for quite a number of years and with whom I have close contact and excellent co-operation.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are no public swimming pools in the Borough. Warners, Puckpool and St Clare have large open-air (one heated) pools, the W.T.A. and St. John's Road, Junior School have small open-air pools and Nodes Holiday Centre has a large covered heated pool. All of these pools are equipped with an adequate chlorination/filtration plant and are well supervised, with the result that, except for one suspicious sample, all samples taken during the period when the pools were in use were reported as being satisfactory.

It will be recalled that there is a children's paddling pool at the Council's Canoe Lake, and I had hoped that, having seen a small chlorination/filtration plant installed there to circulate and treat the water, our problems in maintaining a reasonably constant standard of purity of the water would have been met. This has not been so, and further steps will have to be taken to try and eliminate various factors which contribute to the pool's pollution.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The total number of premises registered under the Act as at 31st December, 1970, was 400. The number of different kinds registered are as follows:-

Retail shops	203
Wholesale Premises	17
Catering and canteens	64

Fuel Depots
Offices

-
116

400

838 visits were made to registered premises.

The total number of persons employed in registered premises was 2,072
881 males and 1,191 females.

Five accidents were reported - four in shops, one in wholesale premises.
All the accidents were investigated but no breach of the Regulations
was disclosed.

No applications have been made for exemptions.

72 Informal Notices were served.

During the year under review the steady progress to the goal of a
General Inspection of all registered premises at least once in every
two years has continued.

The responsibility for inspection under the Act, of Post Office buildings
in the Borough was taken over from the Factories Inspectorate - this was
assisted by the transfer of all previous correspondence regarding the
various properties.

The most common cause for comment on inspections this year has been
a growing tendency to cram stock into parts of the premises not
intended for storage, and contraventions under Section 16 of the
Act have been drawn to the attention of a number of employers.

All hoists and lifts in premises known to be within the scope of the
Act have been inspected - as a result of these inspections the following
works have been carried out:-

- 1 lift motor winding gear enclosed
- 1 lift motor house secured from unauthorised entry
- 1 lift fitted with safety guards
- 2 lifts fully overhauled and new winding cables fitted
- 2 lifts in process of being replaced by new models

It is obvious that the introduction of the Hoists and Lifts Regulations
has brought about a real improvement in the safety of this type of
equipment. However, it is not always old installations that are a
danger. On an initial inspection of a new goods lift installed in a
newly completed store it was discovered that the winding gear had
been installed on the floor of a room to which all staff had access.
The pulley wheels, winding drum and cables were unguarded, and in the
path of any person passing through the room to a door which led out
on to a flat roof. Needless to say, the winding gear etc. is now
enclosed, and the doors to the room are locked, with the keys

available only to the manager and his deputy.

Five accidents were reported during 1970, all were of a fairly minor nature.

The reporting of accidents remains a problem. It is possible that many accidents are not being reported and at every inspection that is carried out, the requirement to report an accident under Section 48 of the Act is emphasized to the proprietor or manager. It is hoped that such verbal reminders will in time "bear fruit".

A special effort was made during the last quarter of the year to publicise the need for care in the handling and use of machinery in shops and offices. In conjunction with this, a visit was made to the exhibition at the Health and Safety Centre, Westminster by the Departmental Inspector for the Act - also, a supply of booklets dealing with the safe use of food slicing machines was obtained.

Some sixty copies of the booklet were distributed by hand to premises in the Borough which use cutting or slicing machines. At the same time, an inspection was made of the equipment in use, and the opportunity taken to talk to staff regarding safety and training arrangements.

A short talk on safety was given to the staff of seven large establishments, some 78 persons being present.

To summarise, the day to day administration of the Act has provided no great problems this past year; however, a constant check is required to ensure registration of change of owner, changes in the number of persons employed and other matters are reported as required, and that records are properly maintained.

Co-operation shown by proprietors and managers of premises visited ranged from fair to excellent and usually a verbal warning has been all that was required to rectify a minor deficiency pointed out during a general inspection.

FACTORIES ACT 1937-59 and 1961

There are 122 premises registered as factories in the Borough, of which 118 have power installed. With the exception of several purpose-built factories which have become established in recent years and engaged in light industry, the great majority of the factories are small.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered common lodging houses within the Borough.

POP FESTIVAL 1970

I am able to report that the Pop Festival held in the West Wight over the late Summer holiday, which was viewed with some trepidation here

before the event, gave rise, as far as I am concerned, for no adverse comment appertaining to health matters. The local authority, public and private services in the vicinity of the Pier, through which thousands of fans passed, worked excellently.

A limited problem occurred when some very early arrivals found it necessary to "sleep rough" around the town for a few nights before moving to the festival site.

POLLUTION GENERALLY

(1) Noise

Complaints lodged by residents amounted to eight in all, and referred to a specific noise, usually in the vicinity of their properties.

The complaints related to noisy commercial and light industrial machinery, and noisy music and cars. These were investigated and informally resolved.

This small number of complaints does not, of course, give a true noise picture - nowadays we accept without much protest all sorts of industrial noise. Under adverse weather conditions the hovercraft can be very noisy; too many street works use excessively noisy machinery, many of the large commercial vehicles are extremely noisy, particularly those with diesel motors; and, except perhaps at night, we accept a great deal of private noise, especially from cars and motor - cycles.

My Department is about to acquire a small noise meter which we hope to use when practicable to counter excessive noise.

(11) Smells

Complaints lodged by residents varied from smells from industrial activities to residents' bonfires.

Generally in this locality unpleasant smells are limited and localised. Polystyrene fumes from a fibre-glass boat factory have on occasions been very unpleasant to nearby residents. These fumes are heavy and do not disperse easily in humid or still conditions. Large activated carbon filters have now been installed to filter the air in the main workshops, which has brought about a marked improvement.

Undoubtedly far too large a quantity of exhaust gases is pushed out into the air, especially in our busy streets. Many of the public service and commercial vehicles are culprits, as evidenced in places like the High Street, when these vehicles are moving loaded and in low gear.

The smoke stacks at the great Fawley Oil Refinery in Southampton Water can on occasions cover the area with an unpleasant smell - fortunately

this occurs only rarely, when we have a light north-west wind with misty or foggy conditions.

There are, of course, still far too many domestic fires and chimneys in use, and new ones (not smoke consuming) continue to be installed in new properties. These highly inefficient appliances push out their large proportion of unburned fuel in the form of smoke into the air. How fortunate for us it is that the thousands of chinmey-pots which meet the eye in any direction do not all emit smoke at the same time.

It is always blithely stated that we have no air pollution here in the Island, but that is not strictly true - it is often there to a limited extent - it could be less.

(111) Litter, etc.

Authorised dumping sites have been established at several points where people can take their excess rubbish. These have been increasingly used, but there are still individuals who will go to the trouble to cart their unwanted rubbish to dump it and pollute some otherwise pleasant, unspoiled spot in the countryside.

The annoying and unpleasant nuisance caused by dogs fouling the pavements in many parts of the town continues to be a matter for concern - we seem to have more than our share of irresponsible dog owners, who turn their pets loose and generally leave them to fend for themselves. The Council were anxious to make an Order requiring all dogs to be under control in the principal streets, which are particularly prone to fouling, and this, had it been applied, would have been a salutary lesson to the irresponsible owners of these wandering animals. However, most unfortunately, the Order was not acceptable to other authorities concerned, so the Council have been unable to make the Order.

CONSERVATION

As a general illustrative comment, I would hope that, if, in the near future, we see St. Thomas' churchyard transformed into a lovely garden, the church itself removed or repaired, several large properties renovated in the vicinity, and the problem of the derelict Victoria Arcade resolved, then the residents of Ryde will see the meaning of conservation and how it can transform a scene.

Summary of Inspections and Visits

Complaints	156
Public Health Act	159
Re-visits to Premises under Notice	
Public Health Act	134
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders etc.	358
Work in progress	227

Insanitary Houses and Rooms	37
Verminous Premises or Rooms	19
National Assistance Act	15
Infectious Diseases	3
Drainage Inspections and Tests	308
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc.	12
Camping sites, caravans, tents and houseboats	50
Stables, piggeries, poultry, etc.	25
Factories with power	30
Factories without power	8
Out-workers rooms	-
Schools	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	826
Foreshores, streams, etc.	24
Vacant land and dumps	62
Common yards and passages	12
Swimming pools	14
Clean Air Act-Smoke nuisances	22
Rodent Infestations	4
Dangerous Structures	35
Offensive Trades	5
Noise Nuisances	28
Miscellaneous Visits	246

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED

In housing units generally (other than drains)	7
Drains and Sec. 24, Public Health Act, 1936	
Sewers cleared of obstructions	43
Drains and Sec. 24, Public Health Act, 1936	
Sewers provided, repaired, reconstructed or altered	58
Miscellaneous Nuisances	10

SECTION 11 - HOUSING

No new housing units were added during 1970 to the Council's properties, which number 893, comprising 14 four-bedroomed, 512 three-bedroomed, 229 two-bedroomed, 60 one-bedroomed flats and bungalows and 78 bed/sitting-room units. The 65 new housing units being built at Preston Close to replace the 31 obsolete prefabs there are progressing well, and the scheme will be completed in 1971. Incidentally, 630 units have been provided since the second world war.

Mr. Cooper, the Council's Housing Officer, reported that he had a total of 547 applicants on his waiting list - exactly 100 more than the previous year. 320 are on the general (family) list and 217 are old people applicants. Looking at these figures a little more closely, it will be seen that two out of every five applicants are old people, yet of the Council's housing units only about one in six is available

for their needs - which must indicate that building priorities should be directed on a much bigger scale to the housing needs of the ageing.

Despite quite severe financial restrictions, the local private house building industry managed to keep up a good rate of building, but, as expected, their figures were down on 1969. The Council's Building Inspector (Mr. R. Bartrum) reports that 147 (180) houses were completed and 11(36) new units were provided following conversions.

The continuing limited availability of money for house purchase during 1970 was again reflected in the small number of S.D.A.A. advances made by the Council, namely 43 - in contrast to 131, the peak figure of five years ago.

With the 1969 Housing Act in operation, there was a markedly increased interest by local residents wishing to take advantage of the much increased financial incentives now made available by Her Majesty's Government to modernise ^{RND} the repair their properties, and, where practicable and desired, to convert into two or more self-contained units. As regards the administration work involved, this has been streamlined as much as possible, and time between an application being received and approved made minimal. Mr. Jordan has shown great interest in this particular work and does most of it as regards the Health Department's administration, and, in the case of Discretionary Grant Improvement applications, we operate an excellent joint co-operative inspection and report system with the Borough Surveyor, who carries out the valuations. During the year, 61 Discretionary and 24 Standard Improvement Grants were paid.

Many of the Council's 263 pre-war Council houses fall short of the 1969 Act, and during the year a small pilot scheme was carried out to modernise some of the houses at West Priory with a view to extending the policy to eventually deal with all the houses requiring modernisation.

During the year, Closing Orders were made in respect of three dwellings and five dwellings previously "closed" were made fit and the Closing Orders determined.

As will be seen, slum clearance activities were confined to a small number of individual units of housing.

However, I am pleased to report that the Borough's Oakfield Clearance and Re-development Scheme (an appropriate contribution to Conservation Year), which had progressed so slowly because of legal problems, made very rapid progress towards essential legal decisions necessary before clearance on any scale could be commenced. In July last, the Minister of Housing and Local Government held a Public Enquiry, and in October his decision was received confirming the Council's four Clearance

Areas (within the Improvement Area) and one necessary Compulsory Purchase Order. This has opened the way to completion of negotiations with interested parties, and 1971 should see the long-awaited new-look Oakfield start to materialize.

COMPLAINTS

A total of 68 complaints were received and dealt with.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	294
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	589

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	111
Public Health Act	115
Re-visits to Premises ^{UNDER} and Notice - Public Health Act	123
Housing Acts	179
Re-visits to Premises under Notice - Housing Acts	172
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders etc.	1172
Improvement Grants (Standard)	99
Improvement Grants (Discretionary)	394
Water Samples	-
Overcrowding	1
Rent Act	4
Miscellaneous	102

<u>Number of Housing Units in which Nuisances were abated and/or Defects Remedied</u>	47
	(Not including Improvement Grant work.)

SECTION 111 - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year there have not been any significant changes in the local food industry - i.e. food shops, restaurants, hotels, dairies, etc. These premises have received routine inspections within the time available for this purpose, and in general the proprietors and managers have maintained a satisfactory standard of hygiene in their premises and given good quality service to their customers.

The permanently employed labour force engaged in the local food industry has, generally speaking, maintained good standards in food handling, and on this aspect no complaints have been lodged.

Classification of Food Premises

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/67, the table sets out details of food premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General)

Regulations, 1960, grouped in categories of trade carried on in them, including information relating to Regulations 16 and 19:-

Category	Total No. of Premises	Fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 Applicable	Fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses	10	10	10	10
Fishmongers and Poulterers	8	8	8	8
Butchers	18	18	18	18
Dairies and Milk Distributors	30	-	-	-
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	10	10	10	10
Grocers	59	59	59	59
Restaurants, Cafes etc.	66	66	66	66
Licensed Premises (Full Licences)	58	58	58	58
Bread and Cake Shops	12	12	12	12
Fried Fish Shops	10	10	10	10
Hotels	23	23	23	23
Private Hotels and Guest Houses	100(a)	(x)	100	(x)
Small Boarding Houses	250(b)	(y)	250	(y)
Clubs	5	-	-	-
Confectioners	25	25	-	-
Totals:	684	299	624	274

(a) Estimated number of premises normally capable of sleeping 10 or more persons.

(b) Estimated number of premises normally capable of sleeping less than 10 persons - in operation for short periods only.

(x) Only a limited number of premises have been inspected - due to shortage of time and staff.

(y) No small boarding-houses have been inspected.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

During the year, 22 complaints concerning food were received, and

and related to "foreign bodies" being found, or the food not being of the standard or quality the complainant had the right to expect. All the complaints were fully investigated and taken up with the manufacturers concerned, or the retailer if the fault was his. Advice from the Public Health Laboratory Service was also sought as necessary.

Of these complaints, 9 were considered to be of sufficiently serious nature as to warrant reporting to the Public Health Committee. All the offenders concerned received severe reprimands and warnings that legal proceedings would ensue if the offences recurred.

The nine offences referred to are summarised as follows:

1. Bottle of milk containing pieces of cement.
2. A jam sandwich containing mould growths.
3. Packet of stale crispbread containing maggots.
4. Steak and Kidney pies containing mould growths.
5. Tin of peaches containing piece of chewing gum.
6. Sausage roll containing small piece of wood.
7. Loaf containing a black substance.
8. Loaf containing flour sack label.
9. Tin of baby food containing small piece of metal.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS - INSPECTION

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough - supplies of fresh meat come from Newport and nearby mainland counties. There are two meat distribution depots established in the town. Quality of both meat and fish has continued to be good.

Details of the quantities of meat and tinned and packaged goods condemned and destroyed are as follows:

Meat (Imported)	822 lb.
Poultry	82 "
Bacon	49 "
Cooked Meats	150 "
Fish	75 "
Butter	36 "
Cheese	7 "
Biscuits	52 cartons
Meat, milk, fruit, vegetables etc.	938 (1056) tins and jars
Contents of 2 refrigerated storage cabinets - breakdowns.	

POULTRY INSPECTION

(1) There are two poultry processing establishments within the Borough which are registered under the Slaughter of Poultry Act, 1967. One breeds the greater proportion of its young birds, operates

throughout the year and also retails most of its business. Most of the other local small purveyors of poultry have their birds slaughtered at this factory, and altogether a weekly average of about 400 birds are processed. The other factory is attached to a retail premises, and operates more occasionally, according to demand and at busy seasonal periods.

- (11) 12 visits were made to the premises.
- (111) The total number of birds processed was approximately 18,978.
- (1V) The birds processed were chickens, capons, hens, turkeys ducks and pheasants (in that order of demand).
- (V) 2.27 per cent of the birds were rejected as unfit for human consumption.
- (VI) 2147 lb.(approx.) of poultry was rejected as unfit for human consumption.
- (VII) Both establishments are adequately equipped. Both the operators of these premises have long experience in the poultry trade, and visits have been limited to periodic inspections. No disease problems occurred - rejections of birds were mainly confined to malformations i.e. localised abscesses, etc.

MILK SUPPLIES

All milk sampling for the Borough is undertaken by the I.W. County Council, since they are the responsible Food and Drugs Authority.

40 distributors (mainly retail shops) are registered, and 9 premises registered as dairies. All milk sold is designated, the bulk of which is pasteurised and supplied from a factory in Newport, and the remainder is pasteurised in a small plant operated by a local dairyman.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955, Section 16

Premises registered under the above Act and Section, and which comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 are:-

Registered for the Manufacture of Sausages and/or Preserved Foods	28
Registered for the Manufacture, Storage/Sale of Ice Cream	121
	149

Ice Cream

120 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream

the majority of which are shops which sell only wrapped ice cream manufactured by the national producers. There are three local manufacturers producing ice cream in small, satisfactorily equipped factories, who sell their products from their local shops and one of whom also sells from mobile vans which operate throughout the Island. The national producers have storage depots on the Island and provide an excellent distribution service to the many vendors of their products.

Bakehouses

There are now only 10 bakehouses operating in the Borough, none of which is underground. Except for three companies who make and deliver bread, the bakehouses are small and attached to retail shop premises.

Licensed Premises

Following the recent major mergers in the local brewery world, it is becoming apparent that a number of the small, old and unremunerative "houses" are to be taken out of circulation, and other selected ones will receive a major "face lift." 58 premises with full licence operate in Borough, and in these the management has been of a satisfactory standard, and no complaints respecting them were received in my Department.

Complaints

A total of 28 complaints were received and dealt with.

Details of Inspections, Visits etc.

Complaints	33
Interviews with owners, agents, builders etc.	178
Re-visits to Premises under Notice -	
Food and Drugs Act	16
Butchers' Shops	26
Fishmongers and Poulterers	18
Greengrocers	8
Grocers and other food shops	39
Bakehouses	14
Fried Fish shops	9
Ice Cream premises	24
Restaurants and Kitchens	32
Food Stalls and Vehicles	19
Licensed Premises	69
Food Factories	18
Hotels	79
Food Inspection	60
Milk Distributors	9
Food Poisoning Enquiries	1
Infestations	4
Miscellaneous	25

Summary of Notices Served (Sections 1, 11, 111)

Public Health Act (Informal)	111
Public Health Acts (Formal)	12
Housing Acts (Informal)	13
Housing Acts (Formal)	5
Factories Act	--
Food and Drugs Act	10
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	72

SECTION IV - MISCELLANEOUS

Duties carried out in addition to those contained in the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, include the following:-

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936

During 1970/71 commencing 1st May, 1970, 39 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, total gallonage being 75,400. Fourteen petroleum mixture licences were issued, for a total of 596 gallons. 163 visits were made to the petroleum establishments for the purpose of ascertaining that the Acts and Regulations were being complied with, and to inspect any work in connection with new installations, alterations or repairs.

During the year, the proprietors of petroleum establishments will be having their electrical equipment checked and modified as necessary in order to meet the standards of Licensing Conditions which the Council require to be met when licences are renewed on 1st May, 1971. The standards required are quite stringent, and may well provide problems in some of the older establishments.

Shops Act - Closing Hours.

No changes of note have taken place. The Department is responsible for the compliance with "hours of closing" by shops within the Borough as required by the Shops Act and several operative Closing Orders made by the Council. Continued supervision has been maintained this year, and 66 visits were made. In addition, some 42 advisory copies of the Shops Act, 1950, were distributed.

Hackney Carriages and Drivers

The local byelaws governing hackney carriages licensed to ply for hire on the Council's stands are administered by the Health Department which has been involved in a considerable increase in routine work, both as regards administration and inspections. 62 inspections were made of 52 licensed vehicles, and additional "snap" inspections to check cleanliness were carried out on 478 vehicles. There has been a very noticeable improvement in the standard of vehicles plying for hire. During the year compulsory use of fare meters was introduced.

75 drivers for these vehicles were also licensed by the Council, and subject to similar surveillance.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three pet shops are licensed by the Council. These have received 15 visits and found to be operated in accordance with their licence conditions. The Council required the proprietors to supply pamphlets with animals sold; advising their care.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

The same two establishments as previously licensed have had their licences renewed, since both have continued to be satisfactorily operated and have maintained the required standards. One establishment boards small dogs and cats, and the other, which takes cats only, owned and operated by the Cats Protection League, has been completely re-built and now provides boarding accommodation of a most modern luxury standard.

Lectures and other Educational Activities

Mr. Jordan has continued his valued assistance to the I.W. Group Hospital Management Committee by giving a series of lectures and demonstrations on public health subjects which are included in the syllabus of the examination courses taken by the student nurses.

I attended the Annual Conference of Public Health Inspectors and local authority representatives, held at Blackpool in September, and Mr. Jordan attended a week-end school held at Oxford in April, organised by the Public Health Inspectors' Association, a two-day refresher course on Pest Control held in Portsmouth during June, organised by Highbury Technical College on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and a one-day conference on House Improvements, organised by the Department of the Environment, held in Winchester during November.

Factories Act, 1961

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year, 1970
for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	-	-	-
11. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	118	30	-	-
111. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	121	30	-	-

2. CASES in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c)Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-

