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The Health of Ryde

1971



BOROUGH OF RYDE, I.W.
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT

BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the YEAR 1971

BOROUGH OF RYDE, I.W.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1971 - 1972

The Mayor - Alderman John Langdon, M.Sc., M.Phil., M.I.C.E.

Chairman - Alderman H.E. Morey, B.E.M., F.Inst., L.Ex.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor D.H. Gordon

Councillors

J.A. Allen, Esq., AIOB

Mrs G.M. Burridge

Major R.T. Butler

L.S. Cavilla, Esq.


Mrs E.A.B. Copper

A.F. Holland, Esq., CC

Lt. Cdr. L.R. Hollis R.N. (Rtd.)
ACP., FRGS.,

A.C. Lewis, Esq.

W.D. Morgan, Esq.



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

Telephone: 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 Borough for the year 1971.

During the year there were 279 births and the comparative birth rate (15.0) differed only slightly from that of the previous year (15.6) and was similar to the rate for the rest of the country (16.0). There were 32 illegitimate births and this gave a rate of 11.5, compared with a national rate of 8.4 per cent. It is now ten years since Ryde had a rate below ten per cent.

The total number of deaths was 334, including three infant deaths. The comparative death rate (10.5) was not significantly changed. Cancer, heart conditions and strokes accounted for a large proportion of the deaths. Cancer of the lung continued to take its toll and, as is now widely known, this is a condition usually associated with cigarette smoking. Many people have given up this habit but unfortunately there is no decrease in the number of young people who start it. In fact, it is reported that an increasing number start earlier in life and one certainly sees more school children smoking in public these days. At the age of fifteen cancer at fifty is presumably a hazard too remote to consider and the results of health education have been particularly disappointing. Cigarettes could, of course, be taxed almost out of existence. The government, however, tries to face both ways and piously discourages smoking on health grounds but gladly rakes in the proceeds from tobacco duty without being too greedy and thereby spoiling the market.

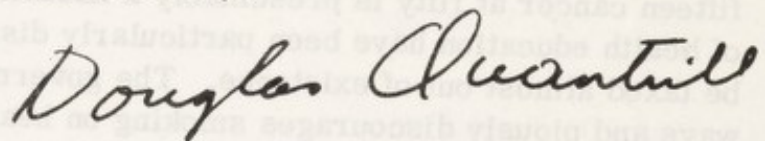
No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported during the year and in section three of Mr Dunmore's report it will be seen that a major part of the department's work is the inspection of food-handling premises, which ensures that all food sold in the Borough is, as far as possible, free from contamination. Where complaints have been made they have been dealt with promptly and to those people who have been public spirited enough to report incidents of contamination or bad hygiene, we have been particularly grateful, as vigilance on the part of the public is essential to the success of the inspectors' efforts.

Later in the report, Mr Dunmore provides some details on camping which, he records, is of a good standard. Last year, however, the demand for camping space in the Borough exceeded the supply and this is one of a number of reasons why consideration should be given to the need on the Island for a municipal camping site. From a health point of view this would ensure high standards of hygiene and sanitation under the direct control of the council. Furthermore, camping is a particularly healthy type of holiday, which, like all other outdoor leisure activities, should be given the maximum amount of encouragement.

The list of applicants for council houses continued to be a long one and there is no doubt that the health, both mental and physical, of many of these applicants would benefit if they were better accommodated. It will take many years to solve this problem but fortunately additional help is now being offered by the enlightened scheme for the improvement and extension of older properties by means of grants. This should not only raise the standards but should also make more units of accommodation available. Mr Jordan, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, is primarily concerned with the duty of advising property owners and the council on this important measure and he is tackling it with enthusiasm. At the end of the year the council increased the establishment by agreeing to the appointment of an Additional Public Health Inspector which, by relieving Mr Jordan of some of his other duties, will enable him to devote more time to this particular task.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation for the high standard of work carried out by all members of the department and for the support given to me by the Health Committee.

Yours faithfully,



Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

D.W. QUANTRILL, MB, Ch.B., MRCS, LRCP., DPH., DTM & H, D.Obst.,
RCOG.,

Office: Public Health Department,
149 High Street, Newport, I.W.

Telephone: Newport 4031

Chief Public Health Inspector:

S. DUNMORE, MRSH, MAPHI

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

L.N. JORDAN, MRSH, MAPHI., (from 3rd August 1971)

Additional Public Health Inspector:

Vacant - Post created from 14th December 1971

Technical Assistant (Post removed from Establishment 14th December 1971)

N.A. HILLIER, BEM. (Transferred to Borough Treasurer's Department
with effect from 1st December 1971)

Clerk

Miss D.G. BOYCE

Rodent Operator

W.A. GOBLE

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population	(i) Registrar General's Annual Estimate)	22,790
"	(ii) Census 1971	23,205
Area (in acres)		7,876
Number of habitable dwellings as at 31.3.72.		9,064
Rateable Value, as at 31.3.72.		£942,865
Product of 1p Rate (1971-72)		£9,000
Rainfall		647.0mm
Sunshine		1,771.5 hrs.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

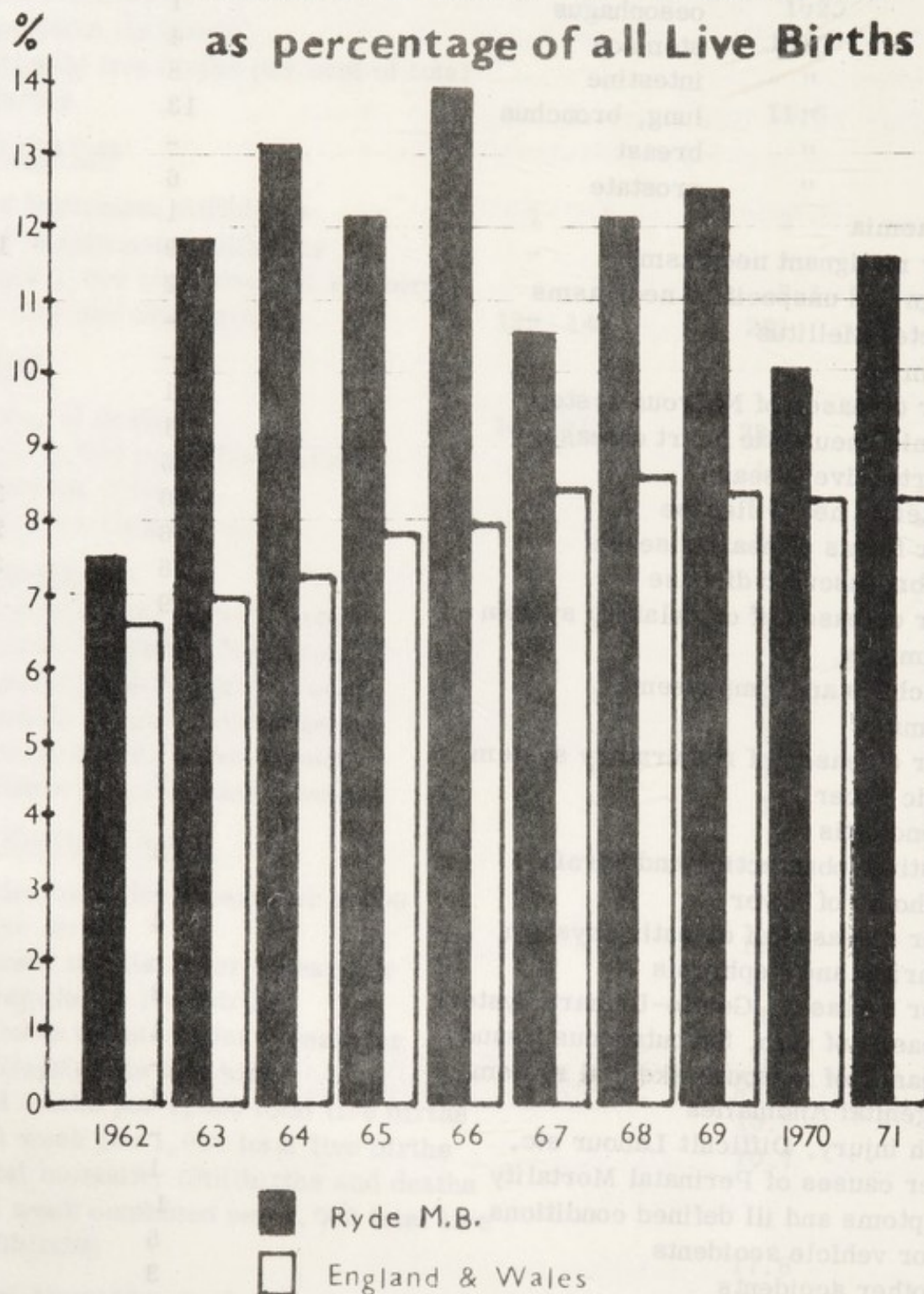
				England & Wales **
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Ryde Borough</u>	
No. of live legitimate births	120	127	247	
No. of live illegitimate births	18	14	32	
Rate per 1,000 population (crude)			12.2	16.0
Comparative factor			1.23	
Comparative Birthrate			15.0	
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			11.5	8.0
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>				
No. of legitimate stillbirths	1	1	2	
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	-	-	-	
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			7.1	12.2
Total Live and Stillbirths	139	142	281	
<u>DEATHS</u>				
Total no. of deaths	181	153	334	
Rate per 1,000 population (crude)			14.6	11.6
Comparative Factor			0.72	
Comparative Death Rate			10.5	
<u>Infant Deaths</u>				
Legitimate infants under 1 year	1	1	2	
Illegitimate infants under 1 year	1	-	1	
Legitimate infants under 4 weeks	1	1	2	
Illegitimate infants under 4 weeks	1	-	1	
Legitimate infants under 1 week	1	1	2	
Illegitimate infants under 1 week	1	-	1	
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>				
Infant deaths under 1 year per 1,000 total live births			10.7	18.0
Legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births			8.1	17.0
Illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births			31.2	24.0
Under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births			10.7	12.0
Under 1 week per 1,000 total live births			10.7	10.0
Perinatal mortality (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)			17.8	22.0
<u>Maternal Mortality</u> (incl. abortion) Rate			Nil	0.18

** With the exception of the Death (All Ages) Rate, all other Rates for England and Wales are provisional.

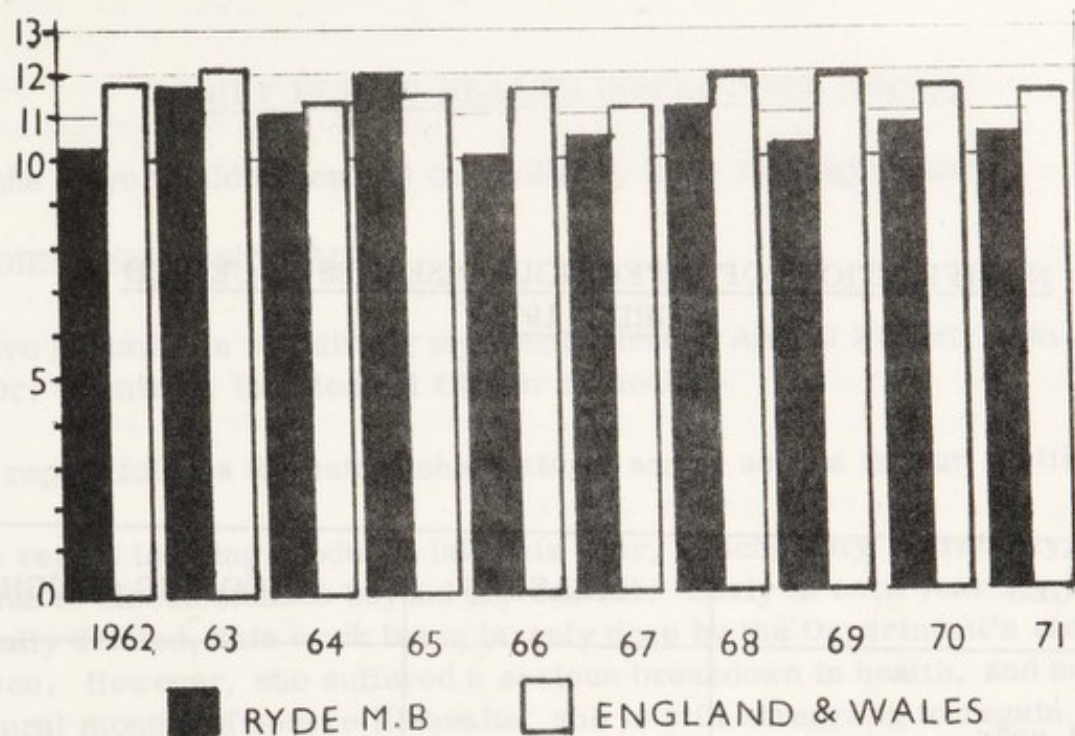
CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity	1	-
" " oesophagus	1	-
" " stomach	4	2
" " intestine	8	3
" " lung, bronchus	13	3
" " breast	-	7
" " prostate	6	-
Leukaemia	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms	9	13
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	2	-
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1
Anaemias	-	2
Other diseases of Nervous System	1	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	2
Hypertensive disease	5	3
Ischaemic heart disease	46	30
Other forms of heart disease	16	26
Cerebrovascular disease	16	32
Other diseases of circulatory system	9	4
Pneumonia	5	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	3
Asthma	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	2	-
Appendicitis	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	2	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	4	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Other diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	2
Diseases of skin, Subcutaneous tissue	1	-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	-
Birth injury, Difficult Labour etc.	-	1
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	-
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1
All other accidents	3	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	1
ALL CAUSES	181	153

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS as percentage of all Live Births



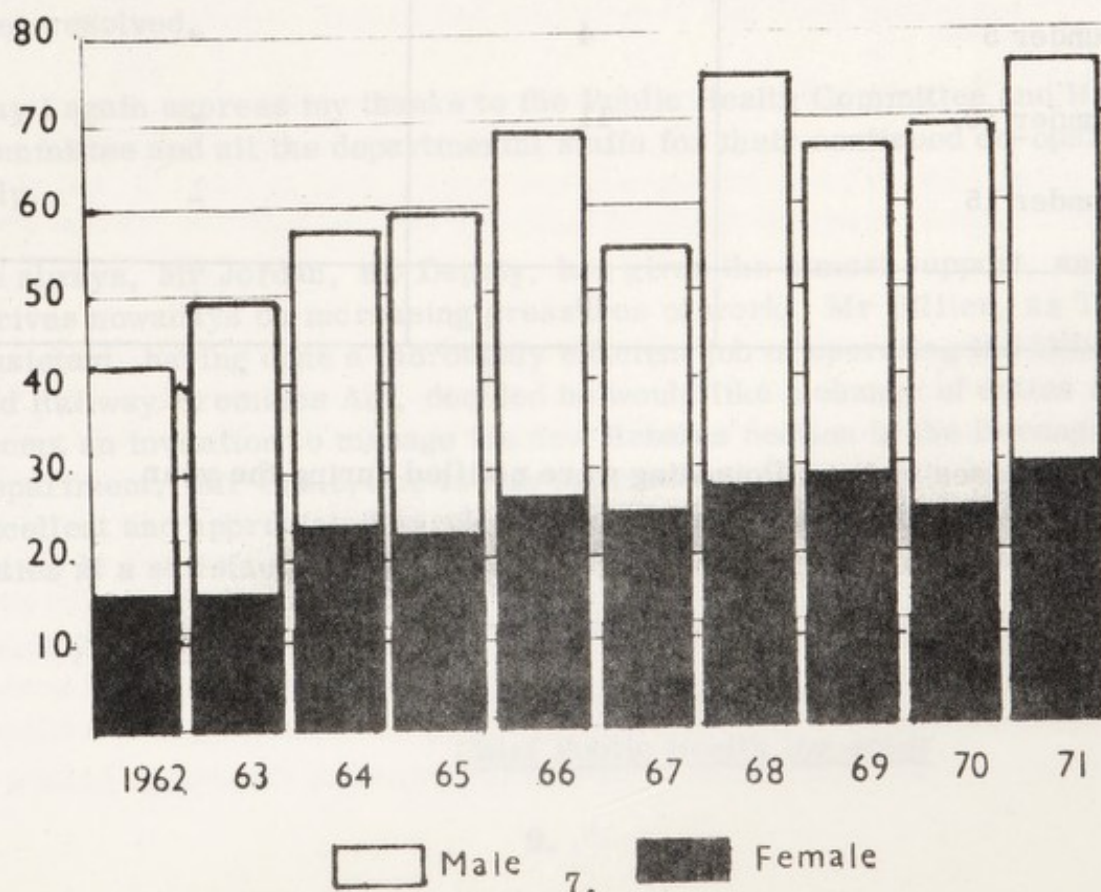
DEATHS (All Ages)
Rate per 1000 population (adjusted) 1962-71



Deaths from Diseases of the Coronary Arteries

RYDE M.B.

1962-1971



NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED
DURING 1971

AGES	MEASLES	WHOOPING COUGH
Under 1 year	1	-
1 and under 2	6	1
2 and under 3	3	-
3 and under 4	4	-
4 and under 5	4	-
5 and under 10	11	-
10 and under 15	1	-
	30	1

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors, Ryde Borough Council

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

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

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

The report is being produced late this year, which, very regretfully, in the main is due to circumstances beyond my control. Early in each year my Report is usually drafted, this work being largely done by the Department's clerk, Miss Boyce. However, she suffered a serious breakdown in health, and now, after several months of severe ill-health, she is still struggling to regain good health. Also, late in the year under review, Mr N.A. Hillier, the Technical Assistant, who also gave very considerable clerical assistance, transferred to another department, and at this stage it was evident that re-organisation of the Department's staff establishment and duties was essential if the work of the Department was to be contained. The situation, with recommendations, was placed before the Public Health Committee and Staff Committee, where it was very sympathetically received, and the Report of 1972 will, I am sure, indicate that the staff problems have largely been resolved.

May I again express my thanks to the Public Health Committee and Housing Committee and all the departmental staffs for their continued co-operation and help.

As always, Mr Jordan, my Deputy, has given the utmost support, and seemingly thrives nowadays on increasing pressures of work. Mr Hillier, as Technical Assistant, having done a thoroughly efficient job of operating the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, decided he would like a change of duties and elected to accept an invitation to manage the new Rebates Section in the Borough Treasurer's Department. Mr Goble, who is now approaching retirement, has continued his excellent and appreciated service in maintaining the Department's rodent control duties at a satisfactory level.

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY DUNMORE

Chief Public Health Inspector

SECTION I - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Complaints

Two hundred and nineteen complaints were received and dealt with during the year. This figure is a reduction on last year; it 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 9,064 inhabited dwellings in the Borough, with a (census) population of 23,205. All houses, etc. are connected direct to the main supplies and no well or stand-pipes are in use.

Mains water is supplied to:-

Domestic premises	8,712
Commercial premises	1,473
Industrial Undertakings	29
Other Undertakings	15
Entertainment and Recreational premises	58
Educational and Cultural premises	22
Crown premises	14
Miscellaneous	235
	<hr/>
	10,558

The last available chemical analysis indicated that the fluoride 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, Havenstreet and Fishbourne have dealt satisfactorily with the sewage of these localities. The time is still awaited when the sewage from the Council's three trunk sewers can be diverted and receive full treatment before discharge - a treatment works site in the Weeks area was purchased several years ago specifically for this purpose. This project, if and when it materialises, will be Ryde's greatest contribution to the full treatment of its sewage before discharge

into the sea.

The Government Department involved has yet again enquired whether any areas in the Borough remain in need of sewage disposal schemes. The one area in need of early attention is that involving properties in Corbett Road and the western end of Playstreet Lane. A small locality warranting attention at some stage is that situate on the North side of Quarr Road.

Where no plans have been submitted, alterations or new drainage works relative to existing buildings are supervised by myself or Mr Jordan, depending upon the district concerned. Forty-six such works have been supervised, including seven 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.

Towards the end of 1970, the Council's new pulverisation plant at the Nettlestone tip came into full operation, and this unit has effectively dealt with the whole of the Borough's refuse, plus that of Sandown/Shanklin U.D.C. and part of the Isle of Wight R.D.C. Pulverisation, as anticipated, has greatly reduced the problems which were becoming ever more necessary to control at this tip as residential building development in the area moves nearer to the tipping boundaries.

The tip has continued to receive regular checks by the Rodent Operator: fly control using residual sprays has operated as and when necessary.

Revenue from salvaged paper and cardboard during the year amounted to £820, and £84 from the sale of rags and metals. These amounts have dropped, which is attributed, at least in part, to increased competition by private operators.

Verminous Premises

The number of disinfestations dealt with showed an overall decline from 65 to 43 premises - premises with cockroach problems dropped from 22 to 12: others included fleas (19), ants (5), flies (2), beetles (2) and other pests (3). None of these infestations was of a major nature, and, with the exception of cockroaches, they were not generally difficult to eradicate.

246 wasps' nests were destroyed - a welcome reduction in last year's all-time record (351) number.

Rodent Control

The rodent (rats and mice) destruction service is operated by the Department, which provides a contract service for 58 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, 548 complaints were received, and 3,734 visits were made for the purposes of treatments and routine inspections.

<u>Council Properties</u>			<u>Dwellinghouses (incl Council Houses)</u>			<u>Agricultural Premises</u>			<u>All other premises incl. Business Premises</u>		
Inspected	Infested Rats	Infested Mice	Inspected	Infested Rats	Infested Mice	Inspected	Infested Rats	Infested Mice	Inspected	Infested Rats	Infested Mice
57	12	-	496	364	39	32	18	2	148	36	11

Rodent destruction operations during the past year, although not remarkable for any spectacular achievements, have nevertheless shown steady progress in eliminating these vermin, so much so that, whereas the number of complaints received from the public continues at about the same level as in previous years, it is noted with some satisfaction that the scale of infestations has diminished considerably.

Major infestations of rats are becoming almost a rarity, and the majority of complaints are now concerned with relatively small colonies of rats, which, however, necessitate spending a considerable amount of time in exploration of the locality, as they are not always living in close proximity to the areas where their activities are most apparent.

Infestation by mice in both dwellinghouses and business premises has not shown a marked increase, despite the fact that, for the second year in succession, reports from other parts of the country show that these pests are still on the increase.

As in previous years, a number of requests for assistance in dealing with pests other than the above have either been dealt with or passed to the appropriate authority.

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.

The small number of holiday houseboats which had operated on the Old Mill Pond at St. Helens harbour was discontinued.

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 holiday makers. All are excellently managed and operated, and each in its own way provides attractive facilities to its patrons.

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 four sub-standard samples, which were investigated and rectified, all samples taken during the period when the pools were in use were reported as being satisfactory.

The children's paddling pool at the Council's Canoe Lake has, despite the use of a small chlorination/filtration unit, proved a problem, and samples were generally sub-standard, and a constant standard of purity could not be attained. The Borough Surveyor recommended, and the Council have subsequently decided, to carry out some major re-construction during the winter before using the pool again in 1972.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

The total number of premises registered under the Act as at 31st December, 1971, was 393. The number of different kinds registered are as follows:-

Retail Shops	199
Wholesale Premises	17
Catering and Canteens	59
Fuel Depots	-
Offices	118
	<hr/>
	393

786 visits were made to registered premises.

The total number of persons employed in registered premises was 2,061 - 879 males and 1,182 females.

Three accidents were reported - two in shops and one in an office. All the accidents were investigated but no breach of the Regulations was disclosed. No applications have been made for exemptions. 45 Informal Notices were served.

With regard to mechanical handling of goods - there are only seventeen wholesale shops and warehouses in the Borough of Ryde, and of these one warehouse uses mechanical handling devices. No problems have arisen in the enforcement of the Act at these premises.

The leaflet "The safe use of Food Slicing Machines" (SHW 14) was well received and in larger shops and stores was distributed at the same time as a special talk on safety was given. Emphasis was placed upon the need for great care in the handling of food slicing machines - follow-up visits were made to check that management and staff were taking all necessary precautions to prevent accidents.

Factories Acts 1937-59 and 1961

There are 121 premises registered as factories in the Borough, of which 117 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.

Noise

Eleven complaints, two being petitions, were lodged by residents. These mainly related to music at discotheque-type establishments and noise created by persons patronising them.

Pollution Generally

Last year was known as European Conservation Year, and in my Report for that year I made observations on this subject, especially as regards noise, smells, litter, etc., which I considered to be relevant to the local scene. These comments, which hold equally good today, evoked no comment or interest and, at the risk of being accused of being repetitive and a pessimist, I do not propose to repeat them, except that I cannot resist suggesting that, judging by the ever-increasing amount of dog excreta to be seen everywhere, the local dog population will soon be out of control! Numerous warning notices are displayed throughout the Borough, but obviously some dog owners with their dogs on a leash ignore them, and the numerous unaccompanied dogs to be seen wandering the streets cannot read!

Summary of Inspections and Visits

Complaints	160
Public Health Act	175
Re-visits to Premises under Notice-Public Health Act	99
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.	505
Work in progress	201
Insanitary Houses and Rooms	35
Verminous Premises or Rooms	24
National Assistance Act	6
Infectious Diseases	19
Drainage Inspections and Tests	345
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc.	13
Camping sites, caravans, tents and houseboats	48
Stables, piggeries, poultry, etc.	26
Factories with power	18
Factories without power	1
Out-workers rooms	1
Schools	5
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	786
Foreshores, streams etc.	14
Vacant land and dumps	53
Common yards and passages	9
Swimming pools	20

Clean Air Act-Smoke nuisances	26
Rodent Infestations	5
Dangerous Structures	16
Offensive Trades	-
Noise Nuisances	27
Miscellaneous Visits	321

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	46
Miscellaneous Nuisances	4

SECTION II - HOUSING

The 65 new housing units at Preston Close to replace 31 prefabs were completed in the latter part of the year, which brings the number of Council-owned units of accommodation to 958, comprising 14 four-bedroomed, 569 three-bedroomed, 229 two-bedroomed, 72 one-bedroomed flats and bungalows and 74 bed/sitting-room units.

A pilot scheme to modernise the Council's older houses was carried out at twelve houses at West Priory, Nettlestone, taking advantage of the Government's "Improvement of Older Houses" scheme. No doubt, in due time a modernisation programme will be formulated to deal with all the older houses calling for such treatment.

Since the second world war, 745 units have been provided.

Mr Cooper, the Council's Housing Officer, has, during the latter part of the year, carried out a comprehensive review of all applicants on his lists - all previous applicants were circularised and invited to renew their applications, and those who have not done so have been removed from the lists, which, therefore, at the end of the year were considered to be very accurate, namely 275 on the general (family) list, and 212 for old people's accommodation. The Council are very much aware of the now great demands for old people's accommodation, and next year will see priority provision given to several developments now in the planning stage.

The Oakfield re-development project has at last reached the stage where large-scale clearance of the area has got under way, re-planning is well in hand, and it is hoped that the new estate will start to materialize in late 1972.

Slum clearance (excluding Oakfield) activities have been on a very minor scale for the good reason that the Borough has only a small number of housing units of that low standard. Four Closing Orders were made in respect of dwellings, and four dwellings previously closed were made fit and the relevant Closing Orders determined.

Despite continuing severe financial restrictions, the local private house building industry managed to keep up a good rate of building. The Council's Building Inspector, (Mr R. Bartrum) reports that 150 houses were completed and 18 new units were provided following conversions.

Limited availability of money for house purchase during 1971 showed no easing of that position over the previous year, and only a small number of Small Dwellings Acquisition Act Advances were made by the Council, namely 40, in sharp contrast to an earlier peak figure of 131.

Improvement Grants

Mr Jordan, who is now (1972) the Council's Housing Improvement Grants Officer, has made the following observations in respect of the house 'rescue' operation as administered by my Department when implementing the Housing Act, 1969:-

" Since 1969, the Department has been responsible for the technical administration of Discretionary and Standard Grants (with the Borough Surveyor as final arbiter on whether a grant has been payable and if so what amount of grant, in the case of Discretionary Grants) and, as the number of grant approvals has increased during the past three years, more and more of the Department's time has been taken up with administration and interviewing the substantial number of enquirers who call at the office. Local response to the scheme has been very gratifying as the Borough has a substantial number of large houses capable of conversion and hundreds of otherwise basically sound properties which lack standard amenities."

Year	Value	Improvement of Individual houses	Units provided by conversion
1969	£ 7229	17	4
1970	£ 48164	90	6
1971	£ 119657 *	89	74 **

* Includes £64800 for Brigstocke Terrace

** Includes 54 units for Brigstocke Terrace

Complaints

A total of 81 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)	201
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	317

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	64
Public Health Act	81
Re-visits to Premises under Notice - Public Health Act	66
Housing Acts	120
Re-visits to Premises under Notice - Housing Acts	50
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders etc.	943
Improvement Grants (Standard)	52
Improvement Grants (Discretionary)	443
Water Samples	2
Overcrowding	5
Rent Act	65
Miscellaneous	91

Number of Housing Units in which Nuisances were abated and/or Defects Remedied

23

(Not including Improvement
Grant work)

SECTION III - 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.

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, 1970, grouped in categories of trade carried on in them, including information relating to Regulations 18 and 21:-

Category	Total No. of Premises	Fitted to comply with Reg. 18	Reg. 21 Applicable	Fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses	10	10	10	10
Fishmongers and Poulterers	8	8	8	8
Butchers	17	17	17	17
Dairies and Milk Distributors	30	-	-	-
Greengrocers and Fruit-ers	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	683	298	623	273

(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, 25 complaints concerning food were received, 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 Analyst was also sought as necessary.

Of these complaints, seven were considered to be of such a nature as to warrant reporting to the Public Health Committee. One offender (a grocer) was prosecuted and fined £20. The other offenders concerned received severe reprimands and warnings that legal proceedings would ensue if the offences recurred.

The seven offences referred to are summarised as follows:-

- (1) Bar of fruit and nut chocolate containing maggots
- (2) Chocolate sponge mixture containing flour beetles
- (3) Complaint of tainted pasteurised cream
- (4) Complaint of tainted tinned oranges
- (5) Complaint of insect found in a sliced loaf
- (6) Complaint of blow-fly on liver sausage
- (7) Grape-nuts containing drug store beetles

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 (Assorted Items)	499
Meat (Home killed)	868
Meat (Imported)	608
Poultry	142
Bacon	44
Cooked Meats	298
Fish	46
Butter	36
Other foods	209

Meat, milk, fruit, vegetables, etc. 733 (938) tins and jars
Contents of 4 refrigerated storage cabinets - breakdowns.
Consignment of mixed groceries - weight not known

Poultry Inspection

- I. 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 450 birds are processed. The other factory is attached to a retail premises, and operates more occasionally, according to demand and at busy seasonal periods.
- II. 21 visits were made to the premises
- III. The total number of birds processed was approximately 17,088
- IV. The birds processed were chickens, capons, hens, turkeys, ducks and geese.
- V. 2.5 per cent of the birds were rejected as unfit for human consumption
- VI. 2080 lb. (approx.) of poultry was rejected as unfit.
- 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

40 distributors (mainly retail shops) are registered, and 8 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, 1970, are:-

Registered for the Manufacture of Sausages and/or Preserved Foods	27
Registered for the Manufacture, Storage/Sale of Ice-Cream	111
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Ice-Cream

There has been a small reduction in the number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, which now stands at 110. The majority 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 only 10 bakehouses (no change) 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

The local brewery world has been involved in further merger activities during the year, and presumably the older and unremunerative 'houses' are again under the shadow of closure, whereas others may well receive major modernisation. 58 premises with full licence operate in the 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 38 complaints were received and dealt with.

Details of Inspections, Visits etc.

Complaints	37
Interviews with owners, agents, builders, etc.	189
Re-visits to Premises under Notice - Food & Drugs Act	26
Butchers' Shops	44
Fishmongers and Poulterers	16
Greengrocers	11
Grocers and other food shops	39
Bakehouses	18
Fried Fish shops	1
Ice Cream Premises	19
Restaurants and Kitchens	38
Food Stalls and Vehicles	9
Licensed Premises	29
Food Factories	30
Hotels	9
Food Inspection	54
Milk Distributors	9
Food Poisoning Enquiries	6
Infestations	-
Miscellaneous	26

Number of Food Premises in which Defects were Remedied 4

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

Public Health Act (Informal)	57
Public Health Acts (Formal)	3
Housing Acts (Informal)	2
Housing Acts (Formal)	4
Factories Act	-
Food and Drugs Act	16
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	45

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 1971/72, commencing 1st May, 1971, 35 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, total gallonage being 78,100. Thirteen petroleum mixture licences were issued, for a total of 778 gallons. As would be expected, the gallonage stored continues to increase each year and, whereas years ago tank storage capacity was usually 250-500 gallons, most new tanks are massive units of 5,000 gallons. It is therefore necessary for all establishments to exercise precautions against accident - this is particularly relevant to those in the Borough's built-up localities and where self-service facilities are available. 310 visits were made (almost doubling those of 1970) 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.

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 73 visits were made. Advisory copies of the Shops Act, 1950, were distributed gratis as and when necessary.

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 Dept. which has been involved in a considerable increase in routine work, both as regards administration and inspections. 359 inspections were made of licensed vehicles, which included 'snap' inspections to check their cleanliness.

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

Pet Animals Act 1951

Four pet shops are licensed by the Council. These were visited and found to be operated in accordance with their licence conditions. The Council required the proprietors to supply pamphlets with animals sold, advising on their care.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

The same two establishments operated as in the previous year, and were re-licensed.

Lectures and other Educational Activities

Mr Jordan has continued as in past years to give 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 Eastbourne in October, and Mr Jordan again attended a weekend school held at Oxford in April, organised by the Public Health Inspectors' Association - this particular School is now highly successful and much appreciated by the Inspectors who attend. He also attended a Refresher Course for Public Health Inspectors, held at Minehead in November and a One-Day Conference on Improvement Grants, in London in December.

Factories Act 1961

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1971 for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

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	4	1	-	-
11. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	117	18	-	-
111. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	121	19	-	-

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).	-	-	-	-	-

