

**[Report 1970] / Medical Officer of Health, Yeovil U.D.C. / Borough.**

**Contributors**

Yeovil (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1970

**Persistent URL**

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21



**Borough of Yeovil**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND OF THE

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

**31st DECEMBER, 1970**



B O R O U G H O F Y E O V I L

MAYOR.

Alderman Leonard Escott Hole

Deputy Mayor:

Councillor Carrie Heath

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Alderman L.E. Hole.	Chairman
Councillor J.E. Browne	Vice Chairman
Alderman Mrs. H.C. Brown	
Alderman F.L. Moon.	
Councillor S.C. Harding	
Councillor Mrs. M. Young.	
Councillor J.H.J. Gardner.	

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer	P. Power Fox M.B. Ch.B.DPH.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Assistant County Medical Officer.)	M.I. Ross M.B. Ch.B. DPH.
Chief Public Health Inspector.	C.G.H.Rice. F.A.P.H.I.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.	D.F. Anthony M.A.P.H.I.
First Additional Public Health Inspector.	P. Warren-Tibbetts M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector.	W.A. Barr. M.A.P.H.I.

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TO THE  
MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE  
YEOVIL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report  
for the year 1970.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The total number of live births during the year was 371, as compared with 379 for the previous year. The Standardised Birth Rate was 15.1, as compared with 15.5 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 16.0.

DEATHS

The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year was 8, compared with 4 for the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate (i.e. deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births), was 22, compared with 11 the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 18. The Perinatal Mortality Rate was 32, as compared with 13 the previous year, and England and Wales - 23.

Of the total deaths of all ages, namely, 349, 172 occurred in people aged 75 years and over.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 136, as compared with 308 for the previous year. The decrease was mainly accounted for by the decrease in the number of cases of Measles notified, 130 in 1970, as compared with 304 in 1969.

YEOVIL DAY CENTRE

PROVISION OF MEALS FOR ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS

The Department of Health and Social Security, in a Circular (5/70), dated 24.3.1970, made the following observations.

- (1) In 1969 approximately thirteen million meals were served to over 100,000 people in their own homes, and that the figures increased each year.
- (2) That the Meals on Wheels are inevitably a second best service, since they involve an interval between cooking and service, which would ordinarily be unacceptable.

- (3) Thirdly, meals served in Lunch Clubs and Day Centres, the numbers of which are steadily increasing, are preferable to meals on wheels, both on nutrition and other grounds, because they offer an opportunity for social contact and encourage mobility.
- (4) Transport from home to Club or Centre, especially in winter, may well be needed.

In Yeovil, towards the end of 1967, Mr. Warman, Welfare Department, Mr. Pizzev, Mental Health Department, and Miss Whipp, Medical Social Worker, discussed the need to help the lonely, elderly and isolated persons, as well as disabled and physically disabled persons. Their decision was in favour of a Day Centre, and the Yeovil Guild of Social Services was approached with a view to their pioneering a Day Centre, by interesting voluntary and statutory authorities in this project. A Steering Committee was set up in July, 1968, and a Public Meeting, convened by the Guild, to pioneer a Day Centre, was held on the 24th February, 1969, at St. John's Schoolrooms, under the Chairmanship of the Mayor of Yeovil. Arising out of this meeting was the formation of a Management Committee, which subsequently formed an Executive Committee, and fifteen months after its first meeting, the Day Centre was officially opened.

The translation of the idea into the practical reality within the short space of fifteen months was accomplished by the continuous and persistent efforts of all concerned. The Management Committee was divided into smaller working committees, Finance, Appeals and Building Committees, and the Executive Committee was responsible for the co-ordination and direction of their efforts. A measure of the hard work of these committees was the generous response of the public, and of the various town organizations.

The present position, one year after the opening of the Centre, is as follows:-

- (a) Capital required for conversion, viz., £13,000, has all been found.
- (b) The running costs for the first year were £3,500. This amount was covered by contributions from the Yeovil Borough, £1,250, the Yeovil Rural District, £375, and the Somerset County Council, £600, and income from subscribers Covenants.

The number of hot meals provided at the Centre, totalled 11,161, which included meals supplied to the W.R.V.S., for distribution by Meals on Wheels Service in the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District.

There are two paid members of the staff, Miss R. C. Campbell, Supervisor, and Mrs. Goody, Assistant. It is an indication of the support provided by the public that the helpers, who are all voluntary, number approximately 50, and include nurses, housewives, schoolgirls and scouts.

The actual membership is now 1,040, and a Joint Users' Committee, comprised of members of the Club and the Executive has



been formed, during the past twelve months. This Committee arranged for two Outings, and Club activities run by the members resulted in the purchase of a film projector and screen.

The present members attending the Day Centre are relatively fit persons who are able to get to the Day Centre independent of help. The purpose of the Day Centre is being served by maintaining the members in a state of good health. There is, however, a section of the public who would benefit from the meals and social amenities of the Club, but because of physical handicaps are unable to travel to the Club, independent of transport. These people are in greater need of the club activities, especially social amenities, than existing members. This particular need was obvious when the idea of a Day Centre was first mooted, and only the lack of money has prevented the provision of transport. The Yeovil Round Table are working to provide a suitable vehicle, which they propose to donate to the Guild of Social Services, and it will be used in part for the transport of the physically disabled to and from the Day Centre. Money will be required for the maintenance and running costs of the vehicle, and it is reasonable to expect that the authorities who contribute generously to the Day Centre will bear this in mind when determining their annual subscriptions.

The successful launching of the Day Centre was due to the sustained work of the Committee, the financial help of Local Authorities and voluntary organizations, and the generosity of the public.

The Balance Sheet for the past twelve months showed a loss of £287 on the operating account, and it is obvious that with the rising costs of maintenance and replacements, an increased income derived from the Local Authorities and members of the public is necessary for the continued running of the Centre.

As in previous Annual Reports, I should like to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council, from the Public Health Committee and from the members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,

P. POWER FOX

Medical Officer of Health.



## YEOVIL BOROUGH

### STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1970

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	2,372
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£1,427,997
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£5,703
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	8,700
Population	..	...	...	...	26,150

### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 2,372 acres, and is situated at the extreme South of the County of Somerset, on the border of Dorset, in the midst of an agricultural area.

The town is located on the Upper and Middle Liassic Formation: the sub-soil is chiefly clay, lying upon marlstone, with the Midford Sands at Hendford Hill.

### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is derived from various sources, the majority being situated in Dorset. The sources of supply are as follows:- Spring Pond (two springs), Evershot Tunnel, Stockwood and the Cattistock source, which consists of four boreholes. All the water is chlorinated and frequent bacteriological analyses show the water to be satisfactory in quality. The present demand for the Borough is 1.6 million gallons per day (approximately 59 gallons per head per day), which necessitates the water supply from the above sources being supplemented with water derived from the Sutton Bingham Reservoir, plus a bore hole from Thornford.

### METEOROLOGY

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog or mist.

### RAINFALL

Total rainfall - Pen Mill - 29.18 (29.35 in 1969)

### OCCUPATION

One of the main industries of Yeovil is the manufacture of leather gloves and includes all processes from the preparation of raw hides to the production of the finished article. This trade gives factory and home employment to a large number of both sexes. In addition to the gloving industry, there is a thriving aircraft industry, and other light engineering industries. There is also a large factory for the manufacture of preserved foods and dairy produce.

## HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services in the Borough are administered by the South Somerset Hospital Group Management Committee, under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Borough are:-

- (1) Yeovil & District Hospital - an acute general hospital.
- (2) Yeovil Hospital Maternity Unit - 50 beds.
- (3) Summerlands Hospital - mainly used as a geriatric hospital.

I am indebted to the Medical Records Officer for the following details for the year 1970.

### Yeovil General Hospital

No. of in-patient discharges	...	3,762
No. of new Consultant Out-patients attending Clinics	...	7,195
New and old Consultant Out-patients		30,483
Available beds	...	92
Orthoptic Dept. attendances	...	2,189
Radiological Dept., units of work		39,855
Casualty Dept. attendances	...	12,048

### Yeovil Maternity Unit

Births in Hospital	...	1,093
Attendances at Midwives Clinics	...	3,770

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are treated at South Petherton Hospital (50 beds). In general, only the Cubicle Block is required (10 beds), and the other 40 beds are utilized for post-operative cases, so relieving the strain on Yeovil Hospital and for General Practitioner patients and semi-chronic sick.

## TUBERCULOSIS

A Chest Clinic is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at Yeovil Hospital. Patients requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Sanatoria at Taunton.

## LABORATORY SERVICE

A Laboratory is located at Yeovil Hospital. The Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory at Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, blood, sputum and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analyses for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents are also carried out.

## HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the resume showing the number of council houses erected by the Corporation

Houses, etc., completed during the year ended 31.12.70	=	48
Houses, etc., erected post-war	...	= 2,007
Houses, etc., sold post-war	...	124
Houses, etc., erected by the L.A. and still owned by them	=	3,375
No. of applicants on the Waiting List as at 31.12.70	=	563

During the year ended 31.12.70, 2 "Duplex" flats have been converted into 3 bedrooomed house, and 2 old people's flats have been converted into a one bedrooomed flat.

# VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General show the number of births and deaths after correction has been made for transfer to the normal place of residence of the individuals concerned. From these figures can be calculated the "crude" birth and death rates. As, however, the highest mortality occurs at the two extremes of life, and industrial areas in general have a bigger proportion of people living in the middle age periods of life, some correction must be made for the irregularities of distribution as regards age and sex, as otherwise the death rate will afford no accurate means of comparing the healthiness of one district with another. This comparability factor is furnished by the Registrar General, and applied to the "crude" birth or death rate, gives a standardised rate and enables comparison to be made with the rate for England and Wales, or with rates of other districts.

	Local Authority Area			England & Wales (Total)
	Males	Females	Total	
Estimated mid-year home population	-	-	26,150	48,987,700
<u>Live Births</u> Total	187	184	371	784,482
Legitimate	178	175	353	719,738
Illegitimate	9	9	18	64,744
<u>Stillbirths</u> Total	2	3	5	10,341
Legitimate	1	3	4	9,297
Illegitimate	1	-	1	1,044
Total Live and Stillbirths Total	189	187	376	794,823
Legitimate	179	178	357	729,035
Illegitimate	10	9	19	65,788
Deaths of <u>Infants</u> Total	5	3	8	14,269
Under 1 yr. of Age Legitimate	5	3	8	12,592
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,677
Under 4 weeks of Age Total	4	3	7	9,663
Legitimate	4	3	7	8,548
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,115
Under 1 week of Age Total	4	3	7	8,328
Legitimate	4	3	7	7,343
Illegitimate	-	-	-	985
<u>DEATHS ALL AGES</u>	177	172	349	575,208



	Local Authority Area	England & Wales
<u>Live Birth Rates, etc.</u>		
Livebirths per 1,000 home pop.(crude)	14.2	16.0
Area comparability factor	1.06	1.00
Local Adjusted Rate	15.1	16.0
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	.94	1.00
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	5	8
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>		
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births	13	13
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>		
Deaths under 1 years per 1,000 live births	22	18
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	23	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	26
<u>Neonatal mortality rate</u>		
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	19	12
<u>Early neonatal mortality rate</u>		
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	19	11
<u>Perinatal Mortality rate</u>		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	32	23
<u>Death Rates, etc., all ages</u>		
Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	13.3	11.7
Area comparability factor	.90	1.00
Local adjusted rate	12.0	11.7
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.02	1.00

#### BIRTH RATES

1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
15.3	15.7	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.9	14.6	15.8	15.5	15.1



The following table shows the causes of death and age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 177 deaths, 46 occurred amongst those between the ages of 65 and 75, and 74 over the age of 75. Of the females, out of the total of 172 deaths, 32 occurred amongst those between the ages of 65 and 75, and 98 over the age of 75.

		Total Under 4 weeks											
Sex	all	4 & under	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+		
		Ages weeks 1 year											
Tuberculosis of	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory System	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oesophagus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-
Stomach	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Intestine	F	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	2	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	5	-	-
Lung, Bronchus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	F	10	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	3	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,													
Uterus	F	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Prostate													
Other malignant	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	1	-	-
Neoplasms	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	-	-
Benign and	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Unspecified Neoplasm	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes Mellitus	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Nervous System	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Chronic Rheumatic	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Heart Disease	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	4	-	-
Ischaemia Heart Disease	M	52	-	-	-	-	-	3	15	13	21	-	-
	F	34	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	9	23	-	-
Other Forms of Heart	M	10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	9	-	-
Disease	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	-	-
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	14	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4	6	-	-
	F	27	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	18	-	-
Other diseases of	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	6	-	-
Circulatory System	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	-	-
Influenza	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	M	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	5	-	-
	F	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	17	-	-
Bronchitis and	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	1	-	-
Emphysema	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

	Sex	Total Under 4 weeks										
		all	4	& under	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65- 75+
		Ages	weeks	1 year								
Other diseases of	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
respiratory system	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intestinal Obstruction	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
and Hernia	F	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other diseases of	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
digestive system	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Nephritis and	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephrosis	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genito-Urinary System	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Diseases of Musculo-	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Skeletal System	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Labour, etc.	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Causes of Peri-	M	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
natal Mortality	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill-	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
defined Conditions	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Motor Vehicle	M	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-
Accidents	F	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
All other accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Suicide and Self-	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
inflicted Injuries	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
<hr/>												
TOTAL, ALL CAUSES	M	177	4	1	-	-	3	-	3	10	36	46 74
	F	172	3	-	-	-	2	1	4	10	22	32 98

#### DEATH RATES

1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
11.3	11.6	11.8	11.6	11.0	11.2	10.2	10.2	10.1	12.0

#### CANCER

The number of deaths due to Cancer (all forms) was 76. The table as set out below shows the incidence for previous years.

1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
59	54	51	76	60	56	36	45	66	76

# CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Yeovil Borough	2.4	2.1	2.06	3.02	2.4	2.2	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.9
County of Somerset	2.22	2.17	2.17	2.31	2.2	2.23	2.28	2.33	2.38	2.46
England & Wales	2.16	2.177	2.1	2.21	2.23	2.24	2.27	2.31	2.35	2.39

## INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 8, as compared with 4 for the previous year. The rate per 1,000 live births was 22, as compared with England and Wales - 18.

The following table shows the number of deaths and the Infant Mortality Rate, as compared with previous years.

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
No. of Deaths	10	7	9	3	9	9	3	4	4	8
Rate per 1,000 live births in Yeovil	26.6	18.08	23.3	7.7	23.2	22.2	8	10	11	22
Rate per 1,000 live births in Eng. & Wales	22.4	20.7	22.3	20.0	19.0	18.9	18.3	18	18	18

## CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE

	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under one year
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	4	-
Other Diseases of the Nervous System	-	1

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of the infectious diseases notified during the year, and also the figures for the previous year.

DISEASE	1970	1969
Measles ... ..	130	304
Scarlet Fever ... ..	-	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ... ..	5	4
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary ... ..	1	-
Dysentery ... ..	-	2
Total ... ..	136	308

## TUBERCULOSIS

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
No. of cases notified Pulmonary	5	1	2	3	6	6	5	5	5	8
No. of cases notified Non-Pulmonary	1	-	2	-	1	1	2	2	1	4
No. of deaths Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
No. of deaths Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Death Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	.03	-	-	-	.1	-	-	-	.04	-

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-pulmonary M.	Non-pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-pulmonary M.	Non-pulmonary F.
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	1	1	-	1	-	-	-



### INFANT WELFARE

### DENTAL TREATMENT

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Pre-school Children</u>
No. of cases inspected ...	20	85
No. found to require treatment	19	45
No. of cases treated ...	20	191
No. of attendances ...	80	398
Dentures provided ...	2	-

The above figures include a number of cases attending from the areas surrounding Yeovil Borough.

### HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

Primary Visits (children under 1 year of age) ...	494
Primary Visits (children 1 - 5 years of age) ...	1,065
Total Visits (0 - 5 years of age) ...	5,808
Ante-natal Visits ...	53
Old Persons ...	685
Liaison Visits, Hospital, etc. ...	557
Other Visits ...	865
Futile Visits ...	626

10,153

### CHILD HEALTH CLINICS

#### Preston Road Clinic

Total No. of children attending ...	467
Total No. of children attending for the first time	179
Total No. of attendances made ...	2,188

#### Larkhill Clinic

Total No. of children attending ...	148
Total No. of children attending for the first time	56
Total No. of attendances made ...	699

#### Monmouth Hall Clinic

Total No. of children attending ..	353
Total No. of children attending for the first time	134
Total No. of attendances made ...	1,487

#### Traxhill Road Clinic

Total No. of children attending ...	89
Total No. of children attending for the first time	32
Total No. of attendances made ...	317

## HOME HELP SERVICE

### No. of cases who received help in 1970

<u>Type of Case</u>				<u>Yeovil Borough</u>
Mental Illness	...	...	...	5
Maternity	...	...	...	8
Old Age and Infirmary	...	...	...	251
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	-
Chronic Illness	...	...	...	30
General Illness	...	...	...	3
Child Care	...	...	...	3
Post-operation	...	...	...	3
Accidents	...	...	...	1
Total				304

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To: The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

This will be my last Annual Report and whilst I may have taken the opportunity to write about the past and the changes which have taken place in the work of the department since I came to Yeovil in 1935, I resist the temptation and confine myself to commenting upon the state of environmental housing, which will continue to be of importance in the future, despite any local government re-forms which may take place. If one compares an Ordnance Survey map of the town of the early 30's with one of today, it will plainly reveal large areas of the Borough where the demolition of Buildings has taken place, many of them commercial but a larger proportion domestic, in all about 700 houses have been demolished since 1938 and of that total at least 560 were dealt with as unfit, the remainder were demolished for other purposes including car parking spaces. It was with some surprise that I found that 58 houses were reported as unfit in the Annual Report for 1907 being unfit for human habitation. The only occasion ever that such action appeared to have been taken at those times and it would seem that housing conditions as they were must have been giving cause for concern. The environmental housing position in the Borough today, when it is considered, on the whole, as very favourable now that the but isolated single or smaller groups of the sub-standard unfit properties have been eliminated. The Borough is fortunate in being amongst the few authorities who have reached this position, due mainly to the council's early established policy of providing alternative accommodation for persons displaced from unfit houses. Nevertheless it would be wrong to assume that because the remaining older houses are now, by comparison, of a much better standard and that they are likely to be dealt with in the same way as those previously they must be looked at with a view to repairing and improving to a much higher standard than in the past and so as to ensure many further years of service.

This is implicit in the 1969 Housing Act and amplified by the Area Improvement Notes issued recently by the Department of Environment. In all this, the actual repairing of houses is the matter of first importance. One can find a house which has all the amenities, but which is not in such a state of repair as to lead one to believe that it will not want extensive repairs if it is to function for another 30 years. Where however amenities are lacking and repairs are necessary, grants and loans provide the financial aid in achieving the object. As far as the Borough is concerned there are a number of houses which will require extensive repairs in the years ahead. Their inspection will gradually be carried out as and when possible under the 1969 Act but whilst the duty is one which is obligatory upon a local authority, a more modified form of inspection is all that is required



### Housing Act 1969.

The increase of grant contributions, the extending of the grant to cover certain repair work and coupled with the availability of a fair rent in controlled dwellings has brought about a small increase in the number of grant applications but is still not having the effect it should. It could be that the public are a little suspicious of the Local Authority giving anything away. It would appear that a greater amount of public relations is needed to bring these grants more before the public, with possibly a demonstration house improved by the Council and put on show to the general public. This has been done with some success by other authorities.

### Housing Statistics for 1970. (Form P.13 Hsg.)

A. Unfit houses demolished during the year.		9
B. Unfit houses closed.	Under sec. 16(4) 17(1).	13.
	Under sec. 18	1
E. Unfit houses made fit.	After informal action under sec. 9 & 16	26
	After formal P.H. Act Notice	2
Houses in which defects were remedied (other than unfit made fit)		105
Total No. of houses inspected under Part II of the Act.		130

### Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Total No. of houses known to be multiple occupation	19
No of houses estimated to need attention under Housing Acts 1961 - 1964	4
No of houses in which informal action has been taken.	4

### Housing and Public Health Acts.

Inspections and visits under the Housing and Public Health Acts.	854
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### Rent Acts - Housing Act 1969

Inspection of houses were carried out for good repair bearing in mind the age, character and locality and fitness under:

Section 45 Housing Act 1969 - Qualification Certificates	6
Section 46 " " " - Certificates of provisional approval	20



### Complaints.

There were 570 complaints received during the period, comprised of the following:

Housing defects	38
Drainage and sanitary accommodation	68
Insect Pests (including wasps)	104
Food complaints.	20
Food examination	33
Food Hygiene	3
Effluvia & Dust	27
Rodent Pests	187
Noise	12
Miscellaneous	78

There was an increase of 50 complaints over the previous year, largely due to an increase in wasp and insect complaints. During the summer months there was an invasion of complete blocks of council houses in the Larkhill area by a beetle much resembling a "cockroach" which was identified as a "Harpalus Refipes" or "Strawberry Seed Beetle". As dusk fell the beetles came from the gardens and endeavoured to enter the houses, one occupant claiming to have killed 200 beetles in one night. Investigations proved that these beetles were breeding on waste land near to the houses. With the co-operation of the Parks Department who sprayed the waste land the treating of the houses and gardens with insecticide, the nuisance was eventually overcome.

A rather unusual series of complaints were received during the year of offensive smells alleged to have come from fuel stores, 3 complaints were investigated and it was found that in all instances coal had been delivered the previous day by the same coal merchant.

A visit to the coal merchant revealed that the fuel delivered to the houses had been part of a load delivered in a lorry which had previously contained "fish meal" and, due to a coal lorry breakdown, was switched to conveying coal. The fuel stores were sprayed with a masking deodorant.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.  
(Details as required in Appendix II Cir. 1/66)

Premises.	No of Regi- (1) strations.	No of Insp- (2) ections.	Contra- (3) vention	Occp'r (4) Pros'td
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A'S	2	-	-	-

Premises.	No of Regi- strations.	No of Insp- ctions.	Contra- ventions	Occp'r Prosec'td
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
11. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	176	28	5	-
111. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the L.A.(excluding Out-workers premises	-	4	2	-
Totals:	-	182	30	5

## 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied	No of cases in which defects were found.		No of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted.	
			To H.M.	Insp.	By H.M.	Insp.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Sanitary conven- iences Sec. 7.						
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	-	5	-	-
(c) Not separate accommodation for some reason.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	5	5	-	5	-	-

## 3. Part VIII of the Act - Outworkers.

60 Outworkers were registered in August of this year.  
Four firms have ceased to employ Outworkers.

## Clean Air Acts 1956 - 1968.

20 complaints were received during the year, mainly reporting garden bonfires or the burning of trade refuse with two concerning oil smuts and one, dust.

The nuisance caused by the burning of waste materials has not diminished over the year and is aggravated by the fact that the resulting smoke can represent a serious health hazard.

The complaint in respect of dust was from a grass drying plant and appeared to be due to a certain amount of rusting and perforating of the cyclone and stack. A great deal of improvement was achieved following repairs, and further alterations were carried out during the winter, whilst the plant was idle.

### Clean Air Act 1968

This Act extends the range of premises and plant over which there is control of new chimney heights. During the year the following were dealt with under:

Section 6. chimney height applications.	4
cases in which alterations were required	1
chimney heights approved.	3
Section 3. notification of new furnace installations	3
cases in which alterations were required	2

### Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

There was a reduction in the number of noise complaints compared with 1969. Of the twelve complaints recorded only six nuisances were confirmed which were resolved by informal action.

Only one complaint concerning noise from pneumatic drills was received although instances of nuisances from similar sources were dealt with by public health inspectors in the course of their everyday work.

I am pleased to report that with the co-operation of the Town Clerks' Department a noise clause has been inserted in the conditions of sale for plots on the periphery of the Sunningdale Trading Estate development. It is to be hoped that this same procedure will be adopted and inserted in Planning conditions to possibly prevent any future nuisance which has in the past resulted in unnecessary expenditure on sound proofing or re-siting of machinery after installation.

### Disinfections and Disinfestations.

#### Disinfections.

Room disinfections. 14

#### Disinfestations.

Complaints received of infestations	
other than wasps	32
Rooms sprayed or fumigated for vermin	24
Premises dealt with for wasps	54

#### Water Supply

#### Treated before going into supply

Chemicals.	Bacteriological
Satis. Unsatis.	Satis. Unsatis.
3 -	203 -

These figures include samples taken by the Wessex Water Board.



### Drains and Sewers.

The service of clearing private drains and private sewers has continued through the year, and has again proved to be most satisfactory. As our Disinfector was away ill for an extensive period during the year, I wish to convey my thanks to the Borough Surveyors Dept for their co-operation in helping to maintain this service.

### Public Health Act 1936. Section 24 Public Sewers.

No of lengths of sewer cleared.	25
No of houses involved.	76

### Public Health Act 1936. Sec. 38-39 Private Sewers.

No of lengths of sewer cleared	7
No of houses involved.	25

### Public Health Act 1936 Sec. 39 Private drains.

No of drains cleared.	32
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<u>Unsound Food surrendered or condemned.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
1. Meat at retail shops	1	1	57
2. Cooked meat and meat products		2	2
3. Canned Meats		9	70
4. Other canned foods.	3	16	-
5. Fish. (fresh)			82
6. Fresh fruit and veg.		7	12
7. Frozen foods due to Refrigeration breakdown.	1	4	6
8. Other foods.		1	6
	7	2	11

### Food Hygiene.

During the past year an effort has been made to inspect all vans, and mobile shops trading or operating in the Borough. The majority are based in neighbouring authorities and travel to Yeovil to do business particularly on housing estates.

The most common defects found were lack of hot water and other washing facilities, washbowls which were dirty or used for holding change, dry or unpacked soap, no towel or nail-brush all suggested that many food handlers do not use the facilities when they are provided.

The inspection of these vehicles is time consuming when endeavouring to follow up previous inspections necessarily undertaken whilst the van is actually trading, in order to obtain a true picture of the standard of hygiene. Only by regular inspections can a reasonable standard of hygiene be maintained.

There were only three complaints during the year of unsatisfactory food hygiene and only one of these could be substantiated. It would seem that as more routine inspections are being made a better standard will be achieved.



The housewives doing their shopping could greatly help in the improvement of standards of hygiene if they are interested enough to make a complaint when they see unsatisfactory food hygiene practices or conditions. If not desiring to be involved in any unpleasantness she can if she wishes, transfer her custom to other shops where she considers conditions more satisfactory

#### Frozen Food.

Over the last few years there has been a gradual increase in the amount of work involved following refrigeration breakdowns and judgement as to whether the food is still fit for human consumption, or what is more difficult to decide, if it can be sold and will remain in a satisfactory condition until consumed by the purchaser. With advance technique, more and more foods are being sold frozen with ever increasing sizes of "supermarkets" to hypermarkets which means more and larger refrigerators. In 1946 there were I believe 100 retail outlets for frozen foods in Britain. In 1966 there were 100,000 with further large increases since. Provided quick frozen foods are handled correctly they are the freshest foods available, the major risk of deterioration occurs in the retail shop and in the home. Refrigerated display cabinets are designed to operate at a correct temperature of 0°F and will do so providing they are defrosted as necessary and all food is stored below the "load line". Occasionally they are loaded above, which means that anything so stored will deteriorate as a result. Customers are advised to refuse such food and can help by trying not to disarrange too much the carefully placed stocks of frozen food. In the home frozen food will keep fresh for 24 hours in a cool place and for longer periods in the frozen food compartment of the refrigerator, but attention should be taken of the "Star" rating of the frozen food compartment for the keeping time.

During this year nearly 1½ tons of frozen food was surrendered as a result of refrigerator breakdowns. We were fortunate however to have no breakdowns as the result of the power "go slow" towards the end of the year, although visits were made to many retail outlets giving advice on storage during this difficult time.

#### Quality and Freshness of Food.

Particular attention has been paid during visits to food premises to the coding of perishable foods. Many foods are coded by the manufacturer so as to be undecypherable to the general public and often by the retailer. In many instances food has been found on sale after the expired code date. Where such cases have been found the owner or manager of the store has been instructed on decyphering the codes and advised to introduce his own coding in order to facilitate stock rotation and as a check on the delivery of foodstuffs to his premises.

This aspect of food control has been receiving increased publicity which will no doubt eventually mean the introduction of coding to many more products with a greater education of the food handler and the general public in the meaning of the code.

### Foreign matter and mould - complaints.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Foreign matter.</u>	<u>Mould.</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>No.</u>
	<u>Home produced food</u>	
Milk	1	-
Butter	-	-
Cheese	1	-
Bread	2	3
Canned meat	-	-
Cooked meat	1	1
Meat Pies	2	-
Fish	-	-
Jam	-	1
Vegetables.	1	-
Other Food	2	4
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>

No of prosecutions under Sec. 2      4

No of prosecutions under Sec. 8      -

Total amount of fines and costs imposed.      £203. 10s. 0d

### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. 1960.

1. No of premises.	190
11. No of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	190
111. No of premises to which Reg. 19 applies.	188
IV No of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19	188

### Food and Drugs Sampling.

<u>No of samples.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory Reports.</u>	
	<u>Analysis.</u>	<u>Labelling.</u>
-      10	4	Nil.

### Section 16.

Applications received for registration of premises.

- a. for the sale and storage of ice cream      3
- b. for the preparation of preserved foods      2

Total No of premises registered at the end of this year:

- a. for the sale and storage of ice cream.      90
- b. for manufacture and retail      3
- c. manufacture only      1
- d. for the preparation of preserved foods      22

Samples of Ice cream taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

Total number of samples. 45

	Results. Mobiles.				Premises.				
	Grade.	1.	11.	111	IV	1.	11	111	IV
Soft Ice Cream.		2	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
Other Ice Cream		-	-	-	-	30	9	-	-

Milk samples taken by S.C. of milk bottled within the Borough or in another area and retailed within the Borough.

	Pasteurised		Sterilised		U.H.T.	
	Satis.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Satis.	Unsat.
A. Bottled within the County	98	1	2	-	6	-
B. Bottled outside the County but retailed in the Borough	22	2	-	-	-	-

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

There were 168 complaints concerning rats and 19 concerning mice received during the year.

	Non Agricultural.	Agricultural.
Total No of premises (including nearby properties) inspected following notification	301	-
No infested by:		
Rats.	178	-
Mice	21	-
No of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	21	-
No of visits during the year	-	806

During the year routine treatment of the refuse tip and sewage works were carried out.

In February, Pestex Limited, the firm responsible for Rodent control ceased to function due to the death of Mr. W. Palmer. Since that time the work has been carried out by the Department, in the early stages with some difficulty but nevertheless all complaints received were dealt with including visits in connection with Contracts to certain Factories, including Westland Aircraft Co. Ltd.



It was not possible, because of difficulties encountered to give attention, as intended to the sewerage system of the town but it is hoped to tackle this important aspect at a very early date.

Offices Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

A. Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises.	No of premises Reg'd during the year.	No of Reg: premises at end of year	No of registered premises receiving general inspection during the year.
Offices.	15	172	98
Retail Shops.	22	202	244
Wholesale shops Warehouses.	6	22	38
Catering Est- ablishments open to the public, canteens	2	28	36
Fuel Storage Depots.	Nil	4	3
Total	45	428	419

Total number of visits of all kinds  
by Inspectors to Registered Premises under the Act 602

B. Analysis of Contraventions.

Section.	No of Contraventions Found.	Section.	No of contraventions Found.
4 Cleanliness.	14	13 Seating facilities	Nil.
5. Overcrowding	3	14 Seats. Sedentary Workers.	Nil.
6. Temperature	29	15. Eating facilities	Nil
7. Ventilation.	8	16. Floors, passage and stairs	24
8. Lighting.	3	17. Fencing exposed parts machinery	Nil
9. Sanitary conveniences	13	18. Protection of young persons from danger- ous machinery	Nil.
10. Washing facilities	17	19. Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	Nil

11. Supply of drinking water	Nil.	23. Prohibition of heavy work.	Nil.
12. Clothing accommodation	Nil	24. First Aid.	23
Other matters.			38
Total			172.

#### E. Reported Accidents.

Workplace.	No. Fatal.	Reported Non Fatal.	No. Invest'd	<u>Action Recommended.</u>		
				Prosc'n	Formal Advice.	No Action.
Offices.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Shops	-	2	2	-	2	-
Wholesale Shops	-	1	1	-	1	-
Warehouses.	-	1	1	-	1	-
Catering Est's open to public	-	2	2	-	2	-
Fuel Storage depots.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	5	5	-	5	-

#### Analysis of reported accidents.

	Offices.	Retail Shops	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering Est. open to public	Fuel Store Deps:
Machinery	-	-	-	-	-
Falls of persons	-	1	1	2	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	-	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	-	-	-	-
Use of hand tools.	-	-	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified.	-	1	-	-	-

#### 1. Registration.

This aspect has continued to follow the trends of previous years although the number of new registrations during the year has almost doubled compared with the figure for 1969.

This year has been a reversal of what we had become accustomed to, namely that the total number of persons employed has increased for the first time since the introduction of the Act.

#### 2. Inspection.

The number of visits of all kinds to registered premises has increased by 72 to 602 and the number of premises receiving one or more general inspections has increased by 70 to 419.



The inspection procedure has not been changed from previous years but an additional Inspector has been appointed during the year and this should enable premises to be inspected more frequently.

### 3. Operation of the Act.

No difficulties have been experienced in the operation of the Act.

### 4. Hoists and Lifts Regulations, 1968.

The operation of these regulations has generally not presented any real difficulties although some doubt has arisen concerning hoists which under certain conditions will be exempt yet at other times, will be within the scope of the Regulations. These include sack hoists, consisting of a petrol driven platform running up two guides, the whole mounted on two wheels and operated by one man and used for loading sacks or bags (e.g. coal etc.) onto platform type lorries. Whilst the hoist used in this way is exempt from the Regulations, instances have been noted where these hoists are used in a fixed position and are subject to the Regulations and enclosure of the liftway is required.

The general requirements of the Regulations are checked during each routine visit and inspection reports are examined at the same time.

### 5. Accidents.

Once again there has been a reduction in the number of accidents notified although any feelings of self-satisfaction must be tempered with the thought that some employers may not be notifying the Local Authority of notifiable accidents. Some thought has been given to the best way of reminding employers of their obligation in this respect, but unfortunately there seems to be no satisfactory solution.

It would seem that the implementation of the Act generally is working satisfactorily as conditions in all premises covered by the Act are vastly improved compared with a few years ago.

### Caravans Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

No of privately owned site licenses operating as at

31st December	a) individual	3
	b) multiple	2

Total number of caravans permitted 108

Routine visits were made to sites which are kept in very good order.



### Conclusions.

I have already stated that this is my last and incidentally twenty-sixth Annual Report, I would therefore, like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks for the support I have received over the years from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health and the members of the Public Health Department.

My thanks are also due to the Town Clerk and his staff and members of other departments for their ready help and co-operation.

This has been a rather difficult year for my Department due to the fact that the taking over of all Rodent Control duties by the department corresponded with the prolonged illness of the Disinfector/Rodent Operator and also difficulty was experienced in appointing a second additional Inspector. Despite these problems you will see from this report that every endeavour was made to maintain a satisfactory service.

C.G.H. RICE.



