

[Report 1972] / Medical Officer of Health, Yeovil U.D.C. / Borough.

Contributors

Yeovil (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1972

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Borough of Yeovil

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER 1971



BOROUGH OF YEOVIL

MAYOR

Alderman Peter Richard
Unwin

DEPUTY MAYOR


Councillor Carrie Heath

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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

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.	From: 7.10.71. D.F. Anthony M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector.	Until 7.10.71. C.G.H. Rice F.A.P.H.I.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.	P. Warren-Tibbetts M.A.P.H.I.
First Additional Public Health Inspector.	W.A. Barr M.A.P.H.I.
Technical Assistant.	C. Male.
Pest Officer.	M. New.



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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 1971.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The total number of live births during the year was 443, as compared with 371 for the previous year. The Standardised Birth Rate was 18.2, as compared with 15.1 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 3, as compared with 8 for the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate (i.e. deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) was 7, compared with 22 the previous year. The Rate for England and Wales was 18. The Perinatal Mortality Rate was 13, as compared with 32 the previous year, and England and Wales - 22.

Of the total deaths of all ages, namely 308, 138 occurred in people aged 75 years and over.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 92, compared with 136 for the previous year. The decrease was mainly accounted for by the decrease in the number of cases of Measles notified, 83 in 1971, compared with 130 in 1970.

As in my 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 1971

Area, in acres	...	...	...	...	2,372
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£1,457,635
Estimated Produce of 1p rate	...	...	...	...	£14,250
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	8,816
Population	...	...	...	...	25,760

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), 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 borehole from Thornford.

METEOROLOGY

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

RAINFALL

Total rainfall - Pen Mill - 29.34 (29.18 in 1970).

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 leather 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 1971.

				<u>Yeovil General Hospital</u>
No. of in-patient discharges	...	...	...	3,777
No. of new Consultant out-patients attending Clinics	...	...	...	7,753
New and old Consultant out-patients	...	...	...	32,002
Available Beds	...	...	...	92
Orthoptic Dept., attendances	...	...	...	2,172
Radiological Dept., units of work	...	...	...	42,014
Casualty Dept., attendances	...	...	...	13,245
				<u>Yeovil Hospital Maternity Unit</u>
Births in Hospital	...	...	...	1,227
Attendances at Midwives Clinics	...	...	...	3,985
Available Beds	...	...	...	50

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 31.12.71	=	48
Houses, etc., erected post-war	=	2,055
Houses, etc., sold post-war	=	133
Houses, etc., erected by the L.A. and still owned by them	=	3,414
No. of applicants on the waiting list as at 31.12.71	=	543

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	-	-	26,760	48,815,000
<u>Live Births</u>				
Total ...	231	212	443	783,165
Legitimate ...	214	201	415	717,491
Illegitimate ...	17	11	28	65,674
<u>Stillbirths</u>				
Total ...	-	5	5	9,898
Legitimate ...	-	4	4	8,826
Illegitimate ...	-	1	1	1,072
<u>Total live and still births</u>				
Total ...	231	217	448	793,063
Legitimate ...	214	205	419	726,317
Illegitimate ...	17	12	29	66,746
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>				
Total ...	1	2	3	13,726
Legitimate ...	1	2	3	12,140
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	1,586
<u>Under 4 weeks of age</u>				
Total ...	-	2	2	9,113
Legitimate ...	-	2	2	8,121
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	992
<u>Under 1 week of age</u>				
Total ...	-	1	1	7,750
Legitimate ...	-	1	1	6,903
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-	847
<u>Deaths - All Ages</u>	168	140	308	567,345

	Local Authority Area	England & Wales
<u>Live Birth Rates, etc.</u> ...		
Livebirths per 1,000 home population (crude)	17.2	16.0
Area Comparability Factor ...	1.06	1.00
Local Adjusted Rate ...	18.2	16.0
Ratio of Local Adjusted Rate to National Rate	1.14	1.00
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	6	8
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>		
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births	11	12
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>		
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	7	18
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	7	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	24
<u>Neonatal Mortality Rate</u>		
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	5	12
<u>Early Neonatal Mortality Rate</u>		
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	2	10
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	13	22
<u>Death Rates - All Ages</u>		
Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude)	12.0	11.6
Area Comparability Factor	.90	1.00
Local Adjusted Rate	10.8	11.6
Ratio of Local Adjusted Rate to National Rate	.93	1.00

BIRTH RATES

1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
15.7	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.9	14.6	15.8	15.5	15.1	18.2

The following table shows the causes of death, age and sex incidence, and it will be noted that amongst the males, of the 168 deaths, 46 occurred amongst those between the ages of 65 and 75, and 50 over the age of 75. Of the females, out of the total of 140 deaths, 26 occurred amongst those between the ages of 65 and 75, and 88 over the age of 75.

	Sex	Total Under 4 weeks All 4 & under 1- 5- 15- 25- 35- 45- 55- 65- 75+											
		Ages weeks 1 year											
Enteritis and Other	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diarrhoeal Diseases	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Oesophagus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	4	-
Stomach	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
Intestine	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	1	-
Lung, Bronchus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	F	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Uterus													
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Prostate													
Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant	M	8	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	-
Neoplasms	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	5	-
Benign and Unspec-	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
ified Neoplasms	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes Mellitis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Anaemias	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mental Disorders	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Multiple Sclerosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Diseases of	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nervous System	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chronic Rheumatic	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heart Disease	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ischaemic Heart	M	57	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	21	15	11	-
Disease	F	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	31	-
Other Forms of	M	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	2	-
Heart Disease	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	-
Cerebrovascular	M	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	9	-
Disease	F	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	16	-

Table continued.....

	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	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	2
Circulatory System	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	5
Pneumonia	M	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	7
	F	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	14
Bronchitis and	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3
Emphysema	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Diseases of	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Respiratory System	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Intestinal Obstruct-	M	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
ion and Hernia	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Nephrosis	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Prostate												
Diseases of Musculo-	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Skeletal System	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Causes of	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Perinatal Mortality	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
defined Conditions	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Motor Vehicle	M	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Accidents	F	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
All Other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Suicide and Self-	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Inflicted Injuries	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>												
TOTAL, ALL CAUSES	M	168	-	1	-	3	1	3	2	19	43	50
	F	140	2	-	-	-	1	2	-	7	14	88

DEATH RATES

1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
11.6	11.8	11.6	11.0	11.2	10.2	10.2	10.1	12.0	10.8

CANCER

The number of deaths due to Cancer (all forms) was 62. The table as set out below shows the incidence for previous years

1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
54	51	76	60	56	36	45	66	76	62

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Yeovil Borough	2.1	2.06	3.02	2.4	2.2	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.9	2.4
County of Somerset	2.17	2.17	2.31	2.2	2.23	2.28	2.33	2.38	2.46	2.4
England & Wales	2.17	2.1	2.21	2.23	2.24	2.27	2.31	2.35	2.39	2.39

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 3, as compared with 8 for the previous year. The rate per 1,000 live births was 7, 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.

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
No. of deaths	7	9	3	9	9	3	4	4	8	3
Rate per 1,000 live births in Yeovil	18.08	23.3	7.7	23.2	22.2	8	10	11	22	7
Rate per 1,000 live births in Eng. & Wales	20.7	22.3	20.0	19.0	18.9	18.3	18	18	18	18

CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE

	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 yr.
Congenital Abnormalities ...	1	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	-	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	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.

	1971	1970
Measles	83	130
Scarlet Fever	4	-
Whooping Cough	3	-
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	-	5
Tuberculosis Non-pulmonary	-	1
Dysentery	2	-
Total	92	136

TUBERCULOSIS

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
No. of cases notified Pulmonary	-	5	1	2	3	6	6	5	5	5
No. of cases notified Non. Pulmonary	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	2	2	1
No. of deaths Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
No. of deaths Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Death Rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	-	.03	-	-	-	.1	-	-	-	.04

INFANT WELFARE

DENTAL TREATMENT

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Pre-School Children</u>
No. of cases inspected ...	22	151
No. found to require treatment ...	22	72
No. of cases treated ...	26	68
No. of attendances ...	105	154
Dentures provided	8	-

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

Primary Visits (children under 1 year of age) ...	606
Primary Visits (children 1 - 5 years of age) ...	1,040
Total Visits (0 to 5 years of age) ...	6,427
Ante-natal Visits ...	108
Old Persons ...	808
Liaison Visits, Hospital, etc. ...	591
Other Visits ...	1,224
Futile Visits ...	958

CHILD HEALTH CLINICS

Preston Road Clinic

Total No. of children attending ...	458
Total No. of children attending for the first time	194
Total No. of attendances made ...	2,253

Larkhill Clinic

Total No. of children attending ...	130
Total No. of children attending for the first time	54
Total No. of attendances made ...	633

Monmouth Hall Clinic

Total No. of children attending ...	349
Total No. of children attending for the first time	130
Total No. of attendances made ...	1,603

Wraxhill Road Clinic

Total No. of children attending ...	100
Total No. of children attending for the first time	41
Total No. of attendances made ...	405

HOME HELP SERVICE

No. of cases who received help in 1971.

<u>Type of Case</u>				<u>Yeovil Borough</u>
Mental Illness	...	...	...	9
Maternity	...	...	...	8
Old Age and Infirmary	...	...	...	239
Chronic Illness	...	...	...	35
General Illness	...	...	...	5
Child Care	...	...	...	3
Post-operation	...	...	...	10
Accidents	...	...	...	3
Total			...	<hr/> 312 <hr/>

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

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

STATE OF TEXAS

IN SENATE, JANUARY 15, 1911.

REPORT

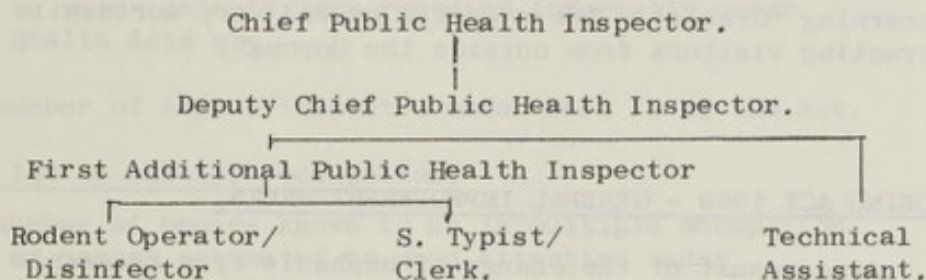
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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

This year has seen quite a change in the Public Health Inspector's Department. In October, Mr. Rice, Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. Axe, Rodent Operator/Disinfector retired after jointly serving this Authority for a total of 87 years. With a total staff of six this obviously produced a considerable change in the department. On being appointed Chief Public Health Inspector at the time of this change and, with Local Government Re-organisation only two and a half years away, I considered the time opportune to re-organise the department and following consideration by the Finance Committee, the following staffing was approved:



This mainly comprised the replacement of one public health inspector by a technical assistant and appointment of a Pest Officer on Miscellaneous staff grading. As neither of these officers had been employed in local government previously they required training by the existing members of the staff, I am pleased to report that both officers were quick to learn and to apply their previous experience to the appointments and I am sure I will be able to report next year on satisfactory progress with the revised staffing.

HOUSING

There has continued to be progress in dealing formally with unfit houses, which cannot be made fit at reasonable cost, as they are discovered during the course of investigating complaints or during routine inspections of the district. Many houses are being rendered fit by informal action following applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants. Schedules of defects and specifications of works are prepared by the department in connection with all grants; these works being required to ensure that the property has a satisfactory life and complies with "Standards of Fitness". The Housing Act, 1969 has extended the improvement grant to cover certain repair works and this has resulted in more people following up their grant applications and resulted in more houses being rendered "fit" by informal action.

It is quite impossible to divorce housing improvements from fitness and to this end a show house in Eastland Road (by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Turvey) was open to the Public for six days and the Department of the Environment's Improvement Grants Caravan was available at the same time. The house was manned by Public Health Inspectors and Building Surveyors at all times and advice given to many people concerning "Grants". The exercise proved very worthwhile even attracting visitors from outside the Borough.

HOUSING ACT 1969 - GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS.

As a result of the change of emphasis from Clearance to Improvement a Survey was completed of houses in the Camborne Area and following representations to the Public Health Committee and Housing Committee, the views of the residents of the area were sought on the possibility of the Council declaring a General Improvement Area. To this end a public meeting was held at Grass Royal School following which the Council declared the area comprising the whole of Camborne Street and Camborne Place, together with numbers 1 - 53 (odd) Camborne Grove and numbers 32 - 64 (evens) Lyde Road to be a General Improvement Area.

The advantage of declaring a General Improvement Area besides guaranteeing owners assistance in improving their properties, is that it allows the Council to carry out environmental improvements. Unfortunately the Council have not yet been able to formulate any such scheme.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1971 (FORM P.13) HSG.

Unfit Houses.

Demolished during the year. 26.

Unfit houses closed. Sections 16(4) 17(1) 13.

Section 18 2.

Unfit houses made fit. After informal action under
Housing Acts. 32.

After formal action under
Housing Acts. 3.

Houses which were remedied formally
under Public Health Acts. 3.

Houses in which defects were remedied informally under
Public Health Acts etc. 157.

Total number of houses inspected under Part II of the Act. 105.

Houses let in multiple occupation.

Total number of houses known to be in multiple occupation. 20.

Number of houses estimated to need attention under
Housing Acts 1961 - 1964. 5.

Number of houses in which formal action has been taken. 2.

Number of houses in which informal action has been taken. 3.

Houses and Public Health Acts.

Inspections and visits under Housing and Public Health Acts. 953.

Rent Acts - Housing Act 1969.

Inspections 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. 47.

Section 46 Housing Act 1969 - Certificates of Provisional
Approval. 8.

CARAVANS.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Number of privately owned site licences operating as at:

31st December	a) individual	3.
	b) multiple	2.

Total number of caravans for which there are licences - 106.

There is one licensed site for 41 caravans which has not yet been developed. Routine visits were made to sites which are kept in very good order.

The largest caravan site within the Borough is at Rustywell and accommodates 61 residential units.

In view of the fire hazard which exists to caravan dwellers, it was decided to revise the facilities which should be available to the occupants of the site. This was done in conjunction with the Somerset Fire Authority. It was decided that there must be "Fire Points" within 100 feet of every caravan, in addition to the fire extinguishers which are available in each caravan. The Fire Points to comprise a notice giving instructions how to act in the case of fire (including how to call the Fire Brigade) a hose reel and 100 feet of hose and a water-stand pipe of suitable pressure. An electric alarm to be installed together with an emergency telephone in a central position accessible to all persons on the site. Fire hydrants are available to the Fire Brigade should they be found necessary. The revisions were readily agreed to by the owner of the site and the new conditions are now provided.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food Hygiene.

During the year under review the routine visiting of food premises was continued to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. These visits take the form of an unannounced inspection of the premises, paying particular attention to procedure and processes carried out, in addition to the check on staff, and maintenance and layout of the premises. Particular emphasis is laid on the hygienic handling and storage of foods which may be susceptible to spoilage and it is pleasing to note the increase in the use of controlled temperature displays, even in the smaller "family-business" type of shops. However, the use of these displays can be unwittingly abused by retailers who are not aware of either the limitations of the equipment or the shelf life of the product which they display. There are many people who imagine that foods (which they accept normally to have a limited life) can be stored safely for long periods in a refrigerator. This is far from the case, mould growth and spoilage bacteria can increase in the average domestic type refrigerator where the internal temperature in parts can be as high as 50°F, especially when the door is being continually opened and closed. During visits to food premises refrigerated display temperatures are checked and advice given when it is thought to be necessary.

With the ever increasing use of codes by manufacturers of food-stuffs the Public Health Inspectors have found it necessary to be as proficient at code-breaking as the Secret Service, in order to carry out checks on the display of "fresh-foods". These codes take many forms such as the day of the year (0 to 365) day and month(Q1A) 1st January or even day, month and year (310871) - 31st August, 1971. These codes are quite simple to follow but they can become enormously complicated when factory codes, production line codes and other information is incorporated. What is even more misleading from the Inspectors point of view, is that the code, when deciphered can denote either the day of production, day of wrapping or packing, day of withdrawal from sale or even a day on which the product should be checked to ensure that it is satisfactory. It should be emphasized that codes are not meant to indicate that food ceases to be fit for human consumption when the indicated date is reached, although this is the impression gained by many shoppers.

Particular attention has been paid to the coding of meat pies, pasties, sausages, cooked meats, cream and milk products generally and it is gratifying to note that not one complaint was received during the year concerning the unsatisfactory condition of any of these products.

Much of this work was carried out at the same time as other Public Health Inspectors, mainly in the London area, who were trying to attract the public's attention as to the freshness of some foods they were purchasing. As a result of this activity the subject became of topical interest in the mass media and this has had beneficial effects of bringing food codes to the attention of the purchaser as well as the retailer.

As a result of lectures given by the department at Yeovil Technical College on a licensed house training course, a code of practice has been prepared for licensed premises relating to the handling, storage and preparation of food and drink at such premises. It is hoped that the details contained in this code of practice will be used both by the breweries and tenants to keep up the standard of such premises.

Another aspect of food hygiene which has been significant is the sale and display of frozen poultry. It has been found that re-freezing of poultry after thawing can be dangerous due to the risk of spoilage or increase in possible food poisoning bacteria. For these reasons a survey was carried out to find if any retailers of frozen poultry were displaying these products in unrefrigerated conditions such as shop windows. Where it was found that this was happening the retailers concerned were strongly advised to refrain from this practice and as a result the use of open-topped conservators for this purpose is now widespread.

It is also unsatisfactory food hygiene practice to display cooked meats in unrefrigerated displays which are subject to wide variations in temperature and every effort is being made to obtain the display of all such foods in refrigerated conditions.

It seems that legislation is long overdue to control the temperatures at which such foods are transported, stored and displayed for sale.

<u>Unsound food surrendered or condemned</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1. Meat at retail shops.	1	7	97
2. Cooked meat and meat products.	-	-	60
3. Canned meats.	-	6	57
4. Other canned foods.	4	11	71
5. Fish (fresh)	-	-	15
6. Fresh fruit and vegetables.	-	-	-
7. Frozen foods due to refrigeration breakdown.	-	11	99
8. Other foods.	-	7	60
	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>

<u>Foreign matter and mould - complaints.</u>	<u>Foreign matter. No.</u>	<u>Mould No.</u>
Milk	2	-
Butter	-	-
Cheese	-	1
Bread	1	-
Canned Meat	1	-
Cooked Meat	1	-
Meat Pies	1	-
Fish	1	-
Jam	-	-
Vegetables	-	1
Confectionery	1	-
Other Food	1	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>

Food Premises to which Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 apply.

No. of Premises.

Restaurants	23
Factories and school canteens	40
Public Houses and Hotels	53
Bakehouses	2
Food factories	2
Wholesale food warehouses	3
Cooked Meat Shops	6
Butchers	19
Fishmongers and Fish and Chip Shops	13
Greengrocers	14
Grocers	50
Confectioners	13
Supermarket-type shops	9

Number of inspections carried out 271

Food and Drugs sampling.

No. of samples: Bacteriological 27

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 number of premises registered at the end of this year:

a. for the sale and storage of ice cream	91
b. for manufacture and retail	3
c. manufacture only	1
d. for the preparation of preserved foods	22

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

No. of market stalls	15
Estimated No. of mobile shops	9
Estimated No. of mobile ice-cream retail vehicles.	28
Estimated No. of delivery vehicles	60

No. of inspections: - 259

During the year two prosecutions have been taken under these Regulations, resulting in fines totalling £62 and costs of £35.

Samples of Ice Cream taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory:

Total No. of samples: - 43

<u>Results</u> <u>Grades</u>	<u>Mobiles</u>				<u>Premises</u>			
	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
Soft Ice Cream	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	-
Other Ice Cream	-	-	-	-	31	4	1	-

Milk samples taken by Somerset County Council of milk bottled within the Borough or in another area and retailed within the Borough.

	<u>Pasteurised</u>		<u>Sterilised</u>		<u>U.H.T.</u>	
	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>
A. Bottled within the county.	138.	10.	2.	2.	1.	1.
B. Bottled outside the county but retailed in the Borough.	19.	1.	-.	-.	-.	-.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Complaints.

A total of 594 complaints were received during the year, comprised of the following:

Housing defects	45
Drainage and sanitary accommodation	118
Insect pests (including wasps)	160
Food complaints	28
Food examination	25
Food Hygiene	1
Effluvia and Dust	25
Pigeons	7
Noise	13
Atmospheric Pollution	11
Miscellaneous	38

There was a further increase in complaints received over previous years due largely to an increase in wasp complaints. This increase in wasp nest complaints was rather dramatic with the number more than doubling over previous years, I am informed that this was not confined to Yeovil but was experienced in many other areas. One such complaint was dealt with on a Sunday morning after a resident had been stung many times which resulted in his having to attend the Yeovil General Hospital.

This year there were further houses in the Larkhill area affected with nightly invasions of the "Strawberry Seed Beetle" but spraying of houses and gardens prevented the infestation reaching the same proportions as last year.

Drains and Sewers.

Although the Disinfector was absent due to illness for a prolonged period and there was a time lag following his retirement before a replacement was found, the service of clearing drains and private sewers continued throughout the year. This service I am sure is much appreciated by the public as it is only on a rare occasion that an obstructed drain is not cleared on the day of the complaint.

I would like to express my thanks to the Borough Surveyor for his help in maintaining this service, especially so far as Section 24, Public Health Act 1936 is concerned.

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 24 Public Sewers.

No. of lengths of sewer cleared	13
No. of houses involved	41

Public Health Act, 1936 - Sections 38 - 39 Private Sewers.

No. of lengths of sewer cleared	3
No. of houses involved	36

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 39 Private Drains.

No. of drains cleared.	36
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In addition to the above there were three occasions when following up complaints obstructions were found in main public sewers.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Pests.

There were 120 complaints concerning rats and 4 concerning mice during the year.

Total No. of premises (including nearby properties inspected)	
following notification	329

No. infested by:	Rats	203
	Mice	12

No. of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other	
than notification	44

No. of visits during the year	1,265
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During the year routine treatment of the refuse tip and sewage works was carried out.

Summary of Sewer Treatments

Section of System treated.	No. of Manholes treated.	No. of Manholes showing take of bait		Poison used.	Baits.	Baiting Sequence.
		Comp't	Part'l.			
Preston Area.	36	-	-	Warfarin	Pinhead Meal	1:4:8
Milford Area.	19	-	4	"	"	"
Rosebery Area.	18	-	4	"	"	"
Goldcroft	15	-	6	"	"	"
Total	88	-	14			

A regular rodent eradication has been maintained with some difficulty over the year and towards the end of the year we were able to commence the treatment of the sewerage system of the town. It was pleasing to find that the sections of the sewers treated only indicated odd small infestations. This year has shown a marked decrease in the number of rodent complaints, a trend which I hope will continue as more inspections of adjoining properties to those which complain is carried out. One unusual complaint received during the year was of damage by foxes on Council allotments, whilst we do not usually undertake this type of complaint on this occasion investigations were carried out, the foxes earth found and treated with creosote, which resulted in the animals moving away. The Council have four contracts with firms requiring regular routine visits for rodent control, one additional contract being obtained this year.

Pigeons.

Several complaints have been received from occupiers of premises which have been "adopted" by the birds either for roosting or nesting and as a result of a survey which was undertaken in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, it was decided to reduce the pigeon population. The only approved methods of achieving this are either by trapping or using marcotised baits which stupify the birds and allows them to be picked up by hand. The latter method was not considered to be practicable as the majority of the pigeons feed out of the town in the surrounding fields and woods. Large traps were constructed using a pattern approved by the R.S.P.C.A. and as a result of daily baiting 45 pigeons were caught. The majority of these birds were ringed and were returned to their owners. In addition to trapping, nesting sites were located wherever possible and were made inaccessible to the birds and the nests destroyed.

DISINFESTATIONS.

Complaints received of infestations other than wasps.	50.
Premises dealt with for wasps.	113.

WATER SUPPLY - Samples of treated water after going into supply.

<u>Chemical</u>		<u>Bacteriological</u>	
<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>
3.	-	300.	-

These figures include samples taken by the Wessex Water Board.

There was one complaint during the year of an inadequate supply of water. Following informal representation to the owner, a new separate water service was provided to the property.

CLEAN AIR ACTS, 1956 - 1968.

There was a marked reduction in complaints of atmospheric pollution during the year and rather surprisingly there was only one complaint received concerning smoke nuisance from bonfires.

The main cause for complaint over the year has been the result of "smutting" occurring from a comparatively recent boiler installation which has been due to the boilers having been designed and installed to accommodate future building extensions; consequently the boilers have on occasions been underloaded which has resulted in "smutting" recurring. The engineers concerned have co-operated to the full and made every endeavour to reduce the cause for complaint to a minimum.

I am assured that when the new extension buildings are occupied and the boilers are on proper working load then only in the event of a mechanical breakdown should there be any further trouble.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Contrary to information collected by the Public Health Inspectors Association (which indicates that the number of noise complaints received by local authorities is increasing at the rate of 10% each year) there has been a slight reduction in noise complaints received by this department this year. I believe this has been due to the continued insistence of the local authority and statutory undertakers that their contractors use road drills incorporating suppressors, as only one complaint of noise from road works was received.

Of the remaining noise complaints arising from industrial or shop premises six were substantiated and following informal representations works were carried out to abate the nuisances. It is interesting to note that no complaints have been received of chimes or loudspeakers operated from vehicles.

Section 1.

Total number of complaints received and investigated - 12.

	Industrial Premises	Commercial Premises	Roadworks Construction Demolition	Domestic Premises	Others.	Total.
1. Complaints received	5	3	2	1	2	13
2. Cases complained of	3	3	2	1	2	11
3. Cases investigated	3	3	2	-	2	10
4. Nuisances confirmed	3	3	2	-	1	9
5. Nuisances remedied informally	2	3	2	-	1	8
6. Abatement notices served	1	-	-	-	-	1

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and Inspections

During 1971, the number of new registrations received has decreased but paradoxically there has been a substantial increase in the total number of persons employed in premises covered by the Act. This is due to the Post Office becoming a Public Authority and ceasing to be a Crown Department, thus the responsibility for such premises passing from H.M. Factory Inspectorate to the Local Authority.

It has been the aim of the department to carry out a general inspection of every shop and office at least once in every year, whilst special attention is directed to premises where conditions are not always satisfactory or where large numbers of people are employed. The total number of visits to registered premises has again increased this year to 640 and the number of premises receiving a general inspection has increased to 379. During the inspections any short-comings or contraventions are brought to the attention of the employer and re-inspections then follow after a suitable interval.

A. Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises.	No. of premises registered during year.	No. of Registered premises at end of year.	No. of registered premises receiving general inspections during the year.
Offices	13	178	114
Retail shops	10	203	203
Catering Establishments open to public, canteens.	1	29	29
Wholesale shops			
Warehouses	11	29	29
Fuel storage depots	1	5	4
Total	36	444	379

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

640

Operation of the Act

No unsurmountable difficulties have been experienced during the year but it is felt that the following observations are worthy of note:-

- a. The standards of 40 square feet of floor space for each employee required by section 5 of the Act is felt to be far from adequate in many cases, particularly where there is a relatively large amount of office or shop furniture or equipment, for whilst such furniture and equipment can be taken into account if there is a risk of injury, regardless of working space available, it is difficult to determine the risk.
- b. The lighting, ventilation and heating of many offices and shops leaves much to be desired, even when newly constructed. Too much window space, (common in many modern office block developments) brings complaints of buildings being too hot, whilst inadequate ventilation can result in a stuffy atmosphere, which can hardly be considered a satisfactory working environment. It is unfortunate that the law is not more specific in its requirements, rather than the "effective provision" which it now requires, which has yet to be legally defined.
- c. It is felt that the statutory minimum temperature is 16°C (60.8°F) is often too low for comfortable working conditions in many premises particularly offices. Although it is unusual in Yeovil to come upon employers who do not provide heating in excess of the minimum required, it is not known for some premises to be maintained at a statutory minimum with, I believe, a certain amount of discomfort to the employees.

Analysis of Contraventions.

Section.	Number of Contraventions found.	Section.	Number of Contraventions found.
4.Cleanliness	7	13.Seating Facilities	Nil.
5.Overcrowding	3	14.Seats.Sedentary Workers.	Nil.
6.Temperature	23	15.Eating facilities.	Nil.
7.Ventilation	-	16.Floors, passages and stairs.	8
8.Lighting	7	17.Fencing exposed parts of machinery.	1
9.Sanitary Conveniences.	18	18.Protection of young persons from danger- ous machinery.	Nil.
10.Washing facilities.	5	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.	16
		Other matters	40
		TOTAL	128

Reported Accidents

Workplace.	No. Fatal.	Reported Non Fatal.	No. Investigated.	Prosecution.	Informal Advice.
Offices.	-	1	1	-	1
Retail shops.	-	3	3	-	1
Wholesale shops					
Warehouses.	-	2	2	-	-
Catering					
Establishments	-	1	1	-	-
open to public.					
Fuel Storage					
Depots.	-	-	-	-	-
	-	7	7	-	2

Analysis of reported accidents.

	Offices.	Retail Shops.	Wholesale Warehouses.	Catering Estab'ts.	Fuel Storage Depots.
Machinery	-	-	-	-	-
Falls of persons	-	-	-	1	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person.	-	2	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	-	1	-	-
Struck by falling objects	1	-	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified.	-	1	1	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. Inspections.

Premises.	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1)Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(11)Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority.	184	48	7	-
(111)Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises.	2	-	-	-
TOTAL.	186	48	7	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	No. of cases in which defects were found.		No.of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To.H.M. Insp'r.	By H.M. Insp'r.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.(S.6)		-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	24	7	-	7	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	25	8	-	8	-

Outworkers

Nature of work.	Number of workers in August List required by Section 133(1)(c).	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	Number of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists.	Number of instances of work in some premises.	Notices Served.	Prose- cutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel.	160.	-	-	-	-	-

Two firms have ceased to employ Outworkers.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal support, especially in the transitional period of re-organisation, with the Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

D. F. ANTHONY.

Outcomes

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Nature of work	Number of	workers in	number of	number of	number of	number of
workers in	cases of	highest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest
highest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest
lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest
lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest
lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest
lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest
lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest
lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest
lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest	lowest

Two lines have been added to supply Outcomes.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal support, especially in the transitional period of re-organization.

Very obedient servant.

D. F. ASHLEY.

cc: Mr. Ashley

cc: Mr. Ashley

cc: Mr. Ashley



