



# **REPORT**

of the

# **FIELD WORKER**

**June - December 1976**

The British Red Cross Society, although unable to accept full membership for constitutional reasons, were invited to attend as observers. Grapevine, a project of the Family Planning Association, resigned from the Committee in 1976, due to financial problems, which limited their involvement to neighbourhood festivals in the Camden and Islington areas.

The Advisory Committee on Pop Festivals was represented by an observer until the Committee was dissolved. Two members of the Festival Welfare Services Committee represent the Committee on the Department of the Environment Working Party on Pop Festival Policy under Lord Melchett.

## 2. Functions of the Festival Welfare Services Committee

The basic functions of the committee are :

- to gather information about future festivals
- to consider and decide upon basic minimum welfare services which would be necessary at a given festival
- to negotiate with the promoters to get these minimum standards accepted
- to ensure advance planning and co-ordination by welfare organisations
- to organise advance meetings of welfare organisations for each festival and ensure co-ordinated services on site
- to obtain fair reimbursement for expenses.

The role of Festival Welfare Services agencies at pop festivals centres around the provision of friendship and support by a team of experienced volunteers. It includes the following :

Medical and first-aid, including ambulances.

Field telephone systems.

Information and communication centre.

Field kitchen and emergency feeding when needed.

Fire prevention

Rest tents and emergency shelter.

Providing for meditation and worship.

Helping people get home.

Counselling the loney and coping with emotional and psychological problems.

Legal advice and sorting out related difficulties.

Lost property.

Baby minding.

Liaison with organisers and representing the consumer vis-a-vis the organisers.

VSU REPORT1. History and Current Membership

The Festival Welfare Services Committee was founded in 1972 as a result of an initiative from Release inviting other organisations concerned with the provision of welfare services at music festivals to form a co-ordinating body to deal with festival promoters. This initiative was endorsed in the Report and Code of Practice produced in 1973 by the Advisory Committee on Pop Festivals of the Department of the Environment (the Stevenson Committee) which approached the National Council of Social Service and obtained their agreement to provide a meeting place and part-time secretarial support for the Festival Welfare Services Committee. On the dissolution of the Stevenson Committee in 1974, Festival Welfare Services was approached and agreed to take over the advisory function formerly provided by that committee's secretariat for the benefit of local authorities and festival promoters. The Department of the Environment also agreed to support an application to the Voluntary Services Unit of the Home Office for a grant to enable Festival Welfare Services to employ a full-time secretary and field worker. In May 1976 the VSU agreed to make a grant, which enabled a full-time secretary and field worker to be appointed for six months from June 1976. Some administrative and secretarial support is provided by the National Council of Social Service from their own general funds. The terms of reference - for the worker - agreed between Festival Welfare Services, the National Council of Social Service and the Voluntary Services Unit are as follows :

"To advise organisers of concerts, festivals and other similar large gatherings of young people of the facilities and services required in the interests of health, safety and comfort and to co-ordinate and assist in their provision by voluntary welfare organisations, and to represent these organisations in discussions with local authority social service departments and other bodies as appropriate.

"To represent voluntary welfare organisations in negotiations with organisers of concerts, festivals and other similar large gatherings of young people to obtain a fair reimbursement of the cost of providing welfare facilities.

"To submit a report annually to the Executive Committee of the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services and as otherwise may from time to time be required."

The present members of the Festival Welfare Services committee are :

British Council of Churches  
 Church of England Board of Education  
 National Association of Youth Clubs  
 National Council of YMCA's  
 National Voluntary Civil Aid Services  
 Release  
 St. John Ambulance Association Brigade  
 Salvation Army  
 Samaritans  
 Source  
 World Welfare Association

Dealing with drug-related problems.

### 3. Festivals attended in 1976

Since the appointment of Ms V.M. Stangroome as full-time field worker in June 1976, Festival Welfare Services has provided services at the following events :

June 11th - 14th	Exmoor Free Festival
July 23rd - 25th	July Wakes, Chorley, Lancs. (commercial)
Aug. 5th - 8th	Third Megan Fayre, Crymch, Pembro. (free)
Aug. 20th - 22nd	Knebworth Park, Herts. (commercial)
Aug. 6th - 8th	North Country Fair, Rivington Pike, Lancs. (free)
Aug. 26th - Sept. 6th	People's Free Festival, Seasalter, Kent.
Aug. 27th - 29th	Reading, Berks. (commercial)
Sept. 27th - 29th	Deeply Vale, Lancs. (free)

Festival Welfare Services acted in an advisory capacity, but did not attend :

Sept. 10th - 12th	Oakhampton Free Festival, Devon.
Sept. 18th	Hyde Park Free Festival

Reports on festivals attended are attached (see Appendix D).

### 4. Information and Liaison

#### (a) Data Bank

The effective functioning of Festival Welfare Services and the discharge of the advisory function inherited from the Stevenson Committee (see above) both depend on the maintenance of a bank of information and material relevant to the provision of welfare and other services. Information as to relevant resources and materials accumulated by Festival Welfare Services member organisations has been collated and supplemented by the Festival Welfare Services field worker and put in a form suitable for future use both by Festival Welfare Services itself and those, whether festival promoters, local authorities or others, who may seek advice or information. The data bank consists of a master card index divided into three main categories :

- (i) personal contacts
- (ii) organisations
- (iii) resources

and supplemented by a file of leaflets and publications. Some of the categories covered are portable toilets, free food kitchens and free second hand clothes. Due to the key role of local authorities in the provision of a number of services at pop festivals and their apparent lack of information regarding the work of Festival Welfare Services at festivals, it is proposed that Festival Welfare Services should circulate all local authorities and their area health authorities with information on the services that can be offered. It is hoped that closer liaison with these authorities in the future will enable Festival Welfare Services to assist them in responding rapidly and appropriately to possible or projected festivals in their areas as well as encouraging them to keep Festival Welfare Services more fully informed. It is felt in particular that closer contact with local authority licensing officers would be valuable. For example Festival Welfare Services might be able to offer an informed opinion as to the practicality of fixing and enforcing a limit to the numbers of those attending such commercial events as the Knebworth Park concerts.

Festival Welfare Services continues to maintain a close liaison with the Department of the Environment and hopes to co-operate on a continuing basis with the Melchett Committee over questions relating to the involvement of statutory authorities in festival planning.

## 5. Planning and festival operations

### (a) General

Well before any proposed festival it is necessary for Festival Welfare Services to make initial contacts with a wide range of relevant bodies including the following :

- (i) Festival Promoters or organisers to advise on necessary welfare facilities and agree terms for Festival Welfare Services operation.
- (ii) County Council or Metropolitan District Social Service Departments to arrange liaison with Festival Welfare Services operation particularly in regard to juveniles and those covered by the Mental Health Act where statutory social service responsibility applies.
- (iii) Environmental Health and Licensing Department to discuss application of the Department of Environment Code of Practice and arrangements for water supplies, sanitation, refuse disposal, noise monitoring, etc.
- (iv) Police (normally Divisional Chief Superintendent) to discuss traffic emergency access for welfare vehicles and welfare and advice arrangements for those arrested (contact with police on these matters must be maintained throughout the festival).
- (v) Fire Authority and Water Authority regarding their areas of responsibility.
- (vi) Area Health Authority to arrange liaison with Red Cross or St. John's Ambulance, arrange for GP attendance as necessary and ensure local general and psychiatric hospitals are prepared for possible emergency cases.

- (vii) Transport Authorities Rail and Road to arrange publicity on site for any special transport arrangements.
- (viii) Local churches and voluntary organisations to arrange local contribution to Festival Welfare Services operation and, if possible, emergency accommodation off site.
- (ix) Clerk to the Justices and local solicitors to arrange representation and assistance for those coming before the courts (special arrangements with the Law Society may be necessary).

In the case of commercial festival liaison with some of the above bodies may be dealt with by the festival organisers, but free festival organisers usually prefer this to be done by Festival Welfare Services. In all cases however it is essential that Festival Welfare Services is fully informed of the arrangements that have been made. The major problem in most cases is the shortage of time available to make the necessary contacts particularly in cases where the festival site is not decided until the last minute.

(b) Free Festivals

The major problem with free festivals is that festival organisers who are usually very short of manpower, time and money, are reluctant or unable to establish the necessary contacts with the various authorities concerned. It is felt that it is appropriate for Festival Welfare Services with its special experience and expertise in these areas should take the lead in arranging the necessary meetings, despite the increased burden of work thrown on the Festival Welfare worker and committee. It is difficult to see how this could be done without a full-time Festival Welfare Services worker. The alternative is that essential preparatory work will simply not be done. However, it is essential that Festival Welfare Services should maintain an independent position in regard to free festivals and not act simply as agent either for the organisers or for the local authority. Festival Welfare Services therefore try to secure that a representative of the festival organisers should attend wherever possible at our meetings with the relevant authorities.

(c) Commercial Festivals

The difficulties experienced in planning for commercial festivals are exactly the opposite to those described above. Commercial promoters are invariably reluctant to allow Festival Welfare Services to participate fully in discussions with relevant authorities at the planning stage or even to keep us properly informed of what is being done. The problem is exacerbated when we are required to deal with the promoter through a representative who has insufficient knowledge or authority.

Festival Welfare Services have always sought from commercial promoters a reasonable fee for Festival Welfare Services, on the basis of the direct expenses of participating member agencies being reimbursed, though all workers attend festivals on a voluntary basis. There are invariably problems in obtaining payment even on this basis. Promoters are reluctant to accept our estimate of the services required at their events and commonly attempt to negotiate with Festival Welfare Services member agencies and others separately in the hope of

obtaining some kind of service more cheaply. Festival Welfare Services are constantly astonished by the attitude of some promoters. For they will spend many thousands of pounds on an event, but are reluctant to make available the few hundred pounds we require to provide the service of a large number of unpaid volunteers doing essential welfare work. Even when terms are agreed it is common for the promoter to fail to provide facilities and equipment which they have undertaken to provide or to pay such sums that have been arranged. Festival Welfare Services is currently engaged for the second time in suing a commercial promoter for payment of agreed expenses. It is our considered opinion that there is no prospect of obtaining the full administrative expense of Festival Welfare Services even in connection with particular festivals, unless promoters can be compelled in some way to provide adequate welfare services and pay for them on an inclusive basis. This is an area which needs further examination and possible Government action and is currently being considered by the Melchett Committee.

It is proposed that a pro-forma contract be prepared so as to alleviate some of the problems incurred at commercial festivals in 1976. This contract should be signed by both Festival Welfare Services and the commercial promoter and no definite agreement to attend the event made until this has been done. The contract should include the following :

- (i) Times the Festival Welfare Services teams are required on site.
- (ii) Equipment to be supplied by promoters.
- (iii) Services to be provided by Festival Welfare Services members.
- (iv) Amount of money to be paid to Festival Welfare Services.

In the past Festival Welfare Services members have submitted individual budgets to promoters, but to enable Festival Welfare Services to claim full remuneration for its services, an inclusive budget must be submitted.

#### 6. (a) Co-ordination of member agencies

The key task of Festival Welfare Services field worker is to be centrally involved in negotiation with promoters and local authorities. The delicate and difficult nature of this task is highlighted by the range of agencies in membership of Festival Welfare Services, all of whom have different traditions and methods of working. Questions of festival planning are always discussed freely at Festival Welfare Services committee meetings and the Festival Welfare Services negotiator must keep in mind the different requirements of all participating agencies. It is necessary for all those agencies to be fully consulted at all stages. In the case of major festivals, such as Knebworth, it has become the practice to convene an ad hoc group consisting of the Festival Welfare Services worker and a representative from each agency which will be participating, preferably someone who will actually be attending the festival. This makes it possible to carry the deliberations of the group to a series of meetings held as necessary on the festival site itself. In the case of some festivals which are held regularly on the same site it is thought sufficient for one or two Festival Welfare Services member agencies to attend separately. The Samaritans regularly attend the Reading Festival on this basis.

(b) Operations

The experience of the past three years has served to familiarise member agencies with each other's capabilities and methods of operation and the degree of co-ordination in Festival Welfare Services operations has undoubtedly improved although difficulties are still found in those organisations which have a federal structure in which the experience of the kind of co-operation required cannot always be found at local level. Festival Welfare Services are confident that these problems are being overcome at least in those cases where local representatives can be brought into the planning process at an early stage. This, however, does necessitate the active involvement of a full-time Festival Welfare Services worker. Some difficulties are encountered at longer festivals in particular at the People's Free Festival which lasts for nine days (see Appendix B). Most of our member agencies rely on voluntary workers who are unable to attend in mid week. In practice the whole responsibility for welfare services for week-long events has tended to fall on Release with the assistance of two or three individuals from other agencies. Release has indicated that this degree of commitment puts a severe strain on their organisation especially at festivals on unauthorised sites where no emergency medical facilities are available. The increasing number of small free festivals might best be serviced by a small combined Festival Welfare Services team consisting of a representative of several agencies able to react in a flexible way to requirements as they make themselves apparent on the spot. This approach was first used at the Megan Fayre where it proved reasonably successful. Difficulties are likely to arise as to how such operations will be financed, since free festival organisers frequently have no funds available for the purpose and most of our member organisations are in the same position. The Festival Welfare Services Committee, in conjunction with its member agencies, is continuing actively to explore various possibilities for the efficient adaptation of welfare services to such small scale festivals.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations(a) Organisation of the Work of Festival Welfare Services

The experience of 1976 has shown that a full-time worker can be kept more than fully occupied during the festival season. It is clear that difficulties were caused by the fact that the worker could not be appointed until the end of June by which time the festival season was well under way and immediate involvement in the practical problems of particular festivals necessarily diverted attention from more long term planning. It was also found that limitations both of time and finance prevented the worker from attending preliminary meetings in connection with projected festivals to the full extent which would have been desirable. The same pressures also made it difficult to work out adequately a system of festival planning which would involve all Festival Welfare Services Organisations.

As in previous years difficulties arose from the fact that some member organisations do not have sufficient funds available in advance to purchase supplies needed for particular festivals (for example, emergency feeding).



It is therefore recommended :

- (i) that the Festival Welfare Services Committee should give further study to the structure, organisation and the relationship of the Committee to its full-time worker, considering in particular -
  - (1) possible separation of the overall policy making by Festival Welfare Services, the practical development of such policies by a sub-group of the Main Committee;
  - (2) the establishment of planning groups for particular festivals;
  - (3) provision of part-time assistance to the worker by member organisations:
- (ii) that Festival Welfare Services should continue to employ a full-time worker at least during the festival season with the appointment being made at the latest by March in each year. In this connection discussion should be initiated between Festival Welfare Services and the Voluntary Services Unit with a view to a formal application for further funding being submitted in good time for this to be possible. The difficulty in finding suitably qualified, experienced persons willing to accept a short term appointment might possibly be solved by asking member organisations to make one of their own workers available for the position.
- (iii) Finance permitting a Festival Welfare Services reserve fund should be set up to make short term loans to member organisations for operations at festivals.

(b) Policy in relation to payment for services by Commercial Promoters

The problems arising have been discussed above (see 5 (c) ).

It is recommended that Festival Welfare Services representatives on the Melchett Committee should invite that committee to discuss this matter as part of their review of statutory control of the licensing of festivals.

It is further recommended that agreements between Festivals Welfare Services and commercial festival promoters should be incorporated in a formal contract, as suggested above (again see 5 (c) ).

(c) Festival Welfare Services Publicity

It is recommended that the Festival Welfare Services Committee should further consider methods of all those concerned as to the services offered by the Committee, including mailing to local authorities, as suggested under 4 (b) above.

APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A            Finance
- APPENDIX B            Legal Problems at Free Festivals
- APPENDIX C            Reports and Material on Festivals attended  
in 1976.

APPENDIX A

## FESTIVAL WELFARE SERVICES FINANCES - JUNE/DEC 1976

	£
Salary	1560
Travel & Subsistence	315
Postage & Telephone	189
Printing & Stationery (including Report)	73
General Expenses	69
Recruitment Cost	50
	<hr/>
TOTAL	<u>2256</u>

APPENDIX B

LEGAL PROBLEMS OF FREE FESTIVALS - THE BROADOAK AND SEASALTER FESTIVALS

(a) The History of the People's Free Festival

The People's Free Festival, held at Windsor in 1972 and 1973, has been a source of difficulty and controversy ever since the third festival was brought to an abrupt end, amidst considerable violence, by police action at Windsor in 1974. When it was subsequently made clear that the Crown Estate Commissioners would not allow the festival to be held at Windsor, Festival Welfare Services was amongst the many organisations and individuals which attempted to find a peaceful solution through the provision of an alternative legal site. These efforts were eventually successful, and the 1975 festival took place in a peaceful and orderly manner on a site provided by the government at Watchfield, Oxfordshire. Festival Welfare Services groups participated fully in the provision of Welfare services, with the assistance of a grant of £200 from Oxfordshire Social Services.

Following the festival at Watchfield, the Department of the Environment set up Lord Melchett's Working Group on Pop Festivals, to which Festival Welfare Services was invited to nominate two members. Mr. Don Aitken and Mr. Walter Lloyd agreed to serve. The Group's deliberations however were largely pre-empted by the government's announcement, made on 13th April 1976, that no site would be provided in 1976. In their Report on Free Festivals, published in June 1976, the Group made the following observations :

"We hope that the organisers of the People's Free Festival will find a suitable private site on which their festival can be held with the landowner's permission and in acceptable conditions. We realise that it may be difficult for them to find a site for their event and we would hope that the Festival Welfare Services Committee might be able to play a role in offering assistance and advice to the organisers."

In accordance with this suggestion, Festival Welfare Services representatives attended various meetings arranged by the People's Free Festival organisers, but no suitable site was found.

(b) The Tangmere Site

The use as a festival site of the disused RAF station at Tangmere, Sussex was apparently first suggested in late June. This was not one of the possible sites considered by the Melchett Committee, since the greater part of it was under lease to local farmers for agricultural use. On July 5th representatives of the organisers met Mr. Tony Nelson, MP for Chichester, who expressed his opposition to the use of this site. In view of widespread press speculation that this site might be used, Vicki Stangroome, the Festival Welfare Services fieldworker, and Mr. Tim Malyon of the Festival Welfare Services Committee, visited Tangmere on July 8th where they had discussions with the Vicar and other local residents. On asking permission to enter the airfield they had their names taken by police.

On July 17th at a public meeting and picnic held in Windsor Great Park, prospective festival-goers voted in favour of the Tangmere site and against a return of the festival to Windsor, which it was felt would inevitably lead to a confrontation with police. Shortly thereafter High Court proceedings for an injunction were commenced against six alleged organisers, and on July 29th an ex parte injunction was granted against Sid Rawle but refused against the other five defendants. On August 12th Festival Welfare Services

representatives were present at a meeting between the organisers and Lord Melchett, at which Lord Melchett was asked and agreed to endeavour to arrange a meeting between the organisers and representatives of the Ministry of Defence, while expressing his view that such a meeting was unlikely to be productive. In the event, the Ministry of Defence declined to meet the organisers, and decided to continue with the injunction proceedings.

One of the defendants in the injunction proceedings, Steve Bookham, approached Festival Welfare Services and asked that affidavits should be prepared regarding his involvement in the Festival Welfare Services visit to Tangmere on July 8th, and such affidavits were sworn by Vicki Stangroome and Don Aitken. At a further High Court hearing on August 18th an ex parte injunction was granted against Jex Cole and voluntary undertakings given to the court by Mr. Bookham and three others.

(c) The Broadoak Valley Site

On August 16th press reports appeared referring to the possibility of the festival being held at Broadoak Valley, Kent. On the same day this was confirmed by an anonymous telephone call to the Festival Welfare Services office. Vicki Stangroome then telephoned the appropriate authorities in the Canterbury area to inform them of these plans and arrange meetings. A Festival Welfare Services committee meeting the same day arranged for the Chairman, Sue Barnet and Don Aitken to accompany her to these meetings.

On 17 August meetings were held between the Festival Welfare Services representatives, a representative of the organisers, and various authorities, including Kent Social Services and Canterbury City Environmental Health Officers. The purpose of these meetings, as far as Festival Welfare Services was concerned, was to discuss contingency plans for welfare services in the normal manner. On 19 August, without any warning or further discussion, legal proceedings were commenced by the Mid Kent Water Company against Mr Aitken and Ms Stangroome on the basis of their attendance at these meetings, as well as against two of the Tangmere defendants and two others, including Tim Malyon, another member of the Festival Welfare Services committee. Ex parte injunctions were granted on 20 August against all the defendants except Tim Malyon and Lucy Douglas, and against four additional defendants.

At a meeting held on 23 August the Festival Welfare Services committee reaffirmed their policy of providing or helping to provide for all festivals such medical and other welfare services as necessary for the health and safety of those attending, irrespective of the legality or otherwise of the festival site, and instructed Vicki Stangroome to defend the proceedings. Contingency plans were made for the provision of welfare services at the festival, whether it was held at Broadoak or on another site.

During the next few days an extraordinarily elaborate operation was mounted in Broadoak Valley by the Mid Kent Water Company and Kent Police, who drafted over 200 police officers into the area. The Chief Constable, purporting to be acting under powers conferred by the Road Traffic Act 1972, closed all roads into the Valley and had them blocked with steel mesh barricades and trenches. Excavators were converted into home-made armoured cars. Those living in the Valley were faced with long delays as they were required to prove their identity before entering or leaving. Considerable resentment and criticism resulted from what was described by some residents as "provocative over-reaction". One farmer was warned by police that his 40 acres of potatoes were likely to "disappear" if the festival took place. Another removed 80 tons of hay and straw from a barn. All livestock was removed from the valley, according to the local press "following previous experiences at the Windsor festival, when deer were slaughtered by fans" (no such incident ever occurred). As vigilante groups and pick-axe handles became major topics of concern, the prevailing state of mind in Broadoak rapidly became one of blind unreasoning panic.

On 26 August the hearing on the injunctions took place before Mr Justice Slade. Ex parte injunctions were continued against all the alleged organisers except Philip Byfield (the only one to appear), who gave a voluntary undertaking. Don Aitken appeared in person and Vicki Stangroome was represented by counsel, both arguing that their involvement had been no more than proper and necessary for the provision of welfare services. The judge accepted that there was no evidence that they were organisers of the festival and that "there could be no doubt as to the worthiness of their motives", but held that the plaintiffs were entitled to an injunction limited to preventing them from trespassing on the plaintiff's land or aiding others to do so. The Festival Welfare Services committee subsequently instructed Ms Stangroome to abide strictly by the terms of this revised injunction.

(d) The Seasalter Site

It was apparent throughout that the only effect of the barricades at Broadoak would be to divert festival-goers to another site in the area; by the time the Broadoak injunctions were confirmed on 26 August the first tents had already been pitched in a field on the Graveney marshes near Seasalter. The Festival Welfare Services advance party which had been awaiting events in the area moved on to the Seasalter site the following day, and by the advertised starting of the festival, 28 August, there were more than 1000 people on the site and a normal Festival Welfare Services welfare operation, involving units from Release, the Samaritans and Civil Aid, was functioning effectively. Following the departure of the Civil Aid first aid team and ambulance on 31 August, a St John Ambulance team attended at the entrance to the site for several hours each day.

During the first weekend of the festival contact was established between the festival organisers, the police and the landowners. The Kent branch of the National Farmers Union also participated in these discussions, which led to the owners agreeing to take no steps to clear the land until the end of the festival. Daily meetings were held between organisers and police, some of which were also attended by Festival Welfare Services representatives. Life inside the festival site soon settled down to a smooth routine, and there were no major problems. The site and the Festival Welfare Services welfare operation were visited daily by Environmental Health Officers and occasionally by the District Community Physician and representatives of the Social Services Department, including the Director.

(e) Relations with Police

Police policy was to remain outside the festival site and maintain a strict control over the approach roads and immediate neighbourhood. A large number of police, transferred from Broadoak, seemed to devote most of their time to an intensive stop and search operation based at Seasalter Yacht Club. A generous interpretation of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was invoked to justify repeated searches of the same people on every occasion that they left the site: one person was searched four times in 1½ hours and one group of people 14 times during the course of the festival. This aroused great resentment on the site leading on one occasion to a demonstration at the site entrance. Welfare groups were particularly perturbed by the fact that on at least four occasions persons found in possession of such drugs as anti-histamines and aspirin supplied by welfare workers on the site were taken to Canterbury and held for several hours while these materials were analysed, although the doctors or first-aid workers who had supplied them were available and prepared to identify them. It seemed to be invariable police practice that those found with any kind of pill were taken to Canterbury; in a considerable number of cases such people were released in Canterbury after a negative analysis in the small hours and in heavy rain, and left to walk the eight miles back to the site.



In spite of the problems caused by searches, about which numerous complaints were made, a working relationship between police and organisers was maintained and organisers and Festival Welfare Services workers assisted in such matters as preventing any overspill from the site onto surrounding farm land or unnecessary damage to the site itself. Trench latrines were dug and maintained and supervised in consultation with the Environmental Health Officer, all suppliers of food were inspected and approved by him, and all refuse was cleared from the site and deposited at an agreed collection point by the site entrance although the collection vehicle arranged with the District Council and paid for by the organisers had not arrived by the time the site was cleared, due to mechanical problems. Great assistance was given in liaison with local authorities by Mr Robert Neame, a member of the Melchett Committee.

At about midnight on Sunday 5 September, Festival Welfare Services were informed by police that a missing fourteen-year-old girl was believed to be on the site. An announcement was immediately made over the stage public address, and the following morning a search of the site was made by Festival Welfare Services workers and volunteers, as a result of which the girl was found and returned to her parents.

(f) Outstanding Problems

1) In spite of the Melchett Committee's efforts, the problem of finding a legal site for the People's Free Festival seems as far from solution as ever, and likely to cause further problems in 1977. We understand that the organisers intend to seek the help of the National Farmers Union, who played a useful liaison role at Seasalter. It seems unlikely that Festival Welfare Services can help any further, although we remain ready to advise if asked.

2) The problems caused for Festival Welfare Services by the Broadoak injunction case, particularly in terms of the diversion of effort from our normal activities at a very busy time, have been considerable. The trial of the substantive issue is still pending. We would hope that landowners and local authorities who find themselves in similar situations in the future will realise that there is little to be gained by such litigation, and nothing by involving in it such organisations as Festival Welfare Services who are primarily concerned with welfare problems and always prepared to discuss and agree with them the best way of dealing with particular situations.

3) Festival Welfare Services believe that the extent and nature of the police reaction to the events at Broadoak and Seasalter gives cause for concern, both from the point of view of civil liberties and community relations generally, and as regards the difficulties put in the way of welfare groups. We understand that a number of formal complaints are now being investigated, but we would hope that Kent Police will re-examine their policy, particularly in regard to the encouragement of undue panic in the Broadoak area, the scope of the search operation and the size and cost (estimated at £200,000) of the operation as a whole. We endorse the findings of the Melchett Committee that "Experience has shown that where there has been co-operation, a good relationship has been built up between police officers and the great majority of festival goers, and festivals have been held with little or no trouble and with relatively small numbers of police officers in attendance.", and that "it is important for people not to over-react to the imagined dangers of a pop festival."

4) As noted in the main text of this Report, some difficulties have been encountered in keeping Festival Welfare Services operations functioning at the required level throughout a nine day festival without undue strain on staff. It is believed, however, that these problems are being overcome.



County Secretary:  
A. ELLIOTT, A.C.I.S.

Deputy County Secretary:  
S. LEAVEY

Assistant County Secretary  
D. B. CLAYTON, B.Sc. F.R.G.S.

Area Horticultural Secretary:  
T. J. PENRITH

# The National Farmers' Union

East Sussex County Branch

Kent County Branch

N.F.U. OFFICES, HIGH STREET, CRANBROOK, EKTN.

~~1041 TOUGHNESS KITCHEN ALUMINUM ELK KATIBUNIC 2858~~

Tel: CRANBROOK 2591.

~~XX~~

Your Ref

Our Ref

31st August 1976

## P R E S S                N O T I C E

### FREE FESTIVAL - SEASALTER

The following statement by the N.F.U. is made after consultation with representatives of the legal owners and with the occupiers of the land at Seasalter.

The owners and occupiers of the land at Seasalter on which the Free Festival is now taking place firmly deprecate the circumstances in which their land was entered and is now temporarily occupied. They wish to confirm beyond any doubt that no permissions whatever, expressed or implied were given for such entry, that it is therefore a trespass on private land and, as such, is illegal.

The owners and occupiers have carefully considered the situation as it exists at this time and, without prejudice to their rights have decided not to implement legal measures for repossession until after next weekend.

This decision has been taken in consideration of the interests of the Community at large and of the need to safeguard the productive agricultural land of the area.

The N.F.U. has throughout been in touch with the situation and with those representing the organisers of the Festival. They too deprecate the illegal entry of agricultural land. The Chairman of the N.F.U. in Kent Mr. Roy Gribble, wishes to place on record his concern for those who are farming the land both on the site and in the neighbourhood and his appreciation of the decision now made by those entitled to seek immediate repossession. Their decision should stabilise a situation which could otherwise have deteriorated to the detriment of many surrounding farmers and members of the public.

1976 M. No. 4363IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICECHANCERY DIVISIONGROUP A

MID KENT WATER COMPANY &amp; ORS.

v.

- DAVID EDWARD COLE &amp; ORS.

---

**A F F I D A V I T****OF****SUSAN ROSAMUND BARNET**

---

SWORN this . . . day of August 1976

FILED this . . . day of August 1976  
on behalf of the second defendantPaddington Neighbourhood  
Law Centre,  
465 Harrow Road, London W.10.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

1976 M. No. 4363

CHANCERY DIVISION

GROUP A

B E T W E E N:

THE MID KENT WATER COMPANY and others Plaintiffs

- and -

DAVID EDWARD COLE and others Defendants

I, SUSAN ROSAMUND BARNET, of 5 Cecile Park, London N8, Community Worker, MAKE OATH and say as follows:-

1. I have been a community worker for twelve years and have been employed as Senior Fieldworker by the Family Planning Association.

2. I have been Chairman of the Festival Welfare Services Committee for four years.

3. The Festival Welfare Services Committee is a co-ordinating body consisting of organisations providing welfare services at pop festivals and similar events.

It was set up in 1971 in response to the suggestion of the Advisory Committee on Pop Festivals of the Department of the Environment. This is referred to at page 59 of that Committee's Report and Code of Practice, a copy of which is now produced and shown to me marked "A". The present member organisations are the British Council of Churches, the Church of England, Grapevine, the National Association of Youth Clubs, the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services, the National Council of YNCA, National Voluntary Civil Aid Services, Release, St. John's

Ambulance Association, the Samaritans and Source.

4. Since 21 June 1976 Victoria Madeline Stangroome has been employed as full time fieldworker and secretary by the Committee. She acts under the direction of the Committee and of myself as Chairman.

5. The terms of reference of the Festival Welfare Services Committee were defined in a document prepared in November 1974, a copy of which is now shown to me marked "B".

6. At a meeting of the Committee held on Monday the 16th August 1976, Ms Stangroome reported that she had been telephoned by a person describing himself as one of the organisers of the People's Free Festival, who had told her that the festival was to be held on a site near Canterbury. The committee then instructed Ms Stangroome, myself as Chairman, and Mr Donald Alan Aitken, another member of the Committee, to visit representatives of Kent Social Services and others in Maidstone and Canterbury on the following day, for the purpose of making contingency plans for welfare services for the festival in the event of its being held on this site.

7. On Tuesday 17 August 1976 Ms Stangroome, Mr Aitken and myself, accompanied by a representative of the festival organisers who introduced himself as Mr Bob Philips, visited Maidstone, where we had discussions with Mr Turner, Assistant to the Director of Social Services for Kent, and Mrs Lamere-Long of the Social Services Department. We discussed the problems likely to arise in connection with the proposed festival, and made

provisional arrangements for dealing with them.

8. We then proceeded to Canterbury, where we had discussions with Mr Batcliffe and other officials of the Divisional Social Services office. We then attended the meeting referred to in the Affidavit of Geoffrey Leslie Almond. At the time of swearing this Affidavit I have not seen the Affidavit of Mr Almond. The purpose of this meeting, as of the other meetings attended by us on that day, was to discuss contingency plans for the provision of welfare services in the event of the festival being held on the Broadoak Valley site.

9. Save as aforesaid, to the best of my knowledge and belief no person acting with the authority of the Festival Welfare Services Committee has taken any part in the organisation of any festival on the Broadoak Valley site.

10. It is the policy of my Committee, reaffirmed at a meeting held on 23 August 1976, that we have a duty to provide such welfare services, medical and other, as may be required at any festival, in the interests of public health and safety, regardless of the legality or otherwise of the event. My Committee does not take any part in organising any festival, other than to provide welfare services.

11. The funds required for the performance of the functions described are provided by the Voluntary Service Unit of the Home Office.

SWORN at )  
 in )  
 this day of August 1976 )

Before me

APPENDIX C

## KNEBORTH PARK CONCERT 1976 (ROLLING STONES)

### Access

All Festival Welfare Services Groups who participated at Knebworth agreed that access from the motorway on to the site was excellent. It was felt, however, that access on the site itself was in some cases very difficult, especially between the campsite and the arena; at future festivals access for two welfare vehicles should be made, perhaps in the form of passes. Difficulty was experienced, for example, when the need for a doctor arose on Saturday and again when Civil Aid needed further supplies of water which had to be brought to the site from Stevenage.

### Site

The siting of the welfare services on the camp site was adequate but more crash tents were needed, possibly another three or four. In future years, perhaps the campsite welfare services should be placed nearer to the arena and in a direct line with the pedestrian route. Welfare groups on the campsite shared half of a large marquee for information and first aid. This proved to be a satisfactory arrangement and worked well.

It is imperative that at future festivals there should be a St John Ambulance unit on the campsite, Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning inclusive.

### Water

I understand from Mr Fairburn that the organisers had problems with the water and certainly more water was needed on the campsite, especially by Civil Aid.

It was felt that more toilets were needed on the campsite and that they should have been more clearly marked, as a number of people were still using the bushes and ditches.

### Counselling

The level of work on the campsite was considerable; the crash tents were full to capacity. In addition to emergency feeding, Civil Aid administered first aid as did the Samaritans and Source. On Saturday afternoon, the Samaritans and Source saw a continuous stream of clients many of them requiring medical attention for ailments ranging from headaches to more serious complaints. The demands made on the counselling facilities during Saturday more than justified the need for a permanent unit, including a St John's First Aid post, a doctor and drug counselling services.

The Release/Samaritans counselling tent in the welfare area was unfortunately placed next to the helicopter landing pad and also to an extremely noisy generator. Even after the generator had been covered, it was felt that the noise level was too high. It was felt that at future festivals, a second counselling tent, sited well away from the St John's unit and the main tent, should be provided for those needing real peace and quiet.

In the drug counselling tent, Release and the Samaritans were very busy throughout Saturday and early Sunday and the level of co-operation between the various groups was very good. For example a young man who had broken his ankles after jumping off the stage, was taken to St John's, who dealt with the medical side of his problem after which a Release doctor provided back-up support and counselling.

The staff toilet facilities for the welfare and administrative area were kept in a clean condition throughout the event.



Removing clients from the arena was facilitated by the kind co-operation of the security staff on the main gate.

### Arena

Facilities in the arena left a lot to be desired, the main concern of the Festival Welfare Services workers being inadequate water supplies and toilet facilities: some people had to queue for up to an hour to use the toilets. The crowds were let into the arena early Saturday morning, but the water was not turned on until 1.30 pm. Given that there was a drought and, as already mentioned, the organisers had problems with the water supply, some delay was understandable, but subjecting such a large number of young people to a 4½ hour delay in the abnormally dry weather caused many welfare problems, including fainting fits, anxiety and general distress.

The information unit in the arena was manned very effectively by local volunteers but the actual layout of the counter made it impossible for workers to conduct private conversations, or for clients to have easy access to the marquee behind the unit for more intensive counselling.

The Samaritans and Release worked under considerable pressure, the vast majority of their clients being in a dazed and confused state resulting from the size of the event. Access to the audience nearest the stage was poor and hence drug counsellors had great difficulty in removing clients, who were in a distressed condition, from this area.

Difficulties were experienced by workers in vehicles when they were in the process of changing shifts from the arena to the campsite. After travelling for some time via Old Knebworth and back on to the Stevenage by-pass, they were unable to gain re-admittance to the welfare area on the camp site, possibly due to a breakdown in communication between the police and organisers.

The radio link between the campsite and the administrative office was very useful and special thanks are due to Nick Dimbleby, Salle from the administrative office and Malcolm Fairburn.

A suggestion was made by one Festival Welfare Services worker that large site plans be placed in strategic positions with "you are here" markings on them showing the public toilets, first aid, water points plus the general layout of the site.

Festival Welfare Services hope that if a concert is held at Knebworth Park next year, these problems can be ironed out well in advance at preliminary discussions with Mr Bannister and his staff.

### DEEPLY VALE, LANCS

Very little pre-planning was possible on this festival as the organisers only announced the site one week before it was due to take place.

I notified the police and AA for the area concerned and the local hospital agreed to take all casualties from the site. The site was in a small valley on an old industrial site. The three day event was held without the owner's permission, but there was no trouble at the event.

Access was difficult: along a three mile pot-holed cart track that was not suitable for use by cars and vans.

There were approximately 300 people at the festival but the numbers increased later, on Saturday and Sunday evening. The toilet facilities consisted of two 20 gallon oil drums sunk into the earth, and the bushes and hedges surrounding the site. The water supply came from a stream running through the valley and two lakes on the edge of the site.

Rochdale Civil Aid were the only welfare group that attended and they coped admirably. They dealt with first aid, 'lost-kids', legal enquiries and cheap hot drinks, working from an ambulance and a portable building.

One of the workers with Civil Aid seemed to spend much of his time ferrying clients to and from hospital.

The food was provided by the Teepee people, local groups and a caravan, selling cakes and sandwiches. The stage, although erected overnight, was a very professional structure.

Only three policemen were in evidence for the festival - two in a car by the cart track and one in the village directing traffic. Deeply Vale though on an illegal site was an example of a pleasant, peaceful festival on a civilised scale and I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent there.

#### Exmoor Free Festival - weekend 12th June 1976

I arrived at midnight on 12th June; it was raining and there was a heavy damp mist. The access to the site was appalling - a 3-in-1 hill, then a stream and then another fairly steep hill of thick mud, presided over by a rather wet, totally crazy gateman. Someone had dumped a quantity of stones on the first hill, in the wrong place, making access to the site very difficult and after a day's continuous drizzle, leaving the site was impossible. Two teams of young people with ropes were fully employed towing cars and vans off site.

The St John's Ambulance was parked about 500 yards from the site, in an entrance to the farm which served as a temporary police station. St John's were well-staffed, co-operative and very friendly. I shudder to think how any emergency vehicles, i.e. ambulances, fire tenders, etc. could have gained access to the site.

On site toilets were insufficient and not clearly enough marked. They consisted of latrine trenches behind the stage, consequently many people were using all parts of the site, including very close proximity to the stream - only source of drinking water - to urinate and defecate, thereby considerably increasing the health hazard.

The food kitchens varied from extremely primitive to very sophisticated. There was an organic bakery on site, very clean and offering wonderful fresh bread every day. I was glad to see that someone was selling fresh fruit and vegetables on site at reasonable prices.

Release attended, with a marquee and in addition to a medical service were dispensing water-purification tablets and chlorine mixture (donated by the local Area Health Authority). The amount of drug cases was limited, cut feet seemed to predominate.

The site was at an altitude of 1200 feet, consisting of marshland and moor. It was very cold at night but I understand from one of the two site doctors that in general people fared very well. There was a heavy mist morning and night.

The police were co-operative and seemed mainly concerned with traffic control and clearing the grass verges close to the site. There was one accident when a three-wheeled vehicle overturned: the passengers got out and walked away, unhurt except for cuts and bruises.

A local farmer donated a quantity of dead wood which had to be collected from a mile away.

There was one stage, the music was abysmal and uneventful continuing until early morning but not very loudly. At one point the amplification equipment was too wet to use.

### MEGAN FAYRE/CHRYMECH

The Megan Fayre has evolved over several years from an original Mops Fayre and has the advantage of having co-operation from the local people, and for the past two years, a legal privately owned site.

This year's Fayre was well organised and well run. About 3000 people attended including many local people who came the evening after attending an Eistedfod.

The Presyelli Civial aid (a new branch) had a cheap food kitchen and a multi-purpose team from FWS attended to help with first aid, drug and legal problems.

The toilets consisted of a large deep trench at the top of the main field with an A bar forming the seat. Sawdust was thrown into it at appropriate intervals and a local farmer was interested in using it for compost.

The toilet trench became an early morning meeting place and was soon an established social occasion.

The water was brought on to the field in a slurry tanker and fed into a smaller tank by a hosepipe.

Access to the site was directly from a B road. St John's Ambulance Brigade attended at regular intervals and took several clients to hospital and the local district nurse saw several people on the Monday morning.

Herbal remedies ran rife in the first aid tent.

It was a well run and exciting festival and greatly enjoyed by all the FWS members who attended.

### CHORLEY-JULY WAKES

The FWS worker and Walter Lloyd of Civil Aid were involved in this three day folk festival from a very early date. The site at Charnock Richard was visited several weeks before the festival actually took place and the organisers were advised on various aspects of the welfare arrangements including fire prevention and the siting of the welfare area.

It was a well chosen site on a permanent show ground with easy access from the motorway. To add to the enjoyment of the fans there was a swimming pool open 24 hours a day, a rather expensive restaurant and several bars, one of which served very good food, and a sauna. The stage was in an amphitheatre setting and the music was very good.

Unfortunately most of the equipment promised by the organisers for the welfare area failed to arrive and all the services except St John's, the Samaritans and Civil Aid had to share one large marquee. Also there was an insufficient supply of propane cylinders and the Civil Aid team who were selling cheap food were closed down by the local health inspectors. The toilets and water supply were much too far away from the campsite and many people were using the bushes and hedges. There was no actual water supply on the campsite and FWS members received many complaints about this. St John's and Red Cross had a large marquee and support from local doctors.

The YMCA organised facilities for lost property and left luggage, first from a van and then from the organisers' administration tent. The Samaritans and Release saw a steady stream of clients, none of them with very serious problems.

The local volunteers, originally recruited for the lost children's tent found themselves doing all kinds of jobs as no tent had been provided, despite previous assurances from the organisers.

It was agreed amongst FWS members that if the attendance figures had been larger, then the facilities provided would have been inadequate and they would have been hard pressed to cope.

The organisers agreed to pay £500 to FWS in respect of expenses incurred but unfortunately have not done so and it has been necessary to take out a default summons in the County Court against them.