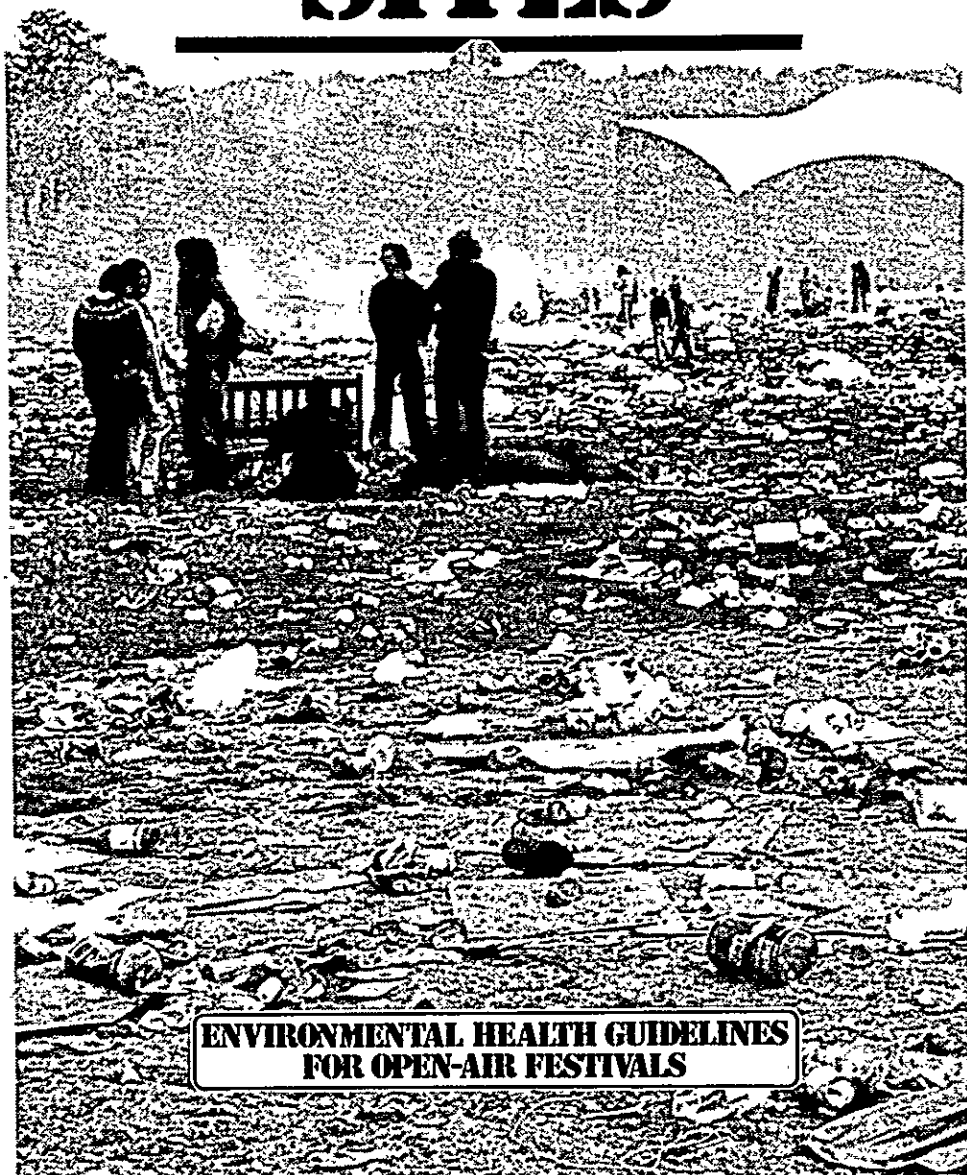


HEALTHY FESTIVAL SITES



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH GUIDELINES
FOR OPEN-AIR FESTIVALS**

Healthy Festival Sites: Environmental Health Guidelines for Open-Air Festivals

was prepared by Penny Mellor, Field Worker, Festival Welfare Services, and John Stollery, Environmental Health Officer, Waverley District Council

Cover Photograph: Rubbish left on site after the Knebworth Park Concert 1979 (David Harper)

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INTRODUCTION

1 Festival Welfare Services

Festival Welfare Services was established in 1972 to co-ordinate the work of organisations concerned with the provision of voluntary welfare facilities at open-air festivals.

Festival Welfare Services provides a wide variety of services on festival sites, as well as liaising with festival organisers and local authorities over the provision of suitable and sufficient health facilities.

Festival Welfare Services is used as a source of information and advice relating to the planning of festivals. The office has a collection of resource material which we would welcome anyone seeking information to use. We would also welcome comments on the usefulness of these guidelines and any constructive ideas which assist in the improvement of facilities on festival sites.

2 Purpose of the Guidelines

These guidelines have been prepared to help festival organisers to ensure that their festival site is safe and pleasant for those attending. We also outline ways to minimise the disturbance to local people not attending the festival.

The guidelines can only make suggestions and do not contain rules which can be applied in every situation. They are based on our experiences of festivals of many kinds. In drawing up these guidelines, we have received assistance from environmental health officers in areas where festivals have been held.

The guidelines assume that the proposed festival has responsible organisers. In the event of a festival happening where no preparations have been made, these guidelines may still be of some use to anyone trying to create acceptable facilities on site, although time may be short and there may be few resources available, as well as legal difficulties.

3 Local Authority Health Departments and Festival Organisers

When festivals are held, the local environmental health department is involved to ensure that certain minimum standards of hygiene and safety are maintained. Outside the site, the environmental health department will wish to ensure that the festival causes the least possible disturbance to local residents.

In October last year, Festival Welfare Services organised a seminar to discuss environmental health problems associated with festivals and possible means of dealing with them.

We have used the information gained at the seminar, together with the results of our own research, to prepare these guidelines which it is hoped will supplement and update the information contained in the Stevenson Report. (Advisory Committee on Pop Festivals, Report and Code of Practice, HMSO, London 1973.)

GUIDELINES

General Festival Organisation

The three most important factors relating to the provision of site facilities are: the size of crowd attracted to the festival; the duration of the festival; and the amount of money available for its organisation.

Listed below are some of the decisions which must be made before any site facilities can be considered:

How many people will attend?

(Type of music; amount of advertising; admission charges)

Where will the festival take place?

(Public or private property; present land use; landscape; soil type; water-catchment area; size of site; proximity of neighbours; access to site)

How much capital is available?

(Commercial enterprise; free festival; non-profit making)

What legal provisions affect the festival?

(National legislation; local by-laws)

When will the festival take place?

(Length of festival; weekend/public holiday; coincidence with other local/national events; season; weather forecast)

What sort of people will attend?

(Age and age range; young children and babies; disabled people; homeless people; foreigners; ratio of males to females {see Table 1})

How will the site be laid out?

(Separate arena; camping area; car parks; trackways)

Once these questions have been answered, the more specific requirements for the provision of site facilities can be examined.

Toilet Facilities

Almost everybody attending a festival will use the toilet facilities at some time.

Toilet facilities provided by festival organisers must be safe. This means that the toilets must be clean (to prevent risk of infection), must be structurally sound and must be so constructed that people (particularly children) do not fall into them. The toilets should be illuminated at night, should be protected from rain and should be provided with a supply of toilet paper. If toilet facilities are clean, pleasant to use and easily accessible, they will be used (thus preventing fouling of the site) and will be less liable to vandalism. If sufficient toilets are not provided on site, nearby hedges, woodland, fields, fences, tents, etc. will be used, which may lead to considerable long-term fouling.

TABLE 1

Ratio of Males to Females at Festivals

Estimated by:

	Males : Females
Department of the Environment 1973*	between 3 : 1 and 5 : 1
Greater London Council 1978*	3 : 2
Festival Welfare Services Survey 1979 found	
all festivals	2 : 1
commercial festivals	2½ : 1

TABLE 2

Numbers of Toilets

Recommended by:

Dept. of Health & Social Security 1971*	1 unit per 100 people
World Health Organisation 1971*	1 bore hole per 20 people 3 meter trench per 100 people 1 urinal (2 m long) per 25 males
Department of the Environment 1973*	1 unit per 150 males 1 unit per 75 females 1 foot urinal per 100 males
Greater London Council 1978*	1 unit per 100 people 1 foot urinal per 66 males
FWS Survey 1979 found	1 unit per 140 people 1 foot urinal per 140 males

TABLE 3

Amount of Water to be Supplied

Recommended by:

Dept. of Health & Social Security 1971*	½ gallon per person for 1 day festival 4 gallons per person per day at camping festivals
Department of the Environment 1973*	1 gallon per person per day 1 tap per 1000 people
Greater London Council 1978*	1 tap per 5000 people
FWS Survey 1979 found	1 gallon per person per day consumed

*These publications are detailed in Appendix 3

Types of Toilets

A wide variety of toilet facilities have been provided on festival sites, although three types are most frequently encountered. These are:

Permanent units (found on sites used for other activities, such as racecourses, agricultural showgrounds). Permanent units require regular inspection and servicing throughout the festival to prevent fouling.

Mobile toilet units (available on commercial hire, eg portaloos and 'roundabouts' [see Photograph 1]). Self-contained mobile toilet units may be hired from a number of firms, but tend to be expensive. The type of toilets intended for connection to the main sewer require regular inspection since connections tend to break frequently; the chemical variety need regular supervision and emptying. (A list of hire companies dealing with portable toilets may be obtained from FWS.)

Self-constructed toilets (latrine trenches, oil drums, etc. [see Diagram 1]). Perhaps the simplest possible toilet facilities consist of no more than a latrine trench with lime in the bottom. To this pattern a variety of seats, poles or rests may be added, together with shelters for privacy and protection from the weather [see Photograph 2]. Trench type toilets have the advantage that, when full or fouled, a new trench can fairly easily be dug. Where it is not acceptable to allow faecal contamination of the ground, almost any waterproof container can be used as a holding tank (40 gallon oil drums are often used). The holding tank is usually partially filled with disinfectant and must be emptied at frequent intervals [see Photograph 3].

Urinal Accommodation

Whatever type of toilet facilities are provided, it is advisable to construct additional urinal accommodation. Again, soakage into the soil is the easiest method of disposal, although local conditions (eg if the water table is near the surface) may make it necessary to provide holding tanks. A variety of structures can be used to direct urine into the soakage pits or holding tank. (Sloping metal or plastic guttering and troughs have been used [see Diagram 2].) It is advisable to provide screening around urinals for privacy; if this is not done, there is no advantage over using the nearest hedge! [see Photographs 4 and 5]

Numbers of Toilets

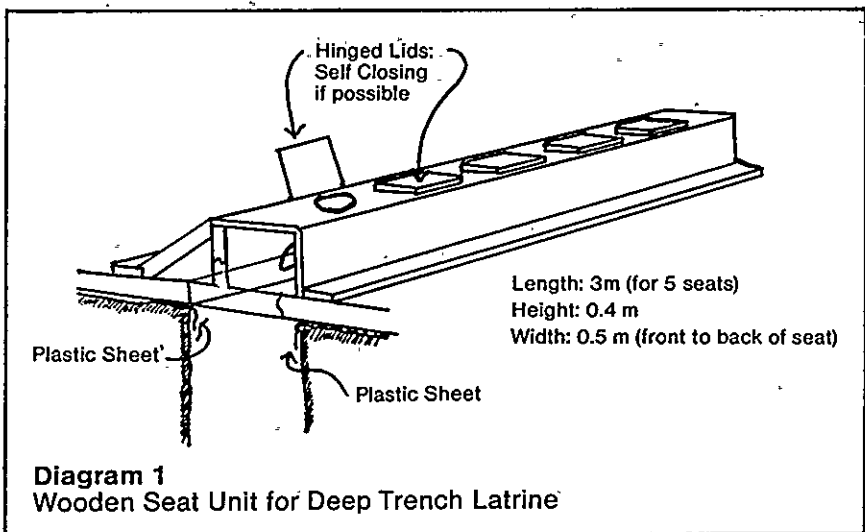
Table 2 lists some recommendations for the number of toilets to be provided. Calculations of the number of separate toilets to be provided for males and females are difficult. Table 1 shows ratios of males to females attending festivals, but where urinals are provided, the number of toilet units to be provided for males can be reduced.

Many festivals have unsegregated toilet facilities. However, in our experience women tend to be more particular about the toilet facilities they are prepared to use. Women have a greater need for privacy and have special requirements such as for the disposal of sanitary towels and in pregnancy. Severely physically handicapped people may attend the festival and special mobile toilets for the disabled can be hired.



David Harper

Photograph 1: Glastonbury Fayre 1979
Cleaning the 'Roundabouts'



Siting of Toilets

Toilet facilities need to be easily accessible and should not be positioned in the middle of the most densely crowded areas, yet should be within easy reach of the audience. Access must also be considered for the servicing team and emptying vehicle, as must the undesirability of placing toilets very near to other services such as food stands.

At many festivals toilets have been sited around the perimeter of the arena, and those positioned closest to the stage have been used most heavily. Obvious sign-posting of the toilets should be arranged, preferably with site maps showing the position of toilets and other facilities.

Servicing

In addition to there being sufficient numbers of toilets, they must be regularly and reliably serviced to make sure they function properly, that all connections are maintained, that they are kept clean and illuminated at night. Toilet paper (preferably soft, white) should be supplied in a position so that it can't be removed or dropped down the toilet and doesn't get wet in rain.

Some form of disinfectant and deodorant should be used. There is a variety of disinfectants which can be purchased in bulk, but care must be taken when handling the more concentrated forms, as the liquid can cause severe irritation to the skin and eyes.

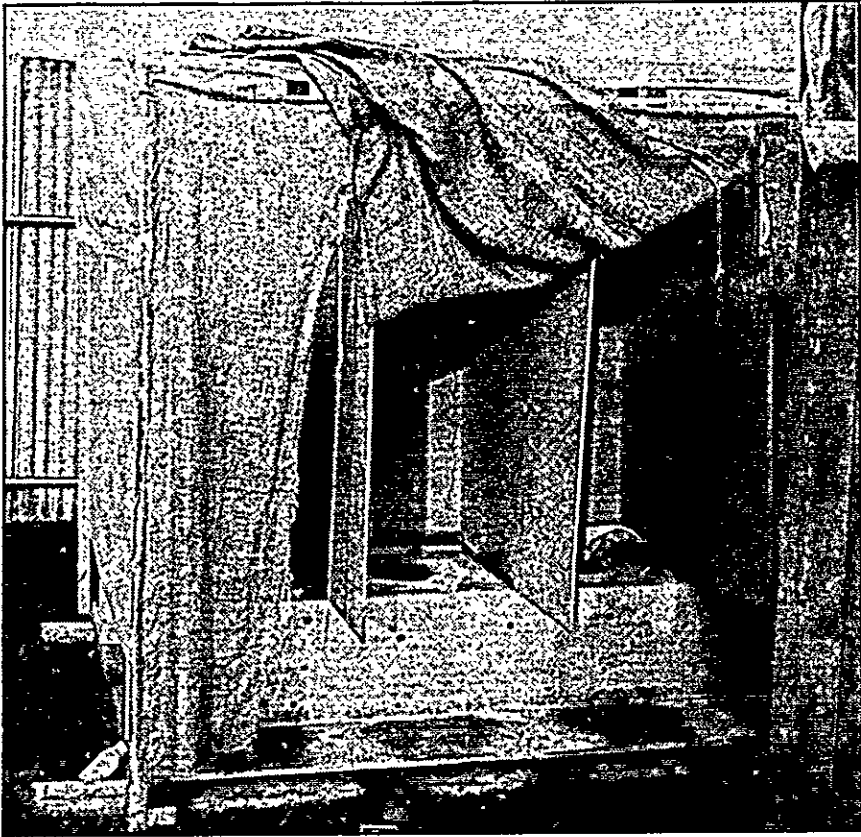
Any toilet servicing team will need the following equipment: rubber gloves, buckets, mops, disinfectant, water (if there is no convenient supply), toilet rolls, string, scissors, torch, light bulbs. They should wear old clothes and wellington boots. There needs to be provisions for closing down toilet units rapidly, if they become unusable, and for directing people to the nearest alternative units.

Water Supply

Water at festivals is needed for drinking, washing, catering, toilets, medical services and fire-fighting. A plentiful supply should be available, which is fit for drinking (otherwise the supply should be clearly marked as unfit to drink).

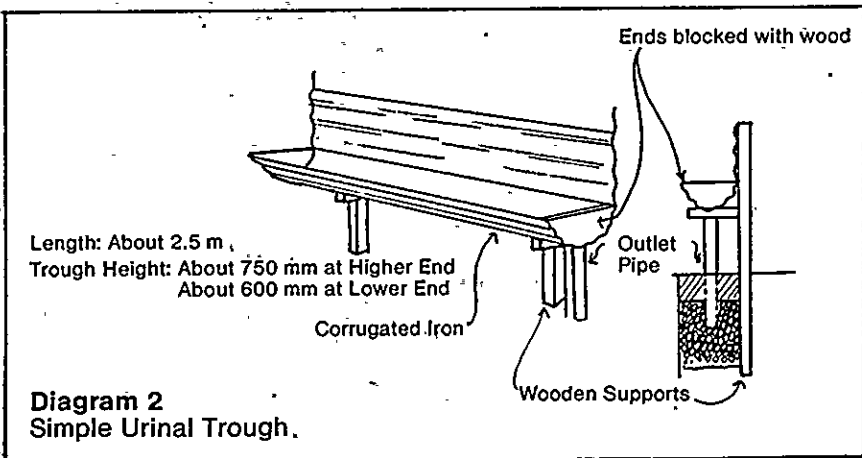
Festival organisers should liaise closely with the local authority over the supply of water, especially for drinking purposes and the drainage of waste water. The soil type at the festival site may not be conducive to easy drainage (eg heavy clay soil) or may lead to pollution of reservoirs (eg in chalky areas). The local authority may be able to advise whether local sources of water, such as streams, or lakes, are fit to drink.

If water is not provided, people will obtain their own supply from whatever sources are most accessible. This can cause problems if water is taken from a nearby contaminated stream or if festival-goers keep visiting the local pub for water, which has caused friction with local residents.



David Harper

Photograph 2: Knebworth Park 1979
Self-constructed wooden toilets over deep trench



Water containers

Water has been supplied to festival sites by tapping water mains and by bringing on water barrels and bowsers. All connections need to be supervised and maintained. Water supplied in closed containers must be checked to prevent contamination and for refills to be arranged. Water standing for long periods of time in closed containers in hot weather becomes less palatable.

It is important that the outlet for the water is in a position so that people can easily fill small containers from it [see Photograph 6]. A tap placed about two feet above ground level is most convenient. Problems can be caused if the tap is left running and press-button taps help, but seem to break down more easily. Provision should be made for drainage around the supply, so the ground does not become water-logged. Wooden pallets have been used as a bridge over the moat caused by water spillage.

Amount of Water

Table 3 shows the recommendations for the amount of water to be supplied at festivals. Our research shows that the average amount is approximately one gallon per person per day. More water is needed at longer festivals and in hot weather. Large catering establishments will have special requirements.

Siting of Water Supply

The water supply has to be easily accessible in all parts of the festival site. Water is very heavy, and people will not want to carry large quantities over long distances. The Department of the Environment recommends a maximum walking distance of no more than 200 yards to a supply of drinking water. Water for washing should be available near the toilets and water for cooking should be available on the campsite.

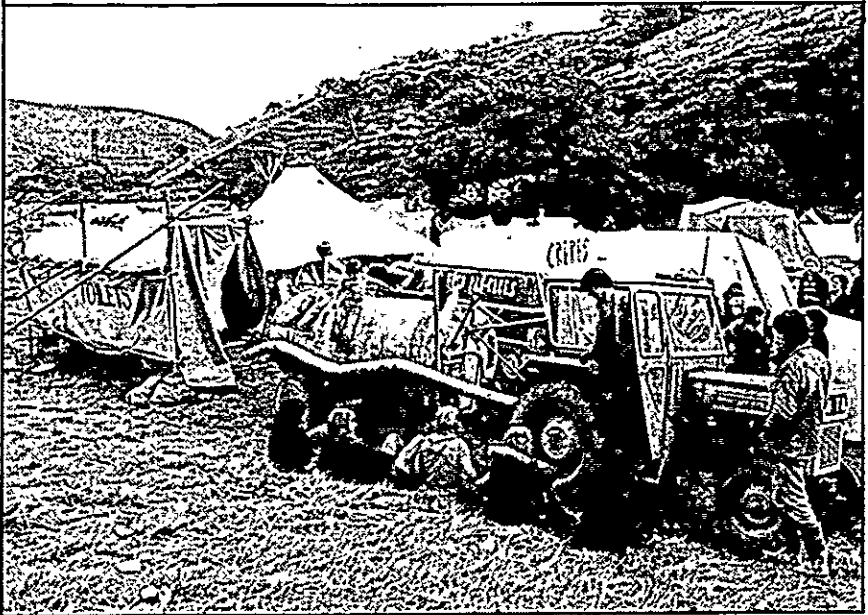
Washing Facilities

Especially at longer festivals, some form of washing facility is needed. The simplest form, apart from a tap, is the provision of a plastic bowl near the source of water, with the additional sophistication of a bar of soap! Other systems include metal troughs or curved, corrugated-iron 'runs' with small holes in the bottom for drainage, or tilted to drain through a hole in one end. The system should also be usable for washing-up cooking equipment and clothes. Some mobile toilets units have washbasins installed.

Showers can be constructed very simply. At one festival a length of hose-pipe connected to the water mains, with a rosette on the other end, was suspended from a tree to provide a shower.

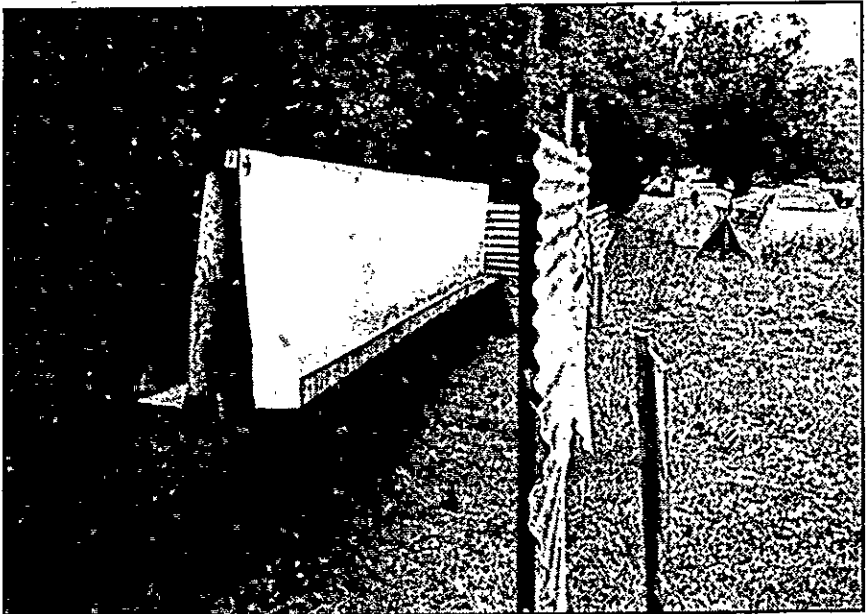
Refuse

The most common forms of litter on festival sites are food and drink cans, plastic containers, bottles, plastic sheeting and paper. Litter is unpleasant and can cause problems. (Pests are attracted to piles of rotting material; glass and tins on the ground have caused injuries; inflammable material is a fire risk.)



Harry Podlewski

Photograph 3: Deeply Vale 1978
Emptying the toilets



David Harper

Photograph 4: Glastonbury Fayre 1979
Screened Urinal

Festival organisers can provide rubbish containers and clean the site during the festival, or only clear up the site after the festival has ended (see cover photograph). The latter course is often taken at large festivals of short duration, whereas at longer festivals, people will be using the site for several days and there is more of an incentive for festival-goers themselves to keep the ground clear.

Types of Rubbish Containers

Several types of rubbish containers have been used at festivals, including large skips on commercial hire, 40 gallon oil drums, conventional wire waste bins, and plastic or paper sacks, either supported in a frame or loose. Skips have the advantage of containing large quantities of rubbish in one area, which is easier to dispose of, but have the disadvantage that more people have to take their litter further to deposit it. Also, skips full of rubbish have caught fire, causing a considerable hazard. Smaller containers can be distributed around the site, so are easier to reach by festival-goers, but are time-consuming to empty and prone to fall into disrepair. Plastic or paper sacks are cheap to provide, and can be distributed where and when needed. In wet weather, though, plastic sacks get used for personal shelter and the paper sort are not very durable. Rubbish in untied sacks can also be easily spread out over the site again, especially by foraging animals.

Siting of Rubbish Containers

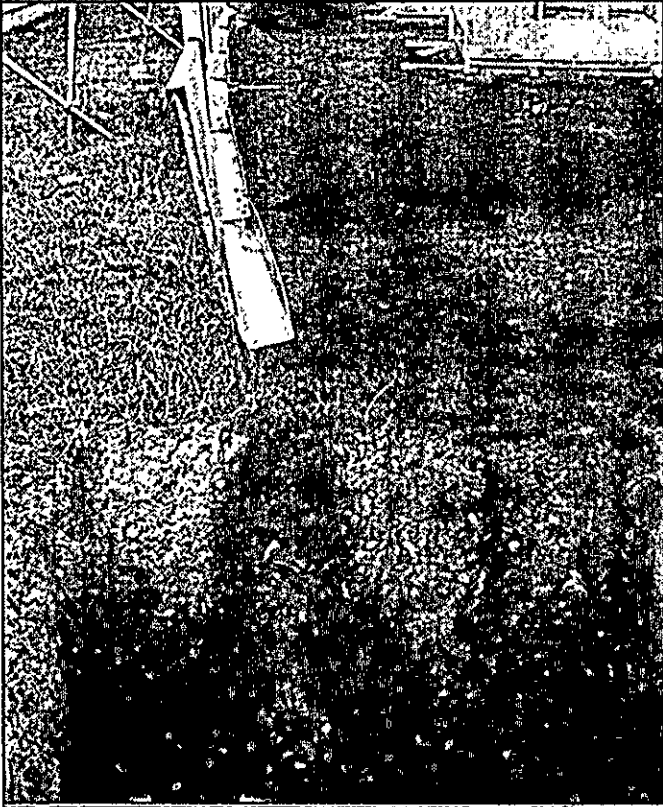
If the rubbish containers are to be well used by the festival-goers, they must be within easy reach, so more of them have to be provided near the most crowded parts of the site. This is not always convenient, as the containers take up valuable space, and access may be difficult for emptying them. The larger the container, the slower it will fill, but the more difficult it will be to empty, as access by a large vehicle will be necessary. Siting around the perimeter allows easier access for emptying, but the containers may not be as well used. Litter receptacles are especially needed around the food and drink stands, for the disposal of plates, napkins, cups, cans, uneaten food etc.

Rubbish Removal

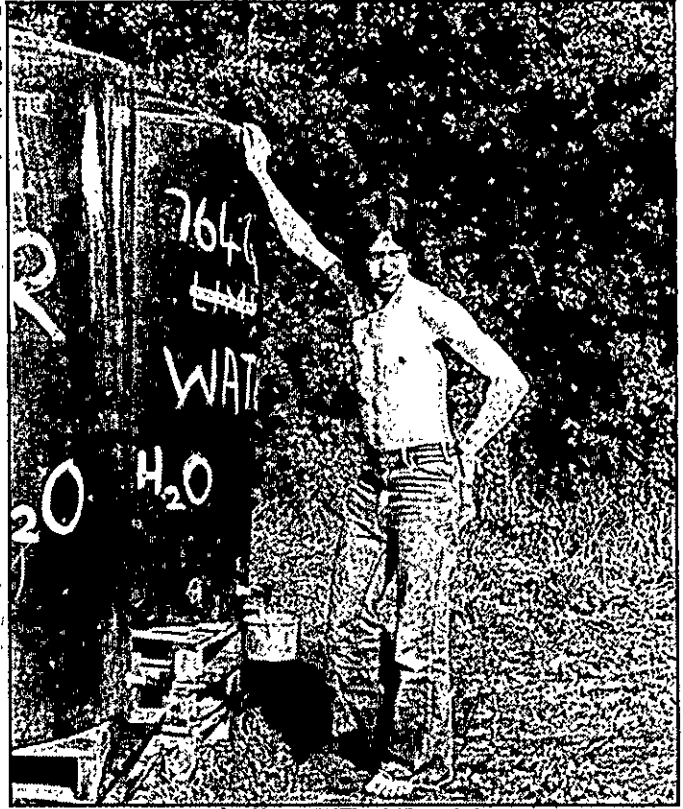
The rubbish collected on site has to be disposed of. At about half the festivals surveyed in 1979 [see Appendix 1] rubbish was removed from the site by the local authority, usually by arrangement with the festival organisers. At other festivals, rubbish was either buried in pits or burned.

Rubbish has sometimes been left on sites, especially when there have been no responsible festival organisers involved. If the local authority considers this to be a health risk, the landowner may be charged by them for the cost of removing the rubbish.

Litter from the festival site can be blown by the wind into surrounding areas if it is not contained and removed. Also, when large crowds of festival-goers have to walk long distances from the nearest public transport facilities to the festival site, festival organisers should provide temporary rubbish containers along the roadsides or paths, to cut down on the amount of litter deposited on the ground.



Photograph 5: Knebworth Park 1979
Urinal Run into Pit - note breaks in the trough.



Photograph 6: Glastonbury Fayre 1979
'Drawing Water . . .'

Food and Drink

Food and drink provided on festival sites, has been the source of complaint on account of its poor quality, lack of variety, and high price. Food and drink has not always been available when festival-goers want it and access to food stands has been difficult. Also, as any festival of sufficient size will attract a variety of food vendors operating from vans, tents, caravans, stalls or similar structures, the presence of infectious disease organisms in the food on sale can (and does) lead to widespread gastro-enteritis among festival audiences.

Sorts of Food

Food is usually supplied ready to be eaten, but at longer festivals it is desirable to offer raw foods for campers to prepare themselves. There should be a good variety of food for many tastes (some hot food; some vegetarian; and some very reasonably priced). Festival organisers may have a policy whereby only certain sorts of food (eg wholefood or vegetarian) are supplied. On the whole, vegetarian food is more appropriate to festival sites, as it is less susceptible than meat products to contamination and needs less stringent hygiene conditions.

Size of Catering Establishments

At large commercial festivals, food supply is often franchised out to a large catering establishment which can sub-contract to smaller independent units. At small festivals, food is usually supplied either by the organisers themselves or by people on site with the means of some mass catering. Large commercial caterers seem unwilling to undertake the supply of food where demand is small in relation to overheads. Smaller caterers are therefore more likely to offer food at small festivals.

'Pirate' Caterers

'Pirate' caterers arriving on site without notice or concessions may be acceptable if existing caterers cannot meet demand. Otherwise organisers may want to stop the 'pirate' from operating on site. In some circumstances the Environmental Health Officer has been called in to close down 'pirates' on the grounds that they do not conform to hygiene requirements.

Amount of Food

The quantity of food to be consumed depends on the number of people attending, the variety of food available (with more choice, people buy more), the length of the festival (campers cook more of their own) and the affluence of the audience.

The FWS Survey in 1979 [see Appendix 1] shows that at commercial festivals there was an average of one food stand per 70 festival-goers. (Food stands were generally equivalent to a mobile fish and chip van in capacity.)

Standards of Hygiene

Stringent adherence to the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and of the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966 will minimise the risk of infectious disease organisms in food on sale. Ideally, no food vendor

14 Healthy Festival Sites

should be allowed onto the site without the prior approval of the local Environmental Health Department. Subsequent regular inspection will ensure that standards do not lapse during the course of the event.

Both the Department of the Environment (DoE) and Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) guidelines [see Appendix 3] contain recommendations for caterers, in compliance with these regulations. Perhaps the most important safeguards against food poisoning on site are the provision of a supply of clean water to food vendors; the provision of clean toilet facilities for their sole use; and the provision of suitable refuse disposal facilities for waste food etc.

Siting

The positioning of food and drink stands is important to ensure the whole area is serviced, although mobile caterers may be able to move from one area to another. (The movement of vehicles through crowds can be dangerous and is not recommended, especially at night.)

Where the festival has a separate arena, it has been found best to position the food and drink stands around the perimeter fence, with access to water supply, space for rubbish disposal facilities and usually more room for consuming food.

Free Food

Food hygiene legislation does not apply to free food kitchens. At all the free festivals surveyed in 1979 by FWS [see Appendix 1], there were free food kitchens operating. The food provided is free, but people are often asked to give a donation towards the cost, and site collections are also made for money and raw foodstuffs to be prepared by the kitchens.

Drinks

Drinks can be supplied in paper or plastic cups and bottles and some manufacturers make special products for open-air events. Most welfare agencies would recommend that glass bottles and tin cans should be kept out of the arena (to reduce the number of casualties with cuts from tins and glass; headaches and concussion from bottles and cans being used as missiles; and other accidents).

On the whole, the welfare services would also encourage the restriction of the sale of alcohol on festival sites.

Noise

Consideration of noise at festivals is simpler when divided into two parts: the prevention of annoyance to local residents and other people not attending the festival; and the protection against hearing damage of persons attending or working at the festival.

Prevention of Annoyance

In this country we rarely use objectively measured standards of what is acceptable, but rely rather on the concept of 'nuisance'. This makes the calculation of what will be acceptable harder for the festival organiser and advice should be sought from the local Environmental Health Department.

Noise from festivals only really becomes important to local residents when it reaches their homes, so it is useful to know how the intervening distance, together with any obstacles will affect the noise level. Our experience has shown that the attitude of local residents to the concept of the festival is more important than the noise levels to which they are actually subjected; if local people generally approve of the festival, they are less likely to complain about the noise.

Festival organisers should inform local residents when the music will end each day and try not to over-run. Local residents will tolerate far higher noise levels if they know when the noise will end. However, if the noise continues beyond the expected time, complaints are increasingly likely. Midnight is generally acceptable as a finish time, although local circumstances may alter this. Alternatively, it may be acceptable to reduce the volume after midnight.

Precautions to reduce the noise

The farther the festival is from the nearest sensitive dwelling, the less likely it is that complaints will be received from local residents.

Large objects also provide a barrier to noise transmissions (eg if the festival site is separated from sensitive dwellings by hills, woodland, large buildings etc).

Most loudspeakers are strongly directional, so if the stage (and therefore the speaker banks) can be positioned to face away from nearby houses, the noise level at the houses can be considerably reduced.

Some success has been achieved by using multiple speaker banks at points around the arena, rather than the conventional single bank on each side of the stage.

Generally speaking, festival audiences will be satisfied with lower noise levels if the sound quality is improved; this may be useful in reducing the level of noise outside the festival.

Hearing Protection

No specific sound pressure level can be given as the safe maximum, although guidelines have been produced by the DoE and the Greater London Council (GLC) [see Appendix 3].

In our opinion, no member of the audience should be exposed to more than 100dBA (Leq) for more than approximately one hour, without a substantial break. This gives a maximum peak level of about 112dBA. It should be noted that these are maximum levels and that a figure of 90dBA would be preferable. In choosing this figure we have taken into account the likely quiet times between numbers and while performers' equipment is being changed.

In selecting monitoring sites, the distance of the audience from the speaker banks and the height of the banks themselves must be taken into account so that measurements are made in that part of the audience subject to the loudest sounds.

Noise from other sources

Generators and similar equipment can be unacceptably noisy, particularly if positioned in otherwise quiet areas (such as the campsite or medical services posts). If no purpose-made attenuator is available for the offending equipment, then an enclosure made from heavy material can be effective; either total enclosure (but ensure adequate ventilation is maintained) or partial enclosure on the side or sides closest to the noise sensitive area. Successful baffling has been achieved by placing the generator in a hole in the ground and covering the hole with corrugated-iron sheeting and mattresses, leaving space for ventilation. As a last resort, straw bales built up around the offending equipment can be very effective but do represent a considerable fire hazard.

General Health Conditions

General health problems on festival sites can be caused by unsatisfactory site facilities or if people bring specific problems with them to the festival. Contagious diseases could be spread very rapidly through the festival population and into the surrounding community. The provision of adequate facilities helps to inhibit the spread of diseases, but there also needs to be regular means of checking that festival sites remain free from serious health problems. The most satisfactory way that this can be achieved is by the continuous provision of some form of health supervision on site. The local authority or Community Physician may feel that this is their responsibility and there are also a number of welfare organisations prepared to offer this kind of service.

Health Problems

Health problems which regularly occur on festival sites are food poisoning (caused or spread by unhygienic toilet facilities, polluted water supply or contaminated foods) and a range of medical problems including sunburn, sunstroke, stings and bites, cuts, drug overdoses, burns, exposure, sprains and fractures, dog bites, headaches, and births.

Welfare organisations, especially those dealing with medical cases, are able to monitor the sort of health problems arising on site and alert the local authority and Community Physician if any suspected cases of contagious diseases are observed. Some festival-goers travel from festival to festival, as do some of the food kitchens, and if the diseases are not checked, they may be carried around the country. The welfare organisations are obviously invaluable for dealing with medical and related problems which will occur statistically in any large gathering of people. The welfare organisations treat as many casualties as possible on the

festival site, thereby relieving the local surgeries, hospitals etc. of this extra pressure. (At the Knebworth Park festival in 1979, approximately 1 in 100 festival-goer sought treatment by the medical services on site.)

Dogs

Health problems have been caused, for example, by excited packs of dogs running wild on site and people have been bitten as a result of trying to stop dog fights. Dog excrement can be unpleasant, and can lead to the spread of diseases, especially to children playing on site. There have also been reports of distemper among dogs at festivals. Dogs will forage through rubbish, spreading waste over the festival site, which is dangerous to small children.

Children

Children are increasing in number at festivals and it may be necessary for special arrangements to be made for them. For instance, a creche or children's area could be set up, run by experienced helpers and volunteers.

Children may have difficulty with some of the more primitive toilet facilities and organisers should keep this in mind.

Overcrowding

The overcrowding of a festival site can lead to problems. The overcrowding of tents on the campsite is a serious fire hazard. Fires easily start in tents, especially where camping-gas cookers are being used inside, and nylon tents burn very easily. Fire spreads rapidly if tents are too close and access for fire-fighting equipment and vehicles is hindered. Overcrowding can also cause people to camp very close to the toilets and refuse containers, which is unpleasant and may be unhealthy for the campers involved. The DHSS guidelines (1971) suggest a camping density of 180 tents per acre, and the DoE Code of Practice (1973) recommends 150-200 tents per acre.

Overcrowding in the arena, as well as making access difficult for emergency and servicing vehicles, can cause considerable discomfort sometimes leading to aggression and claustrophobia. In avoiding overcrowding, festival organisers should bear in mind careful site layout. Both the DoE and GLC Codes of Practice have some helpful suggestions on site planning.

APPENDIX 1

Summary of the results of the Festival Welfare Services Survey of Environmental Health Conditions at Festivals in 1979

In the Summer of 1979, Festival Welfare Services carried out a survey of site conditions at festivals, in conjunction with local Environmental Health Departments throughout the country. Questionnaires were sent to 21 local authorities and completed questionnaires were returned for 14 festivals.

Summary of Findings

From the data collected, some broad generalisations on site conditions can be made. It seems relevant to make a distinction between free festivals where no admission charges are made (7 surveyed) and commercial festivals (7 surveyed).

The questions were grouped into topics similar to those covered in the guidelines.

A sample of the questionnaire used and a table giving the results of the survey for each festival can be found in Appendix C to the Festival Welfare Services' Annual Report for 1979.

General Questions (*figures are averages*)

Attendance at all festivals surveyed = 9,078 people

Attendance at free festivals = 4,157

Attendance at commercial festivals = 14,000

Length of festivals = 4 days (free = 5 days; commercial = 3 days)

Ratio of males to females = 2:1

At most festivals campfire fuel was not supplied by the organisers.

Toilets

All commercial festivals and half the free festivals surveyed had toilet facilities provided by the organisers.

Free festivals had mainly latrine trenches, whereas two-thirds of commercial festivals had Portaloos, permanent toilets or 'roundabouts'.

No festival had toilets provided for the disabled.

Water Supply

The average consumption per day was one gallon per person. Most water supplies came from taps and standpipes connected to the mains.

Refuse Disposal

All commercial festivals had rubbish containers supplied, usually oil drums. Plastic sacks were more popular at free festivals.

Refuse was removed from the site by the Local Authority at most festivals.

Noise

Local Authorities monitored the noise levels at all commercial festivals, but only one free festival. The noise level at the free festival was 96dBA, 20 yards from the speakers. At commercial festivals the average noise level was 99dBA at the stage. Five festivals were the subject of complaints from local residents. Only one of these was a free festival.

At commercial festivals, amplified music most commonly ran from midday until midnight.

Food and Drink

Commercial caterers were employed at all commercial festivals and at one-third of the free festivals.

The average number of catering units on festival sites was 18; roughly 1 unit per 70 people.

Meat products were on sale at three-quarters of the commercial festivals and at half the free festivals.

All free festivals had free food kitchens on site, but there were none at commercial festivals.

At two-thirds of commercial festivals tin cans were sold in, or brought onto the arena. Bottles were on sale at half the commercial festivals and could be taken into 6 out of 7 arenas. (Most free festivals had no separate arena.)

General Health

At all festivals surveyed there were no reported outbreaks of food poisoning or contagious diseases, or any other serious health problems. Concern was expressed at some festivals regarding the poor quality of facilities provided, particularly the toilets.

APPENDIX 2

Legislation Relating to Festivals

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

Control of Pollution Act 1974. (Includes pollution to water courses and noise)

Public Health Act 1936. (Rubbish as a health hazard)

Public Health Act 1961. (Rubbish as a detriment to the amenities of a neighbourhood)

Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975. (Public safety provisions)

Local Government Act 1972. (Public nuisance powers of the local authority in the interests of local inhabitants)

Recurring Nuisances Act 1969.

For further details, see Annex A (the law relating to pop festivals) in *Pop Festivals and their problems*, second report of the working group on pop festivals, HMSO, 1978.

APPENDIX 3

References and Resources

Pop Festivals: Report and Code of Practice – Advisory Committee on Pop Festivals, Department of the Environment, HMSO, 1973.

Free Festivals – First Report of the Working Group on Pop Festivals, Department of the Environment, HMSO, 1976.

Pop Festivals and their Problems – Second Report of the Working Group on Pop Festivals, HMSO, 1978.

Public Health Guidelines for Large Pop Festivals – Department of Health and Social Security, 1971.

Code of Practice for Pop Concerts – Greater London Council, 2nd Edition, 1978.

Community Arts Festival Handbook – Greater London Arts Association, 1978.

Organising a Community Festival – Community Action, No 42, March/April 1979.

The Pop Festival Debate — Indescribable squalour or good clean fun? – M Gostwick, Municipal Engineering, April 1971.

What Price Pop Festivals? – L H Baines, Royal Society of Health Journal, April 1971.

Why worry about pop festivals? – DW Quattrill, Royal Society of Health Journal, April 1971.

Pop – The Festival Challenge to Local Authorities – R J Nichols, Royal Society of Health Journal, July/August 1971.

What Price Pop? – E G Feben, Rural District Review, August 1971.

Free Festivals – Frank Bushell, District Councils Review, July/August 1976.

Guide to Sanitation in Natural Disasters – M Assar, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 1971.

Refuse Storage and Collection – Department of the Environment, HMSO, 1975.

Available from Festival Welfare Services

Festival Welfare Services' Field Workers' Reports 1976, 1977 and 1978.

Festival Welfare Services Annual Report 1979.

Community Festivals Handbook – John Hoyland, Community Projects Foundation, London, 1976.

List of hire companies dealing with portable toilets.



£1.00