

Memory, and minutes, of a Free Festival



Crowds at last year's Leamington Peace Festival. Peace_LC_JUN57B

EPHEMERA, documents and mementoes from the Leamington Peace Festival are to take their place beside trade union records and political diaries in a national archive.

Organisers of the festival, which this year celebrates its 30th anniversary, will be handing over its archive to the Modern Records Centre at Warwick University on Monday.

According to spokesman Dave Steele, the collection, which fills around four cardboard boxes, includes correspondence and min-

utes from the years when the festival was in its infancy as well as "ephemera and mementoes" such as posters and programmes and photographs.

He said: "It's a unique social record of what happened in the alternative festival movement and also the local scene.

"In the 1970s there was a big free festival movement throughout the country and we are one of the few that are still around. It's of more than just local interest. It is a snapshot of the time and a record of a

social movement that was of national importance."

The Modern Records Centre holds documents such as trade union records, CND material and the papers of former Labour cabinet minister Richard Crossman.

Archive manager Helen Ford said: "We have an awful lot of material about the peace movements and pressure groups and we are the main archive in the UK. It is very nice to have something specifically local."

www.peacefestival.org.uk