

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1097455

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024
FOR
MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST**

Seago and Stopps
Chartered Certified Accountants
61 Station Road
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 2SP

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

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MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1097455

Principal address

50 Firs Chase
West Mersea
Colchester
Essex
CO5 8NG

Trustees

T R Brennan	Chairman
P Buist	
J Dayton	
P Moore	Treasurer
E Wilson	

Independent examiner

Seago and Stopps
Chartered Certified Accountants
61 Station Road
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 2SP

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a Declaration of Trust, dated 8 March 2002, as amended by a special resolution dated 10 April 2003.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trust has safeguarding and equal opportunities policies in place that are reviewed annually. Disclosure and Barring checks are carried out prior to trusteeship or volunteering for the trust and are reviewed annually.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or benefits.

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

The advancement and education of young people (up to the age of 25) and adults with disabilities, by promotion of activities so that they may develop their mental, physical and spiritual capacities and achieve greater maturity as individuals and members of society.

In carrying out its objectives, the Trust provides two annual camps on Mersea Island, Essex that bring together over 400 children, young people and adults with or without a physical or learning disability. The camps are supported by a team of over 70 volunteers of all ages and abilities.

In providing the festival, the trustees have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the charity has charitable purposes that continue to be, and are carried out, for the same.

Participants in the festival are challenged and stimulated as they gain confidence, self esteem and new friends whilst experiencing a wide range of fun and exciting activities.

Volunteers

The Trust is extremely grateful to the large volunteer team who support the running and delivery of the festival, as well as fundraising events during the year.

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable and fundraising activities

The 41st Mersea Island Festival took place at Essex Outdoors Mersea from Sunday 20th to Monday 28th August 2023.

Attendance

	2023	2022	Difference	2019
Week	174	231	-57	258
Weekend	107	150	-43	134
Dailies	359	279	+80	312

The figures for 2022 indicate attendance had the festival not been cancelled part way through.

In the main, those attending in 2023 represented the regular bookers for the Festival. There were 10 new campers in the week and 2 at the weekend.

The large groups (Festival Friends (25), Footsteps (26), Avenues East (20), We Do Care (19) and Cranfield Court (15)) all attended and a group of 10 from Norfolk returned in the week after a break last year. The new group in 2022 from Sense did not return but indicated they may come back in 2024. Two groups that would have been new at the weekend in 2022 did not book. One indicated they may attend in 2024. The other we did not hear from.

With regards to day visitors, InterAct (16), Badgers Den (7 on 4 days) and Homestead Care Homes (10) were new groups this year. Sudbury Gateway (12) Braintree Mencap (26) and Frontline Partnership (14) all returned. The MACS charity booked 27 places at the weekend. They are arranging another separate visit to the centre.

Accommodation

Although one cabin was not available to the Festival, all those who requested indoor accommodation were allocated it and some campers were upgraded. Due to the lower numbers, virtually all campers at the weekend were accommodated indoors. There were the usual four villages in the week (Glam Rock, Pop World, The Rock Stars and Disco Fever) and three at the weekend.

Programme

The theme was 'Music'. In addition to the regular band workshop, drumming and singing workshops, and singing to music sessions, the Canjo workshop, first introduced in 2022, was offered again. New additions to the programme were a steelpan workshop and the opportunity to try handbell ringing.

On the Thursday a mini-music festival was organised for during the evening meal, a BBQ. This was held outside the back of the main building, a throwback to Festivals many years ago. Live performances were provided by volunteers and a local young duo. Unfortunately this was the only day it rained during the Festival, which dampened proceedings but we still carried on.

Visits to Ivy Farm are no longer available but the petting zoo booked in 2019, which would have returned in 2022, made two visits. The Newfoundland Dogs made a visit but were not able to swim this year. The Essex Police Dog Section visited one morning in the week and proved very popular. The remainder of the programme was largely as planned in 2022. The paddleboarding and kayaking on the lake, new in 2022, was again very popular and an extra session to the original programme was offered in the week. Two speedboats were made available to the Festival in the two days that these could be run from the beach. Access for wheelchair users to the Aerial Adventure course has been improved further since 2022.

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable and fundraising activities

The evening entertainment included an ABBA tribute for the Glitter and Glam night, and a new band from Tendring at the weekend. A Festival volunteer and a former volunteer, now camper, organised the music for before and after the main acts on other nights. Entertainment in the style of the Masked Singer was organised in the band breaks during the week, culminating in the final on the Thursday.

The activity programme was widely praised by those who attended, providing as it did a variety of choice during the week. "There's lots of things that I'm not into like sing and sign or just can't do like caving or go-karts - but then I just choose to do something else and other people can do those things".

Volunteer team

Of the 69 volunteers, 10 were new, including 2 former instructors, and 2 volunteers returned after a break of several years.

Fundraising activities

The Trust continued to benefit from sponsorship collected by our volunteers, as well as donations from local organisations and individuals.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

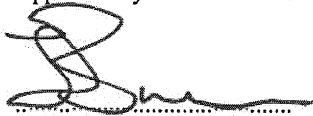
Reserves policy

The reserves of the charity are held to support the following year's camps.

Financial overview

A fall in attendance and donations compared to pre-Covid Festivals mean that there was an overall drop in funds this year. Reserves are expected to cover the 2024 Festival.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14th January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



T R Brennan - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 5 April 2024, which are set out on pages six to ten.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I have examined your charity's accounts as required under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. that accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. that the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. that the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
4. that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Andy Stopps FCCA ATT
Seago and Stopps
Chartered Certified Accountants
61 Station Road
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 2SP

Date: *15th January 2025*

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024**

		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total 5.4.24 funds £	Total 5.4.23 funds £
	Not es				
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		5,307	-	5,307	7,934
Activities for generating funds	2	<u>88,191</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,191</u>	<u>25,620</u>
Total incoming resources		93,498	-	93,498	33,554
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income		341	-	341	364
Charitable activities					
Festival costs		<u>100,664</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,664</u>	<u>39,290</u>
Total resources expended		<u>101,005</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,005</u>	<u>39,654</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES					
		(7,507)	-	(7,507)	(6,100)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>36,965</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,965</u>	<u>43,065</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>29,458</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>29,458</u></u>	<u><u>36,965</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

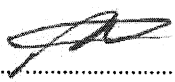
MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AT 5 APRIL 2024

	Not es	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total 5.4.24 funds £	Total 5.4.23 funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	5,690	-	5,690	1,360
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>42,791</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,791</u>	<u>58,395</u>
		48,481	-	48,481	59,755
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(19,023)	-	(19,023)	(22,790)
		<u>29,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,458</u>	<u>36,965</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>29,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,458</u>	<u>36,965</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>29,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,458</u>	<u>36,965</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>29,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,458</u>	<u>36,965</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	6			<u>29,458</u>	<u>36,965</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>29,458</u>	<u>36,965</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 16th January 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
T R Brennan -Trustee


.....
P Moore -Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Charities Act 2011 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	5.4.24	5.4.23
	£	£
Fundraising events and collections	250	100
Festival income	<u>87,941</u>	<u>25,520</u>
	<u>88,191</u>	<u>25,620</u>

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 5 April 2024 nor for the year ended 5 April 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 5 April 2024, nor for the year ended 5 April 2023.

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024**

4. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	5.4.24	5.4.23
	£	£
Trade debtors	5,431	-
Other debtors	<u>259</u>	<u>1,360</u>
	<u><u>5,690</u></u>	<u><u>1,360</u></u>

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	5.4.24	5.4.23
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>19,023</u>	<u>22,790</u>

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 6.4.23	Net movement in funds	At 5.4.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	36,965	(7,507)	29,458
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>36,965</u></u>	<u><u>(7,507)</u></u>	<u><u>29,458</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	93,498	(101,005)	(7,507)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>93,498</u></u>	<u><u>(101,005)</u></u>	<u><u>(7,507)</u></u>

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024**

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 6.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 5.4.23 £
Unrestricted Funds			
General fund	43,065	(6,100)	36,965
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>43,065</u>	<u>(6,100)</u>	<u>36,965</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	33,554	(39,654)	(6,100)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>33,554</u>	<u>(39,654)</u>	<u>(6,100)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 6.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 5.4.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	<u>43,065</u>	<u>(13,607)</u>	<u>29,458</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>43,065</u>	<u>(13,607)</u>	<u>29,458</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	<u>127,052</u>	<u>(140,659)</u>	<u>(13,607)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>127,052</u>	<u>(140,659)</u>	<u>(13,607)</u>

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2024**

	5.4.24 £	5.4.23 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Donations	3,999	4,561
Gift aid	60	84
Donations - refunds	-	2,246
Christmas party income	<u>1,248</u>	<u>1,043</u>
	5,307	7,934
Activities for generating funds		
Fundraising events and collections	250	100
Festival income	<u>87,941</u>	<u>25,520</u>
	<u>88,191</u>	<u>25,620</u>
Total incoming resources	93,498	33,554
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Fundraising expenses	63	87
Christmas party expenses	<u>278</u>	<u>277</u>
	341	364
Charitable activities		
Festival expenses	<u>100,664</u>	<u>39,290</u>
Total resources expended	101,005	39,654
Net expenditure	<u><u>(7,507)</u></u>	<u><u>(6,100)</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements