

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1097455

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 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 PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 6 April 2024 to 31 December 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
P Buist
J Dayton
P Moore
E Wilson
R E Saunders

Chairman
Resigned 27.11.24

Treasurer
Appointed 26.03.25

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 PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 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 PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable and fundraising activities

The 42nd Mersea Island Festival took place at Essex Outdoors Mersea from Sunday 18th to Monday 26th August 2024.

Attendance

	2024	2023	Difference	2019
Week	189	174	+15	258
Weekend	130	107	+23	134
Dailies	338	359	-21	312

The figures for 2019 are from the last pre-covid Festival.

90% of camper bookings (representing 93% of attendees) were returners. All the regular main groups (7 members+) attended (Festival Friends, Footsteps, Avenues East, We Do Care, The Hamlet Charity and Cranfield Court) and there was a group of 7 via a supported holidays company, with one member coming from Edinburgh.

70% of day visitor bookings (representing 73% of attendees) were returners. There was a new group of 13 via a care agency in Essex, 9 via Chapters Life Activities - a support club in Suffolk and 6 from Drummonds Care Home in Feering.

Three new independent campers attended this year. Two gentleman who have previously attended as day visitors with Braintree Mencap and a young lady from Ipswich who knew some of the regular attenders.

Accommodation

One cabin was not available to the festival at relatively short notice, but all those who requested indoor accommodation were allocated such. Again, due to the lower numbers, virtually all campers at the weekend were accommodated indoors. There were the usual four villages in the week (Robin Hood, Camelot, Atlantis and Greek Gods) and three at the weekend.

Programme

The theme was 'Myths & Legends'. This was a difficult one to book activities for, the closest being the birds of prey display in the week that replaced the mobile petting zoo from the previous two years. Large dragon heads were separately made by the Entertainment Team and Art Tent. The former was hung from the ceiling of the marquee for the week, while the latter was paraded through the last night parties, complete with 'body' held up by members of the Instructor Team. Both were donated to Bounceability for display in their trampoline centre. Staff from that centre volunteer at the festival to deliver the sessions.

Due to extra high tide level preventing departure from the island and learning from the previous year when low tide levels were insufficient for crabbing, the number of crabbing sessions was reduced compared to previous years. Due to the weather conditions, the boat rides off the beach were cancelled for both camps.

FootGolf was offered for the first time as an activity. After a recommendation from a camper, Craig Graham from Alternative Movement came and offered some sessions in 'adaptive fitness' inclusive fitness sessions involving weights. Water aerobics was offered for the first time, run by a festival volunteer. 'Wheels for all', a national organisation promoting inclusive cycling supported the adapted bike sessions for the first time.

The evening entertainment included a new band on the first night, recommended by a volunteer. 'Masked Singer' style entertainment was again staged during the band breaks.

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable and fundraising activities

Volunteer team

Of the 72 volunteers, 13 were new as volunteers, although two had previously been campers and one was a former centre employee.

Feedback

Overall, the feedback was positive, with the majority of campers, day visitors and volunteers who contributed saying they enjoyed their stay and visit.

We saw old friends and loved the whole experience. My son moved around and chatted to many people without his parents. My husband enjoyed mingling with a large group of other people, which he doesn't often do. I manage my son's care and it was great for me to talk and relate to other carers and share experiences. (Camper)

I enjoyed the activities in a safe environment which also meant that I could feel confident in what activities I was doing. (Camper)

The inclusivity actually made me cry on several occasions. It felt like joining a large family. (Day Visitor)

Overall, seeing everyone had no limitations and being able to achieve things they never believed possible. (Volunteer)

Fundraising activities

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW

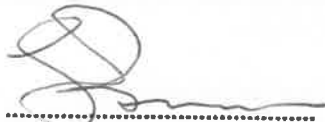
Reserves policy

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

Financial overview

Attendance figures improved on the 2023 Festival, as did donations during the period, resulting in a reduced loss compared to the previous year. The change of financial year end to 31st December resulted in a regular donation being shown in the following year's accounts. This was £992. Reserves are expected to cover the 2025 Festival.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30th October 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 period 6 April 2024 to 31 December 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

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

Date: 27th October 2025

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

				Period 6.4.24 to 31.12.24 Total funds	Year Ended 5.4.24 Total funds
	Not es	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income		11,217	-	11,217	5,307
Activities for generating funds	2	<u>103,905</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103,905</u>	<u>88,191</u>
Total incoming resources		115,122	-	115,122	93,498
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Costs of generating voluntary income		406	-	406	341
Charitable activities					
Festival costs		<u>115,772</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>115,772</u>	<u>100,664</u>
Total resources expended		<u>116,178</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>116,178</u>	<u>101,005</u>
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES					
		(1,056)	-	(1,056)	(7,507)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>29,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,458</u>	<u>36,965</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>28,402</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>28,402</u></u>	<u><u>29,458</u></u>

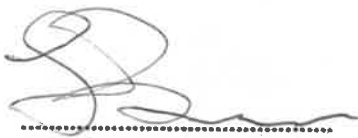
The notes form part of these financial statements

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	31.12.24 Total funds	5.4.24 Total funds
	Not es	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	-	-	-	5,690
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>29,343</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,343</u>	<u>42,791</u>
		29,343	-	29,343	48,481
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(941)	-	(941)	(19,023)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>28,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,402</u>	<u>29,458</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>28,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,402</u>	<u>29,458</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>28,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,402</u>	<u>29,458</u>
FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted funds				<u>28,402</u>	<u>29,458</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>28,402</u>	<u>29,458</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th October 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 PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 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

	Period 6.4.24 to 31.12.24 £	Year Ended 5.4.24 £
Fundraising events and collections	185	250
Festival income	<u>103,720</u>	<u>87,941</u>
	<u>103,905</u>	<u>88,191</u>

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 5 April 2024.

4. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.24	5.4.24
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	5,431
Other debtors	-	259
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,690</u>

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.12.24	5.4.24
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>941</u>	<u>19,023</u>

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 6.4.24	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	29,458	(1,056)	28,402
	<u>29,458</u>	<u>(1,056)</u>	<u>28,402</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>29,458</u>	<u>(1,056)</u>	<u>28,402</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	115,122	(116,178)	(1,056)
	<u>115,122</u>	<u>(116,178)</u>	<u>(1,056)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>115,122</u>	<u>(116,178)</u>	<u>(1,056)</u>

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
FOR THE PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024**

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for 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
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>36,965</u>	<u>(7,507)</u>	<u>29,458</u>

Comparative 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)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>93,498</u>	<u>(101,005)</u>	<u>(7,507)</u>

MERSEA ISLAND FESTIVAL TRUST

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE PERIOD 6 APRIL 2024 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Period 6.4.24 to 31.12.24 £	Year Ended 5.4.24 £
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income		
Donations	9,611	3,999
Gift aid	7	60
Christmas party income	<u>1,599</u>	<u>1,248</u>
	11,217	5,307
Activities for generating funds		
Fundraising events and collections	185	250
Festival income	<u>103,720</u>	<u>87,941</u>
	<u>103,905</u>	<u>88,191</u>
Total incoming resources	115,122	93,498
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of generating voluntary income		
Fundraising expenses	42	63
Christmas party expenses	<u>364</u>	<u>278</u>
	406	341
Charitable activities		
Festival expenses	<u>115,772</u>	<u>100,664</u>
Total resources expended	116,178	101,005
Net expenditure	<u>(1,056)</u>	<u>(7,507)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

