

Mersea Island Festival

The 37th Mersea Island Festival took place on the coast of Essex during the last week August with 440 campers and volunteers – and another 270 day visitors – taking part in a packed programme of inclusive activities and entertainment.

On site during the day there was a new aerial adventure course, climbing, zipwire, archery, adventure course, watersports, fishing, art and crafts, circus skills, rescue dog displays, crabbing, pitch and putt, football, band workshop, signing to music, quad bikes, aerobics, zorbing, swimming, trampolining, judo and bushcraft workshops. The theme was 'Around the World' and we also had Chinese dance and crafts workshops, African singing, dancing and drumming workshops and fancy dress nights where there were characters from all over the globe. In the evenings there was live music from bands including an 80's tribute and steel band. Plus the essential Camp Concert with over 60 acts in one evening. Even Simon Cowell would struggle with that!

At the end of each camp we ask people what the best thing was. *"Great evening entertainment. Fantastic accessible facilities. Great atmosphere."* *"Meeting new people, disco and evening entertainment. So many fab outdoor activities to try."* *"Activities, meeting and socialising with old friends, meeting new people."* *"Being yourself and having the help if needed."* *"Supportive, friendly environment."* *"Because there is nowhere else like Mersea"* *"I made a lot of new friends and (did) the things I never thought I'd do."*

Our thanks go to all the Festival volunteers who helped run the Festival and the various groups that came and ran an activity free of charge – and the generous sponsors and donators that helped fund the Festival this year. We're already looking at the 2018 Festival which will be from the 19th to 27th August.

To see a short video about the Festival and hear more from our campers – or for more information - visit the website: www.merseafestival.org.uk, email info@merseafestival.org.uk or call 01206 383226.



Philip Ager, Mersea Island Festival Coordinator