

Chairman's Welcome

I am honoured to be able to welcome you all to Mersea Week 2021, the 47th and the biggest and best Mersea Week to date. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the opening party at the yacht club on the evening of Saturday 7th August and are grateful to the yacht club for hosting this.

After a challenging 18 months for so many of us, I hope you will enjoy joining us in celebrating our freedom this summer to return to the water, and of course the bars! I know that you, like me, will be disappointed to have missed out on so much time afloat and will therefore join us, in contributing to the high quality event that is the highlight of our sailing season both on and off the water.

This year, the WMYC is returning to the popular tradition of running the Round The Island race on the Wednesday of the week and I hope that many of you will join in and support this brilliant and unique event. Year on year, I am impressed by the variety of craft, both modern and classic which take advantage of Mersea Week and the Round The Island race and look forward to the incredible vista over the Blackwater, as we sail and celebrate our long sought-after freedom.

I am immensely grateful for the support of the Mersea Week committee, race teams and volunteers for truly providing the backbone for the event and the fuel for its success. As ever, we are grateful to our overall sponsors *Adnams* and *Marinestore*, our sponsor of safety boats *West Mersea Marine*, and our daily sponsors *Mersea Island Watersports*, *Catering Elite*, *RF West Ltd*, *Fenn Wright* and *Mersea Homes* whose ongoing support and generosity contributes to the success of the event as well as allowing us to maintain a low entry fee for you, the competitors. Please, where possible, do your best to support these sponsors in return.

Finally, I would like to wish all competitors a brilliant week of sailing and social. For now, all we can do is pray to the weather Gods in the hope for calm seas and fair winds! See you at the bar!

Celyn Evans – Mersea Week 2021 Chairman