CAFTfest 2026

1,551 CHILDREN ATTENDED ONE OF 6 FREE, ACCESSIBLE FESTIVALS AT CAFT OVER THE WEEKEND OF 19TH - 21ST JUNE. THIS INCLUDED A WHOLE SCHOOL (210 CHILDREN) FROM WARRINGTON AND 587 FAMILIES FROM ALL OVER THE NORTH WEST.

"CAFT always feels like home, it's a safe and happy place that will always hold wonderful memories for the boys and our family. Everyone needs space where they belong and where they can be their most glorious selves. CAFT is one of those places!."

"Our son has a rare brain condition called Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum, which means his brain doesn't process information the same way as most people. He's five years old, non-verbal and autistic. We visit CAFT pretty regularly and every time we come we see a bit more development and a bit more engagement.

Our son never used to pay the animals any attention, but on this visit he fed and stroked the donkeys! It's very special to have somewhere to come where our son can be himself, and where the staff and other visitors understand difference. We feel so fortunate to have CAFT in our local area."

"CAFTfest is always such a lovely atmosphere and a great experience for our family. Our son M has Downs Syndrome and often finds new situations stressful or takes a long time to join in with things and can get upset very easily. We come to CAFT regularly so he knows it well which really helps. The staff and volunteers are always so welcoming and supportive.

The performances and activities at CAFTfest are really inclusive and accessible for M and his younger sister R (who is the opposite of him and wants to be involved in everything and is the first to put her hand up for everything). She was able to take part in the magic show and have a go on the trapeze! M loved watching her and they both loved trying out all the circus skills. The performers are all so lovely with the kids and really patient and inclusive!"

"You could see how much love, effort and thought had gone into making the day so special and fun for the children. We honestly had the best day. The music tent was so fun the DJ was fabulous, the magician was hilarious and fantastic at interacting with the children. All the arts and crafts set up where so good. The circus skills was also a huge hit too.

The volunteers that day went above and beyond and we are so grateful to have access to the festival 💚 Thank you to everyone at CAFT for being truly amazing and providing these days out for our children, I can't explain how amazing it is . Simply the best 🥰"

"Having two autistic boys on opposite ends of the spectrum, we find it difficult to find outings that are safe and suitable for both. At CAFT they both feel comfortable. There is always something for both of them to do.

We have a genuinely good time as a family unit at CAFT where we know there is no judgement from surrounding families. CAFTfest was our second visit and we will hopefully be granted another visit over the summer holidays giving us the opportunity to spend valued family time together."

166 VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED A STAGGERING 785 HOURS OF TIME TO MAKE CAFTFEST POSSIBLE. THIS INCLUDED 11 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WHO PITCHED IN ALONGSIDE PARENTS/CARERS TO SUPPORT THEIR PEERS.

THEY HELPED WITH PARKING, GREETING VISITORS (ALWAYS WITH A SMILE), SERVING REFRESHMENTS, RUNNING STALLS, HELPING WITH CRAFTS AND ASSISTING PERFORMERS. THEY HELPED TO GET THE SITE READY FOR THE FESTIVALS AND TO KEEP IT CLEAN AND SAFE FOR THE CHILDREN.

OUR AMAZING SPONSORS DONATED FUNDS, REFRESHMENTS, MATERIALS AND EVEN TWO HUGE DIGGERS!

VOLUNTEERS, STAFF, PATRONS, AMBASSADORS & PATRONS GAVE THEIR TIME, ENERGY & EXPERTISE TO ENSURE THAT EACH AND EVERY CHILD COULD BE THEMSELVES IN A SPACE WHERE NO-ONE IS JUDGED, AND EVERYONE CAN JOIN IN.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERY DONOR, VOLUNTEER & SUPPORTER. THANKS TO YOU WE HAVE GIVEN THESE AMAZING CHILDREN MEMORIES THEY'LL TREASURE FOREVER.

Registered Charity 1003675