

Toshiaght Arree 2020 February

MANX MUSIC TODAY

Arrane son Mannin Provides Manx Song for Pan Celtic Festival



The Arrane son Mannin (Song for Mann) competition is an opportunity for the performance of new and original music written in Manx Gaelic, with the winner representing the Isle of Man at the annual Pan Celtic Festival in Carlow, Ireland, later this year (14-19 April).

Held in the Masonic Hall in Peel, judges at the event were challenged to find the best, original song composed in the Island's native tongue, which will go forward in competition with others from neighbouring Celtic nations, vying to clinch the top position in the festival's International Song Contest.

Judges were drawn from a selection of the Island's singers and musicians, who ultimately chose local trio Skeeal Elley, with their song Oie as Laa, which tells the story of a Manxman and his longing to escape a prison cell and return to his rural home in Ballaragh, on the north east coast of the Island.

The evening also included a selection of local musicians and singers, providing a range of Manx entertainment – including the former Young Singer of Mann Erin Loach, accordionist Jack McLean, musicians David Kilgallon and Malcolm Stitt and former Manx Bard Annie Kissack. Additionally there was a group from the north of the Island, comprising flautist Peddyr Cubberley, harpist Arabella Aayen solo dancer Ellie from local dance group Ny Fennee and an inspiring performance by a quartet of pupils from the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh. The evening concluded with a number of songs from the Manx Gaelic choir Cliogaree Twoaie.

Arrane son Mannin was organised by local Pan Celtic representative Fiona McArdle.

By Valerie Caine © January 2020 (Courtesy of the North Western Chronicle) www.panceltic.ie

In this month's edition...

- Young talent win prizes
- Manx Folk Awards syllabus
- Michael Oie'll Verrey

Culture VANNIN





Photos above from Arrane son Mannin on 11th Jan 2020 (L-R): Winning Group Skeeal Elley; Manx dancer Ellie from Ny Fennee, Peddyr Cubberley & Arabella Ayen, & Young Singer of Mann, Erin Loach.

SHENNAGHYS JIU CELTIC FESTIVAL

3rd - 6th April

Ceilis, concerts, workshops, art exhibition & sessions

Ramsey & Peel

https://www.facebook.com/shennaghys/

ON YOUR DOORSTEP – ARTS AND CULTURE 14th & 15th MARCH 2020

Arts and culture will be the major themes at next year's On Your Doorstep weekend, 14th and 15th March, where the public can discover new activities in their locality and meet practitioners and providers who specialise in the arts and in Manx culture.

The Isle of Man Arts Council and Culture Vannin are joining forces to provide 4 'hubs' over the weekend in the north, south, east and west, where the public can drop in during the day and find out about joining a local arts or cultural society, meet like-minded people, discover a festival or entertainment venue, learn Manx or get involved with an artistic hobby they'd never thought of before! For societies and event organisers, it will be an opportunity to recruit new members of all ages and to reach a wider audience.

The IOMAC and Culture Vannin would like to hear from any Isle of Man arts and cultural organisations who would like to be considered for one of a limited number



of information stalls available in the 4 hubs, along with any groups or individuals who can offer a 30 minute 'have a go' taster workshop during the weekend.

Societies and festivals will also be welcome to leave literature at all of the hubs, and through the On Your Doorstep booking portal, organisations, venues and businesses will also have the option to organise their own event, open their doors and offer their own taster sessions over the weekend.

It is hoped that the weekend will appeal to choirs, visual arts societies, studios and galleries, drama groups, film clubs, music sessions, craft workshops, heritage trusts and history societies, creative writing groups, music ensembles and projects, dance schools, Manx language groups, annual festivals, and community venues that would like to open their doors and invite new faces in.

If you are interested in being involved in displaying at one of the 'Arts and Culture Hubs', get in touch with Martyn Cain or Grainney Sheard from the Arts Council or Chloe Woolley from Culture Vannin.



Martyn.Cain@gov.im Grainney.Sheard@gov.im chloe@culturevannin.im



Or, save the date and add your own event to the Visit Isle of Man 'On Your Doorstep portal'. Some events may be eligible for funding to offer a limited number of subsidised tickets.

Braaid Eisteddford ~ Sat, 7th March, 7.30pm

Get involved in the 71st Braaid Eisteddford, Braaid Hall. Newcomers welcome!! Competitions include:

- 1. Hymn Raising Laurie Kelly Cup
- 2. Recitation to be performed from memory
- 3. Mens' Solo
- 4. Instrumental Solo
- 5. Stump Speech
- 6. Ladies' Solo Sue Howe Cup
- 7. Original Poem John Kennaugh Cup

- 8. Quiz
- 9. Folk Song
- 10. Duet
- 11. Humorous Story
- 12. Quartet
- 14. Choir

Aundyryn Kiaull-Theay Vannin 2020 Manx Folk Awards 2020

Douglas & St Johns Sunday 29th March - Thursday 2nd April

Syllabus is now available:

www.manxmusic.com/news_story_612071.html

Organised by DESC & Culture Vannin the Manx Folk Awards are always held the last week before the Easter holidays at the Douglas Youth Arts Centre and Trinity Church. This is so you can enter The Guild with some of the same entries which



should make your life easier! And also because at the end of that week the Shennaghys Jiu festival is held. Shennaghys Jiu is a non competitive youth festival and is held the first weekend of the Easter holidays, 3rd - 6th April 2020. The Manx Folk Awards are very informal competitions and we are always looking to encourage schools to take part for the first time.

Chloe and Jo are able to come in and help out by teaching simple dance steps, tunes and help with Manx pronunciation. So there is no excuse not to get involved! It's all about the FUN!

Since the Manx Folk Awards began 9 years ago, we have been tweaking and changing the syllabus to keep everything new and fresh! We are always happy to have suggestions from you as to what we could add, change or even take away!

This year we have several changes...

The exceptionally popular **duologue class** - which was new in 2019 - is now own choice for the Manx Gaelic class for the Thursday competitions. Costumes and props to be encouraged!

Continuing the comedy theme, there is also a **Manx Music Hall** class, new for 2020. This is for any Music hall performance in any format - small group, trio, soloist and backing singers, etc and we also encourage costumes and props here too!

We have a new 'Gitar' class (Manx for Guitar) which is possible due to the excellent new resources created by James Franklin, Pete Lumb and Culture Vannin.

As usual we have a theme for the competitions, and this year it is 'Manx Mythical Creatures'.

There are some other changes to the Claasagh and instrumental solo classes, so timings can stay on track, and once again we will also have a strong focus on being as plastic-free as possible.

DOWNLOAD 2020 Set pieces: www.manxmusic.com/learn_page_612064.html

Sunday 29 March 2020 - Secondary All Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre)

Monday 30th March 2020 - Keystage 1 All Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre & Rosemount Trinity Church)

Tuesday 31st March 2020 - Keystage 2 Dance and Song Competions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre & Rosemount Trinity Church)

Wednesday 1st April 2020 - Keystage 2 Instrumental Competitions (Douglas Youth Arts Centre & Rosemount Trinity Church)

Thursday 2nd April 2020 - Keystage 1 & 2 Aaloayrtys - Manx Gaelic & English readings, poetry and recitation (St Johns Methodist Hall)

Awards for talented Manx young musicians!

Young musicians have recently achieved great successes in prestigious awards.

10 year old Frank Joughin scooped 2nd Prize in the Next Big Thing with his medley of folk tunes, including Ellan Vannin, just behind 1st prize winners, Platform Theatre Vocal Ensemble, whose members are currently providing the musical soundtrack to 'M is for Manx Cat'. Meanwhile, harpist and fiddle player Xander Shirtliff was crowned Manx Youth Bard. Jeant dy mie!!







The Manx Year

A night of music, song, poetry, dance & drama

Saturday 14th March, 7.30pm Peel Centenary Centre

Featuring: Caarjyn Cooidjagh / Ruth Keggin Perree Bane / Greg Joughin / Annie Kissack Manx harpists / The White Boys & more

Tickets only £5 Available from Culture Vannin or Celtic Gold or www.centenarycentre.com



Organised by Culture Vannin as part of On Your Doorstep - One Big Weekend



MOOINJER VEGGEY MOGHREY CAFFEE COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 29TH FEBRUARY JESARN 29 TOSHIAGHT ARREE

Ebeneezer Hall – Kirk Michael Halley Ebeneezer – Skyll Mayll

10AM-12PM • £1 ENTRY • CAKE STALL • RAFFLE • • CRONGHOR CAISHT/ EASTER TOMBOLA • REFRESHMENTS



From 10.30 a.m. on SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY

at PROMENADE METHODIST CHURCH, DOUGLAS

Basic Safeguarding Training for Performers & event organisers

DESC and **Culture Vannin** are organising a safeguarding training session for Manx music and dance groups, festival organisers and individuals who regularly work with young people. It will be held on Wednesday 11th March from 6.30pm in Ramsey and is free of charge to attend. The session will cover basic safeguarding, writing a child protection policy, DBS checks, child performance licences and other topics relating to working with young people.



Email manxmusic@culturevannin.im to book your place.





THE ROZ KELLY MUSIC BURSARY 2020 Closing date 4pm Monday 10th February 2020

The Roz Kelly Music Bursary is awarded annually to enable two young musicians to separately attend the Music Summer School of their choice anywhere in the UK.

Eligible applicants are:

- Aged 16 21
 - Resident in the Isle of Man
 - Able to demonstrate their musical promise and enthusiasm through a written application
 - Able to provide a written recommendation from a teacher, musical mentor or similar

Each award is up to a maximum of $\pounds 1000$ and it can only be used to fund travel to and participation costs of a UK based residential music summer school of the applicants' choice.

How to apply

Your letter of application should be no longer than 1 side of A4 (typed) and should include the following details:

- Your full name and address and date of birth
- A contact email address
- Details of your musical interests and achievements to date
- The title and venue of the summer school you wish to attend
- What benefits you hope to gain from participating in the summer school
- A short written recommendation from your teacher or musical mentor
- If the applicant is under 18 years old on the closing date you must also enclose a short, signed and dated letter from your parent/carer to confirm support of the application.

Please note that an incomplete application may not be considered by the panel.

Please send your completed application by email or post to:

Roz Kelly Bursary Applications

- fmyo-iom@outlook.com
- or % Windmill House, The Curragh, Ballaugh, Ramsey, IM7 5BJ

Applications must arrive no later than 4pm, Monday 10th February 2020.

A small panel consisting of the principal officers of the FMYO and DESC Music Service staff will meet shortly after the closing date and all applicants will be informed whether or not they have been successful within two weeks of the closing date.

Roz Kelly Music Bursaries are managed by the Friends of the Manx Youth Orchestra. Successful applicants will need to provide copies of receipts for course fees and travel costs in order to receive the funding.

It is the responsibility of the successful applicants (or, if under 18, their parent/carer) to make their own travel arrangements and to book their place on the summer school of their

Oie'll Verree The annual Oie'll Verree, now a concert-based form of entertainment, was once a celebration centred against a more religious backdrop, and has been the subject of much transformation over the years.

Many of the outlying districts have abandoned this special celebration, but in Kirk Michael it's a much anticipated part of the calendar. Held in the local Ebenezer Hall, it's a great opportunity for the audience to enjoy a host of entertainment in a provincial setting.

An introduction was made by David Corlett, Chairman of Michael Heritage Trust, (organisers of the event) followed by Mike Clague, compére for the evening – introducing a range of performers, including traditional dancers from Perree Bane and a number of singers, musicians, the current Manx Bard Zoë Cannell and a little light comedy.

During the evening, the annual Yn Gliggyr award was presented to local girl Chrissy Cannell, in recognition of her contribution towards Kirk Michael's cultural heritage.

And to end the evening a little dialect poetry supplied by Deborah Taubman as an introduction to the celebrated dialect play. Presented by The Michael Players RBV, this year's adaptation was Mr Quilliam Decides by Lillian and Eva Kneen.

Valerie Caine © January 2020

(Courtesy of the North Western Chronicle)

PTO >> Links to some recordings of the concert



New recordings from one of the best Manx nights of the year! Kirk Michael Oie'll Verree 2020

https://soundcloud.com/culture-vannin/sets/kirk-michael-oiell-verree

Anyone who has been at the Kirk Michael Oie'll Verree will know why it is so popular every year! Some of the Island's best Manx performers of music, song, dance, poetry, dialect theatre, magic & comedy, all in a wonderfully welcoming venue, with a fine tay to finish! - It is an unmissable evening's entertainment, all put on by those wonderful people of the Michael Heritage Trust.

Culture Vannin were lucky enough to get a ticket to the event the Sunday before last, and we captured some of it for everyone to enjoy:

- * 'Graih my Chree' sung by Bill Corlett
- * 'Fair Isle of Mona' sung by Jane Mayne
- * 'Purrin' on a Play' recited by Deborah Taubman

These join our playlist of other highlights from the previous five years.

Thanks are owed to Michael Heritage Trust for allowing us to make this recording in the Ebenezer Hall. Please follow their Facebook page for information about their events throughout the year, including the Oie'll Verree.



Harrish y Cheayn – Across the Sea

Volunteers wanted for Manx Pavilion at Festival Interceltique de Lorient

Your chance to experience a cultural fusion like no other! Applications open: www.eventsolutionsiom.com/lorient/?fbclid=lwAR168elYGRpxnBBs4b3lNj2LT4Xru4p-NdXhPiq_6ELHAFTozI9-zyHLWIE



Dawnsio



Calling all dancers (and non dancers) Thursday 16th April – Save the Date!! Exclusive Fest Noz here on the IoM with top Breton hosts Lors Landat & Thomas Moisson.

Venue TBC (photo YC 2015 by Jiri P)



kiaull noa



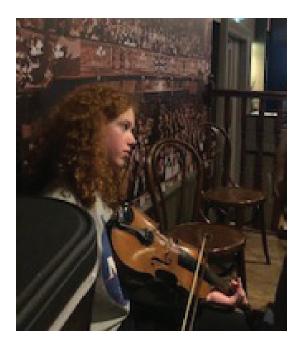
HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE MAKE MUSIC DAY?!

Musicians all over the world will be celebrating Make Music Day on Sunday 21st June and the Make Music Alliance hope the Isle of Man will again join in with the party!!

The basic idea is that everyone can join in - dust off your old instrument, learn a new tune, go along to your local park and play to a friendly audience for the first time, or just listen and appreciate lots of music-making on this special day.

Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" has been mooted as the global theme this year, so if you have an idea for your own event, why not include this in your plan?!

Add your event here: https://www.facebook.com/makemusicdayIOM/



GUITAR PIECE OF THE MONTH

"Berree Dhone" is the latest release with video tutorial from Pete Lumb, plus the sheet music/TAB to download. Non-guitarists can check out this tune in KMJ Transcription of the month!

https://vimeo.com/371196134 https://youtu.be/hpzgl0AZ8sU www.culturevannin.im/video_story_606045. html

Sir Norman's Session

Organisers of the IOM Trad Music Weekend had a fab session in Sir Norman's last month, to raise funds for this year's festival (25-27 September). Fantastic musicians, including a talented young fiddle player from Bree & Scran, enjoyed an afternoon of excellent tunes!

Look out more sessions coming up:

www.facebook.com/TradMusicWeekendIsleofMan/

- Youtube/ Soundcloud
 - corner .
- Dick Glasgow puts his own spin on
- Manx trad song; "Carval ny Drogh
- Vraane":
- https://soundcloud.com/dick-glasgow/
- carval-of-the-wicked-women
- -

RESEARCH NEWS

Hyndaa yn Bwoailly

<u>Note</u>. This is the only traditional Mx dance which seems to have survived in recent usage, except a few jigs, & they are not generally known. But this dance seems to have escaped the general ban on dancing of Methodism, & to have been looked upon either as a game, like "The Duke of York" & "Kiss in the Ring." When I was small it used to be danced as one of the games in the road after the Ballaragh Mhellia & the St. Stephen's Day tea party, but a good many years ago both it & the games were dropped & they had a sort of a concert instead, & now I doubt if any of the young people or children could do it. Grany used to dance it as a girl & said it was always done then at weddings etc., & it was she who taught it to me, but she was far more careful about steps & figures than the Ballaragh ones were, for very often there it became just a romp around, & you hardly knew where you were in the dance. They sometimes had Johnny Maty up with his pipe to play for them but often someone just sang the tune, & those not dancing clapped their hands for the beat. Granny used to do it to Hunt the Wren & other tunes: at the Ballaragh they had a special tune which J.M. said was the right one. Later on I found that this was the tune Gill has for the Frog Dance, & I expect it was also used for that, but as its title is the name of this dance I should think this is the one it really belongs to. D^r Clague has a different tune with the same title, & this seems to give the points for the kicks better, but it is incomplete.

Mona Douglas, "<u>Folklore Notebook.</u> | <u>Dances.</u> | Tunes, descriptions & notes". MNHL, MS 09545, Mona Douglas Papers, Box 9.

Another example of the detail to be found in the notebook kept by Mona Douglas recording her folk dance collecting, in this case, Hyndaa yn Bwoailly.

Stephen Miller, 2020



Featured here in alphabetical order are Margaret Corkhill, Daphne Corlett, Doreen Devereau, Barbara Johnson, Eddie Leece, Freda Moore, Stephen Newbold, and Margaret Quane. Note the adoption of a style of dressing to emphasis a Manx identity—the men's jumpers displaying the Three Legs surely deserve a clothing range of their own.

Stephen Miller, 2020

"THEY DANCED IN MANCHESTER" The ISLE of Man Folk Dance Society (1960)

The Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir records Ellan Vannin

by

Maurice Powell

It is just past mid-night on Thursday 2nd September 1948.1 Although the crowds attending the Wednesday evening dance at the Villa Marina have long dispersed, the building is still a hive of activity. On the stage is Joe Loss and his orchestra together with the Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir of some thirty members with their conductor Douglas (Duggie) Buxton L.R.A.M. Three microphones have been carefully placed by the two recording engineers, Charles Anderson and Francis Thompson, for the assembled singers and musicians are about to make a ground-breaking recording for the record company HMV.2

The story begins earlier that year just as the summer season was getting into its stride with Joe Loss as the resident orchestra at the Villa Marina for the third consecutive season. The Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir have just performed Ellan Vannin with the orchestra and Joe Loss is so impressed that the following day he telephones the HMV record company urging them to consider recording the choir, in his opinion 'second to none in the country', singing the 'lovely old Manx song' accompanied by his orchestra. HMV initially are of the opinion that such a recording would have a limited appeal and therefore not be financially viable. Somebody, possible Joe Loss himself, suggests that if Ellan Vannin were to be coupled with a popular Irish song and aimed at the American market, it would appeal to Manx men and women all over the world, with the added



bonus that the US dollars generated by substantial sales would help with the British export trade. After several weeks of negotiations, and with Joe Loss' endorsement, HMV finally agree.

The recording sessions commence with a rehearsal of Ellan Vannin consisting of several runsthrough until everybody is satisfied. Joe Loss once again expresses his delight at the result: 'That's as good as any first-class (ie professional) choir'. The second piece is an arrangement of Galway Bay for baritone soloist, sung by Howard Jones, one of Loss's regular singers that season, choir and band, which is finally committed to the 'wax' after nearly an hour of rehearsal. The sessions end at 2.00am and the choir, 'tired but very proud of the honour which has been conferred on them', depart for their homes in Douglas and Onchan, whilst Joe Loss and the band stay on to record two more numbers: No Orchids for my Lady and Rendezvous in Paris. It was a 'dream come true for every male voice singer in the Isle of Man . . . to record this most beautiful of all Manx songs'.3

Writing in the Examiner 'R. C. S.' was full of praise for the professionalism of Joe Loss and his 'band' and the care and attention paid to the smallest details of the performances in order to achieve the perfect recording. The orchestra was informally dressed for the recording sessions and the musicians were apparently 'smoking all the time' whilst Joe Loss worked closely with his personal arranger, making minute last-minute adjustments to the orchestrations. 'It was an enjoyable evening. The co-operation between Joe Loss and his musicians, and Douglas Buxton

and his choir, was wonderful to behold . . . the singing of Ellan Vannin brought tears to the eyes of many in the band'. This was a different side of Joe Loss to his more familiar elegant entertainer and showman stage persona, and furthermore, he and the band had already recorded four numbers in the early hours of Wednesday morning!

'Manx Recordings Accepted', announced the Examiner in mid-September and confirmed that the recording would go on general release from 1st November 1948. The Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir and Douglas Buxton appeared once more with Joe Loss at the Villa Marina that season as the guest performers at the final Sunday Concert on 12th September. Naturally they performed the two songs they had recently recorded together with The Jolly Roger and Abide with Me and were 'loudly acclaimed' by the large audience.

Ramsey, January 2019.

Notes

1. See IoME 3.9.1948.

2. His Master's Voice (HMV) was the famous logo adopted by the Gramophone Company in 1909 after Francis Barraud's painting His Master's Voice had been purchased by the Company in 1899 and adopted by its American affiliate The Victor Talking Machine Company around 1902. See IoMT 4.9.1948 for a photograph taken during the sessions.

3. Ellan Vannin had been recorded some twenty years earlier by the London Manx Society but the recording was no longer available by 1948. Further efforts after WWII came to nothing. There is, however, a recording of Ellan Vannin by the Glasgow Orpheus Choir (HMV B.9663, 1948), coupled with The Dashing White Sargeant, conducted by Sir Hugh Roberton, which can be heard on the Glasgow Orpheus Choir's Greatest Hits vol. 2, 2011.



"OUR OLD PEOPLE ARE JUST WONDERFUL" MR DAWSON AND EDWARD WARD (1956)





Featured in the *Isle of Man Examiner* in their regular column of *Pensioner Profiles...* for 16 November 1956 were (left) Edward Ward (72) and a Mr Dawson (76) (right). As regards the former, "Mr Ward, despite his years, is a lively step dancer and is a great favourite with his folk songs at the pensioners' concerts." And the latter, "He is a sprightly entertainer among the old folk with his Irish songs and dances,"

Stephen Miller, 2020

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE MONTH see www.manxmusic.com for more printable pieces of Manx music

Berree Dhone - the infamous Maughold Witch!

The story of the sorceress of Maughold is told in various versions of the Gaelic song, Berree Dhone. Hear the mysterious story and the song being performed here: https://youtu.be/-x4MMLopxnU

Berree Dhone is also the latest release of Manx guitar music arranged by James Franklin and demonstrated by Pete Lumb: www.culturevannin.im/video_story_606045.html

Below is the full version of the melody which is often performed in trad music sessions. The song itself is usually based on the first half of this.

Full lyrics: http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/mb1896/p072.htm



Vel oo sthie Verree Dhone? C'raad t'ou shooyll, Mannagh vel oo ayns Immyr Ghlass Ihiattaghey Barooyl?

Hemmayd roin gys a clieau dy hroggal y voain, As dy yeeaghyn jig Berree Dhone thie er yn oie.

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

22nd Springfest at Café Lingo, Loch Prom, entertainment from Scran and Perree Bane, 10.30am

29th February - Concert St Pauls Church featuring Ramsey harpists, time?

29th Bogdan Vacaresacu with Julian Jacobson, Peel Centenary Centre, 8pm MARCH

1st M is for Manx Cat, Peel Centenary Centre, 1pm & 3pm £5

6th - 8th Cwlwm Celtaidd, Wales

7th Braaid Eisteddford, 7.30pm

14th – 15th On Your Doorstep Arts and Culture

14th The Manx Year - Culture Vannin Concert, Centenary Centre, 7.30pm £5

17th St Patrick's Day

28th Claasagh Concert, Villa Arcade, Donations, 7.30pm

29th – 2nd April Manx Folk Awards APRIL

3rd - 4th Liet International Song Contest, Denmark

3rd – 6th Shennaghys Jiu Celtic Festival,

Ramsey

14th – 19th Pan-Celtic Festival, Carlow, Ireland www.panceltic.ie

16th Breton Fest Noz, venue tbc

25th – 2nd May The 'Guild' www. manxmusicfestival.org

MAY

2nd Oie Voaldyn, Peel

JUNE

21st Laa Jannoo Kiaull - Make Music Day!! JULY

5th Tynwald Day

20th – 26th Yn Chruinnaght Celtic Gathering www.celticgathering.im AUGUST

7th – 16th Festival Interceltique de Lorient www.festival-interceltique.bzh/

SEPTEMBER

11th – 12th Our Island Our World festival 25th – 27th IOM Trad Music Weekend

Please send in dates so that we can publicise events here & online:

www.manxmusic.com

