



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY
TOGETHER



OVERVIEW

'Celebrating Creativity Together' showcases creativity on the Isle of Man, providing a platform for community engagement and enabling social inclusion through creativity.

It contributes towards our Island Plan, supporting a secure, vibrant, and sustainable future for all.

The initiative brings together exhibitions in everyday venues including: Quayles Hall, the Town Hall and Age Concern in Ramsey and the Family Library in Douglas.

Creativity is becoming increasingly significant to societies and economies globally, making this an important and timely initiative.

'Celebrating Creativity Together' began life as a joint venture between the Department for Enterprise and a core team of local artists, musicians, and writers including Michael Starkey, Nicola Dixon, Amanda Quellin, David Kilgallon, Gyp Buggane and Jackie Morrey-Grace.

A community video was filmed and edited by Dave Armstrong from [Anotherdam.com](https://www.anotherdam.com) to complement the exhibitions and events. Photographs were also taken by Greg Barlow of ABSTRACT [palebluedot.im](https://www.palebluedot.im). Art work on the cover is by Greenlight TV [greenlight.tv](https://www.greenlight.tv)

Celebrating Creativity Together' showcases creativity on the Isle of Man, providing a platform for community engagement and enabling social inclusion through creativity. Watch here <https://youtu.be/CAip7eOXq0c>

How you can get involved

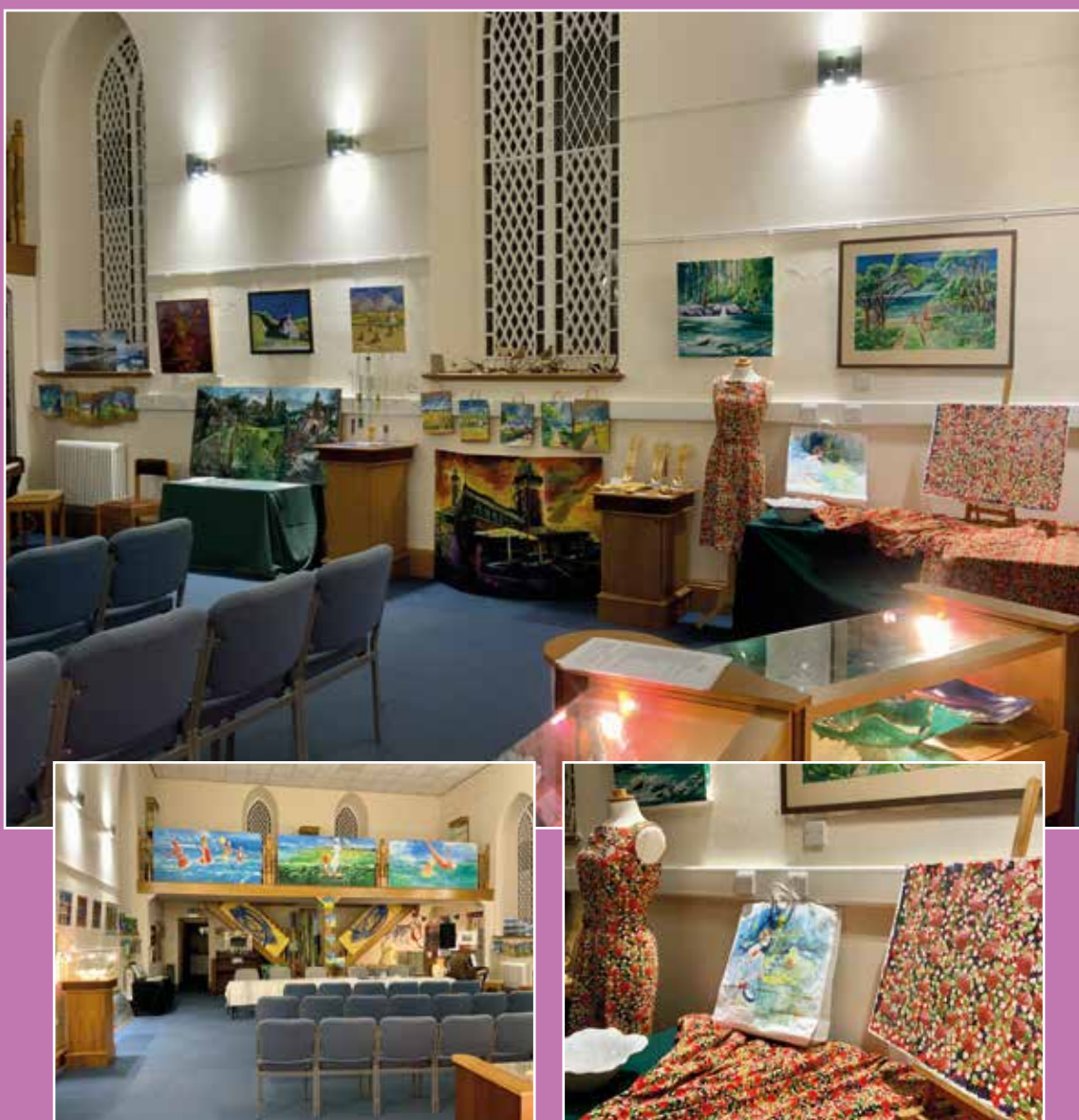
Logos are available for the creative community to use at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o19fL_tynePA6Gpw8gyGE9tjKIKwol0A?usp=sharing

Music by Tim Price aligns the exhibitions and is played at the venues, further details can be found at <https://youtu.be/CQIsjKOiQx8> and Gem of God's Earth | Tim Price ([bandcamp.com](https://www.bandcamp.com))

Creatives are invited to use the marker '#celebratingcreativitytogether' to bring synergy and raise the profile of creativity and can collaborate through the well-established community Facebook page [Isle of Man Creative Industries | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/IsleofManCreativeIndustries)

Creativity and wellbeing will be supported by the Workplace Wellbeing Conference on Wednesday 23rd November where views and information on Creativity and Wellbeing will be collated. [Workforce Wellbeing: Connecting Home and Work Tickets, Wed 23 Nov 2022 at 08:15 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/workforce-wellbeing-connecting-home-and-work-tickets-wed-23-nov-2022-at-08-15)





RENOVATING QUAYLES HALL

The Northern Dipper sea swimmers soon put their energy and passion behind the project, working long hours in Quayles Hall, cleaning, gardening, sorting and painting, transforming the hall from an under-utilised space into a loved and welcoming environment.

There were some jobs which needed more help and the Prison and Probation service stepped in to help with painting the hall and the railings outside, giving the whole area a lift and refresh.

Ramsey Town Commissioners, Northern Men in Sheds and local businesses all worked together to renovate the space improving the lighting, toilets, picture hanging facilities and cleaning the windows.

Artist Michael Starkey has a long history of working with the prison, using art to support rehabilitation and wellbeing. He supported those renovating the hall to participate in creating art and developing skills as part of the project.

Cathy Lord who runs education at the Prison also became involved and the IOM Prison now has work exhibited in Quayles Hall and in the Ramsey Town Hall as a result.

Quayles Hall needed a sign and GreenlightTV volunteered to make one which has transformed the building and reflects its new role as a centre for community and creativity.

MANY VOICES CELEBRATE CREATIVITY TOGETHER CREATIVE ECO-SYSTEM

A sustainable island of creative people where a supportive community and established eco-system builds skills and confidence.

The University College of Man (UCM)

At UCM the Art, Design, Media and Music departments support the development of a body of creative skills, innovative and critical thinking and knowledge. This enables students to progress into Higher Education and the creative industries on and off the Island.

Our staff are practitioners in their own diverse areas of creative endeavours as well as educators, inspiring future generations of creatives and supporting students to develop individuality of practice.

Our students and alumni include high achievers who are successful worldwide in a wide range of creative areas. In addition, we support lifelong learning through short courses for the wider public.

Further details can be found at: ucm.ac.im

The Isle of Man Arts Council (IOMAC)

The IOMAC was set up more than 50 years ago to support the work of local amateurs and professionals as well as visiting artists. It funds many organisations and offers advice and information to hundreds of people every year, encouraging and enabling participation and development in all aspects of the arts for the whole community.

The IOMAC works to provide a sound and sufficient infrastructure for arts on the Island to promote Manx cultural identity. Members give their time freely to serve the people of the Isle of Man by developing and improving the knowledge, understanding, practice and access to the arts in all its forms. The Isle of Man Arts Council is a sponsored body of the Department of the Education, Sport and Culture.

The current chair of the Isle of Man Arts Council is Mrs. Marlene Maska MLC. Current Council members are: Laura Rowles, Chris Williamson, Sharon Walker, Ben Heath, Steven Daykin, David Kilgallon, Jade Boylan and Jeremy Theobald.

Further details can be found at: www.iomarts.com

Kensington Arts

Kensington Arts is a venue run by Culture Division within the Department of Education, Sport and Culture, which currently organises activities for young people aged between 8 and 21 to support and develop creative expression. Running during school term times, young people can take part in a variety of projects covering art, music, theatre, dance, creative writing, media and backstage skills at Kensington Arts.

As the youth arm of the Government's Culture Division it is within Kensington Arts' remit to offer creative opportunities to young people in a fair and accessible way. Therefore, the first session of a project is free as a 'taster' and all sessions thereafter are just £2.

You can find out more about the projects, including age ranges and session times, on the newly launched website.

Further details can be found at: www.kensingtonarts.im or contact kensingtonarts@gov.im. We are also on Facebook and Instagram under KensingtonArtsIM.

Culture Vannin

Culture Vannin supports, promotes and celebrates Manx culture in partnership with the community, with a focus on creativity. Culture Vannin works closely with a range of partners and members of the public to develop strategies and policies, resources, products, events and opportunities.

The Isle of Man Arts Council and Culture Vannin have a shared vision to promote and develop arts and culture on the Isle of Man. They work together through a Joint National Strategy, and they also do so in very different and wholly distinct ways. Read more here: <https://www.iomarts.com/national-strategy>.

Culture Vannin works to promote and support Manx music within the community and the Island's schools, providing information and resources, organising events and leading workshops.

Further details can be found at:

www.culturevannin.im

www.manxmusic.com

www.learnmanx.com



Manx National Heritage (MNH)

MNH is a charity that leads on conserving, sharing and celebrating the Island's natural and cultural heritage, for current and future generations.

MNH historic collections, including art, social history, archaeology and natural history, have provided inspiration for creatives for nearly a century.

MNH museums, castles and beautiful landscapes offer sanctuary and stimulation through authentic presentation of art, culture and heritage.

As well as inspiring creativity through public programmes, MNH offer space for producers and artist to exhibit and sell their work and to share their skills with the wider Island community.

Whenever possible MNH uses local artists, designers, producers and skilled crafts people to support activities including exhibition design, special events, retail product and traditional buildings repair and maintenance.

Further details can be found at: www.manxnationalheritage.im



CREATIVE COMMUNITY

A sustainable Island of caring people, where creativity supports growth and inclusion, welcoming everyone.

The Children's Centre

The Children's Centre is the Island's leading children's charity. We address factors that impact children and young people during their development such as low self-esteem, additional learning needs, neurodiversity, mental health challenges, bullying, poverty, substance misuse, family challenges or anything that prevents children reaching a place of security and confidence.

Anyone can make a referral to the Children's Centre. From our single point of referral we work with the individuals in question, the family or a wider network to shape programmes of support and development the helps to grow confident, resilient and healthy young people. We are child-led – we work with a child or a family for as long as we are needed or until the outcomes have been achieved.

Our central base of operations is a 17-acre farm just outside of Douglas; we work across the whole Island but our centre has become a phenomenal resource for families; a wonderful C21st therapeutic and alternative learning space.

The purpose of the organisation is to help the community and support those who struggle. We are there for families when no one else is, we help families when there is no other support available or the child living with challenges is ineligible for statutory support. We adhere to the principal that complex situations can be turned around and that even those living in the most complicated circumstances can have a brighter future.

The arts broadly help so many people in so many ways; self-expression can be so important for a young person who has been marginalised by their school, or their family, or their peers. We use arts, creativity, self-expression and more to encourage the young people we work with. We encourage a child to take a 'challenge by choice' – this can vary from riding a mountain bike through a plantation to having a go at making a pot on a wheel.

Further details can be found at: info@thechildrenscentre.org.im

Watch to find out more <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aeut2h5Ff0>

Hospice Isle of Man

Faith Berry said:

"We incorporate creative arts into many services including, our drop in afternoon 'Your Hospice', Your Way' and our Dementia Programme 'Your Time, Your Place' our 'Creative Wellbeing Service' and a 'Young Persons Support Service Drop-in'. Art activity can be a great bonding experience, which acts as a gateway for open communication about personal experiences. Art can provide the opportunity for fun, therapeutic activities that help with emotional expression.

I aim to create an open space where the patient is free and make whatever they need that day. Unlike traditional Art Therapy, I focus on lower level psychological needs and active listening, which creates a more relaxed environment. This is really important for people who might not meet all the criteria of "normal" talking therapies or maybe just don't feel it's for them."

Further details can be found at: www.hospice.org.im

The Creative Network

In 2021 the Creative Network held an Isle of Man Art Festival, despite pandemic restrictions.

Feedback from visitors indicated a growing broader recognition of the value to our health and wellbeing that creative practice can bring.

Many artists have shown a natural ability to empathise with various audiences during festival workshops and taster demonstrations.

Development of programmes supporting mental health and education through art will be a natural progression for us in future.

Further details can be found at: <http://www.creativenetwork.im/>



The Family Library

The Family Library is a well-established gem in the heart of the community and its involvement in the 'Celebrating Creativity Together' project brings art to young people in everyday environments. It is an inspiring and creative space providing materials, and resources within a colourful, warm, safe and friendly environment to allow children and adults to embrace their creativity together.

The Family Library actually operates five bespoke services from our central location in Douglas. We are a small but dedicated, hardworking team of staff who bring a wide range of qualifications together with an invaluable breadth of experience to offer the full range of resources and more importantly time to fulfil the needs of the Island community.

We offer a free Schools Service delivering books and artefacts to schools throughout the Island at the start of each new term. A Bibliotherapy Service providing a social activity to prevent isolation and loneliness, aiding elderly memories through books, Manx photographs and memory boxes. A Home Delivery Service that is a valued and bespoke door to door delivery of books and audio books to the homes of those who find it difficult to travel. The Mobile Library, a library on wheels - if you can't come to us, we come to you!

This service has been travelling all around the Island bringing smiles to faces young and old for over 50 years. A vital and well-loved lifeline for those living in the rural communities.

These five services are all warmly regarded and highly valued. The Family Library enriches lives and contributes towards making the Isle of Man a better and more caring place.

Further details can be found at: familylibrary.im

Family Library, Sue Jolly, said:

"Every day is different. The Family Library is a big grey building on the outside but a hive of activity, fun, laughter and smiles on the inside. It is a safe, warm and welcoming space for everyone. Each week we range from our regular classes with young babies and their family members learning to sing and sign together and can be seen dancing and singing to Elvis or 'You are my Sunshine,' to the busy hustle of an excited class visit of children on a Friday afternoon all choosing their books to take home for the weekend.

We offer an extensive range of after school clubs and classes that are always very well attended and one-off events like our Lego Exhibition or our Hop Tu Naa Fancy Dress Disco that are so popular, they are very often oversubscribed! It is the most amazing and rewarding job to continuously meet new creative people on the Island and then welcome so many people through our doors from all corners of the community to join with us in 'Celebrating Creativity Together' here on the Isle of Man."



Disability Networks

Many of our members have an interest in accessible leisure locations. Quayles Hall is both accessible and welcoming, keep up the good work. Ramsey has great street art and now an accessible exhibition space, with disabled toilet facilities which are clean and tidy.

Further details can be found at: www.disabilitynetworks.info

Creative, Susan Quilliam

Susan Quilliam said:

“For a small Island we have a huge range of creative opportunities. Many exhibitions are curated by established artists who support new and fledgling creatives. This transfer of knowledge provides an opportunity to exhibit and sell work and provides the Island with a range of events to inspire and educate. It is essential for Island artists to be supported to continue this important and largely unseen work.

I have volunteered for many years in supporting the Island’s primary schools and festivals in teaching arts and crafts. The benefits to children participating in creative activity is immeasurable. Children can all succeed and feel proud of their creative accomplishments with care and patience. When people create together I believe they experience an increased sense of wellbeing. People increase in confidence following creative workshops and I feel immensely proud to have been able to facilitate this personal journey for others.”

Poet, Bethany de Legh-Runciman

Bethany de Legh-Runciman said:

“Losing yourself whilst being creative helps wellbeing by reducing stress, promoting relaxation and mindfulness. Creativity can be enjoyed by any gender, race or age. It can bring communities together through shared goals and opportunities. The Poetry Trail provides people who enjoy writing poetry, or those new to it, a focus to write a poem that might win them the joy of seeing it displayed. The Poetry Society aims to encourage and inspire creativity on the Island and is hoping that by working with schools and inspiring young people to read and write poetry they may journey into adulthood as a poet.”

Further details can be found at: www.facebook.com/isleofmanpoetrysociety



Poet, Bridge Carter

Bridge Carter said:

“Creativity and wellbeing go hand in hand. I use creativity to keep me balanced in life, when writing I feel a great sense of relief. Presently I am campaigning for the rights of our elderly and most vulnerable and writing about these issues in a poetic way helps reach out to more people. Social inclusion is a massive factor and some people who are creative might find they struggle with being accepted for who they really are. With poetry, especially spoken word performance poetry, we can all be our real selves. Creativity and the power of spoken word poetry is something that must always be celebrated as a way to reach out and touch people where it matters.”

Artist, Linda Gilpin

Linda Gilpin, said:

“Surrounded by sea and natural beauty creates the perfect atmosphere for creativity. It is phenomenal where the professionals in their field are, each able share their own expertise with so many amateur artists who not only encourage but enable such collaboration, so that each Creator can go on to reach their full potential.

I have recognised how important Art is through involvement as Membership Secretary with the Isle of Man Art Society. It is my desire that this special project will bind us together to celebrate our unity and inclusiveness and instil pride in our culture and heritage. “Celebrating Creativity Together” has proved the missing link for so many local enthusiastic Creators from all types of genre through the art world on the Isle of Man.”

Further details can be found at: isleofmanartsociety.com



CREATIVE WELLBEING

A sustainable Island of creative people, where wellbeing and peace are nurtured and valued, through resilience and a positive state of mind.

Isle Listen

Isle Listen uses creativity to support wellbeing through mental health. Services include a mental health educational programme in primary and secondary schools. These services help young people access mental health support which empowers them, providing emotional skills and resilience.

Creativity is an important part of Isle Listen's service delivery and therapeutic support. It helps young people problem solve and express themselves, finding their passion in life be that the arts, sport or music.

Isle Listen firmly believes that being creative assists in the processing of difficult emotions and feelings young people might be struggling with and can improve lives by helping improve mental, emotional and physical states.

Further details can be found at: www.islelisten.im



Poet, Janet Lees

Janet Lees said:

"Sea swimming is at the heart of my return to creativity. I've always been a sea swimmer and always wrote poetry when I was young, but for many years I didn't do either very much as I was struggling with addiction and depression. A few years into recovery I went on a retreat holiday where, through long solo sea swims every day, my poetry miraculously started coming back to me. It was as though the words were flowing into me from the sea. After the holiday I enrolled on a creative writing MA at Lancaster University. I've not looked back since, either from creativity or sea swimming.

Maybe the combination of repetitive motion, cold water and physical exercise help create the right conditions for making poetry or art. Perhaps the physical act of swimming keeps the practical part of the brain busy, freeing up the creative, intuitive part. Cold water and exercise both make you feel amazing, which is a good way to feel when you want to be creative. I don't really know how it works, but it does! I've often wished I had a device that would enable me to record my thoughts when I'm in the water, as that's so often when new words and ideas come to me.

For me, creativity is vital to a fulfilled life. If I'm not creating I feel only half-alive. When creating I'm also a better person to be around. And collaborating with other creative people is medicine for the soul, as it comes with an unusually deep and honest kind of connection. All in all, creativity is good news for the world; a positive, healing, connecting thing."

Further details can be found at: <http://www.janetlees.com/>

Isle of Man Prison Governor, Leroy Bonnick

Leroy Bonnick said:

"We use creativity for wellbeing to support social inclusion through rehabilitation and education. How we treat offenders is not a reflection of their character, but rather a comment on ours. We all have the potential to be the best versions of ourselves, we're all born loveable.

As soon as you argue that it's OK to treat some other people inhumanely, you become part of the problem. Social inclusion through rehabilitation and education is one of the pillars of effective reintegration. Education should build social capital and improve the wellbeing of prisoners during their sentences.

Education in prison should give individuals the skills they need to unlock their potential, gain employment, and become assets to their communities. The art projects undertaken with the prison education department with Michael Starkey are testament to this, giving offenders the feeling of self-worth did wonders for their wellbeing. Engagement in art did transform individual offenders' lives, but it can also benefit society by building safer communities and reducing the significant financial and social costs arising from reoffending. The cost of current levels of reoffending has been estimated to be £9.5-£13 billion per year."

Further details can be found at: www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/home-affairs/isle-of-man-prison-and-probation-service/

Singing Jo & Co

Jo Jackson said:

“Singing Jo & Co is a local charity group established in March 2018 to support early learning across the Island after taking over from The Children’s Centre. It is a proven and award winning group that provides valuable preschool learning and positively impacts on children’s development and achievements through singing action songs, dancing, rhymes, music and drama. The lively action sessions are enjoyed by around 500 babies, toddlers, pre-school and reception children each week, supported by their parents, grandparents, and carers.

We provide friendly support for parents, grandparents and carers to help develop relationships, make new friends and to give confidence in supporting their young learners. Our sessions are free of charge and funded by sponsors and donations from those taking part and are inclusive to everybody.”

Further details can be found at: singingjoandco.im

Naturopath & Medical Herbalist at Aurora Wellness

Stefanie Kerwin, from Aurora Wellness, said:

“When we celebrate creativity together as a community it brings a sense of togetherness and celebration of some of the best things that life has to offer us. There is an interesting correlation between health and creativity, the more creative we can be, the better our health is and vice-versa. Creativity makes life joyful, fun, wholesome and fulfilling and can be the nectar of life.

I’ve been supporting people in my Natural Medicine clinic for 15 years and have seen that stress, fatigue, sleep problems, hormonal imbalances and illness can all have a profound impact on creativity. Exhibitions and events like this to reignite and celebrate the creativity in our community is fantastic. Often our creativity involves finding time – our most precious commodity. I encourage so many people to find the time to do the things they love, rather than just the things they think they should be doing.”

Further details can be found at: aurora-wellness.co.uk

Isle of Play

“Children who visit Isle of Play enjoy nothing more than games of tag, building dens, painting, cooking mud pies, climbing trees, creating imaginary worlds and talking complete nonsense with each other. All good fun but not really serving any real benefit whatsoever, right?

When you consider that everything from film, literature, art, music, dance, philosophy, science and mathematics were all born from play, you start to realise that there may be greater significance in the seemingly frivolous pursuit of play than you realised. Play helps children become adaptive, social, mentally resilient and creative individuals and best of all its enjoyable and ultimately makes life worth living.”

Further details can be found at: www.isleofplay.im

Hello Little People

Hello Little People creates and produces innovative theatre experiences for children. Our purpose is to inspire young people, celebrate human connection and champion the arts as fundamental to everyday life. Art connects us all and allows us to communicate freely with one another. Telling stories is our way of connecting with people.

Live theatre, stories and music are vital to the development of not only children, but our whole community. When tasked with creating original work, we are naturally inspired by the Island’s rich heritage and culture. We have a curiosity for the world around us that is ignited further by stories of our unique folklore and Manx identity.

With better investment and support in the Creative Industries, the Isle of Man has the potential to utilise heritage and culture to develop a greater sense of place and belonging, leading to a happier, healthier, vibrant and diverse population along with a thriving economy.

Further details can be found at: www.hellolittlepeople.com



Crossroads for Carers

Jackie Betteridge from Crossroads, said:

"There are many positives to exposing people to art, and creative therapies. Arts and Crafts are high on the list for most people when they think of creative expression, including those with a range of any disabilities. Crossroads embraces all kinds of creativity to enhance people's skills.

We are extremely proud of those who work and run Crossroads Workshop, their skills and productivity are outstanding. They are a welcome addition to the family that is Crossroads. Crossroads is all about care and positivity, and therefore, inclusion and understanding is close to our hearts."

Further details can be found at: crossroadsiom.org

Age Concern

Teffine Butler from Age Concern, said:

"Age concern & The Ace Place provide support, friendship, and a listening ear to the mature Community Island wide. The excellent facilities available at the Ace Place include a diversity of crafts, digital support, and activities to encourage better health and stimulate the mind."

Further details can be found at: www.ageconcern.im

Creative, Stella B Jelski

Stella B Jelski, said:

"As a retired teacher of Textiles I have gained lots of friendship and joy connecting with like-minded creative people of all ages. I have helped in the formation of Manx Embroiderers and Stitchers (formerly Embroiderers' Guild IOM Branch) in 1989 and Manx Lace Makers in 1994. Both of these groups are still going strong along with Mannin Quilters, Northern Quilters and the Secret Stitch Society.

Some of these groups still work with children in Schools and the community. It is a great pleasure to be involved with the initiative 'Celebrating Creativity Together' which has brought together so many talented people and produced a wonderful display of art and crafts."

Further details can be found at: www.manxembroiderers.net

Manx Ukrainian Creative Community

Member, Yuliya Sasina said:

"I am an interpreter and a professional complementary therapist, who has lived in the Isle of Man for nine years and was joined by my mother, Lina, who had to leave a war-torn city of Kyiv in March 2022. Together we work with the Manx Ukrainian community to help people locally and back in Ukraine.

In April 2022, Debra Tracey-Carney of 'Isle Be Creative' offered Ukrainians a creative workshop painting a glass bowl in Ukrainian colours, to help people settle and de-stress. Karen Norton of Cafe Lingo organised a practical workshop about Ukrainian necklaces, which was popular and well received.

Ukrainians are a very creative nation and gladly share their gifts with other communities. For some, in these difficult times, creativity was the only way to express grief and longing for home. Others found new inspiration in contacting the great variety of creative skills and expressions here on the Isle of Man.

Creativity is a way to have a voice heard without violence, it is a way for human soul to go beyond suffering and into a different perspective.

Ukrainians turn their creative skills to learn about the Isle of Man and also to help their loved ones. They realise how important it is to celebrate togetherness through creativity."

Further details can be found at: www.gov.im/ukraine





Northern Dippers

Margaret Webb and Fiona Barlow said:

“The sea swimming community are a group of like-minded individuals who if engaged in conversation will chat for hours on the benefits and how swimming has changed their lives. Phrases often heard are ‘I’ve found my tribe’, ‘I swim, and I don’t care what I look like, there is no judgement here’, ‘How are you’, ‘Oh hello, would you like to swim with us, the more the merrier’ and ‘Anybody need any kit’. In the sea after the squeals and shrieks, all part of the challenge of getting into cold water, there will be words of encouragement, advice and care.

As we step out of the sea, cares and worries slip away, to be replaced with a sense of wellbeing and a buzz of energy and focus. Wet kit is quickly taken off and dry put on, often with hoots of laughter. Hot water bottles are cuddled, and next swims are planned and shared. We go on our way with brighter eyes and smiles on our faces.

The energy and community spirit born in the sea has been transferred into the Quayles Hall community project. The swimmers took on the challenge of helping revive the Hall and in so doing, showed what can be achieved when a community works together.”

Further details can be found at: www.iomtoday.co.uk/news/sea-swimming-provides-a-buzz-like-no-other-568118 and www.visitisleofman.com/experience/ramsey-beach-p1291051

Mother T’s

Valarie Miller, from Mother T’s said:

“Mother T’s has been host to over 200 events in the last eight years. Everything from art exhibitions, poetry and film nights, jam sessions, gigs, craft workshops and woman circles. I run monthly Chai nights through the autumn and winter months providing a safe space for people to connect and express themselves creatively. Through the shop, I provide a platform for local authors to sell their publications and artists to sell their wares. I especially like to support start-ups.”

Further details can be found at: www.facebook.com/MotherTeas



CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT

A sustainable Island supporting our creative planet, working in harmony with nature and nurturing resources.

UNESCO Biosphere, Isle of Man

In the current global climate and biodiversity emergencies, it's important we engage people about the challenges facing our planet in new and ever more creative ways.

This multi-faceted project, bringing together so many talented organisations and people, is a wonderful example of this. UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man's local strategy, 'Working Together for a Sustainable Future', pledges that we celebrate and promote all that's special about the Island and celebrate our unique sense of place, as well as engaging and educating people in the issues that affect it and what we can do as a Biosphere to find solutions. Congratulations to the many Biosphere Partners and other organisations that have achieved this.

Laura Moon, an exhibitor at the Quayles Hall exhibition, supports links between art and the Biosphere.

Further details can be found at: <https://www.biosphere.im/our-5s>

Tim Price Music

While studying Music at Bangor University, North Wales, Tim started to think about finding new ways of connecting with the Island's cultural identity through music, inspired by the Welsh Composers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Since graduating, Tim has been involved with various projects on the Island, composing music for 'The Manx Passion' (part of the 2014 Year of Culture), '7 Kingdoms' for the 120th anniversary of the Snaefell Mountain Railway, and the orchestral suite 'Gem of God's Earth' (inspired by the Manx landscape.)

Further details can be found at: <https://youtu.be/CQIsjKOiQx8>

Composer, Tim Price said:

"The Manx landscape is a great inspiration to me as a composer. We have such varied scenery, and there is so much to see, from dramatic coastlines and rolling hills down to tiny wildflowers. Walks can often spark off new musical ideas. The Isle of Man also has a great record for supporting and nurturing creativity. My music teachers gave me lots of encouragement, and their help certainly set me on the path to becoming the composer I am today."

CREATIVE SUPPORT

A secure Island, supporting creative prosperity, enabling innovation, enterprise and economic development

Chamber of Commerce, Isle of Man

Creative thinking is one of the most in-demand skills that businesses are looking for these days. Companies value employees who take innovative and unique approaches to solve problems and overcome challenges. The importance of creativity in business is also what helps employers and employees gain an advantage over competitors and boost productivity.

Further details can be found at: iomchamber.org.im

Digital Agency Isle of Man

Head of Innovation, Kurt Roosen said:

“Sustained creativity has always been a true differentiator across all industries, with those who break through the status quo becoming models of true ingenuity and innovation. The Digital arena is dependent on innovation and the creativity that underpins this. Therefore, the influence and impact of work in the Creative arena not only transforms the arts but also the Digital industry and our society at large. The legacy of mentorship, collaboration, determination, and continuous learning both inspire and challenge others to make their own contribution.”

Further details can be found at: www.digitalisleofman.com

Greenlight TV

Greenlight Television is a television production company formed on the Isle of Man in 1995. Specialising in motorsport coverage Greenlight are well known on the Island for covering the Isle of Man TT races, which was broadcast live for the first time in 2022. As well as producing 4 weekly magazine programmes 52-weeks a year for broadcasters across the globe, reaching in excess of 500 million homes, Greenlight provide coverage of a number of events across the World each year. Greenlight have been producing live sports coverage for over 27 years. Greenlight has consistently been at the forefront of new technologies. They were the first company to film the TT using a helicopter in 1995, and the first company to produce an FIA World Motorsport Championship in high-definition (HD), and in 2008, produced live HD coverage for ITV4 of the Royal Automobile Club’s Tourist Trophy from Silverstone, which was yet another first for British motorsport.

As early adopters of drone technology, Greenlight were the first firm permitted to shoot aerially at American racetracks, including the famous Circuit of the Americas and Sebring International Raceway in 2015. In 2022 Greenlight were permitted to film from a drone at both the Southern 100 road races and at the Isle of Man TT course for the Manx Grand Prix road races. Continual innovation is a core value and key to Greenlight’s success, and the company now provides an innovative high-quality solution to live production, utilizing bonded cell technology to deliver live production remotely from their base in Tromode.

Greenlight supports creativity across the Island, running an extensive work experience programme, and have welcomed more than 400 students through their doors. Greenlight are a company who reward self-starters, and numerous members of their staff started out with the company via work experience or internship programmes, making their way up through the ranks. Greenlight is a tight-knit company, who always put people first. They recognise and reward innovation and independent thinking by encouraging all staff to get involved in the complete production process.

Further details are available at: www.greenlight.tv

The Fynoderee Distillery

The Fynoderee Distillery is dedicated to the production (and enjoyment!) of premium spirits with genuine Manx roots and heritage.

Their unique blends feature Manx grown and hand foraged botanicals, and are distilled, bottled, and served at the The Fynoderee Distillery in Ramsey.

Crafted on flame-fired Copper Pot Alembic stills, or the modern electric iStill, The Fynoderee Distillery crafts eight different Manx gins, plus a Manx Bumblee Vodka and Glashtyn Spiced Manx Rum.

All of Fynoderee's premium Manx spirits are bottled in a bespoke 70cl bottle, which features a celtic twist on the front bottle shoulder, 'ISLE of MAN' on the back shoulder, 'FYNODEREE DISTILLERY' in the base, and a laser-etched cork featuring the distillery's iconic swirl.

Each bottle is then adorned with an exquisite paper bottle label, inspired by Manx folklore and hand illustrated by the amazing Manx artist Julia Ashby Smyth (www.juliaashbysmyth.com).

Julia's artwork, imagination and vast knowledge of our Island's folklore is interwoven throughout the distillery's brand identity – from the distillery's logos and product logos, to their 70cl bottle design, the Fynoderee 'swirl' and their stunning bottle labels.

The colours, characters, creatures and miscellaneous Manx icons featured in each their bottle labels are all crafted through an exciting collaborative process, which translates the ideas and desires of the distillery's co- founders Paul and Tiffany Kerruish into a delightful reality - through Julia's artistic talent and creativity, followed by digitisation for print by Isle of Man design agency, 572.

You can discover more about the distillery and the inspiration behind the artwork on the bottle labels for Fynoderee Manx Dry Gin - Elder Shee Rose, Glashtyn Spiced Manx Rum and Fynoderee Manx Bumblee Vodka in Journal articles published on the website.

Further details are available at: www.fynoderee.com



Sneaky Weasel

Ealish and Charles Hunt from Sneaky Weasel, said:

"Since 2017 we have grown our small business Sneaky Weasel. We are primarily traditional sign painters - we create signage for a variety of places and spaces, including businesses, events, home interiors and community projects. We specialise in traditional sign painting practices, including glass painting and gold leaf gilding. We have also worked on various heritage projects across the Island, including work for the Steam Railway, Manx National Heritage and restoration work for Jurby Transport Museum.

Alongside sign painting, one of our biggest passions is mural art, and creating colourful designs for public spaces. Ealish has a background in surface pattern design, and loves to incorporate her skills in this area into designs for murals. We create bright, abstract designs based on a variety of different themes and subjects. Our most recent project is a huge mural covering the Market Square Public Toilets in Ramsey. Here we will be marrying our love of mural art and sign painting - alongside colourfully patterned walls will be new, hand painted signage for the toilets, giving the building both a pleasing aesthetic and a necessary function.

As a business we improve and transform spaces, and support local businesses through the use of traditional techniques and bright, bold colours. We love sign painting because it has a functional use but is also beautiful to look at. Hand painted signs have such an impact on our Island - as a place full of culture and heritage it is important for us to use traditional techniques as part of our practice, and for these to help renovate and revive historical objects.

Our sign painting has impact as it helps to improve the aesthetic of businesses and home interiors. Our mural art helps to bring colour and vibrancy to public spaces, and makes art accessible to all members of the public. We have lots of ideas for improvements we'd like to bring to the community through our work in the future, as well as lots of commercial projects we're currently working on, so look out for our hand painted signage across the Island."

Further details can be found at: www.facebook.com/sneakyweaselsigns

Quirky IOM

Jane Hall from Quirky IOM, said:

“Quirky.im is the Isle of Man’s only marketplace platform, exclusively for Manx businesses. Its individual shop pages bring together everything from locally produced food and drink through to artists and makers across many disciplines. It’s full of creative products and produce! Shopping local has never been more important, and Quirky.im provides a one-stop online shop making it easy to buy from multiple local sellers all with one easy checkout.”

Further details can be found at: quirky.im

Head of Special Projects, Creativity and Social Inclusion, Department for Enterprise, Jane Critchley said:

“*Celebrating Creativity Together* has brought the community to life and has unleashed potential in many. It has been inspirational and heart-warming to see the community and businesses coming together to create beautiful spaces and share joy in difficult times. The quality and diversity of the work on display is breath-taking, I encourage everyone to join in and celebrate local talent and success.”

Further details can be found at: iomdfenterprise.im



Artist, Laura Espinosa

Laura has always been an artist, and has enjoyed various disciplines over the years, from illustration to wall art. Currently Laura has enjoyed much success with her evocative and ethereal semi abstract landscape & seascapes, painted on canvas or wood. Laura also has a vibrant, busy Art studio in Peel, facilitating a diverse range of painting classes that offer a great boost to wellbeing, often having a theme celebrating mindfulness and nature.

Further details can be found by emailing Ladylalamama@gmail.com

Artist, Laura Espinosa said:

“Having a creative outlet, especially in a group, is essential for modern day living. Personal expression and the social benefits of being part of something bigger than yourself, is not only good for the soul, it also reduces stress, you’ll feel happier and more balanced, have more energy, and ultimately you might have something good to offer to the world. *Celebrating Creativity Together* is a very exciting project. Creatives are much better when they pull together - we are all stronger when we collaborate.”





CREATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

A vibrant Island, supporting creative partnership, enabling renovation, networking, collaboration and joined up thinking.

Quayles Hall:

The hall, which is situated next to the site of the old Albert Road School, has recently experienced a complete transformation from a rundown community building into an innovative arts exhibition space.

Well-known Ramsey based artist, Michael Starkey, has been responsible for much of the community coming together and revamping of Quayles Hall for the exhibition. In 2018 he was asked to help with rehabilitation in the Art Department at Jurby Prison which he did for nine months, and which proved a real success.

Supported by Michael, Quayles Hall will therefore feature artwork from current members of the Prison and Probation service, who also stepped in to help with painting the hall and the outside railings. Ramsey Town Commissioners, Northern Men in Sheds, local businesses and the Northern Dipper sea swimmers have also all contributed to transforming the hall from an under-utilised space into a loved and welcoming environment.

As well as many paintings by Michael himself, including his 27 paper bag series, the exhibition is now full of paintings by artists such as Colette Davies, Laura Moon, Peter Davies and Nicola Dixon.

As part of the interactive, sharing skills angle of the project, some paintings are also accompanied by poetic responses by triple poetry slam champion, Jackie Morrey-Grace.

Other diverse exhibitions include a stunning collection of handmade resin bowls by Anita Quayle, driftwood birds by Chris Berry and photography by Greg Barlow. Bead work by Stella Jelski and glassware by Debra Tracey Carney are also on display.

The building was erected as the result of a petition in 1830 for a Presbyterian Church for the many former residents of Scotland who settled in the Town of Ramsey. The building was originally known as 'The Scottish Kirk' and was opened in 1834.

The building was replaced in 1887 by the Church which was built in Waterloo Road and later known as the Trinity United Reform Church. The building was purchased by a Mrs Jane Quayle who bequeathed it to the Town of Ramsey and it was re-named and opened as the New Temperance Hall in February 1886. It is still owned by the Trustees of the late Mrs Quayles Estate and has been used since 1886 for many activities and been extremely renovated by the Trustees with the assistance of other Benefactors.

In the 1980s it was used as an Old Persons Day Centre, where a weekly lunch was provided for older and lonely people in Ramsey and from 2012 until 2020, it has been used as a Heritage Centre, displaying many items relating to the history of the Town of Ramsey.

Chairman of the Jane Quayle Trust, the owners of Quayles Hall, Robert Jelski said:

"The Trustees are so pleased that Quayles Hall has been restored to active community use and are so grateful for all the hard work that has been done to renovate the Hall."

Artist, Anita Quayle, added:

"Quayles Hall is an amazing asset to Ramsey and the North of the Island as a whole. It's a space with a myriad of uses. As an exhibition space, it has the ability to promote wellbeing, not only for creators but also by inspiring creativity and wellbeing in others."



Ramsey Town Commissioners

Ramsey Town Commissioners work with political members and other stakeholders to celebrate creativity within the community with public art and public events such as Ramsey Rocks and Sprintfest.

As part of the *Celebrating Creativity Together* initiative they have exhibited work from a range of artists and have encouraged artists who have not shown their work before to join in.

A number of initiatives, supported by the Ramsey Town Commissioners which celebrate creativity include:

- Isle of Man Arts Council and Culture Vannin 'Creative Toilets' project enabled Sneaky Weasel to renovate the public toilets in Market Place
- Public art in the Mooragh Promenade Shelters, the commissioning of the sculpture outside the RNLI Shop
- Supporting a wide range of art groups/schools to stage exhibitions of their work in our premises
- Hosting of photographic displays
- Staging of festivals such as Ramsey Rocks and Sprintfest
- Welcoming cultural festivals such as Shennaghys Jiu

CREATIVE INSPIRATION

A vibrant Island, supporting creative partnership, nurturing creativity, showcasing talent and celebrating success.

Post Office, Isle of Man

We care very deeply about our stamps and doing the best we can as a small administration, and we pride ourselves on having completed a great many stamp issues very amicably with a huge variety of collaborators since our independence from Royal Mail in 1973.

We have formed partnerships with academic and military institutions, commercial companies, the armed forces and numerous international charities and celebrated individuals.

We continue to showcase the work of Isle of Man artists, writers and historians within our products and feel privileged to be able to represent the Island internationally through our work.

Isle of Man stamp collecting is the perfect way to discover what makes the Isle of Man so special - our talented stamp designers and artists are masters of presenting these miniature 'works of art' perfectly whilst the story behind the stamps are explored and written by our knowledgeable group of researchers who know the Isle of Man inside out.

Collect Isle of Man stamps and we guarantee you will not only find out facts and snippets about the Isle of Man that you never knew before but you will also be astounded at the wealth of 'Manx Connections' around the world.

Many famous people, notably in the arts, literature, and the sciences, were born in the Isle of Man. Nature thrives throughout the seasons, sport and sporting heroes abound, enterprise is encouraged and individual achievement regularly exceeds expectations for a small country of such modest size and population. This diversity is reflected in our world-renowned stamp collections.

Further details can be found at: iompost.com

General manager Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, Maxine Cannon said:

"When preparing our issue programme we always seek ways to include as much reference to Manx culture, heritage, creativity, and positivity so all can come together on a postage stamp, often no bigger than 32 x 32 mm square.

These little visual stories then travel to every part of the globe and even on occasion, to the International Space Station, and into the albums of collectors worldwide including the Royal Philatelic Collection for the benefit of future generations.

They are a permanent record of the things that make our Island and all the people who have made such a contribution to it over the centuries, such a unique place for all of us who call it home."



Artist, Michael Starkey

Michael Starkey, said:

"I love doing illustrations. I've produced 4 books for myself and do a nostalgic calendar every year. I've also designed wrapping paper which is very popular on the Island. And I've designed fabrics which was made into a dress and shown at Marks and Spencer charity show. But my main love is painting the Manx landscapes.

I've had numerous shows on the Island and in North Yorkshire and have had a painting accepted for the Mall Gallery in London. I have my work in public buildings around the Island. I've been painting on recycled materials such as polystyrene and card board and recently have just finished painting paper carrier bags for an exhibition.

In 2018 I was asked to help in Jurby Prison in the Art department to help with rehabilitation and I did this for about 9 months. We painted on old roller blinds which came from a gallery in Castletown and it was a real success. We put the art work in the gallery there for sale and I am pleased to say all were sold and all monies went to the Samaritans charity. I'm sure it helped the prisoners. I'm really interested in saving the environment and I encourage people to do so by painting on any surface. I'm currently helping to organise and revamp Quayles hall in Ramsey working with the community to make a fantastic venue which can be used for *Celebrating Creativity Together* and other purposes."

Further details can be found at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-48993540



Artist, Nicola Dixon

Nicola Dixon's work is well known on the Isle of Man capturing its essence with her colourful, simple, joyous style depicting local scenes, wildlife and Celtic interlace.

As well as on printed products in shops around the Island a series of public commissions has seen her work on banners the length of Douglas Promenade, on large metal screens in central Peel, on stamps celebrating Manx produce, and studied in schools.

In her early career Nicola worked internationally in the sailing world, where she cut her teeth as a working artist outside the formal art world, and learned how to make things happen for herself, embrace opportunity, and grow and change course if necessary when things didn't go to plan.

Further details can be found at: nicoladixon.com

Artist, Nicola Dixon Said:

"They say the most creative part of being an artist is making a living from it and even after 30 years it is a challenge. This is where 'Nicola champions' creativity and creatives. Creativity makes the world and our communities a better place in a multitude of ways, many of which cannot be quantified financially.

Creativity is a superpower, and those that practice it can inspire, inform, engage, challenge, calm, beautify and bring tears, laughter and joy. We need to support and value the arts and the creatives, especially those that have chosen this rewarding and difficult path as a career.

We want creatives to have long and flourishing careers so that everyone will benefit in small and large ways from the magic they bring into the world, and they in turn can inspire and inform the next generation of creatives."



Writer and Musician, Jacqueline Morrey-Grace

Jacqueline Morrey-Grace, said:

"I'm a musician and a writer and have worked as a professional in the creative industries all my adult life - and in many different guises! What I love most about creative work is how one discipline leads to another... and another and another! And how many wild and wonderful people you meet along the way.

Initially I trained as a jazz musician and professional music therapist. For many years I therefore used these skills for performance, therapy and teaching work. However, in 2013 my health took a wrong turn which meant I needed a new creative outlet. I therefore started to write and, in doing so, unearthed a completely unknown passion for creative writing and poetic performance! Since then, my creativity has led to some incredible experiences.

I've won the Manx Litfest Poetry Slam three times, published books and put on many events. In 2016 I also established a charity - which led to a passion for creative marketing and a professional copywriting career. This means I now work with inspirational entrepreneurs every day.

Creativity on our wonderful Island deserves so much celebration! Evolving creatively not only gives us the skills and confidence to give back to our communities, but to also truly learn to be ourselves."

Further details can be found at: jmorreygracewriter.com



Musician and Creative, David Kilgallon

David Kilgallon is a Manx composer & musician who works from his home studio in Ramsey. As well as providing music for TV, Radio & Audio Products, he performs internationally with groups based in Glasgow & Lorient, Brittany.

He is an active supporter of the Island's culture, a board member of the Isle of Man Arts Council and produces a number of Island events throughout the year.

Whenever he isn't working, he is usually trying to support both his daughters pursue their love for their Island's culture.

Further details is available at: davidkilgallon.com



Artist and Writer, Amanda Quellan

Amanda is a professional scenic artist and illustrator who runs a creative design studio producing commissioned murals and large-scale artworks for corporate clients.

Her portfolio of worldwide commissions have included: Granada, Yorkshire and BBC television, Film 4, museums including The Museum of Science and Industry, restaurant chains in the U.K. and USA, theatre, opera and theme parks and public arts trails.

She completed a degree in painting and printmaking at Sheffield University and a master's in children's book illustration at the University of Central Lancashire in 2021, for which she was awarded a distinction. Currently she is working on writing, illustrating and publishing her children's books and on public art commissions running a design studio.

As an accomplished scenic artist she is able to work in any style and it is the combination of scenic design and illustration skills that make her design service unique.

Further details can be found at: reedsy.com/amanda-quellan



Creative, Pat Kelly

Pat Kelly, said:

"I am a mixed media textile artist but my greatest loves are natural dyeing, wet felting and hand stitching. My inspiration comes from the birds, plants and insects that are abundant in my forest garden. I also do more experimental pieces in which I may incorporate paint or paper with hand or machine stitching. My work can often be seen in exhibitions and craft fairs around the Island."

Further details can be found at: patktextiles.com

Ballagroove Recording Studios

Gyp Buggane, said:

"I have run Ballagroove Recording Studios full time since 2012, during this time I have worked with 100's of artists both locally and further afield. I've been playing in bands, recording music and DJ-ing around the Island and further afield at festivals internationally over the last 35 years. I work with musicians in all genres of music, the Island has an incredibly diverse and vibrant music scene.

I am an advocate for the Creative Arts / Industries, and believe that engagement in creative pursuits is key to a fulfilling and rewarding life, and seek to encourage participation whenever and wherever I can."

Further details can be found at: Ballagroove Music Studio - Quality Recording, Mixing & Mastering



Creative Entrepreneur, Jo-Ann Thorn

Jo-Ann Thorn said:

"I was born and raised in the Isle of Man and now live half in the Island and half in London - where I've been running my own audio-visual hire company since 2010. I love my work because although I'm responsible for choosing and rigging the equipment, it's equally important that I capture my client's vision. This means my job is the perfect blend of creativity and technicality. I also get to work with interesting clients like fashion designers, artists and photographers. Recently, my projector set ups could be seen during the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall too. As well as this, because I love working with technology, I have a passion for digital music.

During the pandemic I therefore teamed up with local performance poet, Jackie Morrey-Grace, and we created Turning Glass - a poetry set to music project. I'm so excited that the outcome of this is going to be celebrated during the exhibition, at the Family Library. I'm also looking forward to sponsoring the event with some AV equipment. It's amazing to be able to use my skills and resources in this way to contribute to the creative community back in my beloved homeland."

Further details can be found at: www.aurora-multimedia.co.uk

Writer, Fiona Gell

Dr Fiona Gell grew up on the Isle of Man and loved the sea from an early age. She trained as a marine biologist and has a PhD in seagrass ecology and fisheries. She has worked in marine research on Islands in the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean and spent 13 years leading the marine conservation work of the Isle of Man Government. More recently she completed an MSc in Carbon Management and worked on the Isle of Man's response to the climate emergency.

Her poetry had been published in The Rialto, Wasafiri, The Stinging Fly and Dark Mountain and she has written about the ocean in The Guardian. Her first book Spring Tides: Exploring Marine Life on the Isle of Man, a memoir about marine conservation and the maritime culture and heritage of the Isle of Man, was published by W&N in May this year.

She is now a freelance writer and specialist in ocean conservation and climate policy.

Further details can be found on Twitter: [@f_r_gell](https://twitter.com/f_r_gell)



Sculptor, Robert Jones

Robert Jones is a Manx sculptor working primarily in metal. He is a member of the prestigious Royal Society of Sculptors and has had three solo exhibitions in the UK and Isle of Man. His work has been exhibited widely and he has pieces in the Isle of Arts Council collection and Manx Museum national collection.

Robert has been inspired by the strong heritage of sculpture in the Isle of Man, particularly through the work of Michael Sandle RA and Bryan Kneale RA. He is currently completing a documentary film with support from the Isle of Man Arts Council about the influence that Manx culture and landscape has had on the development of these sculptors.

Robert Jones' work is heavily influenced by Manx nature, landscapes and industrial heritage and their juxtaposition, and he is deeply concerned about climate change. Wherever possible his work is made from discarded metal and other materials, and he works to minimise his environmental impact. Recent pieces have been heavily influenced by the climate crisis and his hopes for a better future for the planet.

Further details can be found at: www.robertjonesculptures.com/



Villa Marina and Gaiety Theatre

Further details can be found at: www.villagaiety.com



Vannin Photos



Sue Blythe Photography



THE ISLE OF MAN'S PREMIER ENTERTAINMENT VENUE



GAIETY THEATRE

Steeped in history and tradition this breathtaking Victorian Theatre offers a year-round programme of live drama, musical theatre and family entertainment. Plus we have behind the scene tours on Saturdays throughout summer.



VILLA MARINA

This prestigious venue features an intimate concert hall and versatile event spaces, hosting some of the biggest names in comedy and music, with a diverse array of live shows running throughout the year.



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