



ORGAN DONATION: Keyboard player Michael Dann will be donating the proceeds from a concert he is playing next month to the PIA charity. **8DE0218014.**

Dan's the man when it comes to fundraising

MUSICIAN Michael Dann is tuning up for his annual charity concert – only this time he will be raising money for a very personal cause.

In 1998, Michael was diagnosed with COVID (Common Variable Immune Deficiency) after three bouts of pneumonia.

The condition means he has an unusually low resistance to infections and has to have weekly home treatments to boost his immune system.

"The children at the schools I visit know I have something yucky and they know to stay away from me if they're ill," said Mr Dann, who lives in Scole.

"I have a lot of sinus infections and I have to be careful eating chicken when I am out because I can get food poisoning just like that."

The concert, which takes place on March 9, in Roydon Village Hall, will raise money for the South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band – which Michael used to belong to and the charity PIA (Primary Immunodeficiency

A musician who has raised funds for charity for the past 14 years will be turning his talents to help a cause closer to home, as **Catherine Morris** discovered.

Association).

"I have been doing a concert for the last 14 years in aid of the British Heart Foundation," he said.

"This year, organisers Anne Coates and Ann Dutton decided they wanted to do some more fundraising for other charities.

"PIA helps people like me." Michael has chosen a mix of modern pop and show tunes for the concert – insisting there will be nothing too heavy for a Sunday afternoon.

He is keen to make people aware of his condition and pleased to be supporting PIA.

After Michael was first diagnosed with COVID, he had to travel to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital every other week for a day's treatment.

But he was then given the chance by Papworth Hospital in Cambridge to trial a new home treatment.

"I was patient number one

and spent one day a week for ten weeks being trained with my wife Kate," said Michael.

"It has made a huge difference to our lives."

Now, every week, Kate and Michael put a small butterfly needle, which is attached to a vial of immunoglobulin, into his stomach.

"It isn't quite true to say it doesn't intrude on your life," said Michael. "It does.

"But we are able to take it away with us and it's still better than a trip to the hospital or a bout of pneumonia."

■ MICHAEL DANN In Concert takes place on March 9, 3.30pm, in Roydon Village Hall.

For tickets, which are priced at £6 including refreshments, call 01379 740041 or 01379 642572.

catherine.morris@dissexpress.co.uk

WebWatch:

www.michaeldann.co.uk

www.pia.org.uk

www.snysb.org.uk