

MELDRUM CONNECT



Connecting Kirk & Community

A Newsletter for the Meldrum Community

It is rare to hear about duty in our society now, except when we come to Remembrance Day, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of November. Sacrifice and duty were wrapped up in the fabric of the nation. The words "We will remember them" are spoken every year at services of remembrance in cities, towns and villages everywhere.

Every village has a memorial. How do we remember them?

Hopefully through working to improve communities around us and around the world.

Rotary have recently planted over 300 crocuses in the Community Garden, South Road, as a symbol of their 35 year fight to eradicate Polio. Polio was rife in Britain in living memory. It is a hideous disease. Since the first vaccination program in the Philippines, in 1979, Rotarians have raised £1.5 Billion and badgered/persuaded governments to invest £7.5 Billion more. They have reduced Polio cases by over 99%, which is extraordinary. They keep going, because if all efforts stopped today, within 10 years, Polio could paralyse as many as 200,000 children each year.

Meldrum Parish Church has supported Blytheswood Care, for decades, by filling shoe boxes every year, to send to Eastern European countries, including Ukraine. Each box is filled with essentials and gifts, for particular age groups, including adults, to spread kindness at Christmas.

Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group (MAIG) have brightened up Oldmeldrum for the past decade, bringing colourful splendour to our streets & square and most recently winning a Gold Medal, in the Keep Scotland Beautiful competition.

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Meldrum Paths Group have just delivered a beautiful tarmac path from Forsyth Drive to Meldrum Academy, which makes it accessible for wheelchairs and keeps the slippery mud, of the old improvised route, off clothes and shoes.

All of these groups and many, many more will be revealed at the Christmas Tree Project, where imaginative trees will be constructed, in Meldrum Parish Church, to show how "We are remembering them" through constant service to our local community and beyond.



Dear Friends,

What a wonderful season we're entering! The arrival of Christmas brings with it the light and joy of the birth we celebrate—the promise of peace and hope in the world. Here at Meldrum Church, we're especially excited to gather with our community, share in festive traditions, and celebrate this sacred season with new and familiar faces.

One of our most beloved traditions is the **Community Christmas Tree Project**. Meldrum Church will soon be transformed into a Christmas wonderland, with trees beautifully decorated by local businesses, clubs, charities, school classes, families, and individuals. Each tree is a unique expression of creativity, from elegant to quirky, and together they capture the joyful spirit of Christmas. I hope even more of you will participate this year, adding to the delight of our visitors and contributing to the vibrant display that fills our church with warmth and color throughout December.



Mark your calendar for our **Open Day on December 21st, from 10 am to 3 pm!** Join us to vote on your favorite Christmas tree, enjoy tea, coffee, and mince pies, and let the kids try their hands at some fun crafts. Later that day at 5:00 pm, we'll gather for a **Community Christmas Concert and Sing-a-long**—a wonderful chance to join your voices with friends and neighbors as we share the Christmas spirit. If you'd like to be part of the program, preparing a song or skit, we'd love for you to join us in making this evening a joyful and memorable celebration.

On **Christmas Eve**, our "Wee" Christmas Service at 2:00 pm is a fun and energetic gathering for all ages to sing, dance, and craft while we share the Christmas story. That evening, we invite you to our **Watchnight Candle Service**, beginning with carol singing at 11:00 pm and moving into our candlelit worship at 11:30 pm—a beautiful way to welcome Christmas together. And on **Christmas morning at 10:30 am**, we'll gather once more to celebrate the gift of Christmas with a joyful worship service.

Additionally, I'd like to share about our new **Tunes and Teas** group. This warm and welcoming group meets each Tuesday from 4-5 pm in the church hall for singing, a "fine piece," and, of course, a good blether! It's a wonderful way to lift your spirits, connect with others, and join in the simple joy of song and friendship. As we approach this holy season, may our hearts be open to the light and peace that Christmas brings. Whether through song, story, or shared traditions, let us come together in gratitude and joy, embracing the love that surrounds us.

Blessings to you all,
Alisa

SHOEBOX APPEAL 2024

A huge thank you to everyone who filled shoeboxes - they were picked up by Blytheswood Care and will be sent out, in time for Christmas, to children and adults in Eastern Europe, who face difficulties every day through poverty; illness; disabilities, or other disadvantages. Your generosity brings so much joy to the recipients and also makes them aware that others do care.

Since the first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 Blytheswood Care have sent more than 2.6 million boxes – each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need.

Filled with small, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, and clothing, the individually-wrapped boxes have been distributed in schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low income communities. Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine.



Christmas in Meldrum

21st Dec
starting at
10am

Christmas Tree Open Day 10-3pm
Concert & Carol Sing-a-long 5pm

24th Dec
2pm

Wee Christmas Service

24th Dec
11pm

Watchnight Service
with Carol Singing

25th Dec
10.30am

Christmas Morning Service

Everyone welcome at Meldrum & Bourtie Kirk



Youth CLUB

Christmas Party Celebration
@ Meldrum and Bourtie Church Hall
MOVIE//Games// Table Tennis// Music// Tuck Shop

13th December
Welcome to all
P5 - S6 from 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Meldrum and Bourtie Church Hall,
Albert Road
For more information contact Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org
www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com SCN: SC015960

The poster features a blue background with festive illustrations of Christmas trees, red-rimmed glasses, a red and white snowflake sweater, a Christmas tree with lights, a Santa hat, and a calendar showing the number 4.

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

Free

STORY & PLAY

MELDRUM CHURCH HALL,
ALBERT RD,
OLDMELDRUM,

First Friday of the month
1.30-2:30pm

A relaxed and welcome time
for little ones to play &
explore with a time of snack &
story.
(Bring your own snack)

email: Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

No need to book!
Just come along
for the fun 😊

The poster has a blue background with white and yellow text. It features a starburst graphic for 'Free' and a speech bubble for the 'No need to book!' message.

Book Group

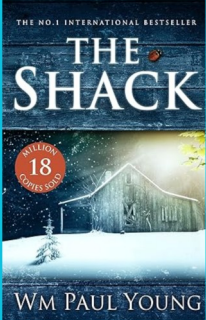
For books that inspire our faith

Welcome to ANYONE!

email Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk for more info

Last Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm

November Book



January Book



Sunday 1st
December
at 2.30pm in
the Church hall

*A Service of healing
and hope for those
who find this season
hard or have lost a
loved one.
Tea/Coffee served*

HEALING AND HOPE
All Welcome



Tunes and Tea

An afternoon of singing the ol' tunes,
enjoying a blether and a fine cuppa!

Every Tuesday 4.00-5.00pm
Meldrum Church Hall
Albert Road

Starting on Tuesday
1 October



An afternoon open to ALL who would enjoy a sing song, friendship and a cuppa. Including anyone living with dementia or experiencing difficulties with their memory, including friends and family. All are welcome: people who can attend independently and/or for those unable to do so should come with a companion who can provide any needed support for them. We are unable to provide transport it is therefore your responsibility to get to and from this community activity, safely. If you are unsure, or have any questions please get in touch. Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk



On the first Sunday of the month the church is open
for all for quiet, peace, connection, or
contemplation.



OPEN DOORS

1st Monday of the Month
11am-2pm

Last Sunday of the Month 11.00am in Meldrum Church

A Service for the whole family



Meldrum Church
Kirkbrae
Oldmeldrum

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO
'A DIFFERENT KIND OF WORSHIP'**


Tea, Coffee, Fellowship & Friendship



YOUTH STUDY

Meeting for food, chat, and
exploring how to be
Holy Troublemakers

Last Sunday of
the Month in
Meldrum Church
at 10.15 am
before the
service





We are inviting everyone in the community to take part again in our Community Christmas Tree Project. Any local businesses, clubs, charities, school classes, families and individuals, etc. are invited to contribute elegant, quirky, or entertainingly decorated trees which transform Meldrum Church into a Christmas wonderland. The church will be open for various events throughout the month of December for the trees to be on display. With an Open Day for tree voting later in the month.

So, would you like to make a tree? There is no cost to be involved, it is absolutely free!

All while you can advertise your group or organisation.



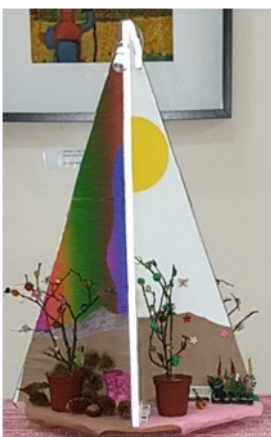
If you could let us know your expected height/width of your tree we can pre-select a suitable place. Ideally use of battery powered fairy lights are best - but don't let us hamper your creative flare! If you could note your interest, and proposed measurements by Monday 2nd December.

Set up would be anytime from 2pm-6pm on Friday the 6th December.

The last two years we have had the most imaginative and wonderful designs by individuals from the community as well as organisations including Co-Op Oldmeldrum, Physiotherapy and Pilates Company, Meldrum Health Walks, Ramblers, Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space, Meldrum Primary School, St. Matthew and St. George Church, Naughty Knitters, Meldrum Library and The Rotary just to name a few. This year we hope even more individuals/families/groups take part in bringing our community together for our Community Christmas Tree Project. **Open Day for Voting on 21st December 10-3pm** there will be tea/coffee/mince pies, crafts and more for the whole family during the Open Day.

Come join us for a Community Christmas Concert and Sing-a-long on Saturday 21st December at 5.00pm.

Do you play an instrument?
Do you have a band? Sing a song?
Have a poem or reading?



We are inviting anyone who would like to be involved in the Concert and Sing-a-long to prepare something special as we all come together and join in the Christmas Spirit!





On 9th September Wendy Fretwell demonstrated her skill in Flower Arranging. She made a display with Sunflowers, a Table arrangement and a Basket arrangement which were raffled and handed over to 3 lucky members. Everyone admired

the arrangements which Wendy made so easily and quickly.

On 30th September we had our bus outing to Broadstrak Inn, Westhill where we had a lovely Lunch followed by shopping in Dobbies. Our thanks go to Bains Coaches as we were all delighted to see Kevin back behind the wheel and to the Broadstrak Inn for the friendly service and good food.

On 14th October Mhairi Philip gave a talk on Garioch Home Start which started 30 years ago. Their aim is to help parents going through Post Natal Depression, give support, make them aware of help and benefits, accompany them to a Group and even take the child

for a walk. Early intervention is important and a volunteer will offer 2 hours a week for a child up to the age of 5 years. Parents need most support 24 hours after a referral. The talk was well received and very interesting.

Our next meetings are as follows:

9th December	Christmas Party
13th January	Oil and Gas Transition Speaker: David Watson
10th February	Talk on a trip to China Speaker: Sally Bremner
Friday 7th March	World Day of Prayer (Time to be arranged)
10th March	Talk on Women's Aid Speaker: Aileen Forbes
14th April	A.G.M.
12th May	Speaker: Pat Patrone Outing to be arranged

All meetings are held in Morris's Hotel at 2.30 pm.



PASTORAL CARE

If you, or anyone you know would like a visit from someone from the Pastoral Care Team, please get in touch with either Eileen Oliver on 07775 606640 or Sheila Simpson on 07866 130175.

We are also looking for people to join our Team to provide occasional visits to people in the Community. If you have some free time and think this is something you would be interested in, please let us know.



BEREAVEMENTS

Mr Allan Fell	5th September 2024
Mrs Nildhara (Nila) Myers	23rd September 2024
Mr Frederick Dunne	21st October 2024
Mr James (Jim) McColl	22nd October 2024





For our community, by our community!



Create "Miles of Smiles"!

Volunteer to pilot (ride) a Trishaw.

Our Trishaws are easy-to-ride e-bikes! Full FREE training is given. Other volunteer roles are available too.



Stay active, change lives and achieve *huge* fulfilment and enjoyment.

Arrange a FREE ride for a loved one, friend, neighbour or anyone with a disability or mobility issues.

Sponsor a Trishaw.

Donate a Trishaw in memory.

To book FREE Trishaw rides for friends or loved ones or to find out how to volunteer with us or for any other information, contact us at:

07775 606 640 or cwas@oldmeldrum.org

Share our moments at [cycling without age scotland oldmeldrum](#)

****CWAS Oldmeldrum**

We're on the move! Having lost our storage space after the closure of Westbank Care Home, we are so grateful to Glen Garioch Distillery for offering us a new home and we can't thank them enough for all their help.

Happy to say that we can still take bookings for local trips (weather permitting).

Thank you Beam Suntory at Glen Garioch Distillery!



MRG

ELECTRICAL

**OLDMELDRUM
BASED,
COVERING
ABERDEEN
CITY & SHIRE**



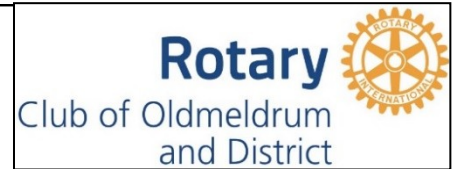
01651 873668

INFO@MRGELECTRICALSERVICES.CO.UK



Office for Low Emission Vehicles
Approved EV Charge Point Installer

OLDMELDRUM AND DISTRICT ROTARY CELEBRATE 25 YEARS



Oldmeldrum and District Rotary has just celebrated 25 years and looks forward to many more years to come. During this time, we have been involved in many charitable projects and we are proud to have benefited our community in several different ways. Rotary maintains the William Forsyth Community Garden at the top of South Road, where we have recently planted over 300 purple crocus bulbs to demonstrate our commitment to the eradication of polio worldwide

Our Santa Sleigh will attend the Christmas Lights Switch on in Meldrum Square on December 1st and will be visiting the surrounding villages during the following 2 weeks with our collecting boxes. At Easter we shall be organising the Haddo Easter Egg Hunt with Ellon Rotary. These are great fundraising events with the money raised donated to local charities and communities.

Our commitment to young people, who are our future, is demonstrated in a number of ways. Starting very young, we have Rotakids at Tarves, Cultercullen and Udny Green primary schools. The children learn to be fair to all, to serve their community and to show respect for others. This theme is carried through at Meldrum Academy where the older students can join the Interact Group which assists Rotary in many of its endeavours. We are very proud of our partnership with Meldrum Academy.

We promote various competitions for our young people, including Young Writer, Artist and Photographer in addition to the Primary School Quiz and Young Musician which are both hosted by Meldrum Academy.

If you want to join Rotary Oldmeldrum as a member you would receive a warm welcome. If you would like to help us with any of our projects as a Friend of Rotary, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Rotary meets regularly on a Monday evening at the Redgarth on Kirk Brae Oldmeldrum.

Further details can be requested at rotaryomd@gmail.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/oldmeldrumrotary/>

and our website

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1845>

Mary Watt, President Oldmeldrum and District Rotary.



Co-op Community Fund and Meldrum Church Youth Club

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Co-op Community Fund and the local community for supporting this project. Our funding year has now come to a close and we are delighted to have received a very generous sum to go towards resources for the Youth Club. We have already been able to purchase an air hockey table, table football, a Nintendo Switch and crafts which are all used regularly at our monthly meetings on the last Friday of each month.

A colorful poster for the Youth Club. The background is a vibrant rainbow gradient. The word "Youth" is written in a large, black, cursive font, and "CLUB" is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font below it. Below the title, it says "@ Meldrum and Bourtie Church Hall" and "Games // Table Tennis // Music // Tuck Shop". The main event is "2nd Friday of the Month" in a large, bold, black font, followed by "P5 - S6 at 6.30pm - 8.30pm" in a bold, orange font. At the bottom, it provides the address "Meldrum and Bourtie Church Hall, Albert Road" and contact information: "For more information contact Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk" and "www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com SCN: SC015960".



Santa and his Sleigh will be visiting the communities in and around Oldmeldrum from Tuesday 3rd December until Friday 13th December

Santa has lots of streets to visit in each community so he will not be able to stop and have children on the Sleigh as he travels through the area, but Santa will be playing Christmas songs, shouting 'Ho Ho Ho' and waving as he passes through the following communities starting at 6pm as shown below.

Tues 3 rd Dec	Rothienorman
Wed 4 th Dec	Tarves
Thurs 5 th Dec	Methlick
Fri 6 th Dec	Daviot
Mon 9 th Dec	Oldmeldrum South
Tue 10 th Dec	Oldmeldrum North
Wed 11 th Dec	Newmachar East
Thurs 12 th Dec	Newmachar West
Fri 13 th Dec	Kingseat

A few days before each visit we will be publishing, on Facebook, the approximate times that we will be in different streets in each community. We also have an on-line tracker so that you can follow Santa's progress and know roughly when he will be arriving at your street.

This can be found using the following link <https://glympse.com/!SantaOldmeldrumrotary>

If you would like to donate to the Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District Santa will be accompanied by Elves with collection buckets or you can make an online JustGiving donation using this link

www.justgiving.com/campaign/oldmeldrum-rotary-santa

There will also be a QR code on the side of the Sleigh with a link to the JustGiving page.

This year the Rotary Club will be donating 25% of the collection to Parent Council of the local primary school with the remainder going to their community fund for distribution to local causes next year.

Thank you for all your support in 2024 and Merry Christmas from all members of The Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District.

THANKS TO MELDRUM AMENITIES IMPROVEMENT GROUP

I'm sure everyone in the community would like to say 'Thank You' to all the volunteers in MAIG for maintaining such incredible displays of flowers and plants throughout the year.

They have certainly done us proud this year and their magnificent Gold Award, from Keep Scotland Beautiful.





North East Aberdeenshire National Trust for Scotland Members' Centre

(A registered Scottish Charity SC02422)

It has certainly been a busy Summer. We had an interesting visit to the Scottish Illustration Festival, held to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of writer George MacDonald who was born in Huntly. The event was held in the wonderful new community venue, No. 30 The Square – well worth a visit. Our members ventured further afield in September with an overnight visit to Perthshire visiting Castle Drummond, Branklyn Garden and the Japanese Garden at Cowden. Now that Autumn has arrived, we are back to our programme of talks and indoor events with talks so far including a fascinating history of the Earls of Kintore and the Keithhall Estate and local author Jackie Ross reflecting on "Fit Doric means tae me". The first Sunday in December always means our very popular "Carols for Christmas" at Haddo Chapel, the perfect way to launch the Christmas season. Other upcoming events include:

January (date TBD) – Morning coffee at Barra Berries and a talk on the history of Barra Castle (booking will be required)

26th February 10:30am at Fyvie Castle – Update on NTS exciting development plans for Fyvie Castle and Estate. Followed by lunch (booking required)

If you are interested in attending any of these events email ne.aberdeenshire.mc@gmail.com for tickets and more information.

Non-members of the Members' Centre are very welcome to attend events. A £3 donation is requested for talks, which are free to members. Light refreshments are available to buy after talks.

If you are a member of the NTS and would like to get more involved and help support our local properties then join the North East Aberdeenshire Members' Centre. Annual membership costs £12. To join contact Dr. Alistair Flett, Easter Crichtie Cottage, St. Katherines, Aberdeenshire. AB51 8SR (01651 891620).

OLDMELDRUM RAMBLERS



This is the time of year when Oldmeldrum Ramblers make the most of our local walks rather than travel further afield. Recently we have walked in Keith, Stonehaven, Haddo and Dunecht where the autumn colours were spectacular.

Oldmeldrum Ramblers group meets every second Thursday to walk for around 5-7 miles in the local area. We are a very friendly group and would welcome new members. We are also part of a group called the Grampian 50+ Network and they organise gatherings of ramblers from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray. These gatherings are a great way to meet like-minded folk from different areas.

If you are interested in finding out more about Oldmeldrum Ramblers and are aged over 50, please either phone Sandy McIntosh on 07902 200831 or email him on sandy.mcintosh@gmail.com.



A MELDRUM HERO OF THE GREAT WAR

By Peter Myers

The Distinguished Conduct Medal was, for other ranks in World War I, second only to the Victoria Cross as a reward for gallantry in action. Among several Oldmeldrum men awarded the DCM was Serjeant John Duff. He told the writer about some of his experiences as a soldier in the Great War and as a railwayman in peacetime when we met at his home at 21 Albert Place in March 1977. Such was John's modesty that he didn't reveal to me that he had been awarded the DCM which I learned of only recently.

John's parents lived in King Street, Oldmeldrum, when he enlisted with the 1/6th (Banff and Donside) Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, on October 14, 1915. The battalion was kept in reserve on July 1, 1916, the catastrophic first day of the Battle of the Somme, being in trenches east of Neuville St Vaast. In the first week of August, the 6th Gordons were helping to hold High Wood along with two other battalions. John remembered the terrible carnage of the Somme battle and having to clamber over bodies which clogged up communication trenches. He recalled an incident in which he was buried alive following a shell blast. It was not until many years later that he learned of his rescuer's identity, who was Alexander Ramsay, gamekeeper of the Barra Castle Estate, near Oldmeldrum. He called on John to apologise for "chipping" his shoulder with a spade. The accompanying illustration is of a Gordon Highlander, entitled Jock – K1, by Snaffles (Charles Payne).



John, who was now a lance-corporal, transferred to the 1/14th London Regiment (London Scottish) on March 22, 1918. He was wounded that year when an enemy bullet tore away three ribs and embedded itself in his vertebrae. A surgeon was reluctant to remove the bullet for fear that he might damage John's spinal cord. A less cautious South African surgeon swiftly removed the bullet which was then pinned to John's chest. The citation for John's DCM, which was announced in the London Gazette on December 5, 1918, read: "For conspicuous gallantry during an attack. He led the leading platoon with great dash and captured twenty prisoners and a number of machine-guns at the first objective. He then went on and in face of very heavy fire took the second objective, maintaining his position for several hours until the platoons on the flanks came to his assistance. By holding on where he did, he was mainly responsible for the capture of eighty prisoners and ten machine-guns. His courage and leadership were admirable."

After the war, John worked as a train guard for the Great North of Scotland Railway and its successor, the London and North Eastern Railway. He had survived being wounded several times during the war but was destined to be injured while working on the railway.

During the national coal strike of 1921, coal for steam locomotives was in short supply and at Ballater they resorted to sawing up old sleepers for fuel. While assisting in the loading of a locomotive tender, John was struck on the head by a falling sleeper which split his head open and broke his neck. He spent the next 11 months in hospital recovering from his injuries. After John returned to work, the railway company was not prepared to compensate him for industrial injuries. Despite this treatment, John worked for 43 years on the railways.

REMEMBERING TOGETHER - FROM MOUNTAIN TO SEA

A BENCH FOR OLDMELDRUM

By scanning the QR code disc, now fixed to the covid memorial bench you can read all about this project and listen to music by Dr Paul Anderson.

The bench is situated just off the path between Burnside Avenue and Provost Florence Drive, overlooking Barra Hill.





ABERDEENSHIRE LIEUTENANCY - The Lord-Lieutenant's Update December 2024



The Lieutenancy team continue to have the honour and pleasure of participating in a number of memorable events and celebrations across the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy. Over the Summer I have had the privilege of attending many Highland Games and local shows.

Anniversaries and Birthdays



One of the Lieutenancy's roles continues to be to ensure that messages of congratulations are delivered from Their Majesties, The King and Queen to those celebrating their 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th Birthdays. My Deputies and I are also delighted to visit on the day of such special milestones and present a card and our personal congratulations. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website.

<https://www.lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk/>

I had the great pleasure of visiting Gordon and Mary Stephen of Oldmeldrum on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding. I was also thrilled when Mr and Mrs Stephen showed me a photograph of my late parents who were guests at their wedding 60 years ago!

The Late Jim McColl

I was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Jim McColl. Jim was a national treasure who for many years inspired countless experienced and aspiring gardeners as presenter of BBC's The Beechgrove Garden. Jim was also hugely committed to supporting so many good causes and his local community of Oldmeldrum. He will be remembered so fondly not least of all for his enthusiasm, wit and passion for making the world we live in more beautiful. I am pictured here with Jim, planting a tree in Oldmeldrum to mark Her Late Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



All abilities Boardwalk at Newburgh Beach



Vice Lord-Lieutenant Joanna, Lady Aberdeen was a guest of the Newburgh and Ythan Community Trust for the opening of the new all abilities boardwalk at Newburgh Beach. She joined Isobel Davidson (Chair), Ron Macdonald (Secretary), trustees Glen Douglas and Gail Henderson, as well as a great number of others involved in the Newburgh Seal Viewing Experience Project. Dawn Taylor, a local resident and wheelchair user cut the ribbon and led the way to the low level viewpoint. For the first time in 19 years she was able to look out over the estuary to Forvie's northern shore where the amazing colony of grey seals is located. The boardwalk extends to the newly enlarged high viewing point where, as well as the seal interpretive board, a new board containing a James McBey print of the local landscape is located. This terrific project has been supported by Aberdeenshire Council, Visit Scotland, Visit Aberdeenshire, the UK and Scottish Governments, NatureScot and the Barratt Foundation.



King's Award for Enterprise

I recently had the great pleasure of presenting The King's Award for Enterprise in International Trade to both Deep Casing Tools of Westhill and Maritime Developments Ltd, now based in Cove. Deep Casing Tools have shown outstanding sales growth in recent years due to their focus on innovation and listening to their customer's needs. Maritime Developments' award reflects the company's "Outstanding Short-Term Growth" in overseas sales over three years.

Many congratulations to both innovative and progressive companies who are showcasing the best of Aberdeenshire enterprise.



Honours and Awards

The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy is keen to know of any individual or voluntary organisation who have made an exceptional contribution for the wider benefit of others in their community and assist in giving full consideration for appropriate recognition. Please contact us at the email address below, in confidence, should you have any suggestions. Please do look at our web site for further information: www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk or contact us on info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk



You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram – '[Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire](https://www.facebook.com/lordlieutenantaberdeenshire)'

Very best wishes to you all Sandy Manson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire



Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

October 2024

Our emergency hubs and plans are now in place in our area. Meldrum Town Hall and Daviot Village Hall are equipped with basic emergency equipment. Please keep our Emergency Advice document at hand and be prepared for any weather conditions and unexpected situations you and your family may find yourselves in. An emergency WhatsApp group has also been set up. This contains contacts from different parts of our area and members can alert others of any emergency situations that occur. Help can then be given if possible. If you can volunteer to be part of this group, please contact our secretary janchalmers1@hotmail.com

Congratulations to M.A.I.G. on their wonderful and well-deserved gold medal success in Keep Scotland Beautiful. Thank you to the team for another year of fabulous floral displays.

After the collision incident on South Road on the 11th October, the Community Council will continue to address the issue of large vehicles still using the town centre instead of the bypass. We have stressed the importance of this to our councillors, Aberdeenshire Council and the M.S.P. Gillian Martin. One big problem is sat.nav. directs traffic through The Square. We will be making further pleas to get action.

As I've previously stated in Meldrum Connect, police presence at our meetings has stopped. Police reports were sometimes received but their format is now under review. A more appropriate report, fit for purpose, will be in place soon and we will be invited to give feedback .

October's Meldrum Market was the last for this year. The next one will be on the 26th March 2025.

We continue to address many issues that arise in our area. Thank you to members of the public who attend our meetings and to those who help with activities, events and give their support.

More information can be found on our website <https://oldmeldrum.org>

VENUE FOR HIRE / CAFÉ / PICK A BOOK

OLDMELDRUM TOWN HALL

Our Community Café is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10am - 3:30pm.
Why not pop in for a coffee and a fine piece or a hot lunch!
Great Food - Reasonable Prices - Cash Only

We also have our "Pick a Book" that is open during café hours where you can help yourself to any of the books, no need to return.

Private Meeting Spaces available for hire - Lower Hall and Upper Hall are available for events

All Volunteers Welcome Stop by and Say Hi!

Enquiries: mmbcic@outlook.com
Market Square - Oldmeldrum - Inverurie - AB51

MELDRUM CAFE

Opening hours

Thurs 10-3.30pm.

Friday. 10-3.30pm

Saturday 10-3.30pm

CHRISTMAS BREAK

The cafe will be closing at 2pm on Friday 20th December and reopening Thursday 9th January at 10am.

PICK A BOOK from BOOK CORNER

The Book Corner in the Lower Hall continues to be open during cafe hours except for occasions when the hall has a booking. Donations of books in good condition are appreciated.

Please put donated and returned books in the box marked Donations/ returns in the Lower Hall. Thank you.

FOR INFORMATION and BOOKING HALLS contact - Making Meldrum Better at mmbcic@outlook.com

CHURCH HALL HIRE

a **spacious** hall perfect for any function

some quick facts

- Fully accessible
- Fully fitted spacious kitchen
- Fully heated
- Parking
- Conveniently located
- Chairs and tables available
- Smaller lounge area – suitable for meetings – 10/12 people
- TV screens - & stand (small extra Charge)
- Wi-Fi (available on request)
- Outside play area – perfect for that summer party
- Tent and/or gazebo available (small extra charge)



Whether you're looking to host a one-off meeting or a weekly/monthly class or group, the hall has a range of facilities to accommodate most uses. **Just get in touch to find out more.**

To book the hall or private lounge area please use our booking form available on our website – just follow this link - <https://www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com/hall-booking-details>

ARTICLES

Thank you for your enthusiasm in supplying the range of articles in the Meldrum Connect magazine.

If you have a story to tell or an event to advertise that you think would interest the community, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please email us at meldrumconnect@gmail.com.

Deadline for our next
Meldrum Connect
is
9th February 2025

ADVERTISING in Meldrum Connect

Local charities can advertise for free and local business for a small charge depending on size. Please contact Fiona Morris our Community Liaison at meldrumconnect@gmail.com

Cost per Issue		
Advert size (based on A4)	Black & White	Colour
Half	£80	£160
Quarter	£40	£80
Eighth	£20	£40
Sixteenth	£10	N/A
Discounts available for multiple issues		

Meldrum Connect reserves the right to refuse or amend any advertisements, or submission and accepts no liability for any omission or inaccuracy.

Published by Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church and printed by McKenzie Print, Wellheads Crescent, Dyce. All issues available at www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

If you have enjoyed reading our newsletter and would like to contribute to the ongoing work of Meldrum and Bourtie Church you can make a donation via this QR code.



PRAISE
MENS
FELLOWSHIP
BREAKFAST

PRAYER

Sat 22nd Feb 2025 - - Doors open 8:15 am
Special guest speaker - Rev Mike Mair
 Chaplain to the UK Oil and Gas Industry

**Location: Meldrum Church Hall,
 Albert Road, Oldmeldrum AB51 0DB**

To Book: Call 07968 000610 or
 email:
info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

FELLOWSHIP





meldrum baby & toddlers

Runs every Tuesday & Thursday morning
 9.30-11.15 Oldmeldrum Parish Church Hall




Suitable from birth up to 5 years old
 First session is FREE
 5 sessions £12.50

Snack is provided- just bring a plate and a drink.
 We also provide tea/ coffee & biscuits for the adults.

We have a dedicated baby area, crafts, themed activities and seasonal end of term parties!
 Each session ends with song time led by a member of the group.

New families always welcome!

Find us on: **facebook**




THE POWER OF...


WEDNESDAY
 PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH ASN.

Y
A
P
S

- WEDNESDAY TERM TIME
- 10AM - 12PM
- MELDRUM ACADEMY LIBRARY

FOR MORE INFO

 WEDNESDAY YAPS



Megan Heather
Interior & Garden Design 

TRANSFORM YOUR HOME & GARDEN

INTERIOR DESIGN

- Mood Boards
- Space Planning
- 3D Visualisations
- E-Design

GARDEN DESIGN

- Site Plans
- 3D Visualisations
- Planting Design & Advice
- E-Design

ABOUT US

Based in Aberdeenshire, Megan Heather Interior and Garden Design specialises in creating bespoke spaces both indoors and outdoors for clients across the North East of Scotland.



BOOK YOUR FREE DESIGN CONSULTATION

GET IN TOUCH

www.meganheatherdesigns.co.uk


megan@meganheatherdesigns.co.uk

[@meganheatherdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/meganheatherdesigns)

SCAN ME



SourceSTAR™ Energy Healing




Stressed, tired or feeling out of balance: SourceSTAR™ Energy Healing can help


SourceSTAR™ is a very gentle, loving and compassionate energy that works at a core level to aid healing at all levels; physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. It is of a much higher finer vibration than Reiki.

Get relief from pain, overcome physical exhaustion, feel more empowered and focused, create a sense of well-being in your life - SourceSTAR™ Energy Healing can help.


**SourceSTAR™ Association registered Master Teacher
Usui Reiki Master Teacher
PHA - People's Health Alliance registered practitioner**



sourcestar3@gmail.com



075657 32429

 www.energyhealing.scot



Station Road, Oldmeldrum, AB51 0EZ
01651 872481

Brandon McPhee Christmas Concert

RBL Hall Oldmeldrum
Sunday 8th December 2024
Doors 1.00pm. Show 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Ticket £16.00 includes Mackies Ice-cream

AN AFTERNOON WITH
KW'S COUNTRY

RBL Hall Oldmeldrum
Sunday 9th March 2025

Door 1.00pm, Show 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Ticket: Donation at door.
(Minimum £5.00 please)
Raffle: Donation of prizes appreciated.

Tickets available now from The Legion Bar
 Dot Davidson 01651 873323 / 07827 392677
 Stewart Begg 01224 310790 / 07722 027994

An afternoon with
Irish Country Star
John Rafferty

RBL Hall Oldmeldrum
Sunday 21st September 2025
Door 1.00pm Show 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Ticket £10.00





St Matthew and St. George, Scottish Episcopal Church, Oldmeldrum



One of the highlights of our Church year is our fellowship lunch. This year we were at Lochter Activity Centre where we enjoyed not only a lovely lunch, but also the opportunity to sit for a while and catch up with everyone's news. We are also planning for Christmas. There will be a service on Christmas Eve and then the following Sunday we will continue to celebrate with nine lessons and carols – it's always good to have an excuse to sing even more carols don't you think? We are starting work on the designs for our contribution to the Christmas Tree Festival. Watch this space.....

We are a small and growing congregation where all are welcome to share in our worship from whichever denomination you may come. Our services are open to all and you will be made very welcome. All are welcome to participate in Communion. Refreshments are served after the service and everyone is invited to stay if they can and join in this precious time of fellowship.

Christmas Eve service at 4pm

Sunday 29th December 10:30am – Nine Lessons and Carols

Regular Sunday Services: 10:30am: [A sung service with Holy Communion](#)

ALZHEMIER SCOTLAND

Alzheimer Scotland offers a group in Oldmeldrum for people living with dementia and their carers.

Meldrum Social Group meet normally on the first Thursday of each month from 1.30 -2.30 pm at the Town Hall in the Square. At the group we have games and activities, tea and coffee and quizzes. Our Community Groups are there to be enjoyed by anyone living with dementia or experiencing difficulties with their memory, including their families and friends. All are welcome; people who can attend independently **and/or for** those unable to do so should come with a companion who can provide any support for them. Contact Susan at swestcott@alzscot.org or tel 07876 003154 if you would like any further information.

We also run Carers Groups in Ellon and Inverurie. These are for carers to come along to and they can share their experiences, get advice and have a friendly chat with our dementia advisor. If you would like to come along to a carers group please contact Mags Corbett at mcorbett@alzscot.org or telephone 07769 366 175.



Build your skills.
Boost your happiness.
Connect with your local community.

Scouts
1st Daviot Oldmeldrum
www.1stdomscouts.org.uk/join/adult
group@1stdomscouts.org.uk

1st Daviot and Oldmeldrum Scout Group are looking for adult volunteers to join us either directly leading our youth sections or in a supporting role as part of our Trustee Board or Fundraising Team.

You shape what you do and the time you have to give. Scouts happens when a lot of us give a little—and no, you don't need to be an outdoors expert or have been a Scout previously to volunteer!

Appropriate training is provided for all roles, so if you're interested in getting involved with your local Scout Group, please visit our website or contact our Group Lead Volunteer using the details above.

Make a difference—volunteer today!

BEAVERS **cubs** **SCOUTS**



Scouts
1st Daviot Oldmeldrum
www.1stdomscouts.org.uk/marquee
marquee@1stdomscouts.org.uk

Our 20ft x 20ft (6m x 6m) marquee is perfect for garden parties, community events and other small functions. We can hire across Aberdeenshire and beyond, and our volunteer team will set up and take down the marquee for you.

The hire cost includes delivery, installation and collection. All proceeds from hires go towards the running of our Scout Group.

Cost: £200 for the first two nights, plus £25 for each additional night

For more information or to arrange a hire please visit our website or contact our Marquee team using the details above.

MELDRUM PATHS GROUP

Improvement to Forsyth Drive to the Academy path.

We have worked with the council and Taylor Wimpey to get agreements in place to improve the path from Forsyth Drive to the Academy.

It was a short cut for pupils before, which could be very slippery.

It was a couple of years of effort to get this going, but the improvement is easy to see.

It's now a tarmac path, suitable for wheelchairs and there will be less issue with mud on shoes and clothes.



Here are the before and after images.



SCOUTPOST 2024

1st Daviot & Oldmeldrum Scouts will again be delivering Christmas cards and letters **to local addresses within Daviot and Oldmeldrum villages.**

There will be a Postbox in the Paper Shoppe in Oldmeldrum **from Sat 30th November.** Cards will be collected weekly and delivered each Saturday to addresses within Oldmeldrum and Daviot. The last collection will be 4pm on Fri 20th Dec.

Place your Christmas post and suggested donation of **30p per card/letter** in the ScoutPost box. Please include the **ScoutPost destination address code** (see below) on each envelope.

SCOUTPOST represents excellent value and helps us to fund equipment and activities for our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Thank you for your support, it means a lot to our Group.

For any queries regarding ScoutPost, please contact scouts@1stdomscouts.org.uk.

ScoutPost Destination Code (please write this on each envelope)

<i>Street (A-Z)</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Street (A-Z)</i>	<i>Code</i>
<i>Albert Grove</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>King Street</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Albert Place</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Kirk Brae</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Albert Road</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Kirk Street</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Albert Terrace</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Kirkhill Drive</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Ardconnon Avenue</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Le Roux Drive</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Back Wynd</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Lower Cowgate</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Baker Street</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Macmillan Avenue</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Balcairn Avenue</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Major Lane</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Barnett Court</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Manson Road</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Barraview</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Market Square</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Benview Gardens</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Mary Slessor Place</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Bruce Place</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Meadowbank</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Burgh Lane</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Meadowside</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Burnside Avenue</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Meadows Drive</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Chapelark Road</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Meadows Vale</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Chapelark Place</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Mill Road</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Colpy Road</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Nathalan Court</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Commercial Road</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Newbarns</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Coutens Drive</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Oakbank Gardens</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Coutens Park</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Otter Avenue</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Coutens Place</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Parcock Place</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Cowgate</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Park Crescent</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Cromlet Place</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Park Lane</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Distillery Road</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Park Road</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Donald Gordon Court</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Provost Drive</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Duff Drive</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Provost Florence Drive</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Duncan Avenue</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Rosebank</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Fingask Place</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Saphock Place</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Forsyth Drive</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Seton Way</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Eavern Place</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Smiddy Court</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Elmbank Gardens</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>South Road</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Gas Street</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Station Road</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Glebe Avenue</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Union Place</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Green Way</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Urquhart Road</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Greczylo Gardens</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Webster Court</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Greyhound Drive</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Webster Court Road</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Howe Place</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Westbank Park</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Howe View</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Westend Gardens</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>James Street</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Wyverie Court</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Keil Brae</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Daviot (village & Estate only)</i>	<i>19</i>

Meldrum Connect

would like to thank all contributors to the magazine for their various,

community

historical

group-related

articles since the inception of this new Community wide magazine. We look forward to continuing and expanding our links to local organisations.

If you have not yet submitted articles for Meldrum Connect perhaps you would like to get involved in the new year and tell us about your group or organisation. As this magazine goes out to all households in Meldrum it is a good way to let everyone know what you are working towards to help

our community flourish.

Our thanks also to all those who have advertised with us and we hope you continue to prosper.

We wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

*May gweed luck, health and happiness
come chappin' at yer door!*

