

MELDRUM CONNECT



Connecting Kirk & Community
A Newsletter for the Meldrum Community

The New Year has long kicked off and many groups, in the community and beyond have plans:

- National Trust for Scotland are announcing development plans for Fyvie Castle and Estate.
- The next Meldrum Market is Wednesday 26th March 3pm-6pm.
- Meldrum Church Groups are changing days/venues and additional group initiated.
- Meldrum Paths Group have received funding to buy 2 electric bushcutters thanks to local votes.
- The Scottish Charity Air Ambulance Service has launched 'Operation Skyward' and will soon receive a state-of-the-art Airbus H145. This service only survives on donations.

IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's letter	2
Lieutenancy	4
Community Council	5
Alzheimer Scot	5
Ramblers	6
Guild	6
National Trust	7
Petanque Club	8
Kayleigh's Wee Stars	9
Meldrum POWs	10
VE Day - 80th Anniv	11
Cycling Without Age	13
Community Christmas	
Tree Project	16
St Matthews	17
Meldrum Cafe	17
Paths Group	18
Community Funding	
Grants	19
Bowling Club	20
OGGS	20

- Kayleigh's Wee Stars have a huge donation from Royal Dornoch Golf Club.

2025 is off and running. Keep up the good work.

Painting of Yosemite Valley, 1875 by artist William Keith.



William Keith (November 18, 1838 – April 13, 1911) was a Scottish-American painter famous for his California landscapes. Although most of his career was spent in California, he started out in New York, made two extended study trips to Europe, and had a studio in Boston in 1871–72 and one in New York in 1880. Keith was born, 18th November 1838, in Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, where he was raised at first by his grandparents, his father having died months before he was born. William claimed to have been a direct descendant of the noble Clan Keith. He emigrated with his mother and sisters to the United States in 1850. They settled in New York City, where he attended school for several years and became an apprentice wood engraver in 1856. He was hired to do illustrations for Harper's Magazine. In 1858 he visited Scotland and England and briefly worked for the London Daily News. He was then offered an opportunity in San Francisco and sailed there in May 1859.



Dear Friends,

Spring is here, and with it comes the season of hope, renewal, and the joy of Easter. As the days grow longer and the world around us bursts into life, we are reminded of the great promise of resurrection—the triumph of love over darkness, of life over death. This Easter, we gather in worship, reflection, and celebration, embracing the good news that Christ is risen!

Easter is a time of profound joy, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, light will always break through. It is a time of renewal, a season to embrace the new life that Christ offers to us all. As the flowers bloom and the world awakens from winter, we, too, are called to awaken our spirits, to rejoice, and to share the love and hope of Easter with those around us. The message of Easter is one of boundless love, grace, and the invitation to new beginnings. May we all carry this spirit forward in our lives, reaching out with kindness and compassion to those in need.



We invite you and your family to join us for our Holy Week services and events.

- **Palm Sunday - 13th April:**

- o A Joint Parish Grouping Service at Meldrum at 11:00 am, followed by our fun
- o 'Wee' Easter Service with songs, crafts, games, and an Easter Egg Hunt at 2:00 pm.

- **Maundy Thursday - 17th April:** A reflective service at 7:30 pm.

- **Good Friday - 18th April:** A solemn service at 7:30 pm.

- **Easter Sunday - 20th April:**

- o 'Sunrise' Service at Meldrum Gardens at 9:15 am, followed by a walk to the hall for breakfast.

Easter Celebration Service at 11:00 am in the Church.

And don't miss Children's Music Service on 27th April, where our young people will lead us in worship through music.

Exciting Updates to Our Church Groups

We are blessed with a thriving and vibrant community, and as we continue to grow, some of our beloved groups have had a change of schedule or location. Please take note of these updates:

- **Open Doors** -- (a time for pause and reflection) is now on the 1st Thursday of the month.
- **Tunes & Tea** – Come along to sing the old tunes, enjoy a cuppa, and a warm smile! Now meeting Fridays from 4:00-5:00 pm in the Church (no longer in the Hall).
- **Music Group** – A lively, joy-filled session full of sound! Kids are welcome to join us on Thursdays in the Church 3:15 for 3.30-4.30pm.
- **Youth Club** continues to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Church Hall.
- **Youth Study Group** gathers before worship at 10:15 am on the last Sunday of the month, leading into our Family All-Age Worship.
- **Book Group** – A new addition! Join us as we read and discuss books that inspire our faith. Meeting on the last Tuesday of the month.

We warmly welcome you to all of our groups and events. Whether you are looking for a space of quiet reflection, joyful music, thought-provoking discussion, or just a friendly gathering, there is something for everyone here.

A Church for the Community

As we celebrate the hope and joy of Easter, we also recognize the importance of community. The church is not just a place of worship but a place of belonging, a home where we care for one another, support one another, and walk together in faith.

We want to be a church for you - our community. If you or anyone you know needs help, a kind visit, or simply someone to chat with, please reach out to us. No one should feel alone, and we are here to offer support, friendship, and love. Whether you are facing a difficult time, need a listening ear, or simply want to connect, we are here for you.

This season, let us strive to live out the message of Easter, extending grace and compassion to all. May we be a people of hope, a beacon of love, and a church that serves its community with open hearts and open hands.

May this season of Easter fill your hearts with peace and joy.

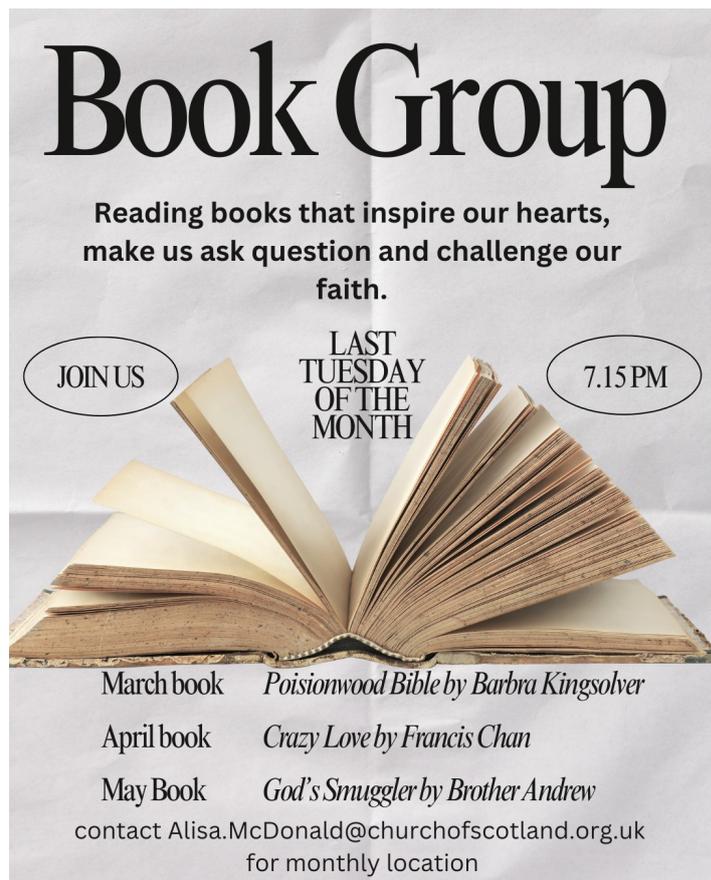
Blessings,

Rev. Alisa McDonald



Children's Music Service
Sunday
27th April at 11.00am at Meldrum and Bourtie Church
the children will bring music to our ears!
 Come along to this Special Worship Service with music and readings lead by the young people! If you are interested in being involved, please get in touch!

 Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk



Book Group

Reading books that inspire our hearts, make us ask question and challenge our faith.

JOIN US LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 7.15 PM

March book *Poisionwood Bible* by Barbra Kingsolver
 April book *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan
 May Book *God's Smuggler* by Brother Andrew

contact Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk for monthly location



YOU ARE INVITED TO EASTER SERVICES AT MELDRUM & BOURTIE KIRK

13th April Palm Sunday 11.00 Meldrum Kirk
 14.00 'Wee' Easter Service at Meldrum Kirk with Easter Egg Hunt

17th April Maundy Thursday 19.00 Joint service with St. Matthew's Episcopal at St. Matthew's

18 April Good Friday 19.00 Meldrum Kirk

31 March Easter Sunday 9.15 Easter 'Sunrise' walk from Meldrum Gardens to Church Hall for Breakfast
 11.00 Meldrum Kirk

welcome



'Wee' Easter Service

Service

A fun, interactive family celebration of the Easter Story full of songs, crafts, stories ending with a **EASTER EGG HUNT!**

13th April
Meldrum Kirk
2.00pm
All Welcome!



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



British Empire Medal presentation to Susie Hunt

I had the great pleasure of presenting Susie Hunt from Kemnay with her British Empire Medal for a lifetime of service to the arts and crafts. In 2003, Susie founded what is now the largest geographical Open Studio event in the country, North-East Open Studios (NEOS). NEOS is a not-for-profit organisation promoting arts and crafts in the North-East of Scotland. The Open Studio event is held annually in September. Over nine days, artists and makers open their studio doors and welcome visitors into their creative spaces, showcasing a diverse range of artworks from painting and ceramics to jewellery, glass, textiles, wood, sculpture and more.

Honours and Awards – The Kings Award for Voluntary Service



Congratulations to The Bailies of Bennachie and the Buchan Battalion Boys Brigade who were recently awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. The Bailies care about Bennachie, its natural environment, history and culture, protecting Bennachie's unique landscape for future generations. The Bailies of Bennachie was founded in 1973. From a mere 40 enthusiasts initially, there are now over 5000 members.

The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy would like to know of any individual or voluntary organisation who has made an exceptional contribution for the wider benefit of others in their community. The Lieutenancy will 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

Scottish Charity Air Ambulance – Operation Skyward

William Paton DL attended the launch of Operation Skyward, a fundraising initiative from Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. In October this year, the Aberdeen team will receive a state-of-the-art Airbus H145 to replace the current Airbus EC135. With increased range, more space and night flying technology, it will allow the team to save even more lives. The launch was attended by numerous fundraisers, some of whom had themselves been airlifted. The SCAA receives no government funding, but relies instead on donations, an army of volunteers, and support from firms such as Babcock. The new fundraising launch is intended to help the expense of running a cutting-edge helicopter that will allow the SCAA to save more lives.



His Majesty, The King's Visit to the Gordon Highlander Museum



I was delighted to be a guest at the Gordon Highlanders' Museum when His Majesty, The King visited. I had the great honour of showing His Majesty my grandfather's Gordon Highlander kilt. Captain Alexander Manson, my namesake, was a proud Gordon Highlander who was wounded in the Battle of Beaumont Hamel in November 1916. Remarkably, my grandfather was reported dead but survived. The kilt is untouched from the day he fell and bears the mud stains from the Somme battlefield.

Wedding Anniversaries and Birthday celebrations

One of the Lieutenancy's roles continues to be to ensure that messages of congratulations are delivered from Their Majesties, The King and The Queen to those celebrating their 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th Birthdays. Myself, or one of my Deputies are always delighted to visit on the day of such special milestones and present a card and personal congratulations. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website. <https://www.lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk/>



You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram – '[Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire](https://www.lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk/)' **Very best wishes to you all** **Sandy Manson, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire**



Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

February 2025

At a recent Community Council meeting we invited views on a proposed crematorium at Daviot. We have submitted a letter of objection to this proposal and a community councillor put our views forward at the Formartine Area Committee meeting.

There will be a coffee morning on Saturday 12th April 10am – 12noon in The British Legion to raise funds for a replacement defibrillator for The Square, Oldmeldrum. Please come along to give your support. See below for further details.

The next Meldrum Market will take place on Wednesday 26th March 3pm – 6pm. These will continue throughout the year in The Square on the last Wednesday of every month.

The Community Council has heard several reports of excessive waiting times “on hold” when attempting to contact the Medical Practice by telephone. We have agreed to write to the Medical Practice (Newburn) highlighting our concerns and requesting a response. We will also write to our local M.P. and M.S.P. about this issue. Our elected councillors have also resolved to write to the practice.

Community Council discussion has covered the lack of or poor road signage. H.G.V. vehicles are entering Rosebank due to sat.nav. directions. We have agreed to write to the appropriate officers, copying in the ward councillors, requesting signage, particularly in relation to Rosebank. Both our M.P. and M.S.P. are supporting us with this.

More details can be found on the Community Council’s Facebook page and our website oldmeldrum.org

If you would like to learn more about what is happening in your community, come along to our meetings. They take place on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm in The Pavilion in the Pleasure Park. We do not meet in July or December and our April and October meetings take place in Daviot Village Hall. Members of the public and new members are always welcome. Any issues you may have can be put in writing to our secretary janchalmers1@hotmail.com

Community Council Coffee Morning

Coffee morning to raise funds for our community defibrillators

Date - Saturday 12th April 2025

Time - 10am - 12pm

Venue - Royal British Legion, Market Square, Oldmeldrum

Price - Adults - £3 and children £1. Under 3’s are free

Raffles

Lucky dip

Tea/coffee, Butteries and a fine piece

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.



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 Keithhall, Pitmedden and round Tyrebagger Hill. We had a lovely Christmas meal in Morris's Hotel and decorated the Christmas Tree pictured below for the Kirk Display.

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.



On Monday 11th November Mhairi Watt gave a talk on her visit to the Gallipoli Exhibition, in Papa Museum, Wellington, New Zealand. She recounted the hardships of these battles and showed us 2 Anzac medals.

She was with her husband in Melbourne, on Anzac Day to see the street celebrations from dawn until 1pm, culminating in the laying of wreaths. There were a huge number of participants, in the parade and double the number of spectators.

On Monday 9th December The Guild held their Christmas Party in Morris's Hotel. We had a lovely meal served by friendly staff which was enjoyed by all. This year instead of having a "Secret Santa" gift we donated money towards Bricks for Charlie House Charity.

Our meeting which was to be held on 13th January was cancelled due to the weather. We hope to reschedule David Watson to talk on Oil and Gas Transition next session.

Our next meetings are as follows:

Friday 7th March	World Day of Prayer 7pm in Fyvie Church
10th March	Talk of Women's Aid Speaker: Aileen Forbes
14th April	A.G.M. Speaker: Pat Patrone
12th May	Outing to be arranged

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

BEREAVEMENTS

Mr Mark (Jose) Cattanach	24th October 2024
Mr Walter (Wattie) Fowler	15th November 2024
Mr Adam Davidson	1st December 2024
Mr Krzysztof Kodzis	7th December 2024
Mr James (Jim) Presly	11th December 2024
Mr Alexander (Spike) Cruickshank	14th December 2024
Mrs Mary Dow	22nd December 2024
Mr James (Jim) Mearns	5th January 2025
Mr Norman (Nom) Robertson	5th January 2025
Mr Robert Cameron (Bob) Beattie	6th January 2025
Mrs Agnes Morris Donald	13th January 2025
Mrs Rosemary Helen Kindness	3rd February 2025





North East Aberdeenshire National Trust for Scotland Members' Centre

(A registered Scottish Charity SC02422)

We are always amongst the first to kick start the festive season with our "Carols for Christmas" concert in Haddo Chapel on the first Sunday in December. This year's sold-out event featured performances from Ugie Voices, traditional readings and those not quite so traditional – who could imagine that Santa's job was so difficult in this increasingly politically correct culture!

We decided to skip an event in January and probably just as well as the weather was forcing all sorts of cancellations and rearrangements. Instead we hope to have our proposed January visit to Barra Berries in March.

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

26th March 10:30am (Price to be confirmed)– Morning coffee at Barra Berries and a talk on the history of Barra Castle (booking essential)

30th April 7:30pm at Haddo House - AGM

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 Crichie Cottage, St. Katherines, Aberdeenshire. AB51 8SR (01651 891620).

M R G

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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



WEIGHT CHECK WEDNESDAYS

First Wednesday of the Month
Scotland Baby Clinic
16 Coutens Park
Oldmeldrum, AB510PG

*Drop-in or Reserve
Direct Booking Link:
<https://l.btrr.to/pPEFU>

**FREE Drop-in
Baby Clinic**

9:30-12:30PM



MELDRUM PÉTANQUE CLUB

The Petanque Club is located at the far end of the Oldmeldrum Golf Club Car Park. The Facility is open and free of charge at any time to members of the public young and old. The 2025 summer season starts on Saturday 5th of April.

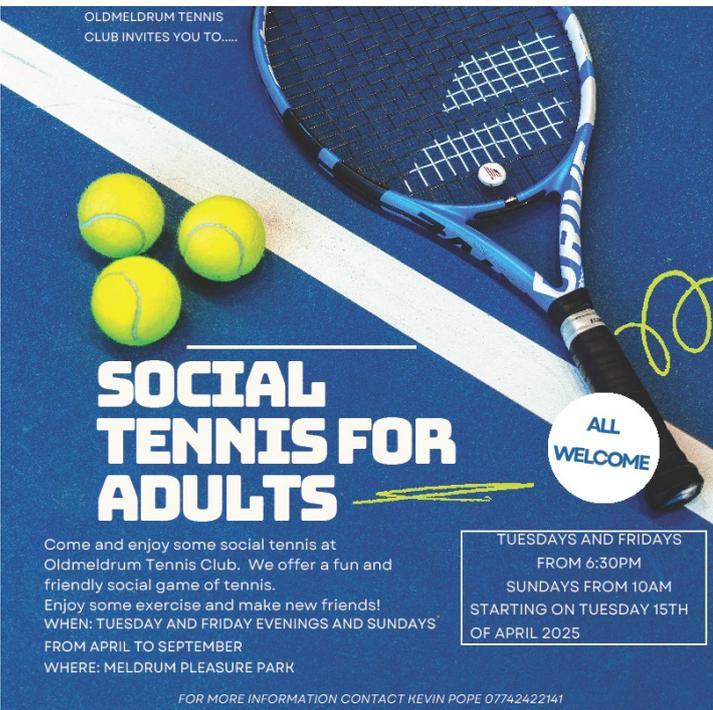
During the summer season regular matches take place each Wednesday evening at 6.30 pm and each Saturday afternoon at 2 pm. Coaching is available and all level of players will be made most welcome.

For further enquiries phone 07990 586 142



Station Road, Oldmeldrum, AB51 0EZ
01651 872481

OLDMELDRUM TENNIS CLUB INVITES YOU TO.....



SOCIAL TENNIS FOR ADULTS

ALL WELCOME

Come and enjoy some social tennis at Oldmeldrum Tennis Club. We offer a fun and friendly social game of tennis. Enjoy some exercise and make new friends!
WHEN: TUESDAY AND FRIDAY EVENINGS AND SUNDAYS*
FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER
WHERE: MELDRUM PLEASURE PARK

TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS
FROM 6:30PM
SUNDAYS FROM 10AM
STARTING ON TUESDAY 15TH
OF APRIL 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KEVIN POPE 07742422141



Were you a Rainbow,
Brownie, Guide or Ranger?

Remember how much fun it
was!

Volunteer at Girlguiding
Straloch to help girls of
today have fun and make
long lasting memories.

Contact Marianne at :
ggg.enquiry@outlook.com
Or use the QR code





ROYAL DORNOCH

Royal Dornoch makes record-breaking donation to Kayleigh's Wee Stars



North-east children's charity, [Kayleigh's Wee Stars](#), has been boosted by a record £38,000 donation from [Royal Dornoch Golf Club](#).

A series of fundraising events held at the Highland club over the past two years teed-up a grand total of cash for the Captains' Charities.

Kayleigh's Wee Stars (KWS) was selected as the main charity, having been supported by past captains Professor David Bell and Wilma Murray. Wilma and the Ladies Section also donated £1500 to cancer care charity [Maggie's](#).

KWS trustee and co-founder, Jonathan Cordiner, accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity, which works with families across Scotland with a terminally ill child to relieve some of the financial pressure. Jonathan and his wife Anna set up the charity in 2012, after tragically losing their 20-month-old daughter Kayleigh to a terminal brain tumour.

Jonathan said: "This is an incredible gesture by Royal Dornoch and hugely appreciated. It is a game changer for us. We support four or five families a month at a cost of around £10K per month, so it really is marvellous to receive our biggest ever single donation. As a small family-run charity, we rely heavily on our supporters, and have raised £1.4 million over the last 12 years. In that time we have been able to support around 800 families, and this generous donation will enable us to help many more.

"We had six months with Kayleigh before she passed away and we made every day an adventure," Jonathan explained. But during that period, we learned of families in horrendous situations. Parents were off work, or self-employed with no wage coming in or they were single parents, perhaps having to cope with deprivation at the same time.

"We step in and support families with a grant of between £1,000 and £2000. Each and every family is unique, and no family spends it the same way. Some opt for a special trip; they might hire a special vehicle; others adapt their home or buy a piece of much-needed equipment. Sometimes it is just about relieving financial pressure.

"David had kept the total to himself, so you can imagine my surprise when I saw the number on the cheque! We strive for sustainability and now we can start looking ahead, knowing we have a few months covered by the Royal Dornoch donation."

Professor Bell thanked Royal Dornoch members at home and abroad for their generous support: "The Captains' Charities initiative is supported by various fundraising events over their time in office," he explained.

"I have a grandson with a serious health condition, so Kayleigh's Wee Stars definitely struck a cord with us.

"Each year two eagerly anticipated Captains' Weekends allow members to bring a guest onto the Championship Course and the dinner is followed by an auction conducted splendidly by our general manager, Neil Hampton.

"We are always fortunate to attract some fabulous lots to go under the hammer, ranging from golf at top courses in Scotland, England, Spain and the USA to sporting memorabilia, limited edition prints and luxury hotel breaks. Our North American members are particularly generous with their backing for the auctions.

"Wilma and the Ladies Section have also been very supportive, with local members arranging various Ladies Open competitions aimed at swelling the Captains' Charities."

Professor Bell also thanked Elgin Golf Club head professional Ross McConnachie: "Ross is a big friend to Kayleigh's Wee Stars, and he took part in a Beat the Pro challenge at a Par 3 at one of our events. He also made a speech at the Captains' Dinner and explained how our donations would be put to very good use."



Professor David Bell presents a £38,000 cheque to Jonathan Cordiner and Laura Stewart of Kayleigh's Wee Stars

FORMER POWS MADE THEIR HOME IN MELDRUM

By Peter Myers

It was testimony to their good treatment that 24,000 former German prisoners of war settled in Britain after World War II. Among them were Karl Poppe (1923-1980) and Gerhard Hitz (1923-1977) who had both been held at Deer Camp, Monymusk. Karl was a motor mechanic at the Station Garage, Oldmeldrum, while Gerhard worked at North Mains of Barra Farm, near Meldrum, before moving to Aberdeen.

Karl was discharged from Deer Camp on October 14, 1948. He had fallen in love with Margaret Walker, and they were married that year. He is remembered as an excellent mechanic and a respected restorer of classic cars. Karl was originally from Wesermunde and was a car locksmith before he joined up. He served as a tank driver with the 5.SS-Panzer Division Wiking (Viking), which had been formed from German, Dutch and Nordic cadres. It fought only on the Eastern Front and earned a high fighting reputation. (The accompanying photograph shows soldiers getting a lift on a Panzer II of Wiking.)



Wiking formed part of the rearguard as several German divisions broke out of the Korsun-Cherkassy pocket in Ukraine in February 1944, while encircled by Soviet forces. Wiking suffered heavy casualties, but 8,253 officers and men managed to break out and cross the Gniloi Tikich River to safety. About 1,500 soldiers from Wiking were with another division farther east. At

the end of the war, Wiking's survivors surrendered to American forces in Austria on May 9, 1945. Gerhard Hitz was born at Kratzig in the province of Pommern. He served in a number of the Wehrmacht's infantry units from when he was called up in 1942 and saw service in Germany, Poland, Belarus and France. Gerhard, who held the rank of gefreiter (corporal), was captured by British soldiers in Douai, north-east France, on September 2, 1944, and later ended up at the POW camp at Monymusk. (The accompanying picture shows two Wehrmacht soldiers pausing for a smoke while on the march.)

Gerhard worked at North Mains which was run by the Hourston family, who had moved there from Orkney in May 1946. Major Charles Hourston and his wife, Annie, told the authorities that Gerhard and a fellow-POW could stay at the farm, eating with the family and sleeping in the house, instead of returning to Monymusk every evening.



When Gerhard was repatriated he found that his old life in Germany had gone. Two of his brothers had been killed and his sister had died. His parents and younger brothers had moved from their home area, which was then under Russian control, to West Germany and were struggling to pick up their lives. Gerhard felt that Oldmeldrum had become his home, so he returned to North Mains and stayed there until 1952-53 when he moved to Aberdeen, where he got a job and later married Irene Forbes in 1955. He considered that the Hourstons were his "Scottish family", and Gerhard, along with Irene and their daughter, Annamarie, visited North Mains regularly. Charlie Hourston's elder daughter, Anne, says she can still picture Gerhard, her father, who had been a POW in Germany after being captured in Crete, and her uncle, David, sitting, smoking pipes, laughing, and exchanging stories.

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LEITHS

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(Formerly Fyfe Memorials)

We have over 170 years' experience in producing high quality traditional style memorials, natural shaped boulders and handcrafted designs to individual requirements in a range of Scottish or selected imported natural stone.

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Academy Way, Colpy Road Industrial Estate, Oldmeldrum, Inverurie AB51 0BZ



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FAMILY FUN DAY





28th June
12-4pm
@ Meldrum Church
on Kirk Brae

Bouncy Castle
Beat the Goalie
Lawn Games
Fire Engine
BBQ, Tuck Shop, Stalls and more!

Youth CLUB

@ Meldrum and Bourtie Church Hall
Games // Table Tennis // Music // Tuck Shop

2nd Friday of the Month
P5 - S6 at 6.30pm - 8.30pm

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

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

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



OPEN DOORS

1st Thursday of the Month
11am-2pm

Connect Café, Book sale & Easter Stall event
Saturday 8 March 2025
@ Meldrum Church hall
on Albert Road:

- Easter stall with a
- selection of Easter cards & Gifts:
- A large selection of books to browse through

Open 10 am to 12 noon.

Community Connect Café
Meldrum Kirk Community Project

Come Join us!

Tunes and Tea

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

****Now at Meldrum Church Kirk Brae****

EVERY FRIDAY!
4.00-5.00pm
Starting back on the
17th of January



PROUD TO BE dementia friendly

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

Meldrum Music Group

Open to all in Primary and Secondary
Every Thursday 3.30-4.30
@ Meldrum Church
£2 per kid*

Kirk open from 3.15pm to come in and enjoy your snacks beforehand

*application for funding help available

Explore tons of different musical instruments, learn rhythm & how to read music. For those with musical experience have fun playing new instruments, grow your talent, and have fun playing with others!



If you are interested please get in touch Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

STORY & PLAY

Free

MELDRUM CHURCH HALL,
ALBERT RD,
OLDMELDRUM,

First Friday of the month
1.30-2:30pm

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

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

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

PRAISE MENS PRAYER FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Sat 31st May 2025 -- Doors open 8:15 am
Special guest speaker - Mr Alan Fraser of Tearfund Scotland

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

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

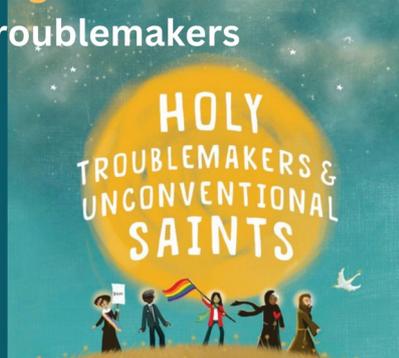


FELLOWSHIP

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



CYCLING WITHOUT AGE SCOTLAND OLDMELDRUM



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](tel:07775606640) or cwas@oldmeldrum.org

Share our moments at [f cycling without age scotland oldmeldrum](https://www.facebook.com/cyclingwithoutage-scotland-oldmeldrum)

****CWAS Oldmeldrum**
CWAS Oldmeldrum always available and willing to take passengers out in our Trishaw. Please get in touch if you'd like us to take you on a run around Oldmeldrum



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
11th May 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.



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



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www.energyhealing.scot

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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!



THE POWER OF...

WEDNESDAY

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



● WEDNESDAY TERM TIME

● IOAM - 12PM

● MELDRUM ACADEMY
LIBRARY

FOR MORE INFO



WEDNESDAY YAPS





The congregation of Meldrum and Bourtie Church was delighted to host our largest annual Christmas Tree Festival in Meldrum Church on Saturday 21st of December. The Church looked wonderful throughout December with trees from groups across the community, including the most entries to date from Meldrum School and Nursery, with ten extremely creative trees! A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas Tree Project and visited the Church during the Festival and throughout December. All monies received from retiring collections were donated to both the Scottish Air Ambulance and Bibles for Ukraine.

Although, it is the taking part that counts, we can announce that the winning trees and runners up were as follows...

Design Most Relevant to Groups Activity		Best Overall Tree	
1 st	Naughty Knitters	1 st	Health Walk
2 nd	Meldrum Ramblers	Joint 2 nd	Naughty Knitters
3 rd	Meldrum Cafe		Oldmeldrum SWI
Children's Winner	Primary 3a	Children's Winner	Primary 2a/b





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

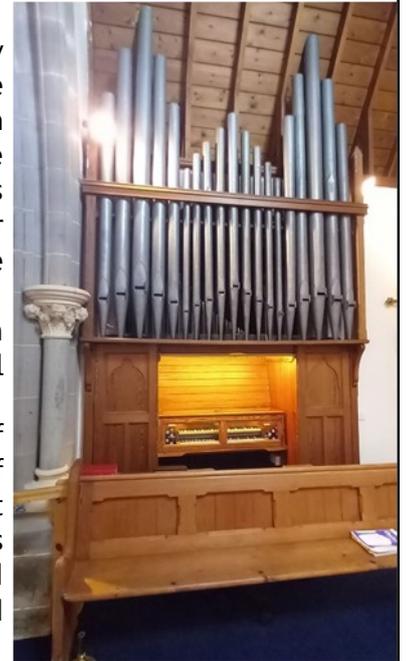
Although our church was completed and consecrated on St Matthew's Day 1863, the congregation had to wait for almost 40 years for a pipe organ to be installed. Thanks to some help from Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish/American industrialist and philanthropist the organ was finally installed in 1902. The organ was built by Ernest Henry Lawton who owned the Pittodrie Organ Works in Aberdeen. The organ at St. Matthew's was built at the start of his long career and he went on to build organs all over the world culminating in the installation of a large organ in Mombasa Cathedral in 1932.

The organ was originally hand pumped by Robert Halliday for the princely sum of £4 per annum. A succession of young boys performed this task until electricity was installed in the 1940's.

Renovation works were carried out in the early 1980's, but by the beginning of the 2020's several problems had arisen, including the complete breakdown of the pedal organ. It was becoming almost unplayable until the most recent renovation was completed last year. The mechanical action and its soundboards have been fully restored, and the pedal chests, action and wind system have been upgraded. The instrument is now in first class order and hopefully will accompany congregational singing for at least another 60 years.

The Vestry is keen to establish if anyone would be willing to play the organ during services when the usual organist is away. Alternatively, there may be someone in the community who might consider learning to play the organ. If you are interested or know of someone who would be interested, please contact the present organist, Graham Robertson, at accessedzone@yahoo.com
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.

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



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

Plea for Volunteers

Do you have 2/3 hours spare.
Meldrum Cafe urgently requires adult volunteers to join our team. Regular shift and occasional cover both helpful.
No experience needed as training will be given.

For further information contact: Mary Robertson 01651 872266,
Speak to a volunteer in the cafe or
Email mmbcic@outlook.com giving contact details including phone number.

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

MELDRUM PATHS GROUP

Meldrum Paths Group (MPG) have been quite busy in recent months. We have recently seen the footpath link from Forsyth Drive to the Academy completed and handed over to MPG, who will be responsible for its upkeep. This will certainly help to reduce the pile of muddy trainers accumulating in folks' hallways when their kids get home from school!



In January we were awarded funding from the Just Transition fund to purchase 2 new heavy-duty battery powered brushcutters to assist with paths maintenance. Thank you very much if you voted for us. We'll be arranging some maintenance days once the growing season gets under way.

Our Community Ebike project continues to develop, and we are looking forward to a busy season once the weather eases a bit. You can hire an ebike for just £5/day or £25/week. Great for getting out on local quiet roads and beating the hills. <https://ebike.oldmeldrum.org>.

Work is progressing on developing new, sustainable travel routes to link our community with others locally. We are awaiting the results of the recent STAG review (Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance) carried out by consultants ACOM for Aberdeenshire Council. This work aims to identify the most suitable sustainable travel route between Oldmeldrum & Inverurie including a spur to Daviot.

Oldmeldrum is one of 7 towns in Aberdeenshire that have been awarded assistance from Aberdeenshire Local Action Group to support and develop community paths and routes. MPG plan to use this support to assist us in further developing new routes both within the town and further afield, to locations such as The Den Wood, Pitmedden, Formartine & Buchan Way, etc..

When we can't get outside on these winter days, we have been updating our website (<https://meldrumpathsgroup.org>) and we have also refreshed our popular Routes Leaflet. Copies of the revised leaflet will be available soon.

If you'd like to know more or want to join in the fun just get in touch. You can email us at meldrumpathsgroup@hotmail.co.uk or find us on social media. We'd love to hear from you.

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.



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.

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!



Meldrum Connect Community Funding Grants



Throughout 2024 Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church awarded a total of £3310 to local community groups. This included grants to Meldrum School, Village Church, MAIG, Meldrum Paths Group, The Community Garden, Girl Guiding and Toddlers.

The grants are provided from our Benevolent Income Fund. This is income from investments which originated from a legacy for the benefit of deserving causes locally and is administered by the Kirk Session.

The scheme is open to those groups and organisations working for the benefit of the community in Meldrum and Bourtie Parish, i.e., the local area.

If you would like to find out more about applying for a grant for your group in 2025 please email us at:

info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com



OLDMELDRUM BOWLING CLUB



Our green 'opens' on Saturday 19th April 2025.



The Club will be running its usual informal 'Hat Night' sessions on Monday nights, initially at 6.30pm, which changes to 7pm start after a couple of weeks.

We are also holding informal 'get togethers' on Thursday afternoons (2pm), where we are serving tea/coffee to encourage fellowship, giving new members the opportunity to make new friends and socialise, especially if you're new to the area, but also providing coaching to those seeking to learn.

For those wishing a more competitive experience there will be the usual internal Club Competitions, as well as League games against local Clubs.

Follow us on Facebook - Oldmeldrum Outdoor Bowling Club

Come and try bowls!

Coaching and guidance for all levels of experience is available.

This could be the start of your journey to replicate the achievements of local man, Triple World Indoor Champion, Jason Banks (Inverurie), 28 years old, who you may have seen recently on TV winning his three titles.



Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space



Well that's another year that's come and gone down at the Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space Allotment site, and as we approach a new season for sowing and growing we can look back at some of last year's achievements.

It wasn't an easy year for the plotters due to such a wet season, which delayed planting as well as producing many snails and slugs who happily munched away on the vegetables being grown.

However, we did have many a good success across the plots, including the pumpkins, carrots and parsnips grown by two of our younger plotters, Charlie And Cameron, who were overjoyed with what they had achieved. They are now looking forward to another year of growing with their parents as well as helping our newest member, their grandpa.



We put jobs on hold over the festive season, but we are now ready to get going again starting with spreading woodchip around the Polycrubs, community areas and small orchard to help control weeds.

We are looking forward to getting plants in earlier this year, weather permitting, allowing us to continue providing more produce for the local community pantry.

If any of the local community would like to volunteer to help on site or have a look around, we would gladly

welcome them. Contact can be made at oldmeldrumgreengrowingspace@gmail.com, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook also.

