

# MELDRUM CONNECT



*Connecting Kirk & Community*

A Newsletter for the Meldrum Community

The darker nights descend, the beautiful and abundant flower displays have been taken in, the Christmas lights are unpacked to provide a display of a different kind. Nothing stays still. People work behind the scenes to make Meldrum shine out.

The next Market Day will take place in Oldmeldrum Square on Wednesday 29th November. It is sure to be festive.

The Church is building up to all their Christmas celebrations and are organising a Reverse Advent Calendar as a means to give Christmas cheer to others.

Take a look at The Community Listening Service as the Guest Article, which explains a new Service offered in the Inverurie Hub.

There are good things going on for youngsters with Meldrum Youth Club being chosen to be part of the Co-Op UK local Community Fund from now until October 2024 and also the Girl Guides are sharing their successes and news inside. The Scouts are willing and able to make deliveries of all your Christmas post, as they do each year.

Rotary are, again, making a huge effort to ensure Santa's Sleigh spreads a sparkle to many communities.

Merry Christmas and Happy reading.

## Meldrum & Bourtie Church - Community Connect Funding Awards 2024

Meldrum and Bourtie Church are inviting applications for its Community Connect Awards scheme for 2024.

The scheme started in 2023 and to date has awarded grants totalling in excess of £1,760.

Groups which have benefited include among others the local Baby and Toddler Group, The SWRI, Rainbows and Brownie groups and Breastfeed Scotland.

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 administered by the Kirk Session.

The scheme is open to groups and organisations working for the benefit of the community in Meldrum and Bourtie Parish, i.e the local area. If your group or organisation is working within the area and would like to apply then please contact the Session Clerk, Mr. Billy Dalzell in the first instance at [info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com](mailto:info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com).

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## Community Listening Service



Hello Readers

My name is Ingrid Penny and I am the Volunteer Coordinator for the Community Listening Service for Aberdeenshire.

### **So what exactly is the listening service?**

We all face challenges at some point in our life, ill-health, bereavement, relationship breakdowns, unemployment, unequal opportunities and situations where we find it difficult to cope. So often people do not want to burden their family and friends, so talking to someone out-with that circle can be just what is needed.

The Listening service is open to anyone aged over the age of 18, appointments are held face-to-face in the GP Practice / Health Care setting and last for up to 50 minutes.

The Listening Service provides a safe space for the patient to verbalise whatever gets in their way of health and wellbeing. It is confidential and non-judgemental. We are not a counselling service nor is it any kind of psychological intervention. It is about accompanying a person as they tell their story in a safe environment.

### **Listening service**

**For patients registered at Fyvie/Oldmeldrum appointments are held in the Health & Social Care Hub in Inverurie. The HUB is attached to Inverurie Medical Practice, Upperboat Road, Inverurie.**

**To make an appointment please call the HUB and ask the receptionist for an appointment with the Listening Service (Tel: 01467 67 27 89)**

To find out more please contact:

Ingrid Penny, Aberdeenshire Listening service coordinator

Tel: 07970 657 043

Email: [ingird.penny@nhs.scot](mailto:ingird.penny@nhs.scot)

**Your story, in your time, for your wellbeing.....**

## 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](mailto:meldrumconnect@gmail.com).**

## OLDMELDRUM RAMBLERS



The 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.

Over the last few months we have walked in several favourite places like Crathes, Hazlehead, Lyne of Skene and Dunecht and in one or two new places such as Aikey Brae Stone Circle and along the River Deveron at Huntly Castle.

If you are interested in finding out more about Oldmeldrum Ramblers and are aged over 50, please either phone Sandy McIntosh on 01651872656 or email him on [sandy.mcintosh@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.mcintosh@gmail.com).



The Guild met on 11th September and the Speaker was Gordon Hay. He spoke about his project, which was to translate the Old and New Testament of the Bible, chapter by chapter, into Doric over a 17 year period. He has also published a book of Nursery Rhymes in Doric. The talk was well received and members enjoyed hearing some passages of the Bible in Doric.

On 25th September The Guild had their Bus Outing to the Newburgh Inn, where we had a lovely meal served by friendly staff. It was a social occasion with lots of chat and enjoyed by all.

The Guild met on the 9th October and some members brought along an item which held a special memory. It was an afternoon of fun and laughter, where items were shown which evoked special memories.

Our Syllabus for the New Year is as follows:

8th January            Talk on scams and fraud  
Speaker: James Stewart, Garioch Community Policing Officer

12th February        Talk on trip to Japan  
Speaker: Pat Patrone

The World Day of Prayer will be on 1st March 2024 (venue and time to be arranged)

11th March            Talk on Charlie House  
Speaker: Ollie Middleton

8th April              A. G. M.  
Speaker Rev. Alison Jaffrey

13th May              Outing

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

New and old members welcome.

# MELDRUM WOMAN SERVED IN TWO WORLD WARS

By Peter Myers

Remembrance Sunday is a poignant occasion when we pay tribute to those who fell in the two World Wars and in more recent conflicts. Helen (Nellie) Gerrard (1897-1974) always attended the event at Meldrum Parish Church and had good reason to because she was very proud of having served in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars. She was born at Oldmeldrum, where her father, James, was a farmer. She was one of many who responded to the call to join the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) during World War I.

Nellie worked as a cook at the British Expeditionary Force's base depot at Camiers in northern France and served abroad for 15 months. At the base depots and hospitals, soldiers, including those recovering from their wounds, were able to enjoy the hot, nourishing food cooked by the WAACs. Nellie was discharged from Queen's Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps – the WAAC's new title – on April 28, 1919. Her superior at the Camiers depot wrote to her mother, Margaret, saying: "I feel I should like you to know how sorry we are to lose her. She has been a thoroughly reliable good worker – also a very good girl whilst in this depot. I hope she will be really successful in her civilian life."



She served in uniform during World War II but this time in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, serving initially as a cook at RAF Dyce. Nellie (pictured) later transferred to the RAF Police and spent most of her five years' service stationed in Aberdeen where she was concerned mainly with the welfare side of the police. In 1946 she was awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division), which prompted a congratulatory letter from an officer in the RAF's Provost Marshal's Department, who wrote: "It is grand recognition of all the good work you have done for the WAAF police, and we are all so pleased about it."

One occasion which gave Nellie great cause for pride was when she was invited to a reunion of Great War veterans from east Aberdeenshire at the Beaton Hall, Methlick, on August 4, 1964, to mark the 50th anniversary of the conflict's outbreak. Nellie was the only woman among the 200 veterans who attended the event.

Other women with Oldmeldrum connections who served in uniform during World War II included: **Alison Catto**, nee Manson, who was a radar plotter in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. She was at the underground control bunker at RAF Stanmore Park, near London, when it was bombed. **Tibbie Halliday** was a corporal in the Auxiliary Territorial Service and was attached to the Royal Army Service Corps. Mrs **Jenny Harper** served in the Women's Royal Naval Service and was Oldmeldrum's last surviving veteran who had been in the Armed Forces in World War II when she died on April 12, 2021, aged 99. **Agnes Hourston**, nee Rennie, served as a nursing auxiliary in the Civil Nursing Reserve. She trained at Bangour Hospital, West Lothian, before being posted to Monymusk House, which had been requisitioned for use as a hospital. **Ada McGillivray**, nee Marshall, served in the Women's Royal Naval Service and performed clerical work at the Admiralty's offices in London.

**Margaret Myers**, nee Wood, (pictured) was a driver in the Mechanized Transport Corps. She served in London, where she drove staff cars, chauffeuring civilian and military VIPs. Among her passengers was the eminent economist, Lord (John Maynard) Keynes, whom she drove to the Treasury or the "Bullion Yard" as he called it.



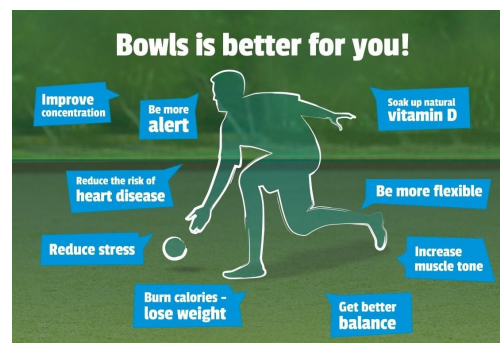
## OLDMELDRUM BOWLING CLUB



The 'Closing of the Green' - the last day of our outdoor season took place on Sunday 10th September, in glorious sunshine. Two triples competitions were played and a good day was had by all, with a group photo being taken after the presentation of prizes.

Our green opens again at the end of April 2024 - look out for confirmation in the next Connect issue.

*(Young, old, novice or experienced bowlers are welcomed)*



**Come and try us!**

***Coaching and guidance for all levels of experience is available.***

***Giving new members the opportunity to make new friends and socialise, especially if you're new to the area.***

***A wonderful way to improve health and keeping you young at heart. Social activities and functions arranged throughout the year.***

## CHURCH HALL HIRE

a **spacious** hall perfect for any function

**some quick facts**

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- 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>

## ABERDEENSHIRE LIEUTENANCY

Since the momentous occasion of The Coronations of The King and Queen and the unveiling of the Aberdeenshire flag, I have been humbled & delighted as Lord-Lieutenant to attend many special events throughout Aberdeenshire. I know I speak for Lady Aberdeen, my Vice Lord-Lieutenant and my Deputy Lieutenants when I say that we are constantly reminded what a wonderful county this is, with truly remarkable people who selflessly make such a positive difference to the lives of others.

We were delighted that over 140 people from across Aberdeenshire attended the Garden Party at Holyrood Palace in July.

July also saw Lady Aberdeen attend the opening of the new Rose Garden at Crathes Garden and the Ythan Valley Rotary event recognising the work they have done supporting Ukrainians.

Summer was the season too for our iconic Highland Games across the county and we had the great honour of The King attending the Lonach Gathering marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lonach Society. Their Majesties also attended the Braemar Gathering and I had the great honour of opening this year's Oldmeldrum Sports. We welcomed the King officially to Balmoral in late August as His Majesty inspected the Royal Guard at the castle gates.



The Bikery at Huntly, which refurbishes bicycles and provides low cost recycled cycling equipment to the community, was officially opened recently by Lady Aberdeen and I had the honour too of officially opening Seafest Peterhead which celebrated the finest in seafood from Aberdeenshire.



In addition we have held citizenship ceremonies and been blessed with wedding anniversaries and significant birthdays across the county. As ever, please get in touch if there is someone you would like to receive a card from the King to mark 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries or 100<sup>th</sup> or 105<sup>th</sup> Birthdays.

Sandy Manson - His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire

## SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023

A huge thank you to everyone who filled shoeboxes - there were almost fifty 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.



The Members' Centre Summer events included visits in June to the private gardens at Finzean House. In July we visited Kemnay House and learned more about the fascinating history of the Burnett family who have lived there for over 300 years, while August saw us at Leith Hall enjoying the historic house and the garden. The autumn months signal a return to our regular programme of talks and indoor events. In September Stonehaven photographer Andy Hall, whose many fans include Sir Alex Ferguson and actor Ewan McGregor, gave us an inspiring talk on how best to capture that perfect picture. Professor Frithjof Kuepper, Chair of Marine Biodiversity at the University of Aberdeen raised our awareness and concern about environmental matters in his November talk on Polar Biodiversity and Climate change. The first Sunday in December always means our annual "Carols for Christmas event held in Haddo Chapel. We have a wide variety of events still to come and we would love to have you come along and join us for those.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2:30pm in Haddo House Peatyards** – "A virtual Walk down Union Street, Aberdeen" a talk by Bill Diack

**February (Date and time TBD)** – An in-depth view of conservation work ongoing at Haddo House

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:30am in Haddo House Peatyards** – Talk on the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

If you are interested in attending any of these events email [ne.aberdeenshire.mc@gmail.com](mailto: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).

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## Community Survey for Meldrum Parish Church and Hall

Thank you to everyone who completed the Community Survey. We had a great response and will be publishing the results in the March Magazine.

### **Bereavements**

|                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs Iris Duncan              | 14th September 2023 |
| Mrs Ada Harper               | 24th September 2023 |
| Mrs Dorothy (Bunty) Jamieson | 22nd September 2023 |
| Mr Thomas (Tom) Eddie        | 13th October 2023   |



## Hello friends,

As we find ourselves in the heart of the Christmas season, I am filled with immense gratitude and joy for the opportunity to share this special time with each and every one of you. Christmas is not merely a date on the calendar; it is a season that encapsulates the essence of hope, light, and love.

The birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, reminds us that hope is not a distant dream but a tangible reality. In a world often fraught with challenges and uncertainties, the story of Christ's birth brings a message of enduring hope. It reminds us that even in the darkest of times, a single, radiant star can guide us to a place of profound transformation and new beginnings.

The twinkling lights adorning our homes and the candle flames flickering in our churches symbolize the light of Christ that dispels the darkness. Just as the shepherds were led by a star to the humble manger, we too are guided by the light of Christ to find meaning and purpose in our lives. This light not only brightens our path but also calls us to be bearers of light in a world that desperately needs it.

Christmas is the ultimate celebration of God's boundless love for humanity. Through the gift of God's Son, God demonstrates the depth of love—a love so profound that it knows no boundaries. This love invites us to reach out to one another with compassion, kindness, and grace. It reminds us that the true spirit of Christmas lies in the love we share with our neighbours, near and far.

As we exchange gifts, gather with loved ones, and partake in the age-old traditions that make this season special, let us not forget the true reason for our celebration. Christmas is a time to rekindle our hope, to radiate the light of Christ, and to share love with the world.

In the midst of the festivities and the warmth of our community, let us also remember those who may be experiencing loneliness or hardship during this season. Our compassion and outreach can bring a ray of hope and a glimmer of light into their lives.

May this season of hope, light, and love fill your hearts and homes with blessings beyond measure.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with abundant blessings!

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Alisa McDonald



A very warm welcome awaits you at any of our services or events. At Meldrum & Bourtie we believe a welcome to ALL has no limits.

**All, means all.**

For more information about anything please get in touch with  
Rev. Alisa McDonald

[Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk)



**Sunday Morning Worship at 11.00 am**

**'Different Kind of Worship' Last Sunday  
of the Month at 11.00 am**

**[info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com](mailto:info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com)**

**Find us on Facebook and Youtube**

**The Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church of Scotland - Scottish Charity Number SC015960**



# REVERSE Advent CALENDAR



12 November - Christmas Day

## What is a Reverse Advent Calendar?

A reverse advent calendar is a holiday activity focused on giving rather than receiving. Unlike a traditional advent calendar, where one opens a small door or pocket to find a gift or treat each day leading up to Christmas, a reverse advent calendar involves giving something each day. The concept is simple but impactful: Each day, you place a non-perishable food item, toiletry, or other essential into a box. At the end of the advent period, the filled box is donated.

Here's how you can create your own reverse advent calendar:

**Get a Box:** Find a large box or basket to hold the items you'll be collecting. Label it clearly so everyone in your household knows what it's for.

**Set a Time Frame:** We are doing an extended Advent again this year from 12 November to Christmas Day.

**Pick Items to Donate:** Up until 11 December we will collect items for their Christmas Eve Box appeal. Items needed would include, hot chocolate, mug, colouring books, christmas stories, socks, Christmas pjs, markers, games, etc.

Collecting items for

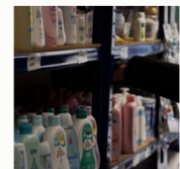


Other wish list items from Abernecessities include nappies, kids toiletries, toddler/kid size pants, socks, pjs, deodorant, sanitary products, books, craft supplies, etc. You can find their wishlist at <https://tinyurl.com/5dwvx76r>

**Add Daily:** Each day, add one small item to the box or maybe one large item a week. You can do this as a family activity, taking turns to place items in the box.

**Donate:** Bring in your items to the church throughout Advent and we will watch our community box grow of donations. Baskets for collection will be at Meldrum Church and Meldrum Hall.

The reverse advent calendar is a wonderful way to embody the spirit of giving during the holiday season and can serve as a reminder that small, consistent acts of kindness can make a big difference in the lives of those less fortunate.



Sadly, 21.8% of children across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are living in poverty. Abernecessities has seen an immediate and sustained surge from families with pre-existing vulnerabilities as well as from those experiencing loss of employment and financial insecurity for the first time.

Since launching in March 2019, AberNecessities has helped over 10,000 children across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. To us that means, over 10,000 full tummies, over 10,000 pairs of cosy hands and feet and over 10,000 smiles.



5000

clean bottoms



2000

sweet dreams



8000

full tummies



# STORY & PLAY

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

Every Friday 2.00-3.10pm

MELDRUM CHURCH HALL,  
OLDMELDRUM,  
ALBERT RD

A fun filled time of story &  
interactive, messy play  
£1 per child

(bring your own snacks for wee ones)

email: Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk



Come Join us for  
family friends  
faith  
fun  
food

# MESSY CHURCH

• A free event for all ages  
**25th February**  
3.00-5.00pm  
Meldrum Church Hall  
Tons of MESS, CRAFTS, STORY & FUN!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS  
MELDRUM AND BOURTIE  
3RD ANNUAL

Meldrum & Bourtie  
Parish Church of Scotland

# OPEN DAY

16 DECEMBER  
AT MELDRUM CHURCH, KIRK BRAE

11:00-15:00 Open Doors: Come, Look, Vote, Enjoy the amazing Trees (refreshments available)

16:00-17:00 Messy Church Christingle: Come along for Christmas Crafts, fun and to make a special Christingle!

17:00-19:00 Carol Sing-a-long: Let's Sing all the carols! And if you would like to perform a special song, poem, or performance please do!

Tree Project

Last Sunday of the Month  
**'A DIFFERENT KIND OF WORSHIP'**  
11.00am in the Church Hall

A Service for the whole family

The last Sunday of the month is our informal All Ages services in the Church Hall. And every month is *A Different Kind of Worship*, but always a place of welcome, friends, food, fun and worship. Come along and give *A Different Kind of Worship* a try yourself!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO  
'A DIFFERENT KIND OF WORSHIP'  
Tea, Coffee, Fellowship & Friendship

Meldrum Church Hall,  
Albert Road

Meldrum & Bourtie  
Parish Church of Scotland

# Christmas in Meldrum

16th Dec starting at 11.00am *Christmas Tree Festive Open Day:* with Messy Church Christingle (4-5pm) and Carol Sing-a-long (from 5pm)

24th Dec 2.00pm *'Wee Christmas' Service:* Family Christmas Service full of crafts, play, song, and fun

24th Dec 11.00pm *Watchnight Service with Carol singing*

25th Dec 10.30am *Christmas Morning Service*

Everyone Welcome  
@ Meldrum and Bourtie Kirk

## Rainbows in Oldmeldrum (Age 4-7)

I know what you're thinking why we are writing about Rainbows which occur after a shower of rain? But we're not! We want to tell you about the Rainbows section of Girlguiding Association. Rainbows are for girls aged between 4-7 years. We are all about developing self-confidence, building friendships, learning new things, and having fun. Girls get their hands dirty with arts and crafts, try out cooking and playing games. We are all about learning by doing.

This year the Rainbow unit has had a busy year, we have had 8 Rainbows awarded their Gold awards, the girls worked hard to complete all the required challenges and badges in order to obtain this. The girls have also learned several new skills including basic first aid, safety awareness and had fun learning about science and taking part in experiments. This is alongside our regular crafting activities and also the fun we have playing games in the unit.

## Oldmeldrum Brownies (Age 7-10)



1st Oldmeldrum Brownies enjoyed a busy first term at the Pavilion. We welcomed some new Brownies and all worked on our Know Myself Theme award. Highlights included going back in time to 1990s Brownies, trying on Leader Judith's Brownies uniform and learning all about pocket inspection! We have learned new games and also some singing too. Coming up in term 2 we have another busy and exciting term with a visit from a Therapy Dog, visit to the panto, and we celebrate International Day of People with Disabilities with a visit from a Team GB para-triathlete who will take us through our paces as we attempt to train like an athlete!

2<sup>nd</sup> Oldmeldrum Brownies meet weekly at the Church Hall. In our first term this year we welcomed 10 new Brownies, we are mainly focusing on skills for our future and how we can think of others. We decorated and filled shoeboxes for the Shoebox Appeal. We learned about disabilities and how we can achieve things with a disability and put the girls through their paces. We also asked the community to help us collect toilet rolls as we have required 600 to make advent calendars, the response we received was amazing so we have taken it 1 step further and will be also donating our Brownie made advent calendars to the Community Pantry.



Guides is a relaxed, welcoming space where you can have fun, learn and be yourself with good friends from 10 to 14 years of age.

A place where you can explore the things you love and do stuff you've never done before. Where else can you think up a new sport, make a new perfume, cook over a campfire, design an advertising campaign, have a mocktail party, raise money for a charity you believe in? At Guides, you can do all of this and much more.

This year our Guides have had a unit holiday in Cullen which had a wellness theme, some of the Guides also joined with other units in our County and attended a camp at Aden Country Park in the summer and we had a couple of members take part in the International camp in Holland in the Summer. The Guides have also taken over the community café in the church hall, we had a great morning hosting and raising funds for camping equipment for the unit.

## Oldmeldrum Guides (Age 10 – 14)

Rangers is your space – where you get together with other girls from 14 to 18 years to have fun, learn more, give back, hang out, and just be you. It's an open and relaxed space to talk with good friends – it's qualifications, badges, and awards. It's the freedom to be more independent, and to do what makes you happy, making a difference to things you care about. Rangers is what you make of it.

We have recently opened a Ranger unit in Oldmeldrum and are looking forward to seeing how this unit grows and develops in the coming

To learn more about Girlguiding for your daughter or to join in the fun and Volunteer you can visit [www.girlguiding.co.uk](http://www.girlguiding.co.uk)



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

2023 saw the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church's consecration on St. Matthew's day 1863. The church has seen many changes, particularly in the last few years when significant repair and improvement works have been carried out to restore the building – and make it considerably warmer. To mark the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary we held an open day. It was wonderful to be able to welcome visitors and friends, old and new, to celebrate with us, see the newly decorated interior, admire some of the impressive church regalia and peruse the church registers and historical archives looking for that familiar name or to trigger a long-forgotten memory. The tea, coffee and home bakes on offer also encouraged people to linger and chat. It was a very convivial day. We also held a special 160<sup>th</sup> Dedication service led by Diocesan Dean Emeritus the Very Rev Canon A.E. Nimmo. It was a great time to give thanks for all that has happened at St Matthews over the past 160 years and it was great to welcome our friends from All Saints Church, Whiterashes and Meldrum Parish Church who joined us for that.

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. Refreshments are served after the service and everyone is invited to stay if they can and join in this precious time of fellowship.

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

**Christmas Eve 2023** : 4pm : Nine Lessons and Carols

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- Calm your busy mind
- Reduce pain
- Experience deep relaxation and peace
- Feel love and compassion for yourself and others?

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 [kristine@kduguidenergymedicine.co.uk](mailto:kristine@kduguidenergymedicine.co.uk)

 Kristine Duguid – Energy Medicine

 07731 677083



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.





# READY STEADY 60's

In Aid of RBLS Oldmeldrum Branch Renovation Fund.

**FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

8pm to 12pm  
Cabaret/Dance/Disco and Raffle.  
Tickets £20ea.

Don't miss the chance to enjoy this fabulous live show featuring 4 amazing musicians, 3 of which share the vocals, as they take you back to the very best of 60s BritPop with songs from bands such as The Beatles, Stones, Who, Hollies, Kinks, Animals, Searchers, Small Faces etc etc. This show is completely booked for 2024 and already has numerous confirmed dates for 2025. Your chance to have a great night out and support your local Legion.

Tickets are available now from The Legion Bar,  
Dot Davidson 01651873323/07827392677,  
Stewart Begg 01224310790/07722027994.

Station Road, Oldmeldrum, AB51 0EZ  
01651 872481

## SourceSTAR™ Energy Healing

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# BENNVIEW IT

## WORKING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

Being supported by Oldmeldrum Co-op this year has been such a rewarding experience for Meldrum & Bourtie Church.

We were so grateful for their generous donation to our Picnic To Go project in the Summer holidays which enabled us to offer more than 130 picnics to local families. The Team making up the picnics enjoyed the fun and fellowship every Monday morning, and meeting and getting to know families in the Community was a joy. We made new friends and got to know each one a little better as they came along each week.

We thank everyone at the Co-op for supporting us so well and for enabling us to work together as a Team to share in the Community.



Fiona & Ruraidh receiving the cheque donation

We are delighted to say that Meldrum Youth Club has been chosen to be part of the Co-Op UK local Community Fund from now until October 2024.

As a Co-op member you can raise funds for Meldrum Youth Club every time you shop at Co-Op. We would really appreciate it if you would become a member and choose us as your local cause. Scan the QR code, download the Co-Op app, or sign in at [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership).



We're part of the  
Co-op Local Community Fund

**Choose us as  
your cause**

[coop.co.uk/membership](http://coop.co.uk/membership)



# 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](mailto:mmbcic@outlook.com)  
Market Square – Oldmeldrum – Inverurie – AB51



**Breastfeed Scotland**

**FREE infant feeding drop-ins**

The expert perinatal infant feeding support you seek

- Looking for specialist infant feeding support?
- Are you pregnant and wanting to prepare to feed your baby?
- Are you finding breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, starting solids, return to work or weaning challenging?

Our team of Infant Feeding Specialist IBCLCs are here for you. Come for the support leave with community!

**Join us at the drop-in**

Every Friday  
10AM-12PM  
At the Meldrum Kirk Hall,  
Albert Road, AB510DJ  
Closed 22/12 and 29/12



@BREASTFEEDSCOTLAND



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!




**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](mailto:meldrumconnect@gmail.com)

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

**Deadline for our next Meldrum Connect is 11th February 2024**

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



## SCOUTPOST 2023

1<sup>st</sup> Daviot & Oldmeldrum Scouts will again be delivering Christmas cards and letters to **local addresses within Daviot and Oldmeldrum villages**. Please support our ScoutPost.

Posting boxes will be placed in the Paper Shoppe and the Co-op in Oldmeldrum, and The Shop in Daviot **from Sat 25<sup>th</sup> November**. Cards will be collected weekly and delivered each Saturday to addresses within Oldmeldrum and Daviot. The last collection will be 4pm on Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:scouts@1stdomscouts.org.uk).

### **ScoutPost Destination Code (please write this on each envelope)**

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



# Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

**October 2023.**

At our September meeting, Jack Rigby, Digital Stakeholder Lead Officer, Aberdeenshire Council, gave a presentation. It was very informative and covered commercial broadband expansion in our area, the R100 project- providing access to superfast broadband, alternative broadband solutions, public switched telephone network retiral and other areas of digital engagement. The Community Council specifically asked about a) the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme and how to apply for it and b) if existing phones will work on the new proposed system from 2025. Further details can be found on our website and Jack can be contacted on [jack.rigby@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:jack.rigby@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

We are trying to get illegally parked vehicles removed from valuable car parking spaces in our Baker Street car park. This is proving to be a lengthy process but our Councillor, Derek Ritchie, is working with Police Scotland on this matter.

Weeds, blocked drains and potholes continue to be a problem and we continue to inform Aberdeenshire Council. We hope that action is taken soon. Recent weather conditions highlighted again how extremely important drain maintenance is and we have stressed the urgency of this to the council.

We plan to update our Local Place Plan. We'll involve the public in open meetings again and progress from there.

We have a few outstanding issues with Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department. We hope a representative will attend one of our meetings soon. If there are any issues you wish to bring to our attention and raised, please contact [secretary@oldmeldrum.org](mailto:secretary@oldmeldrum.org)

The Coat of Arms flag has been taken down for the Winter. It will be repaired and replaced on the Town Hall when the floral displays appear in The Square next year.

All community organisations do wonderful work. Recently M.A.I.G. was awarded level 5 (Outstanding) in Keep Scotland Beautiful, It's Your Neighbourhood. We congratulate the team on this achievement.

We have been approached by a Mr. King from Wingham, New South Wales in Australia. He wishes to "twin" his town with Oldmeldrum. The King family lived in Barra Castle for 400 years from 1200 to 1596 A.D. He and his wife have visited Oldmeldrum several times. If anyone would like to lead a Twinning Group and explore this possibility, please contact our secretary.

Bus services continue to be a concern, especially to Daviot residents. The 421 (ex Bains) service will now be operated by Premier Coaches but the Oldmeldrum to Inverurie via Daviot journey will not be replaced. We will monitor this situation and take our concerns to the next Bus Forum which should take place in the coming weeks.

The next Market Day will take place in Oldmeldrum Square on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Our meetings are open to everyone, you are very welcome to join us. Details can be found on our website <https://oldmeldrum.org>

The MAIG Committee strives to enhance and enrich the facilities of the town and in addition to our 2 main projects e.g., the summer floral displays and the town's Christmas Illuminations we introduced the Meldrum Pétanque Club which is free to all members of the public.

Continuing to provide new amenities to the town, in 2021 through various successful grant applications the group was able to set up the Meldrum Chapter "Cycling Without Age" The electric Trishaw provides the ability for our elderly citizens and those with restricted mobility to get out and about, meet old friends and allows our passengers to visit such places as the William Forsyth Community Garden, Hoodles Playbarn, Glengarioch Distillery where elderly passengers enjoy a wee dram courtesy of the Visitor Centre and a tour round Meldrum House Hotel and its wonderful scenic landscapes.



If you know of any elderly citizens who would like a trip out and about please contact our coordinator Sheena Clarke by phone at 873034 or email [sheenawa@btinternet.com](mailto:sheenawa@btinternet.com) Although trips are best during the spring and summer months do not be put off during the rest of the year as the Trishaw passenger seating is well protected from all the adverse weather elements.

Another of our projects entailed Funding provided by the Community Council Secretariat which allowed MAIG members to undertake the installation and floodlighting and lock blocking around the base of the town's War Memorial. There is a contingency fund supported by MAIG, Oldmeldrum British Legion, Meldrum and Daviot Community Council, and Meldrum Sports Committee to carry out any maintenance of the floodlights. We are grateful to the Kirk Session for agreeing to provide the energy requirements for the floodlighting of the Memorial.

In 2019 MAIG entered the town in the National "Keep Scotland Beautiful" and for their efforts, MAIG volunteers were awarded Silver Gilt and the Rose Bowl Trophy for the best new entrant. During the pandemic, the group withdrew from entering. However, this year our committee member Tony Denison prepared our submission for Keep Scotland Beautiful "It's your Neighborhood" designed to attract volunteer-led community groups that are cleaning and beautifying their neighborhood. For their efforts, our volunteer team was awarded the highest award Level 5 Outstanding.

We often hear of organizations having difficulty in recruiting and retaining members, MAIG is fortunate to have an excellent team providing an extensive scope of talents in which we continue to make improvements to our facilities and our projects. However, if you wish to join a friendly bunch and help maintain our work in the community, please contact our Vice Chairman Moira Gregg at [blankets@btopenworld.com](mailto:blankets@btopenworld.com)

If you are not already a Friend of MAIG, perhaps you might wish to give consideration to help fund our activities. Members pay £1 per week, paid quarterly by bank standing order. A draw takes place at the end of each month and 7 winners are selected. The gaming law stipulates that 60% must be paid to winning members and the remaining 40% is given to supporting MAIG's activities. Anyone wishing to become a Friend of MAIG should contact our mailing Secretary Norman Millar [njmillar19@gmail.com](mailto:njmillar19@gmail.com)

Approaching the festive season, the Community Christmas Tree which is donated by Oldmeldrum Golf Club will be delivered and erected on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The town's Christmas Illuminations will be erected on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The public Illumination Switch- on event will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December starting at 3 pm.

A joyous Christmas and very best wishes for good health and happiness in the New Year from all at MAIG



## Oldmeldrum & District Rotary Community Fund



Santa and his Sleigh will be visiting the communities in and around Oldmeldrum from Tuesday 6th Dec until Friday 16th Dec, he will also be visiting the Co-Op in Oldmeldrum on Sat the 9th Dec between 9am and 5pm

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 Yo Ho Ho and waving as he passes through the following communities starting at 6pm on the evenings shown below.

|               |                  |                |                  |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Tues 5th Dec  | Rothienorman     | Mon 11th Dec   | Oldmeldrum South |
| Wed 6th Dec   | Tarves           | Tue 12th Dec   | Oldmeldrum North |
| Thurs 7th Dec | Methlick         | Wed 13th Dec   | Newmachar East   |
| Fri 8th Dec   | Daviot           | Thurs 14th Dec | Newmachar West   |
| Sat 9th Dec   | Oldmeldrum Co-op | Fri 15th 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 and we also have a on line tracker so that you can follow Santa's Progress, this can be found using the following link <https://glympse.com/!SantaOldmeldrumrotary>

If you would like to make a donation to the Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District there will be Elves accompanying Santa with collection buckets and there will also be collection buckets on the side of the sleigh, or you can make an online just giving donation using this link

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/oldmeldrum-rotary-santa](http://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 Just Giving page

This year we are working with the parent councils of the schools in the villages we visit and some of the funds collected will be distributed to the parent councils in support of their work with the schools, the remainder will be distributed via Community Fund operated by the Club,(applications for funding will open in February) last year we donated almost £2000 to local organisations who applied for support from the fund.

£200 to support Young Carers at Meldrum Academy

£200 to Tarves Community Council to help maintain defibrillators in Tarves and Barthol Chapel

£200 to the Community Pantry in Oldmeldrum to purchase supplies for the pantry

£200 to the Nursery in Meldrum to help buy puddle suits

£200 to the Formartine Youth Project to help run Summer Holiday Clubs in Tarves, Barthol Chapel, Pitmedden and Methlick

£200 to Daviot School Parent Council to support purchase of items for the school

£200 to a Baby and toddler group to purchase equipment

£200 to Therapets who locally provide comfort and relieve stress, supporting people with physical, mental, social and emotional health problems through the power of animal-human interaction.

£100 to a group supporting local people recover from addiction

£100 to the RBLs for advertising materials

£100 to the table tennis Club in Rothienorman for the purchase of equipment

£75 to the Oldmeldrum Bowling Club to buy new jacks

A big thank you to everybody that supported the Santa Sleigh flights through the communities, it is you that have provided these funds to the organisations, all we have done is provided a bit of Christmas Cheer and facilitated the collection and distribution of the funds through our community fund.

We look forward to seeing you all in December

Merry Christmas from all at The Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District