

MELDRUM CONNECT



Connecting Kirk & Community

A Newsletter for the Meldrum Community

There are many of you in the community who pick up litter as you go about your business and you don't make a fuss. Thank you all for that; for making Meldrum a beautiful place to live. MAIG have organised an organised litter pick on 23rd March for anyone who can help to do a deeper clean. Our Guest Article this time is from The Heritage Society about all the fine work they have done over the decades to bring Meldrum's history alive. The Bygone series of booklets are fantastic and the group have made a great contribution to the development of Whin Roadie at the top of Meldrum. They are also responsible for the plaques about local people of interest. There are oral histories from local residents on their website: <https://mbhsociety.myportfolio.com/>

The churches have all their Easter events planned, including an Easter Story Walk in the Community Garden, following boards and QR codes to download activities and there's a reminder of what the Pastoral Care Team do to make Meldrum a better place.

There is a Rotary article about the Community Garden and the results of the Church Community Survey are in.

The allotment space has really taken shape and there are two plots available to anyone with a passion for growing.

Thanks to all who make a contribution to the Meldrum community in the limelight and in the shadows. Thank you All

IN THIS ISSUE

Guest Article	2
Community Garden /	
Paths Group	4
OGGS	5
Meldrum War Hero	6
NTS	7
Ministers Letter	8
Community Appeal	9
Joseph Appeal	10
Community Survey	
Feedback	11-14
St Matthews	
Episcopal Church	17
Working Together	18
Lieutenancy	21
Community Council	22
Cycling	23

MELDRUM AMENITY IMPROVEMENT GROUP

Spring Clean Scotland/Oldmeldrum

Spring Clean Scotland will take place between 15th March – 28th April.

People across Scotland are being called upon to play their part in tackling the country's litter emergency.

MAIG's entry for this year's Keep Scotland Beautiful invites community organizations, schools, businesses, and families to play their part in tidying up our town.

We have selected Saturday morning 23rd March. Volunteers should congregate at The Meadows Veterinary Centre on Station Road at 9.30 am for de-briefing.

MAIG will provide litter-picking tools, plastic bags, and high viz vests. Volunteers should bring their own protective gloves.

Interested in learning more about local history?

Meldrum & Bourtie Heritage Society are seeking new members to join their committee. The Heritage Society was set up in 2000 to "advance the general public's knowledge about the local history of the community". Over the years the Society has been active in the community, with a mix of written articles, photo displays and physical works, among other things. Some examples of the Society's activities are:

- Photo displays of local history – at our coffee mornings, at Meldrum Sports and other events. We have approximately 3,000 photos in our database, covering periods back to the 19th century.
- Articles on local events, now published on our website and Facebook page. In the past the Society regularly produced a magazine, Bygone, with a variety of articles in it.
- Creation of the Whin Roadie, a path following the old Oldmeldrum to Banff road, with a viewpoint and information board at the top. This road was the main road to Banff until the current A947 was built in 1804.
- To mark the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Barra, a stone, Bruce's Seat, reputed to have been used by Robert the Bruce when his army defeated John Comyn's army, was moved from Barra Hill to the roundabout at the entrance to the village. An information board was placed by the seat to explain its history.
- Plaques created by the Society noting some significant historic figures from Oldmeldrum can be seen on the Town Hall and Morris's Hotel.
- Creation of a Walking Tour around Oldmeldrum, both as a paper guide and as an audio tour (narrated by Jim McColl).
- Oral Histories were created in 2007 by interviewing 24 local people, as part of the Formartine Oral History Project. These oral histories are available in the main libraries in Formartine, and from the Society.

When the Society started there were 15 committee members. Some stalwarts have been on the committee from the start while others have left and new members joined. Our numbers have dipped recently so we would like to attract new members onto the committee to help revitalise what we do. The time commitment is basically whatever time you would like to put in, we meet every couple of months and beyond that the time commitment depends on what projects you want to be involved in. We're a friendly group, this would be an opportunity to learn more about local history and possibly learn some new skills.

Please contact Robert Anderson at meldrumbourtieheritagesociety@gmail.com if you would like to find out more.

Bereavements

Mr Norman (Mini) Taylor	4th December 2023
Mr John (Jack) Morrison	7th December 2023
Mr Thomas Tait	1st January 2024
Mrs Catherine (Cathie) O'Brien	12th January 2024
Mr George Cowie	28th January 2024
Mr George (Dod) Grant	29th January 2024
Mrs Winnie Moir	31st January 2024
Mr David Buchan	5th February 2024



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. At this time of year when the weather can be unpredictable we tend to walk in the local area. There are some lovely walks not far from here like Keithhall, Lyne of Skene, Grandholm and Dyce which we have done recently.

Oldmeldrum Ramblers are part of a group called the Grampian 50+ Network and they organise gatherings of ramblers from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray. In April there will be a Spring Fling when we choose activities from crafts, visits, sports or walks and get the opportunity to meet with lots of folk from other groups.

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.



The Guild met on 13th November 2023 and the Speaker was John Littlejohn. He spoke about his involvement in sending Fish and Chip Vests out to Malawi. He also informed us that other items are sent out including Blankets, Jumpers, Hats, Sewing Machines, Sewing Kits, Clothes, Shoes, Sports Equipment, Garden Tools and Medical items. The boxes are picked up from Dundee and 1200 boxes are loaded into the Container. The talk was very interesting and well received.

On the 11th December 2023 we had our Christmas Party in Morris's Hotel. A lovely meal was served by friendly staff and enjoyed by all. Everyone brought and received a gift.

On the 8th January 2024 we met in Morris's Hotel but unfortunately our Speaker was unable to attend. We had a lovely social afternoon where we listened to some readings and had a chat amongst ourselves about Scams and Fraud and caught up with happenings over Christmas and New Year.

Our next meetings are as follows:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 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.

World Day of Prayer 2024

World Day of Prayer is on Friday 1st March 2024 and is the day when people will be coming together using a service produced by the ladies of Palestine. Their theme this year is "I Beg you....Bear with one another in Love". Given the current situation in Palestine it is good that we have this opportunity to hear from the women of Palestine.

Time and venue has still to be confirmed. Please check the Church Facebook page for further details.

WILLIAM FORSYTH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Looking Forward to Spring

Recognise this location?



It's the William Forsyth Community Garden, a place which, unfortunately, not all of us know about.

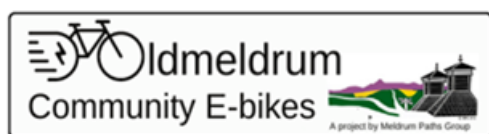
The garden, with its magnificent views of Barra Hill, Bennachie and the Grampians beyond, was initiated as a millennium project by the Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District in 2004 as a gift to the community. It's located on South Road but due to its sunken location and lack of entrance notice (soon to be remedied) it's not commonly known.

This photo shows the entrance arch and spring flowers looking South on a warm sunny day in spring - something for us to look forward to as we continue to suffer from the winter weather.

Over the next few issues of Connect I and other members of the garden committee will expand on the story of its founding, development, and future of the "hidden gem" that it is today.

Norman Brammer, Rotarian and Chairman of the Garden Committee.

MELDRUM MEG WAY



Meldrum Meg Way – proposed pathway for walkers and cyclists



A pathway for walkers and cyclists that links Oldmeldrum, Daviot and Inverurie has been a key priority for the community for over 20 years. Meldrum Paths Group have been working hard to meet this priority since the group's establishment in 2012; liaising with the Community Council, Aberdeenshire Council and national government representatives whilst seeking to negotiate a route for the pathway. The work towards developing a pathway, that will benefit the whole community, has taken a major step forward following the commissioning of consultants to undertake a comprehensive review of options for the construction of a safe walking and cycling route linking Oldmeldrum, Inverurie and Daviot.

It is understood that the consultants will carry out Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) assessment which will help to determine a preferred route option by considering a wide range of issues against identified planning objectives.

Since first mooted, over 20 years ago, the demand for a safe walking and cycling routes linking our communities has increased dramatically. The growing awareness of the climate emergency and the need to reduce carbon emissions, the increased demand for alternative travel options for those who do not have access to a car and the significant health benefits for the community as a whole mean that demand for this project is greater than ever. Meldrum Paths Group hope that apart from addressing these issues, the pathway will also provide economic benefits to the local area by encouraging green tourism.





meldrum baby & toddlers

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




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

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

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

New families always welcome!

 Find us on: **facebook**



OLDMELDRUM GREEN GROWING SPACE



2024 is well on the way, and there has been a lot of progress made at the Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space allotments. The site is starting to take shape and look like an actual allotment!

We now have an open site with many plotters getting their growing areas prepped for the upcoming season of growing fruits, vegetables, and herbs! Sheds on plots are being painted in bright and inviting colours, with water butts collecting rainwater, raised beds being made, and bean structures and fruit cages being built!

We have a boundary fence and gates in place, site drainage is complete, water pipes are laid, communal paths, and our picnic area under the Christmas tree are well underway. Finally, our most exciting projects, our Polycrub growing tunnels and owl boxes, are now under construction!



We hope to have the internal fencing and road completed by the end of the spring, and we will be concentrating on our woodland walk area and having the pumpkin patch thriving with rows of orange fruit!

We would also like to say a big thank you to all the residents of the village and the Co-op for their part in helping raise £1783.28 through the Co-op Local Community Fund. This will greatly help with future projects.



A MELDRUM WAR HERO

Among the servicemen from World War II commemorated on Oldmeldrum's War Memorial is Private (Piper) George S. McKay of the 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, who was awarded a posthumous Mention-in-Despatches in recognition of an act of gallantry.

George was born in Oldmeldrum on April 23, 1907 at the Lower Cowgate home of his parents, David and Mary Ann McKay. George was a farmworker before he enlisted in the Gordon Highlanders in December 1924. He later married Susan who was from Banff. His battalion landed in France with the British Expeditionary Force in early September 1939. The accompanying picture shows a trench-digging party from the 1st Gordons returning to barracks while led by a piper as officers look on at Templeuve, near Lille, in northern France, on October 10, 1939.



The 1st Gordons were transferred from the 1st Division to the 51st (Highland) Division in 1940 and at the time of the German breakthrough were in the Maginot Line with that Division. The 1st Gordons successfully attacked the German lines in Cambron Woods and the spur overlooking Cambron, near Abbeville, on June 4. The well-sited enemy machine-gun posts hampered their attack although the Gordons were eager to go on. However, the Germans began pushing the Division along its whole front. The 51st Division fought its way back from the Somme until it was surrounded and capitulated at St Valery-en-Caux on June 12.

George was among the 10,000 men made prisoners of war. He was later held in Stalag XXA camp at Thorn, now Torun, in Poland. He had the misfortune of being shot dead by a German guard when he tried to escape while doing agricultural work at nearby Borowke camp on November 28, 1941. His grave is at Malbork Commonwealth War Cemetery in Poland. On April 6, 1944, he was awarded a posthumous Mention-in-Despatches in recognition of his brave but ill-fated attempt to escape. He was unfortunate as most escapees were recaptured and punished with solitary confinement and bread and water for rations.

There were at least four other Oldmeldrum-born soldiers serving with the Gordons who were captured by the Germans during the Battle of France and later held in prisoner-of-war camps. They were Private William Bruce, aged 21; Private James Glennie, aged 27, who was captured on May 20 at Ath, Belgium; Lance Corporal David Duncan, aged 32, of the 1st Battalion, and Lance Corporal Alexander Hill, aged 30, who were both captured at St Valery-en-Caux. They all spent the rest of the war in POW camps.

The 12th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was fortunate to be evacuated from France and was later based at Oldmeldrum from January to March 1941. A year earlier the battalion had been sent to France, where it guarded the rear echelons until ordered to withdraw with the rest of the BEF, and was evacuated from Brest and St Malo on June 16/17, 1940 without a single casualty.

The author is indebted to Stewart Mitchell, a volunteer researcher at the Gordon Highlanders Museum, Aberdeen, for providing information about Private George McKay.



THE ROYAL WARWICKSHIRES IN FRANCE.

War Office Photograph Jan. 8. 1941



North East Aberdeenshire National Trust for Scotland Members' Centre (A registered Scottish Charity SC02422)

One of our most eagerly awaited events is always the "Carols for Christmas" concert held annually on the first Sunday in December in Haddo House Chapel. This year's musical entertainment was provided by local young musicians Erin Currie and Isla McKeown, organist Allan Bicket and the Fyvie Community Choir who were in fine voice. The post-concert shortbread and mince pies in Haddo House Library provided a delicious finale to the event. In January historian Bill Diack led us on a virtual walk down Aberdeen's Union Street, pointing out features often overlooked and which provide an insight into the lesser-known history and characters of Aberdeen – and all from the comfort of Haddo House Library. The Members' Centre Committee is currently working hard to develop an exciting programme of activities for 2024/25. This will include not only talks and events to be held at Haddo House, Fyvie Castle and Pitmedden Garden, but also visits and tours to gardens and historic properties in Aberdeenshire and further afield. Our immediate upcoming events are listed below. We would love to see you at these if you are able to join us.

March 22nd 11:00am in Haddo House– Talk on the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Thursday 25th April 7pm in Haddo House – AGM followed by a talk on the history and evolution of Ellon Castle Gardens by John Webber and Allie Lyons.

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

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

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

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.

Dear all,

As we embrace the beauty of spring and the promise of Easter, I am filled with gratitude and hope for all that lies ahead. In this season of new beginnings, I want to share with you some reflections and inspirations.

Easter is a time when we celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It's a reminder of God's boundless love and the hope that springs eternal. As we reflect on this profound event, let us also remember that just as Jesus emerged from the tomb, we too can experience renewal and transformation in our lives.

The symbolism of spring beautifully mirrors the Easter message. The earth awakens from its slumber, and vibrant life bursts forth from seemingly lifeless branches. In the same way, our faith can be rejuvenated, and new possibilities can blossom within us.

Spring teaches us that after the darkness of winter, there is always a new day. This year, let us hold onto the promise of new beginnings not only for ourselves but for our church and community as well. As we move forward, let us carry the light of Christ with us and share it with those around us.

Ways to Celebrate Easter and Spring Together

1. **Easter Week Services:** Join us on 24th March at 11.00am for our Family Palm Sunday Service or at 2.00pm for our Wee Easter Service designed with young ones in mind. On the 31st March we have two Easter Services: at 9.00am meeting in the Community Garden for a walk and breakfast and then at 11.00am is our Easter Service in the Church for a special worship service as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Invite your friends and neighbours to experience the joy of Easter with us.
2. **Easter Story Walk:** Come along for a walk around the Community Garden to learn about the Easter Story. Follow the boards and using QR codes with your phone you can hear the story of Easter. Once you complete the walk you get a download link for a certificate and colouring pages.
3. **Easter Egg Hunt:** During our 'Wee' Easter Service at 2.00pm on the 24th March we will have a fun Egg hunt, so make sure to come along.
4. **Spring Cleanup:** Let's come together to spruce up our community. MAIG has their annual litter pick planned for Saturday morning on the 23rd of March. Meeting at the Meadows Veterinary Center for 9.30am. MAIG will provide litter picks, bags and high-viz vests so just grab a pair of gloves and come join the clean-up!

Community Outreach: Make it a goal to reach out to those in need in our community. Let's spread the love of Christ by helping those who could use a helping hand during this season of renewal.

Let us remember that Easter is not just a single day, but a season of rejoicing in the hope of new life. As we see the flowers bloom and hear the birds sing, may we also hear the voice of God calling us to new adventures and deeper faith.

I am grateful to serve this wonderful congregation and community, and I am excited to see what God has in store for us in the days ahead. May this Easter and springtime fill your hearts with joy and anticipation for the new things to come.

With love and blessings,
Rev. Alisa McDonald



PASTORAL CARE

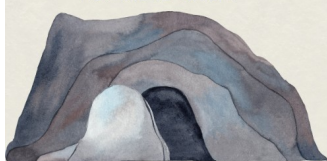
If you, or anyone you know would like a visit from someone from the Pastoral Care Team, please get in touch with either Eileen Oliver on 07775 606640 or Sheila Simpson on 07866 130175.

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO
EASTER SERVICES AT
MELDRUM & BOURTIE KIRK

24 March Palm Sunday	11.00 Meldrum Kirk 14.00 'Wee' Easter Service at Meldrum Kirk with Easter Egg Hunt
28 March Maundy Thursday	19.00 Joint service with St. Matthew's Episcopal at Meldrum Kirk
29 March 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

HE IS NOT HERE:
FOR HE IS RISEN.




'Wee'
Easter
Service

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

24th March
Meldrum Kirk
2.00pm
All Welcome!



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



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

info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

Find us on Facebook and Youtube

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

COMMUNITY APPEAL

Community Appeal from Rev. Alisa McDonald

At Meldrum and Bourtie Church along with so many community groups we are always striving to do more and serve the community as best we can. This is a special appeal to help us with doing just that. At the church we have a pastoral care team that visits members of the community, if you know of anyone who would benefit from a visit from a friendly face every so often, there is no need to be connected to the church, please let us know. If you are a family or individual struggling with anything, be it interpersonal, financial, or emotional, please reach out so we can help. In addition, if you would like to help, or be involved in any of our projects or activities, from helping with the Café, Family Fun Day, Youth Club, Story and Play, visiting, welcome team, flowers in church, or any others... again, please get in touch! If you have a passion you would like to share and don't know how, please get in touch. We are a whole community together, and we are stronger together - so please reach out. Let me know, let others know.

Rev. Alisa McDonald

Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

17 Benview Gardens, Oldmeldrum

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

STORY & PLAY

at the NEW TIME 1.30-2.30

Every Friday 1.30-2.30pm

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

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



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'

Meldrum Church Hall,
Albert Road

Tea, Coffee, Fellowship & Friendship

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

FAMILY FUN DAY

29 June 12-4pm

@ Meldrum Church on Kirk Brea

BBO TIME

Bouncy Castle
Beat the Goalie
Lawn Games
Fire Truck
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

Wanted!

Did you take part in the church and community performance of 'Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat' in 2004?

It's incredible to believe that it's 20 years since this musical was so successfully performed in the Meldrum Academy Drama Theatre. So, it's time to have a reunion. Whether you were on stage, in the orchestra, in the children's or adult choirs, helped to make costumes, applied makeup, built the set, baked cakes, sold tickets or programmes or fulfilled any of the myriad tasks involved, we would love you to come along.

The venue is the church hall and the date is Saturday 20th April at 2.30 pm. Hugh O'Brien has a copy of the recording and we hope to replay some of it and perhaps sing along. We aim to have tea, coffee and home bakes and just to catch up with each other. If you still have the tee shirt or your costume, feel free to wear it.

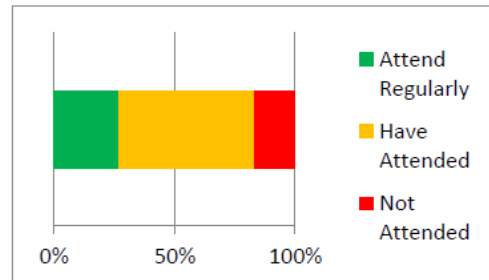
Obviously, with the passage of time many of the participants have moved away from Oldmeldrum but if you are in contact with any of them and you think they would be willing and able to come please spread the word.

It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers nearer the time so please contact Sheila Simpson on 07866 130175 or Eileen Oliver on 07775 606640. Hope to see you there!

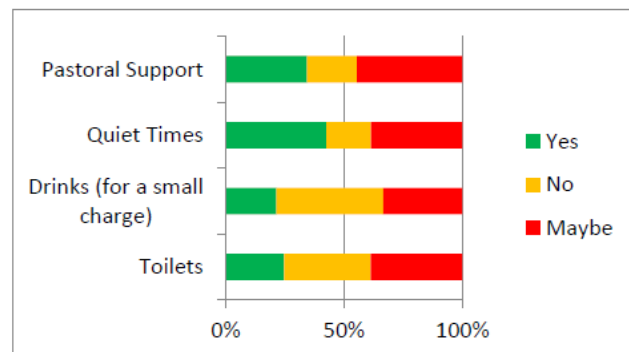


Meldrum Parish Church Community Survey Feedback

108 people completed the survey. Thank you for doing so. Over 83% of those who completed the survey either attend our church or have attended in the past. Occasions included family events, concerts, flower festivals, Seasonal events, and school services. We are keen to hear from many more in our community who haven't been to any of our events or activities to generate more views from them as to how we can be of support in the future. If you would like to contribute to the discussion and help inform our future development plans, then please email us at info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com.

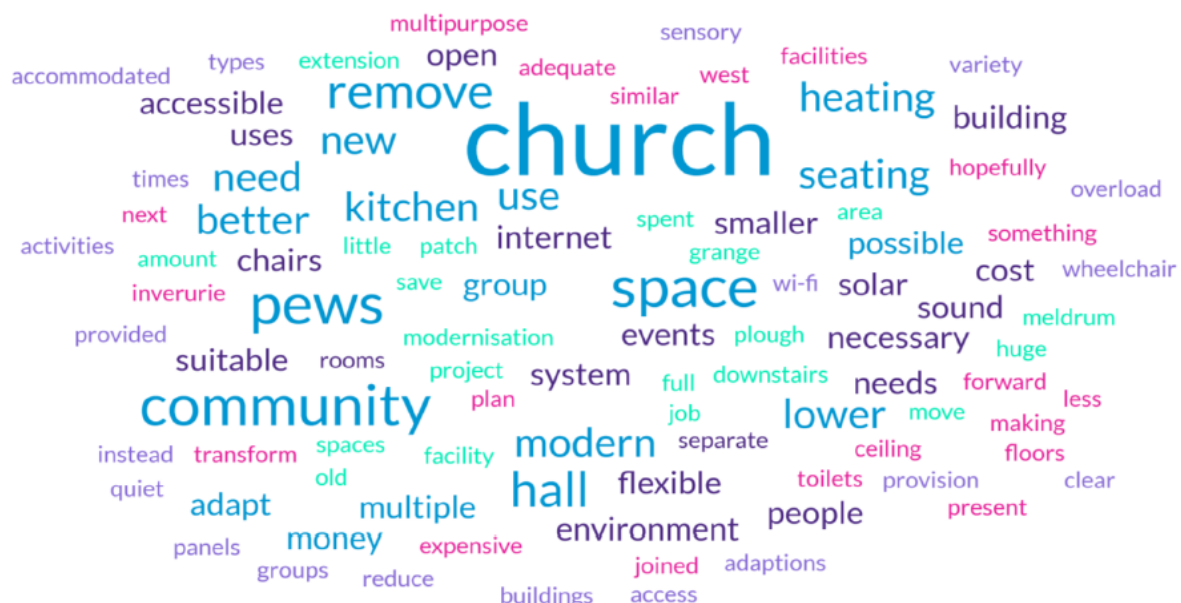


It is clear that our current buildings – Meldrum Church and the Albert Road Church Hall – are not totally fit for purpose, however we need to also ensure that what we think the purpose is, actually reflects what the community need and as much as possible, takes account of the importance that certainly the main Church building has for the community.



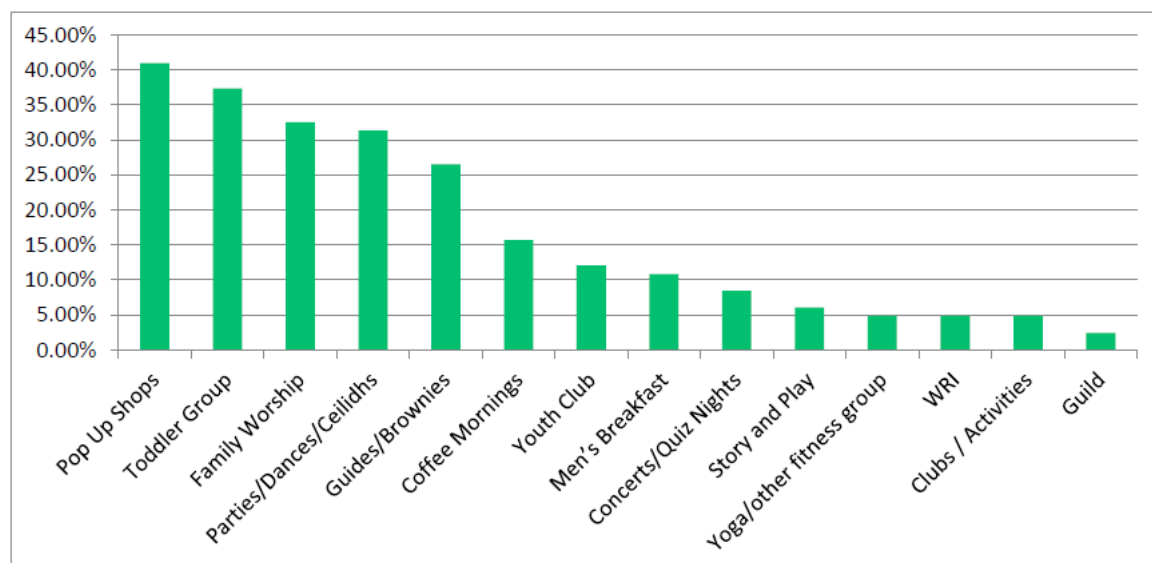
Many of the respondents felt that as a Church, we should be open more often to provide Quiet Space and Pastoral Support. This is something we will definitely look at – we would dearly love to be able to provide this kind of support and space for the people of Meldrum. However, we also have to be realistic as to how possible it would be to create private and more flexible spaces in both buildings. We also need to know how we could ensure that we develop a team of people to help facilitate this.

In terms of how our church operates and supports the whole Meldrum community, your comments generated the words shown below. The stand out words certainly give us food for thought as an encouragement and challenge alike. Alongside this, it is heartening to hear how strongly many of you feel about this building as a key part of the Meldrum community and heritage.

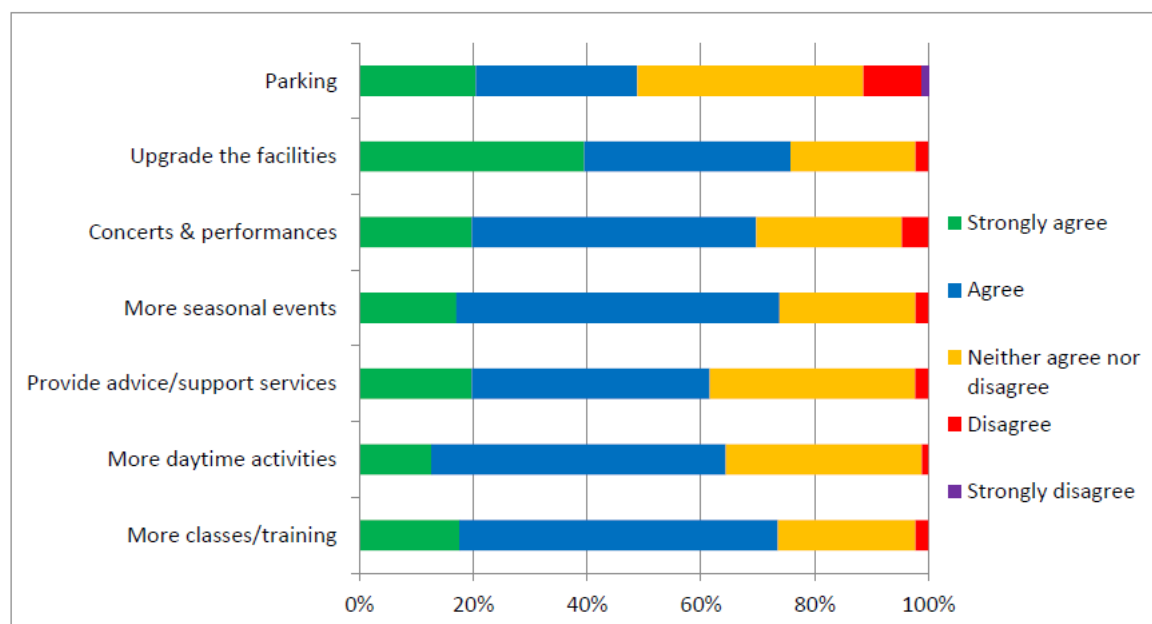


In terms of the Church Hall on Albert Road, it is clear – both from the survey responses and from just seeing the space – that this is a well-used Hall, however we do know there is potential for much more community activity either there or in a new space. What has also become clear – again both from the survey and from speaking with some of you – is that there are some in the community who didn't realise this was the Church Hall but that it was the local community hall. Those people are not wrong – it is the local community hall. It's just that the building is owned by the Church! However, as a Church, we are very much focused on supporting the local community and making this hall available for local groups for as low as cost as is practical, is one way we can do that. Many of you also commented that you weren't actually sure what was going on in the hall on a regular basis, which is something we will look to address in conjunction with the other groups using the space.

Your responses about what you attend or have attended in the Church Hall, show how varied the activities are in there, which may also be of help for those who didn't know:



In the survey, we made some suggestions about things that could happen or be developed at the Church Hall. Your responses provide a clear response for upgrading the facilities, as well as some really helpful suggestions for things that you felt were missing in the community at present.



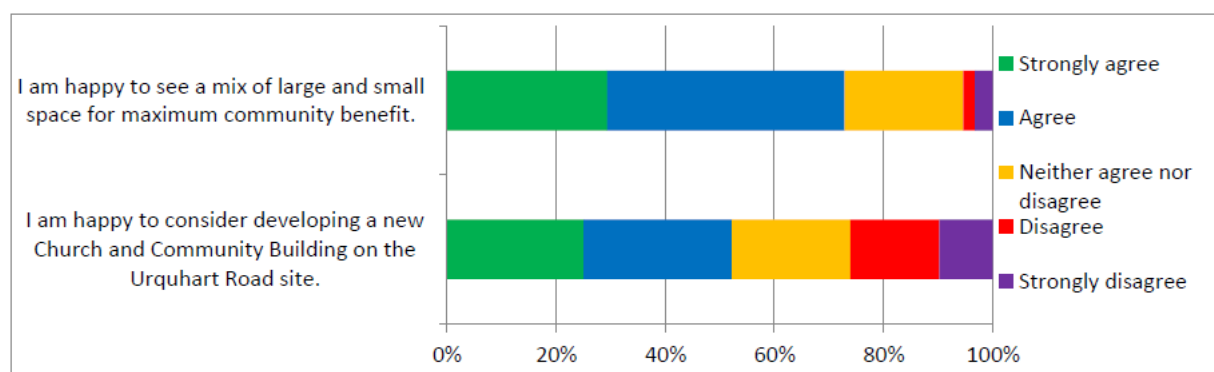
In your comments regarding options for the Church Hall, you made various suggestions – mostly around different items that needed upgrading, but also how you saw its future usage. Again, these reflect the need to upgrade these facilities or look for other options in the Community.



The biggest issue at stake, is what the future community presence of Meldrum Parish Church look likes. Obviously, our Church building is well respected and has been the site of many key moments in the lives of many of you in this community. But the building is out of the way and we are very limited in options for its redevelopment. The Albert Road Hall has less of a significance, however it still plays an important role as a space for the community to gather for social, physical, wellbeing and spiritual activities. But it has no parking, needs a significant upgrade, and doesn't meet all the identified needs.

And so, we raised the previously discussed proposal for a new development off Urquhart Road, to provide a Church and Community building that is fit for purpose now and will look to the needs of the future Meldrum community, as well as respecting the history of Meldrum Parish Church in the past.

52% were in favour of considering this (when taking agree and strongly agree together), and 26% were against. And around 73% of you were in favour of seeing a mix of large and small space for maximum community benefit, however, we have to bear in mind that some of these respondents may have been suggesting this for existing spaces, rather than for building something new. So this is something that we will continue to explore, so that we can ensure that the Church is a meaningful presence in, and support of, the local community for many years to come.



Next Steps

- We will firstly explore further the costs involved with developing a new Church and Community facility that is fit for purpose to meet as many needs as possible. We have drawings and costings from before Covid, so need to revisit those and understand our options.
- We will then explore options for the Albert Road Church Hall especially in terms of heating and decoration.
- Our final option would be to look at anything we can do with the main Meldrum Church, especially in terms of removing pews to provide a more flexible venue, looking at creation of smaller rooms, and upgrading heating.

We would love to discuss this further with you, and so we invite you to our next Connect Café on Saturday 9 March at which we will have some displays of options, and be on hand to chat with you.

For now, please keep an eye on our Website at www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com or our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/meldrumbourtiechurch.org.uk for more updates and information of the many and varied things we're doing with and for you.



MELDRUM CONNECT

Connecting Kirk & Community





Hello,

You may be aware that at the end of last year Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church completed a community survey with the purpose of gaining the community's views on how we can best continue to serve and be an integral part of this wonderful community for many more years to come. At the same time, we were looking for community views on the Church buildings and how to make them work better for the community going forwards. This survey was conducted with the help of Community Enterprise Ltd and the Accelerate Programme.

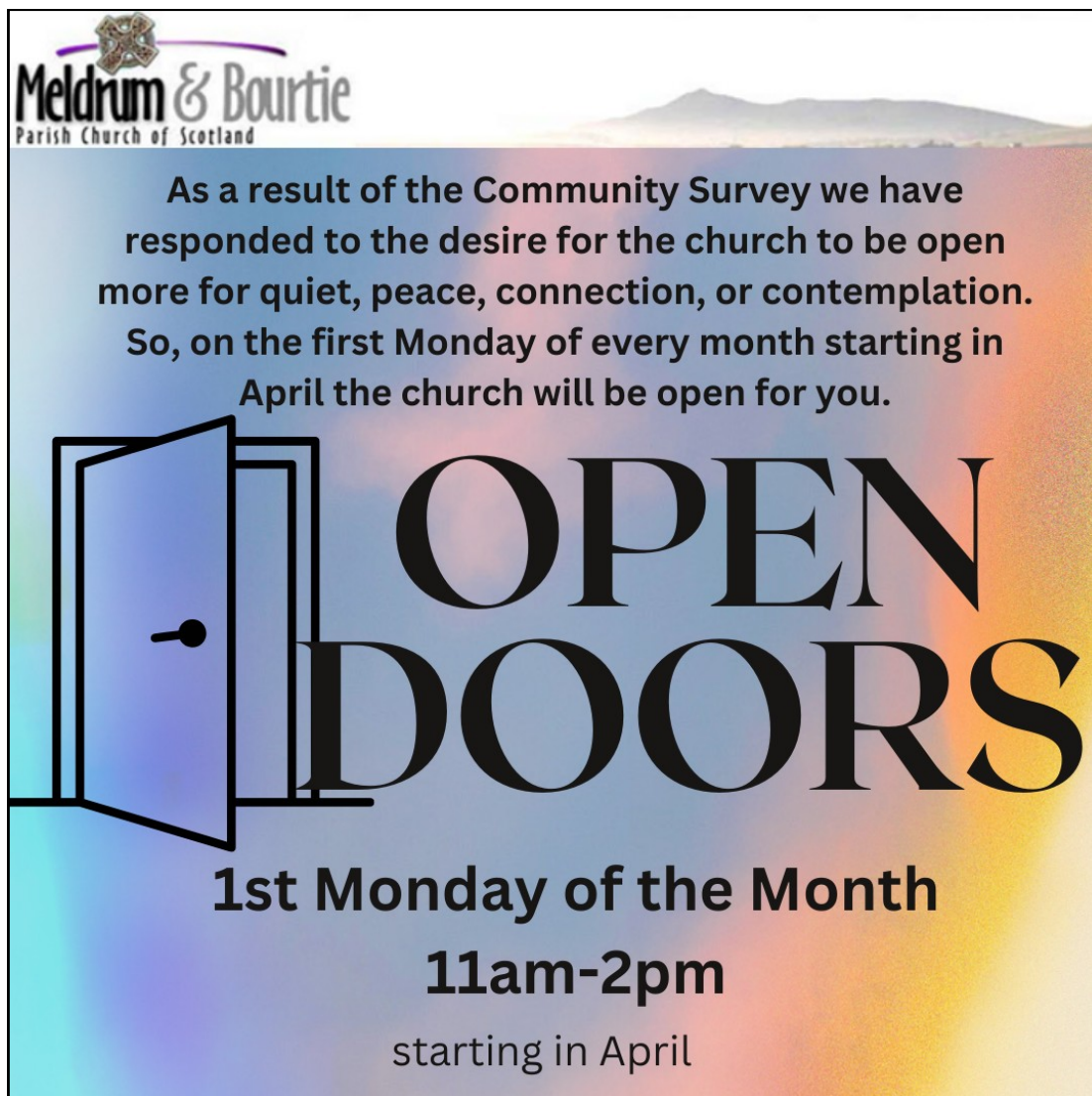
We had a great response to the survey and it was wonderful to see the interest from the community. We have attached the

survey feedback for your viewing which includes a summary of the next steps. We are still in the preliminary stages of exploring the options of what this means for Meldrum and Bourtie Church. As we move forward we want the community to be involved.

We would like to invite you along to our special extended Connect Café on Saturday 9th March at Meldrum Church Hall on Albert Road, between 10-2pm. As well as the usual tea, coffee and delicious baked goods there will be the opportunity to talk with Church members about the results of the survey, discover more about what we are already doing in the community and find out ways that you can be involved as we plan for the future of Meldrum and Bourtie church within the community! Dan Rous of Community Enterprise Ltd will also be present to help answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to welcoming you on the 9th of March.

Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church



The
Physiotherapy
& Pilates Company



Postnatal Pilates

Mondays - 10.30am

**The Pavilion, Oldmeldrum Pleasure
Park**

**Physiotherapist Led Classes to support
you in your postpartum journey**

Babies welcome!

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

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**Station Road, Oldmeldrum, AB51 0EZ
01651 872481**

**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.**





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



Over the last few years, we have greatly enjoyed participating in the Christmas Festival at the Parish Church. This year's tree celebrated the friendship and fellowship we share over tea and coffee after our services and we were delighted to be voted the "Quirkiest Christmas Tree". It was also wonderful to see so many old friends and new faces join us for our Nine Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve.

During Holy Week we hold a joint Maundy Thursday service with Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church, the venue for which alternates between the two churches. This year the service will be held in the Parish Church. St. Matthew's will be open on Good Friday between 12 noon and 3 pm for private prayer and reflection, before we celebrate the good news of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday at 10:30 am.

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 (including Easter Sunday)

10:30am: A sung service with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday (28th March): Joint evening service at Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church

Good Friday (29th March): Church open 12-3pm for prayer and reflection

OLDMELDRUM BOWLING CLUB



Our green 'opens' on Sunday 21st April 2024.

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

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



(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.

Co-Op Community Fund and Youth Club

The Meldrum Youth Club is part of the [Co-op](#) Local Community Fund this year.

Meldrum Youth Club meets the second Friday of the month at Meldrum Hall and is open to all kids P5-S6. It is a fun, open and welcoming space for the youth to be themselves.

This last month we were lucky enough to have Hayley from Supporting the Meldrum Community visit the Youth Club from Co-Op.



As well as all the other normal activities there was a chance to talk about mental health using the Co-Op sponsored resource from Time to Talk.

A reminder that the more people who choose us as their cause via their membership card the more money we will receive to help support the youth club in Meldrum.

To find out more about our project and to choose us as your cause visit. <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/85887>



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

 **Choose us as
your cause**

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



Please remember to continue to raise funds for Meldrum Youth Club every time you shop at Co-op. For those of you who aren't members yet, we would really appreciate it if you could either Scan the QR code, download the Co-op app or sign up at www.coop.co.uk/membership and choose us as your local cause.

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 CAFÉ

Meldrum Café opened on 25th April 2007. Staffed by volunteers our aim is to provide good quality, simple food at affordable prices in an environment where everyone of all ages can feel comfortable and pass time in a friendly company.

Opening hours	Thursday	10-3.30
	Friday	10-3.30
	Saturday	10-3.30

Working as a volunteer in the cafe is fun, a challenge and a great way to meet people whilst giving something back to the community at the same time.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested speak to a volunteer in the café or email mmbcic@outlook.com to find out more.

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>

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		

Deadline for our next Meldrum Connect is 12th May 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.

ABERDEENSHIRE LIEUTENANCY

Since my last update I have been humbled and 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 many truly remarkable people who selflessly make such a positive difference to the lives of others.

Like so many other organisations, Rotary is one of those voluntary groups who do so much good for others and I was delighted to attend the Oldmeldrum branch for their meeting in November.

Remembrance Sunday is a key date in our annual calendar as we remember those who have sacrificed so much for their country. The Lieutenancy laid 27 wreaths on behalf of The King at Remembrance services throughout Aberdeenshire in November and I was honoured to attend the service at Oldmeldrum Parish Church. Deputy Lieutenant Mr Steve Mackison also attended the Oldmeldrum Primary School Remembrance service at the war memorial on Armistice Day.

Now in its third year, the inspirational carol concert at Westminster Abbey "Together at Christmas," hosted by HRH The Princess of Wales in December highlighted the importance of building supportive, nurturing environments for young children and the adults in their lives. Among the congregation were midwives, health visitors, nursery teachers and community volunteers who have gone above and beyond to help others throughout the year. We were delighted five people from Aberdeenshire were invited to attend this very special Carol Concert.

In January, I was delighted to attend the Baton relay of the Boys Brigade 2nd Turriff Company to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the founding of the North Scottish Area of the Boys Brigade and to plant an oak tree at the Bennachie Visitor Centre to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Next to the tree is a special plaque and please go and view the tree if visiting Bennachie.

In addition we have held a number of citizenship ceremonies, a medal presentation and been blessed with several Diamond, Blue Sapphire and Platinum 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 60th, 65th, 70th, 75th wedding anniversaries or 100th or 105th Birthdays.

Finally, we are all very mindful of the recent news of His Majesty The King's cancer diagnosis. The King has indicated that he remains wholly positive and that he looks forward to returning to public duty as soon as possible. We all join in sending His Majesty and the Royal Family our best wishes as The King's treatment progresses. Equally, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales is very much in our thoughts following her recent operation.

Please do make contact with the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy at audreynash@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk if there is anything you feel we can do to help your community.

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





Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

February 2024

Since the last Meldrum Connect newsletter the Community Council has met in October, November and January. During this time the weather has caused misery to many and there have been flooding issues in and around Oldmeldrum. A number of areas have been identified. We have had site meetings, met with councillors and landowners and communicated with Aberdeenshire Council. We are trying to help in any way we can.

Our resilience group had a recent meeting with Aberdeenshire Council 's Resilience Team and we are looking into funding for sandbags and other materials required to assist with community resilience in an emergency situation. The Community Council is holding a Resilience/First Responder/Fire Service event on the 19th March in the new Sports Pavilion in the Pleasure Park 6.30pm – 8.30pm. At this event there will be the chance to find out more about the roles these organisations undertake within our community. The resilience team will have information and advice available on the many issues that could affect us and how to keep ourselves safe. The first responders are looking to set up a group within our community. Come along and hear what this would involve. The Fire Service will be providing information on their free Home Fire Safety visits (available to all if required), road safety and offer general advice on many subjects. All are welcome to attend.

In the last Meldrum Connect I mentioned that Wingham, New South Wales in Australia, wishes to be a sister town to Oldmeldrum. Would you be interested in progressing this twinning opportunity? Mr King, from Wingham, plans to visit us in June. If you can volunteer to be part of this project, please contact info@oldmeldrum.org

Aberdeenshire Council has asked the Community Council for comments on a proposed crematorium at Mains of Glack, Daviot. A meeting will take place in Daviot Hall on Monday 26th February at 7pm to gain views from members of the public.

Meldrum Market Days, run by Meldrum 2030, are set this year for the last Wednesday of each month April – September, 3.30pm – 6.00pm. If you can help with the organisation and setting up of these please contact info@oldmeldrum.org

We continue to support community groups where we can and value issues raised by members of the public. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings and we are always looking for more members. Please visit our website <https://oldmeldrum.org> for more information.

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE



The Trishaw is a great way for the elderly and those with limited mobility to get out and about in Oldmeldrum and to meet up with old and new friends. To arrange a meeting which is free to all contact Andrew McCartney 01651 873473

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE

The Oldmeldrum Chapter "Cycling Without Age Scotland" had its last run of 2023 where we took part in the Remembrance Day parade taking 2 passengers from the British Legion up to the Church. 2023 has been another busy year for "Meldrum Meg" (the name of our versatile electric Trishaw), completing 3 years of bringing miles of smiles and much enjoyment to those who otherwise wouldn't manage to get out and about and around the town.

The Trishaw is garaged in the premises at Westbank Home which is very convenient as quite a number of our passengers are residents of Westbank Home. Our Pilots (trained drivers) and Co-Pilots take great pleasure in transporting residents and staff as well as other members of our elderly citizens for outings around the town. Some of our regular routes include the William Forsyth Community Garden, Coutens Farm, The Pleasure Park, and dare we say an enjoyable stopover at the Visitors Center Glengarioch Distillery where the staff invariably entertain our passengers with a welcome dram. Other welcome stopovers are the ice cream shop on Commercial Road, a fly piece at Nicky T's, and a Coffee stop at Hoodles.

Many passengers who come out regularly often comment on how friendly townsfolk in the town are while meeting and greeting new and old friends and taking time for a chat, especially during the summer months when the town is dressed with the floral displays.

The Trishaw outings have ceased during the winter months. However, with spring just around the corner you will see the Trishaw out shortly and if you see it passing always give it a wave, stop for a chat, or join in for a bit of the journey. Pilots and passengers always appreciate the friendly local support.

Lastly, if you're interested in helping out, full training is given, there are volunteer roles available to suit anyone from social media, admin, Piloting, or Co-piloting. You don't need to be a super cyclist to power the battery-powered Trishaw.

Sheena Clarke who has been our Administrator sadly is stepping down. Sheena has been a stalwart in getting our Chapter up and running and we are truly sorry to lose her services.

As a result we are currently seeking someone to take on role of Administrator who would be responsible for co-ordinating and arranging outings between passengers and the Pilot volunteers.



THE POWER OF...

WEDNESDAY

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

● WEDNESDAY TERM TIME

● 10AM - 12PM

● MELDRUM ACADEMY
LIBRARY

FOR MORE INFO



WEDNESDAY YAPS



TO SIGN UP, PLEASE SCAN QR



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