MARCH 2026 Vol. 13

MELDRUM CONNECT

Connecting Kirk & Community

A Newsletter for the Meldrum Community

If you are reading this, you have survived the longest period without sunshine, in recorded history. Well done you!
At least the reservoirs are full and you have Community Connect to brighten your day.

If you are a local group or organisation and need some money for a worthwhile project, to benefit the community, fear not:
The Rotary, after a successful Santa's Sleigh, are asking for applications and Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church are open to such applications also.
Kudos to them for raising and making these funds available.
A fantastic opportunity to make Meldrum and surrounds even better.

A new initiative from Meldrum Kirk, called Bricks & Bites marries Lego and food to allow play and conversation to flow.

Meldrum Golf Club has also been raising money through Opens and raffles to gift money locally and for Prostate Cancer research.

Oldmeldrum Bowling Club are celebrating their Centenary this year. Why not go along and Try Bowls, individually, or as a family, and join in on this special year.

You won't believe it, but Haddo Arts has managed to attract Sir John Rutter CBE, the famous composer of the magical 'Requiem' and 'Gloria' and the Christmas carol 'Candlelight Carol' to Haddo.
If you prefer country to classical then have An Afternoon with KW Country, at the Legion, which is to raise funds for Meldrum Volunteers Fundraiser Group.

The National Trust for Scotland have an event at our library, on 24th February, called The History of the House, showcasing the research resources available there.

The Bailey's of Bennachie have a lifetime membership for just £25 which helps protect this beautiful landscape. Their 2026 events program will be available soon. Why not join a work party or go to their events this year. Good exercise & craic.

The defibrillator at the pavilion has been used twice, since November 25, to save lives so a very worthwhile addition to our community. Also, a North East Paramedic was awarded with a British Empire Medal for his remarkable work over 30 years.

Enjoy !

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Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

The Community Council is here to support the residents in our area and make their views known to Aberdeenshire council. We still have several vacant positions. So why not come and join us. Help run the country (at a low level) Or just come to one of our meetings and help get your voice heard about local issues. There are always some local Aberdeenshire Councillors at our meetings who will note your concerns and try to answer questions. They always do their best to support us with local matters. Alternatively e-mail an issue to our secretary (details below). If you don't say anything we can't help.

Resilience

We have a small resilience group and are always looking for volunteers to help on an, 'as required' basis. You don't have to be a member of the community council to volunteer. The work would mainly be involved in obtaining and passing on information. Knocking on doors to check up on friends and neighbours. Don't forget we are not a 1st level responder organisation; they are the Police, Fire, Ambulance, coast guard, council, and government. There is a large amount of very useful information available to help you plan and prepare on the ready Scotland website. There are also some online training courses which may help. Most of our emergency situations, apart from Covid, have been weather related. Strong winds, snow, rain etc., resulting in blocked roads, power cuts, fallen trees, and danger from windblown objects.

We have a small supply of emergency equipment in both Meldrum and Daviot. This includes 7 public access AEDs (defibrillators) which we maintain fit for use. They are located at Meldrum golf club, Meldrum sports pavilion, Meldrum small square, Meldrum Academy, Daviot estate, Daviot village hall and, Daviot scout hut.

The AED at the Meldrum Sports pavilion has been used twice since the end of November 2025 to help save a life. So, it's all worthwhile. All our AEDs are located outside in a box which requires a small electrical supply for LED lights and a heater to keep the battery above freezing. The electricity use is very small.

We suggest that everyone should take the following actions to help plan and prepare for an emergency.

1. Plan and prepare to stay at home and look after yourself for 3 or 4 days
2. Keep informed by listening to the news, TV, radio and online weather forecasts
3. Maintain a supply of nonperishable food and some drinking water
4. Ensure you have an adequate supply of any necessary medication
5. Make sure your mobile phone is charged up.
6. Ensure you have a torch and spare batteries.
7. If you are fit and able and its safe, check up on your neighbours. Remember your safety comes first. If you fall or become injured who will be available to look after you.
8. Stay at home. If in doubt don't go out

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself or Jan Chalmers. If you require any extra information. Also look at the ready Scotland website for useful information.

Planning..

We are a statutory consultee for all planning matters in our area, and we review the applications at our meetings. We support local residents with their objections and comments supporting applications as necessary.

Traffic

HGV passing through the centre of Meldrum are a major problem which has resulted in severe damage and disruption being caused. We would like the Council to improve the existing road signs to make it clear that commercial vehicles in particular HGV should use the bypass and not go through the town centre. Access being to the centre and not through the centre to the other side.

Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

We wish everyone all the best for the new year

Community Council contact Secretary janchalmers1@hotmail.com

Gordon Duncan

(Chairperson Meldrum, Bourtie & Daviot Community Council)

Why not consider coming along to the revitalised Rotary club of Oldmeldrum and District, where you will find fun, fellowship, good speakers and excellent food. Service before self is our mantra and we aim to raise as much money as we can for local charities and community groups, whilst also supporting overseas charities through our Rotary Foundation.
Following our very successful Santa Sleigh in December, we have recently asked for applications for financial assistance from local community groups and we shall be awarding these grants in March.
We meet at the Redgarth Hotel on a Monday evening. Our meetings start at 7pm or join us at 6.15pm for 6.30pm for a meal beforehand. You will be sure to receive a warm welcome!
Our Facebook and website details are below.

Mary Watt
President Oldmeldrum and District Rotary.

Email: rotaryomd@gmail.com

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

ALZHEMIER SCOTLAND

Alzheimer Scotland offers a group in Oldmeldrum for people living with dementia and their carers.
Meldrum Social Group meet normally on the first Thursday of each month from 1.30 -2.30 pm at the Town Hall in the Square. At the group we have games and activities, tea and coffee and quizzes. Recent activities include planting seeds and making clocks. Our Community Groups are there to be enjoyed by anyone living with dementia or experiencing difficulties with their memory, including their families and friends. All are welcome; people who can attend independently **and/or for** those unable to do so should come with a companion who can provide any support for them.
Contact Susan at swestcott@alzscot.org or tel 07876 003154 if you would like any further information.
We also run Carers Groups in Ellon and Inverurie. These are for carers to come along to and they can share their experiences, get advice and have a friendly chat with our dementia advisor. If you would like to come along to a carers group please contact Mags Corbett at mcorbett@alzscot.org or telephone 07769 366 175.

MELDRUM BOMBER AIRMEN MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICC

By Peter Myers

There are four Royal Air Force airmen commemorated on Oldmeldrum's war memorial who flew with RAF Bomber Command. They were all flying in the Short Stirling, the first of the RAF's four-engined bombers, when they were shot down. The accompanying photo shows a Stirling returning to base.

Norman Marshall was following a career in banking before he enlisted in the RAF to train as aircrew. His father, William, had been manager of the Glengarioch Distillery at Oldmeldrum before the family moved to Middlesex. Sergeant Marshall, aged 23, was the flight engineer of Short Stirling I, serial no. BF346, of No. 90 Squadron which took off from RAF Ridgewell, Essex, at 8.19pm on April 28, 1943 for a minelaying operation over the Baltic. The Stirling was shot down and all seven crew were killed. One crew member was buried at Kiel War Cemetery, Germany, while the others are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey. Sgt Marshall's previous sorties earlier that month had included having to abort a raid on the French port of Lorient after the port inner engine became unserviceable. There were raids on Kiel and the industrial city of Duisburg. The day before his last flight, Sgt Marshall had returned to base on April 27 after an attack on Duisburg.

Later in 1943, another airman from Oldmeldrum, Flying Officer **Robert Massie**, was the navigator of Stirling III EH927, of No. 199 Squadron, which took off from RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, at 8.45pm on August 24 for a raid on Berlin. The Stirling was shot down and only one crew member survived to be taken prisoner. The squadron had converted from Wellingtons to Stirlings only the previous month and operated the four-engined aircraft on bombing and minelaying sorties as well as missions to supply arms to the French Resistance.

Flight Sergeant **Ian Henderson** was a wireless operator/air gunner with No. 15 Squadron at RAF Bourn, Cambridgeshire, when his Stirling, W7578, which had taken off at 7.35pm on September 19, 1942 for a raid on Munich, came down over France later that night. His grave is at Noyers-le-Val cemetery in the Meuse department. Pilot Officer **Edward Wood**, from St Katherines, was serving with No. 149 Squadron based at RAF Lakenheath. He was pilot of Stirling III EE969 when it failed to return from a minelaying operation over the Kattegat on January 27/28, 1944. He had flown three previous sorties that month to bomb targets at Abbeville in northern France. His squadron operated the last Stirling bombing raid when four of its aircraft attacked Le Havre in September 1944.

The writer's father, **Ron Myers**, who was resident in Oldmeldrum from 1963 to 1992, completed a tour of operations as second pilot of a Consolidated B-24 Liberator bomber with No. 178 Squadron in North Africa and Italy. His squadron was part of the RAF's No. 205 Group whose Halifaxes, Liberators and Wellingtons, along with the Fortresses and Liberators of the USAAF's 15th Air Force, kept up a relentless offensive against strategic targets in northern Italy, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania as the Soviet Union's Red Army advanced from the east .Ron's sorties included laying mines in the River Danube which seriously disrupted the transport of Romanian oil to the Reich and hindered Germany's prosecution of the war.

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.

OLDMELDRUM VOLUNTEERS FUNDRAISING GROUP

Meldrum Volunteers Fundraiser Group first event of 2026. An afternoon of great Country and Irish music with KW's Country on Sunday 8th March in The Royal British Legion hall, 2pm to 5pm. Tickets are available now from The Legion bar or from Dot Davidson on 07827 392677 or you can just pay at the door. All we ask for is a donation of a minimum of £5 per person. KW's Country's two previous shows have been sold out so don't miss this chance of a great afternoon where you can either hit the dance floor or just sit and enjoy the music. The Legion will have suppers available after the show but these must be booked direct with The Legion.

Haddo Arts

Presents... Exciting Events in 2026!

Our season starts on **Saturday 11 April** when renowned composer **Sir John Rutter CBE** directs a Come and Sing day, fun for singers of all abilities. **Places limited so early booking recommended!**

On **Sunday 12 April Opera Bohemia** return to Haddo for an early evening performance of their sparkling new production of "**Die Fledermaus**".

Multi award winning violin & cello duo, **The Ayoub Sisters**, perform a diverse selection of folk music drawing on their Scottish/Egyptian heritage on **Saturday 16 May** and **on Sunday 17 May**, **Nigel Clayton & Imma Setiadi** offer a pot pourri of piano duets from France and Russia.

June brings Mexican guitarist **Morgan Szymanski** back to Haddo with Scottish violinist **Roo Geddes**; **August** offers a **family ceilidh** and a **Scottish Country Dance evening**; **September** sees **Nikita Lukinov** give a chamber performance of **Grieg's Piano Concerto**, and in **October**, historian & novelist **Sarah Dunant** shares insights into the life and times of a renaissance **Marchesa**.

Tickets for all events **on sale from 27 February**!

Scan the QR code for details, to buy your tickets and sign up for our newsletter!

Follow us on social media **@haddoarts**

On 8th December 2025 The Guild Christmas Party was held in Morris's Hotel. We had a lovely meal served by friendly staff. A lovely afternoon enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately our meeting which was to be held on 12th January was cancelled due to the weather.

The Guild Syllabus is as follows:

9th March Speaker: Andrew Connon
who will talk on Farming Life
13th April A.G.M.
Speaker: Pat Patrone
11th May Outing to be arranged

The Guild meets in Morris's Hotel at 2.30 pm.

The World Day of Prayer will be held in Meldrum Church on Friday 6th March at 6.30pm.

WHAT'S ON AT KAYLEIGH'S WEE STARS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Run Balmoral	April	04
KWS Run Barra	May	30
Aberdeen Kilt Walk	June	07
Ride the North	Aug	29
Beast Race	Sept	12
KWS Big Cycle	Oct	03
KWS Ladies Day	Nov	07
KWS Turkey Trot	Dec	20

IN 2026

Meldrum Men

Last Wednesday of every month 7pm-9pm at the Pleasure Park Pavilion. It's free and open to all men in the area. Can find more info on Facebook.

BEREAVEMENTS

Mr Jay Morrison	6th December 2025
Mr Simon Knowles	8th December 2025
Mrs Muriel Bean	14th December 2025
Mr Colin Chalmers	17th December 2025
Mrs Christine Wishart	20th December 2025
Mrs Marjorie Murray	24th December 2025
Miss Ivy Falconer	7th January 2026
Mr Gordon Whyte	8th January 2026

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

North East Aberdeenshire National Trust for Scotland Members' Centre

(A registered Scottish Charity SC02422)

Over the last few years organising events during Winter has been difficult. Storms, snow and ice have caused cancellations, but the weather was kind to us in December for our "Carols for Christmas" event. Since the chapel at Haddo was unavailable, the event was held at Methlick Parish Church. The Ythan Singers were in great voice and the two pieces performed by the "Musical Midgies" junior choir were real highlights of the show as were the mince pies and shortbread served after the performance. In January we had a talk given by one of our members, Lynne Copping, on the history of her family's service in the armed forces over multiple generations. Upcoming events are listed below:

24th February, 11am Aberdeenshire Library Headquarters, Oldmeldrum – The History of a House – showcasing the research resources available at the library (refreshments available after the presentation).

19th March, 11am (tea/coffee from 10:30 am)**, The Medan Centre, Pitmedden** – The Work of the Mercy Ships – Marguerite Connolly

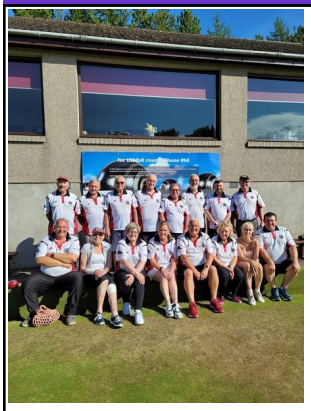
April (Date and venue TBD) – AGM followed by talk and refreshments

If you are interested in attending any of the events above please email ne.aberdeenshire.mc@gmail.com for more information and to register your interest so we can track numbers.

Non-members of the Members' Centre are very welcome to attend events. We appreciate any donations towards covering cost of refreshments etc.

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

OLDMELDRUM BOWLING CLUB



Centenary Year

Our green 'opens' on Saturday 18th April 2026 at 1pm.
The Club will be running its usual informal 'Hat Night' sessions on Monday nights, initially at 6.30pm, which changes to 7pm start after a couple of weeks.
We are also holding informal 'get togethers' on Thursday afternoons (2pm), where we are serving tea/coffee to encourage fellowship, giving new members the opportunity to make new friends and socialise, especially if you're new to the area, but also providing coaching to those seeking to learn.
For those wishing a more competitive experience there will be the usual internal Club Competitions, as well as League games against local Clubs.

Follow us on Facebook - Oldmeldrum Outdoor Bowling Club

Come and try bowls!

Coaching and guidance for all levels of experience is available.
Come as a family, where all ages can play together.

1926 - 2026

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Aberdeenshire residents who were recognised for the outstanding contributions they have made across the county and beyond in the King's New Year Honours List. From highland dancing to historic building preservation, apprenticeships / catering, charitable work, tourism, cadets, medicine we are grateful to them and proud of their achievements. Peter Bruce (CBE) for catering/ charity, Prof. Zosia Miedzybrodzka (OBE) for genetics, Claire Bruce (MBE) for tourism, James Buchan (MBE) for seafood, Paul Higson (MBE) for heritage, David Reid (MBE) for disability support, Adele Steel (MBE) for Girlguiding, and Alison Milne (BEM) for highland dancing and Squadron Leader Stewart Norris (BEM) for youth.

Meldrum Academy Christmas Concert

I was represented by Sarah Bell DL at the Meldrum Academy Christmas Concert. There were performances from eleven extracurricular music and dance groups, alongside a fantastic exhibition by the Design Faculty from their S1,2 and 3 students and NPA in Photography candidates.
There were 120+ performers and dancers who all showcased the incredible talent within the school. They were joined by musicians from some of the local primary schools including Rothienorman, Meldrum, Cultercullen, Udny Green, Rayne North and Tarves, as well as Fyvie Primary and Mintlaw Academy. Well done to all involved for such wonderful evening.

Commemorative Sycamore Tree Planting at Balmoral Castle

A very moving and special tree planting ceremony was held within the grounds of Balmoral Castle on Armistice Day in recognition of the 28 estate workers who fought in the First World War, of whom seven made the ultimate sacrifice. Rev Kenneth MacKenzie LVO DL, Minister of the Parish of Braemar and Crathie, led the short commemorative service which was attended by Balmoral estate staff, Gordon Highlander veterans and volunteers from The Gordon Highlanders Museum. The Lady Saltoun DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire and Kirsty Wilson, Head of Gardens for Balmoral and Birkhall, planted a sycamore tree in commemoration of all the estate workers who served.
The new Resident Factor, Major Rob Whitson, welcomed everyone and made a commemorative speech which included a special message from His Majesty The King.

Anniversaries, Birthdays

Myself, or one of my Deputies are always delighted to visit on the day of special milestones, 60th, 70th or 75th wedding anniversaries and 100th and 105th birthdays and present a card and personal congratulations. Please do look at our web site, details below, for further information.

Honours

I had the great pleasure of presenting Keith Jensen with his British Empire Medal for his remarkable work over 30 years saving lives as a paramedic in the North-East of Scotland. Keith has also played a key role in supporting the impactful work of life saving charities such as Aberdeen Mountain Rescue, The Sandpiper Trust and BASICS Scotland. A truly exceptional contribution to our communities and so many families.
The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy would like to know of any individual or voluntary organisation who has made an exceptional contribution for the wider benefit of others in their community. The Lieutenancy will assist in giving full consideration for appropriate recognition. Information can be found on the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy website

Would you like to learn more about the Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy?

Myself, or one of my Deputies would be pleased to visit local groups and schools to share information about the Lieutenancy and the work we do. Please use the email contact below to get in touch.
https://www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk or contact us info@lordlieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk

You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram – 'Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire'

Very best wishes to you all

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

Dear Friends,

The Wonder of the Brick: Building Community This Spring

If you were to step into our house just now, you would need to watch your step.
LEGO is *everywhere*.
On the living room floor.
On the kitchen table.
In carefully labelled boxes and bags… and not-so-carefully piled heaps.

With three children aged 11, 9, and 5, LEGO isn't just a toy in our home — it's a way of life. There are detailed instructions spread out beside wild, imaginative creations that don't follow any rules at all. There are moments of intense concentration, moments of frustration, and moments of pure joy when the final brick clicks into place.

And as spring arrives — with its promise of new life, fresh starts, and longer days — I've been struck by how much LEGO can teach us about community, faith, and what it means to build something together.

At its heart, LEGO is wonderfully simple. One small brick on its own doesn't look like much. But when bricks are joined together — patiently, creatively, and sometimes imperfectly — something new begins to take shape. A house. A garden. A spaceship. A whole city.

Community is a bit like that.

Each of us brings our own shape, colour, story, and strength. On our own, we can feel small or unsure of where we fit. But when we gather — across ages, experiences, and backgrounds — we begin to build something bigger than ourselves. Something sturdy enough to hold joy and sorrow, celebration and challenge.

That's one of the reasons we're excited about a new gathering at the Church Hall called **Bricks and Bites**.

On the third Sunday of each month, from 4.30–6.00pm in the Church Hall, we come together to build LEGO, share stories, and enjoy a simple meal together. It's relaxed, welcoming, and designed for all ages — whether you're a seasoned LEGO architect or someone who just enjoys being part of a table where conversation and creativity flow.

There's something quietly powerful about building side by side. You don't need the right words. You don't need to know the ending. You simply show up, pick up a brick, and begin.

Spring itself feels like a giant rebuilding project. The earth, which has looked bare and tired through winter, begins again — shoots pushing through soil, lambs appearing in fields, colour returning to places that felt grey for a long time. It reminds us that renewal doesn't happen all at once. Growth comes piece by piece.

The Easter story sits right at the heart of that truth.

Easter tells us that even when things seem broken beyond repair, love is still at work. That hope can be rebuilt from the smallest beginnings. That what looks like an ending can become the foundation for something new.

Like LEGO, the Easter story is not about perfection. It's about persistence. About staying with the process. About trusting that each small act of kindness, welcome, courage, and care matters — even when we can't yet see the finished picture.

As a church, and as a wider community, we're still building. We won't always get it right. Sometimes pieces won't fit where we expect them to. Sometimes we'll need to take things apart and start again. That's okay. The joy is in building together.

So this spring, whether you're finding your feet, trying something new, or simply looking for a place to belong, know that there's room for you. Your brick matters. Your presence matters.

And if you happen to enjoy LEGO — or just good company and a shared meal — we'd love to see you at Bricks and Bites. And remember LEGO just like Church is for ages 0-99!

Rev. Alisa McDonald
Minister of Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church

Tunes and Tea

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

PROUD TO BE dementia friendly

EVERY FRIDAY
at Meldrum Kirk
4.00-5.00pm
(Last Friday of month @ Wyverie Court)

An afternoon open to ALL who would enjoy a sing song, friendship and a cuppa.

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

Special Connect Cafe

Community Connect Café
A Meldrum Kirk Community Project

BOOK BONANAZA & EASTER STALL

Saturday 14th March
10am - 12noon
Meldrum Church Hall,
Albert Road

Teas, Coffees & cakes

Easter Stall with cards, Easter gifts, Easter eggs For Sale
Spring Book Sale
School Uniform Swap

EASTER

@MELDRUM & BOURTIE KIRK

Easter Services

29th March 11.00 Palm Sunday Service
2nd April 7.15pm Maundy Thursday Service
3rd April 7.15pm Good Friday Service
5th April Easter Morning-
9.15am Meldrum Community Gardens for a simple 'Sunrise' service and walk
9.45 Bacon Roll Breakfast in the Church Hall
11.00 Easter Celebration

Bring your flowers to decorate the resurrection cross

A Place Where ALL are welcome!

Meldrum & Bourtie

PRAYER & PRAISE

Evening Service

Informal Gathering of Prayer and Praise on the 1st Sunday of the Month

Location: Meldrum Kirk
Time: 7.00pm
info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

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

NEW

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

Come join us for some Brick fun!

Family Friendly gathering
A simple supper & pudding
Imaginative play with Lego/Duplo
Activities for all ages

Location: Meldrum Kirk Hall on Albert Road
More Details:
Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

BRICKS & BITES

3rd Sunday of the Month
4.30-6.00pm
@ Meldrum Hall

No need to bring anything, just come as you are.
Noise, mess and wobble towers all welcome here!

Reading books that inspire, challenge and encourage. Open to anyone!

Meldrum Kirk Book Group

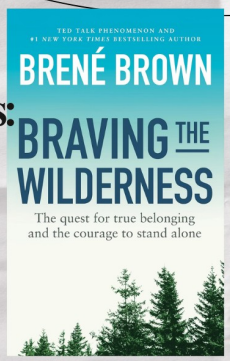
Join us last Tuesday of the month at 7.30 PM
email for location

EVERYONE IS *welcome here*

March Book

Braving the Wilderness: The quest for true belonging and the courage to stand alone

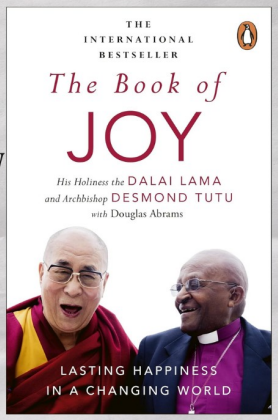
by Brene Brown



April Book

The Book of Joy

by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu



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

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christian aid

MELDRUM & BOURTIE PARISH CHURCH SPONSORED WALK AT HADDO HOUSE

Christian Aid Week 2026

Sunday 17th May

1pm - enjoy a picnic together at Haddo
2pm - start walking (short loop (1.5miles) and longer loop (2.5 miles)

To sign up and receive a sponsorship form please email
info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

FAMILY FUN DAY

BBQ TIME

Sun 7th June
2-5pm
@ Meldrum Church on Kirk Brae

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

Meldrum Connect
Community Grants 2026

Throughout 2025 Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church awarded a total of £6801 to local community groups. This included grants to Highland Granite Pipe Band, Meldrum Academy Pipe Band, Village Church, MAIG, Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space, Oldmeldrum SWI, Meldrum Community Garden, 2nd and 3rd Oldmeldrum Rainbows, Oldmeldrum Bowling Club and Oldmeldrum Baby & Toddlers.

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

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

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

info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

Bespoke Hats for Ladies & Gentlemen

MELDRUM
• *Millinery* •

- Unique Hats for all Occasions
- Hat Hire
- Bridal Headwear
- Rejuvenation & Repair Service

SUSAN McNALLY
T 07386 679433
E hats@meldrummillinery.com • www.meldrummillinery.com

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

COME, the church is open to everyone for quiet, peace, connection, or contemplation.

OPEN DOORS

1st Monday of the Month
10am-1pm

MELDRUM CAFÉ

OPENING HOURS:

Thurs 10-3.30pm.
Friday. 10-3.30pm
Saturday 10-3.30pm

Meldrum Café is staffed and run by volunteers. We are looking for people who have 2-3 hours spare a week to help with either a regular or occasional shift. It is a great way to meet people and make new friends. No experience is required as training will be given.
If you are interested contact: mmbcic@outlook.com with your phone number and details or speak to one of the volunteers in the café

ARTICLES

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

If you have a story to tell or an event to advertise that you think would interest the community, we would be delighted to hear from you.
Please email us at meldrumconnect@gmail.com.

Deadline for our next Meldrum Connect is 17th May 2026

ADVERTISING in Meldrum Connect

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

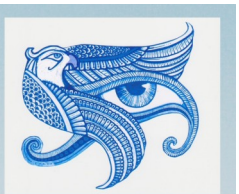
*

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

SourceSTAR™ Energy Healing



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

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

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

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

sourcestar3@gmail.com 075657 32429

www.energyhealing.scot

THE POWER OF...

WEDNESDAY

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

YAPS

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

FOR MORE INFO

WEDNESDAY YAPS

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!

E: info@physioandpilatesco.com

www.physioandpilatesco.com

Insta: @physioandpilates

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE SCOTLAND OLDMELDRUM

For our community, by our community!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Do you ride a bike?

Do you have some spare time?

The experience is enjoyed by both old and young alike and as more of our less able friends and neighbours want to enjoy the freedom of a free ride in a Trishaw we need to increase our team of volunteers so we can share the duties, not let anyone down and help create more smiles in the town.

Our Trishaw is an easy to ride E-Bike based in Oldmeldrum and we will offer full free training to anyone who thinks they can help us by being part of the pilot team for next year.

So get in touch on 07775 606 640 or cwas@oldmeldrum.org

And lets talk about how you can help create "Miles of Smiles?"

MELDRUM PÉTANQUE CLUB

The Petanque Club is located at the far end of the Oldmeldrum Golf Club Car Park
The Facility is open and free of charge at any time to members of the public young and old

During the summer season regular matches take place each Wednesday evening at 6.30 pm and each Saturday afternoon at 2 pm
Coaching is available and all level of players will be made most welcome
For further enquiries phone 07990 586 142

WE DISCOVER, WE GROW Girlguiding Straloch District

Girlguiding Gordon County

Were you a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide or Ranger?

Remember how much fun it was!

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

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

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

The last months have been a period of transition for all of us at St. Matthew's as we come to terms in our church life without the support and guidance of our rector, Rev. Bob Spencer, following his sudden death last November. We are grateful for the support of Bishop Anne and the Dean, Rev Canon Dr. Jenny Holden, in creating a rota of clergy to ensure our services can continue over the next few months. We are especially grateful to Revd. Ferdinand von Prondzynski, who will be taking many of our services in the coming weeks and to our lay reader Mr. Gordon Brown. It will be now down to the Vestry in conjunction with the Diocese to decide how best we can move forward into a new future to serve Christ in our community.

It is always a joy to welcome visitors to the Church and it was great to see so many people from the wider community join with us to celebrate Christmas as we listened to the familiar stories at our service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. We are now moving into the season of Lent as we prepare for Easter.

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

Regular Sunday Services: 10:30am: A sung service with Holy Communion

18th February 4pm - Service for Ash Wednesday

3rd April 11am – 2pm – Good Friday – Church is open for prayerful reflection

MELDRUM PATHS GROUP

Looking forward to another busy year.
If anyone is free to do a bit of Strimming or mowing to keep our local paths tidy, please let us know on Facebook.

The weather may start to improve soon so why not consider hiring one of our e-bikes, for just £25 a week and plan some commuting or leisure in our amazing countryside.
Home - Oldmeldrum Community E-bikes - ebike.oldmeldrum.org

OLDMELDRUM GOLF CLUB

Situated just beyond the Church at the top of Kirk Brae is Oldmeldrum's very own Golf Club and course. It's been offering a golfing opportunity to 'Meldrum folk and more for decades. Attracting members now, too, from surrounding communities, and to name only a few like, Daviot, Methlick, Tarves, Pitmedden, Fyvie, Bridge of Don and even Aberdeen city itself.

Playing members comprise of men, ladies, (ordinary and senior sections) and also juniors. The last 2 seasons have seen a hugely encouraging resurgence in junior involvement, following a wonderfully committed effort by a few volunteers, recognising this was essential for the Clubs future. Huge congratulations are due to them.

The overheads of running the club are substantial, with machinery, course maintenance costs, green keeping staff, admin and clubhouse staff wages all to be met, which is a huge responsibility for the volunteer Club Council to manage.

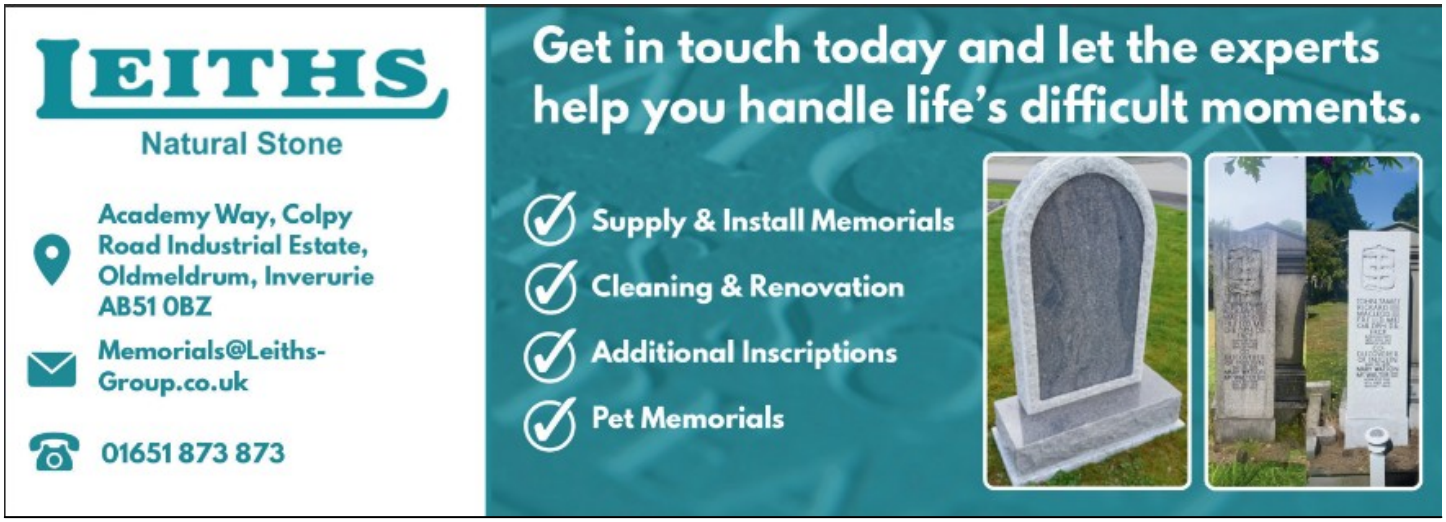
The men's Seniors Section of the Club is a vibrant one and provides great fellowship and camaraderie. It is also a very generous one – with their time and labour on occasions, both on the course and with clubhouse maintenance, They have also raised significant funds from their 3 annual "Open" competitions and raffles over the years.

These funds, to the tune of several thousands of pounds, have always then been donated, with Meldrum & Bourtie Church being an annual beneficiary, during this time, as well as a variety of local Cancer related charities. MAIG and Oldmeldrum Pantry have also benefited of late. Last autumn, at short notice, a Prostrate Cancer Day was organised just amongst the seniors themselves and a subsequent gift of £1,200 was made to Prostrate Cancer Research as a result.

To comply with licensing arrangements etc the Clubhouse itself can only be open to members, but you *don't* have to *play* golf to be a member, as anyone can join as an associated (social) member for a very modest fee allowing you and your guest/s full access. With a continuing recent overhaul of the Club and Clubhouse management and improved food and beverage offering, we have enticed a sizeable increase in social memberships last year to enjoy the pleasant clubhouse surroundings and lovely views.

The Clubs' wish is to be seen as complimenting all Oldmeldrum's offering and attract visitors to our town and ALL its other amenities and establishments.

There is so much to commend the golf club to Oldmeldrum !!



Scouts
1st Daviot Oldmeldrum

www.1stdomscouts.org.uk/marquee

marquee@1stdomscouts.org.uk

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

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

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

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

Build your skills.

Boost your happiness.

Connect with your local community.

Scouts
1st Daviot Oldmeldrum

www.1stdomscouts.org.uk/join/adult

group@1stdomscouts.org.uk

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

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

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

Make a difference—volunteer today!

BEAVERS cubs SCOUTS

meadows vets

Station Road, Oldmeldrum, AB51 0EZ
01651 872481

MRG ELECTRICAL

OLDMELDRUM BASED, COVERING ABERDEEN CITY & SHIRE

01651 873668
INFO@MRGELECRICALSERVICES.CO.UK

NICEIC APPROVED CONTRACTOR · MCS CERTIFIED · AICO EXPERT INSTALLER · RECC RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSUMER CODE · Office for Low Emission Vehicles Approved EV Charge Point Installer

The **Bailies of Bennachie** are pleased to report on some of our news from groups and events as follows:
Our **Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for mid-March. There will be reports from our Trustees on all things Bennachie and Bailies specific topics. This year we will welcome our special guest speaker from Aberdeen Mountain Rescue. Members will receive an invitation to the AGM allowing them to register their attendance. If you would like to join, membership is £25 for life, with signup available from our website https://bailiesofbennachie.co.uk/membership
The **Wildlife / Environment** groups are working on their 2026 program. To be confirmed but early discussions suggest events on bird song, wildflowers and a talk on pine marten and wild cats. At a recent event there was great excitement viewing footage from their trail camera project. Species filmed include roe and red deer, bats, mountain hares, red squirrel and a variety of voles to name a few.
Work Parties will recommence, weather dependent, in March, if not before. Join our merry band in this satisfying and worthwhile work. Find out more from our website or by email, see below.
Look out for new products being added to our **website shop** including T-shirts, sweatshirts, neck warmers, mugs, cards etc.

Our **Help Your Hill** campaign is ongoing; donations can be made via our website or by sending a cheque. The total raised so far for this project is more than **£22,000** with Gift Aid still to be claimed.
Members may sign up to join any of our groups as volunteers, see 'volunteering' on the website. Any queries may be directed to us by emailing info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk

OLDMELDRUM RAMBLERS

This is the time of year when Oldmeldrum Ramblers make the most of our local walks rather than travel further afield, walking in Pitmedden and Fetternear estate. Unfortunately we have had to cancel two walks recently due to very poor weather conditions. We did have our Christmas meal in Cafe 48 where all enjoyed good food and good company.

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

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