

MELDRUM CONNECT

Connecting Kirk & Community
A Newsletter for the Meldrum Community



Welcome to MELDRUM CONNECT

Our guest article comes from Peter Myers, who delves again into the wartime history of Oldmeldrum. This time he recounts stories of the Airstrip that existed in 1940 at East Fingask.

The Royal British Legion have been very busy with preparations for future-proofing their building and producing an amazing array of shows and entertainment for the people of Meldrum.

Inside also are the individual stories of unsung heroes who just make Meldrum a better place to be.

Meldrum Kirk is once again organising the collection of Shoe Boxes, filled with small practical items, e.g. Toiletries, stationary, clothing, etc. This is normally well supported and a great boost to the people who find themselves in unfortunate situations, such as those in Ukraine.

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After a visit to the main Library in Meldrum and interviewing several staff members it was surprising to find out all the different activities that go on there. Read the article on Page 6 for more information.

There will be a Men's breakfast, with a full Scottish breakfast, on Saturday November 4th at 8.30am.

The speaker is Ian McDowall from 'Tough Talk'

Two interesting developments from the Community Council - the first is the Emergency Advice document (in conjunction with Aberdeenshire Council) to provide information in case of an emergency situation such as Storm Arwen. We have put this on the back cover of Meldrum Connect so that all the emergency numbers, etc, are easily accessible - **so keep it handy.**

The second development is the new flag flying on the Town Hall roof, which displays Oldmeldrum's Coat of Arms (pictured top left):

"Do well and speak well"

Meldrum's wartime airstrip

By Peter Myers

Oldmeldrum had its own airstrip in World War II when an emergency landing ground (ELG) was established at East Fingask farm soon after the conflict started for the use of No. 612 (City of Aberdeen) Squadron which was based at RAF Dyce. This ELG occupied less than 100 acres of land and was situated two miles west of Oldmeldrum, next to the Colpy road and opposite the road that leads up to Balcairn farm.

The airstrip was used only from the summer of 1940 to the end of that year, although it may have been used beforehand. On July 16, 1940, RAF Dyce received an air raid "red" alert and all of No. 612's 15 Avro Ansons were flown into East Fingask. Among the local people who recalled seeing the Ansons lined up at the airstrip was the late Bill Greig who was 14 at the time and was later a member of the Air Training Corps.



The Avro Anson I was a twin-engined general reconnaissance aircraft used by RAF Coastal Command. Dyce's Ansons were kept busy escorting coastal convoys in the North Sea, and it was while performing this role that one of No. 612 Sqn's aircraft entangled with a Dornier Do 17P of a Luftwaffe reconnaissance unit, two days after the dispersal to East Fingask.

On July 18, Anson I N5268, crewed by Pilot Officers Isted, Davies and Grocott, and Leading Aircraftman Kennedy, sighted the Do 17P over a convoy. It remained low over the sea as it tried to outmanoeuvre its opponent. The Anson fired a burst at the Dornier's stern quarter at 600ft while the enemy replied with tracer fire, scoring one hit below the Anson's windscreen. The Anson's remaining attacks were by its rear gunner as the two adversaries circled one another. The Dornier broke off the engagement and disappeared in a north-east direction, probably back to its base at Stavanger/Sola in Norway. The Anson crew resumed their convoy patrol until recalled to Dyce.

Two days later, on July 20, Dornier Do 17P-1, radio code A6+HH, of Aufklarungsstaffel 1.(F)/120 reconnaissance unit, based at Stavanger/Sola, was shot down 50 miles east-north-east of Peterhead by three Spitfires from No. 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron, based at RAF Dyce. An Anson from No. 612 Sqn joined a high-speed launch in a search for survivors from the Dornier. The sea was rough at the time and frequent rain squalls reduced visibility. No trace was found of pilot Leutnant Hubert Heuer and his three crew. No. 612 Sqn began to re-equip, from November 1940, with the Armstrong Whitworth Whitley V which would have been too big to use the East Fingask airstrip.



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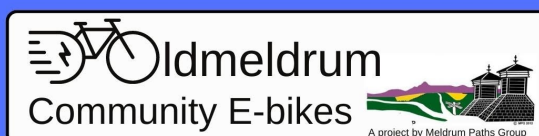
Sessions can be hands on or remote (distance is not a problem)

For more information and to book a session contact Kristine

 kristine@kduguidenergymedicine.co.uk

 Kristine Duguid – Energy Medicine

 07731 677083



Community ebike hire
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Oldmeldrum Badminton Club

Oldmeldrum Badminton Club takes place every Monday from 7:30pm to 9:30pm from September to April in Meldrum Academy's Games Hall. It is £5 an evening and membership to the club is free. Adults aged 16+ of any skill level are welcome. We have a limited number of spare rackets so please bring your own if possible. For further information or to be added to our mailing list drop us an email at Oldmeldrumbc@gmail.com or send us a message on Facebook.

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.

OLDMELDRUM RAMBLERS



The Oldmeldrum Ramblers group meets every second Thursday to walk for around 5-7 miles in the local area. We are a very friendly group and would welcome new members.

Over the last few months we have walked in beautiful sunshine in Monymusk, in really dreich conditions in Banff and around many more local places like Mintlaw, Aberdeen beach and Castle Fraser.



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 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND OLDMELDRUM & DISTRICT BRANCH Charity No. SC 004429



OLDMELDRUM COMMUNITY PANTRY Royal British Legion, Oldmeldrum

We are open on
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY MORNINGS - From 9.30 - 11.30 am
And
FRIDAY AFTERNOONS - From 1.00 - 3.00pm
OPEN TO EVERYONE

MARKET SQUARE, OLDMELDRUM, INVERURIE, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB51 0AA
Telephone 01651 872527 Fax 01651 873611
www.rbbsoldmeldrum.co.uk
E-mail enquiries@rbbsoldmeldrum.co.uk

Our Syllabus up until Christmas is as follows:

11th September Translation of the Old and New Testament into Doric
Speaker: Gordon Hay
An outing has been arranged for 25th September.

9th October Members Afternoon - Special Memories

13th November Talk on knitted vests etc. for children of Malawi
Speaker: John Littlejohn

11th December Christmas Party

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

New and old members welcome.



OLDMELDRUM BOWLING CLUB



On Sunday 30th July we held our Annual Tournament. Ninety six bowlers from across the area compete in four Leagues of six teams, with the winners competing in a knockout semi and final to win.

We need to thank our sponsors, local businesses and volunteers for their continued support in making this such a successful day.



Phil Anderson Financial services
Presly and Co
Porters Gin
J.G.Ross The Baker
The Meldrum Chipper
Morris Hotel

You all help in keeping our club going with your continued support every year many thanks.



Also to all our hard working members helping to keep the players refreshed with teas, coffees and lunch and making the day so special.

The winners this year were Cruden Bay B.C.

MELDRUM AMENITIES IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2ND INSTALLMENT by Andrew McCartney

As I outlined in my last article, the MAIG had to move from the old mart to Foresterhill Farm. Mr. and Mrs. Gill sold the premises in 2010 to Lloyd Duncan who kindly allowed operations until 2012 when an application was made to develop the site for housing. We were extremely fortunate when Oldmeldrum Golf Club allowed us to develop ground adjacent to their practice area. Initial site groundwork was undertaken by Raymond Scorgie which included water and electricity supply, with assistance from Grampian Steel Ltd to provide new footings and re-erect the Polytunnels. All electrical work was undertaken and sponsored Robbie Massie. The water supply, connecting up and servicing of the space heater was sponsored by Camwater. All were undertaken in time to allow Jim McColl to officially open the new facilities and for the Group to continue with the 2013 summer displays.

The following year we obtained permission from the golf Club to apply for a planning application for a garage/implement shed.

In keeping with our objectives to provide new amenities for the town, the Golf Club kindly allowed us to create a Petanque Piste. Grant applications to the Gordon Leisure Project Trust and Aberdeenshire's Capacity Grants (Connecting Communities) were submitted successfully with construction & groundwork were carried out by Alan Whiteford. In 2018 Cllr Andrew Hassan officially opened the Petanque Club which is free to all members of the public.

Folks will have been familiar with our tractor and water bowser which, over the years with our teams of volunteers has kept the displays in prime condition. However, Aberdeenshire Council's Charter Action Programme seeks to be carbon neutral by 2030 so something had to be done to replace our 17 year old diesel tractor which was beginning to incur considerable maintenance and running costs. An application for grant funding was made to Vattenfall Unlock your Future which is managed by Foundation Scotland and the Formartine Area Committee. Both applications were successful and provided the bulk of the cost to replace the tractor and water bowser with a new Utility Electric Vehicle.

What does Meldrum Library do?

Libraries HQ, Meldrum Meg Way - Interview by Simon Hill (Editor)

To be honest, the disappearance of Oldmeldrum Library after the pandemic was a shock. It was a lovely space, but now...it has been absorbed into the Academy. This is a disappointment because it had a nice feel to it. There was a mix of generations. Older people and pre-schoolers got to see students going about their tasks and students got to see that educating yourself didn't start or stop with Academy learning.

Luckily for Meldrum, we have the Live Life Aberdeenshire Libraries HQ in the town. The staff are very friendly, and you might pass the pre-schoolers taking part in one of the many activities designed for them. There's a lot going on in the libraries since Covid.

In the digital library there are now 10,000 digital checkouts per month!



I met with several Librarians and was surprised by the number of ongoing activities they are involved with. Here is a flavour:

Pre-school

Bookbug – supplies 4 bags of books as the children grow. One for baby, then toddler, then explorer (at 3yrs) and P1. All Bookbug resources are distributed by the Scottish Book Trust and then delivered on through local authorities. Book Bug sessions involve this character to engage with books, songs and rhymes. They look like fun sessions.

The Bookbug's Library Challenge happens once a year to encourage children and parents to visit the library regularly to engage with books and get Bookbug stamps.

It's all a great way to get youngsters interested in the magic of books from an early age.

Primary Schools

Curricular Resources are loaned from Libraries HQ, this includes Kits, Early Years Collections, Reading Group Collections, Story Sacks (which contain puppets, games, teddies, huge picture books) and so many more. All of which can be loaned for early years, childminders, nurseries, primary and now, home educators also.

Kits for schools are boxes with all the materials to teach a given subject like the Romans, healthy eating, dinosaurs etc. These are all well used. When I visited there were 500 kits out and 600 stored ready for action! Can you imagine the work involved in checking these kits?

Family Activities - Easter/Summer/Autumn

'Summer Reading' is an initiative that happens on a yearly basis to encourage reading through the summer months.

The Summer of Play programme also provides a series of family activities for you to get involved in, this includes stories, craft sessions, coding, robotic Lego

This year there is also a STEAM theme with science activities taking place.

Health

The library facilitates Health Clinics with topics like breast feeding, healthy eating, simple health check-ups, advice on cooking from scratch. Child Smile links with Social Security Scotland to provide a dentist to promote mouth hygiene and the NHS provide toothbrushes. There is a Well Being Festival.

Digital Library

Library members can also easily access digital services, which are FREE too. Why not take a look yourselves - <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/digital-landing-page/>

Press Reader can be downloaded to access newspapers and magazines. Libby is the platform for accessing eBooks and eAudiobooks.

There are also databases that you can access such as World Book Online and the Oxford English Dictionary.

Adult

Book Week Scotland promotes Scottish authors and is funded by The Scottish Book Trust. There are author talks, which sometimes involve 'whodunnits', where library staff may play the culprits! The library has a large selection of books for Reading Groups and may be able to put you in touch with one to join.

Local Studies

This department buys bespoke books, microfilms local papers, collects maps, old postcards, photographs, receives donations of memorabilia and stock a wide range of records including social history per parish, parish registers, oral history projects and Ordnance Survey maps. There are Valuation Rolls from 1865 to 1989 and also Council Minutes and Electoral Registers. A lot of information now gets uploaded to SharePoint so that it is not lost and can be accessed from other locations.

The team give talks on various topics, including the history of your house. They also make Local Hero displays and information posters, buy reference books and supply information of ancestry.

Other Library Activities

The E-Van has taken over from Mobile Libraries and now does door to door deliveries to members of the public. This is for people who are unable to get to their local library. This can also be an early warning about the person's health if they don't answer the door. This is all part of Doorstep Delivery where a book bundle for the next 8 weeks can be delivered! Reservations also go via this van. Stock management to ensure the quality of materials and replenishment.

Memory Scotland catalogues living history via recordings and digital reminiscence via pictures.

These can be used via the TV or printouts to encourage engagement and remembering of olden times, which may be useful for people in nursing homes, sheltered housing, people with Dementia or for historians and general interest.

For more information follow this link:

<https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/local-libraries/aberdeenshire-libraries-headquarters/>

New Groups Starting 21st September at Oldmeldrum Library

Knit, Natter and Craft Group, 2.00 - 3.30 pm. This group will run on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Football Memories Group, 2.00 - 3.30 pm. This group will also be running on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Refreshments will be provided. All that we ask is you bring your own cup.

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.



Hello friends,

It is hard to believe that we are back to Autumn again! Where does the time go? I recently saw a meme with this dialogue: A person asked God, 'God, how long is million years to you? And God said, 'A million years is like a second.' Then the person said, 'How much is a million pounds to you?' God said, 'A million pounds is like a penny.' The person smiled and said, 'Could you spare a penny?' God smiled back and said, 'Sure, just wait a second.'

For us, at Meldrum and Bourtie Church, it has felt like many seconds for our redevelopment project to finally begin. You will see included in here (see our 4 page pull out section - pages 11-14) and on our website, a survey we are asking the community to fill in to help us figure out how best to serve the community, into the near future, in regard to our buildings. Our possibilities include a redevelopment of our existing buildings (Meldrum Kirk on Kirk Brae and Meldrum Hall on Albert Road) and/or a New Building that could serve the community and Kirk together. We want to know what the community needs and how best to serve you - so please let us know. But, just like the funny meme at the start, we will need the funds for whichever direction we go. We will be doing fundraising and stewardship funding in the weeks and months ahead. If you are able to give that would greatly be appreciated. We look forward to the next steps, in whatever shape they take! Thank you for your participation.

Yours sincerely,



Rev. Alisa McDonald

IT'S BACK!
Starting 8th September

Youth CLUB

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

Second Friday of the Month
P5 - S6 at 6.30pm - 9.00pm

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

Everyone Welcome

Messy CHURCH

Sunday 5th November
Come for a Halloween/Bonfire Themed Messy Church
Crafts, Games, Fun
3.00-5.00pm
Costumes Encouraged!
Meldrum Hall, Albert Road

Come Join us!

Community Connect Café

A Meldrum Kirk Community Project

ARE YOU A LOCAL CHARITY? ARE LOOKING FOR A FUNDRAISING IDEA?	EVERY 2ND SATURDAY FROM 10 AM-12 NOON
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The Community Connect Café at Meldrum Kirk Hall is a Community Run Café that any local charity can 'RUN' for a given Saturday to raise money for their organisation. You supply the coffee, tray bakes, serving power and warm smiles. We supply the venue, tables, cups, plates and even more warm smiles. Please get in touch to schedule a date!

info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com
www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

MELDRUM AND BOURTIE CHURCH PICNIC TO GO

Following on from the success of last year, we have continued with our Free Picnic to Go every Monday throughout the summer holidays. It has been lovely to see the return of families from last year along with lots of new faces arriving this year.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Oldmeldrum Co-op who gave a significant donation to the project which has allowed us to provide over 130 picnics.

We were delighted to receive a home-baked cake from one of the families to thank us for our efforts.



difference.
The power of faith
in a conflicted world

Everyone Welcome!

Be curious

Difference is a course that explores following Jesus in a complex and divided world, seeing transformation through everyday encounters. Navigating a divided and complex world can be hard. We encounter this in our relationships, in our communities and in our wider systems and structures. Many of us long to make a difference, but often we don't know how to respond or where to start.

**Starting at 7.15pm on Thursday
14th September for 5 weeks
@ Meldrum Church**

Can't make it in person? Join us online!
For more info: Email Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church of Scotland

STORY & PLAY

Every Friday 2.00-3.10pm
MELDRUM CHURCH HALL,
OLDMELDRUM,
ALBERT RD

A fun filled time of creative story and
interactive and messy play
£1 per child
(bring your own snacks for wee ones)



email: Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

OLDMELDRUM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We would like to take a moment to provide you with an update on the progress we have made since assuming control of the Legion in October 2022. It has been an incredible journey of transformation and community engagement, and we are thrilled to share the achievements of the past 8 months.

First and foremost, we want to express our gratitude to the 200+ community members who attended the EGM in October 2022. Your overwhelming support allowed us to keep the Legion open and establish a new committee dedicated to driving positive change. Together, we have been working tirelessly to rejuvenate this cherished community space.

We have conducted a flyer campaign throughout all the households in Oldmeldrum, highlighting the facilities, memberships, and website. We have also conducted thorough assessments of our internal processes and procedures, ensuring smooth operations while keeping overall running costs to a minimum. Multiple events have been organized, with more planned throughout the year.

One of our significant accomplishments was conducting a comprehensive Community Building Energy Audit, funded by Aberdeenshire Council. This audit identified energy losses in the building and provided valuable insights for regeneration. Through further consultation with the groups and clubs that utilise the Legion, we have identified key enhancements that can be implemented.

Our plans for the future are divided into several phases. Phase 1 entails addressing the layout of the ground floor Bar/Lounge and Dining room by removing dividing walls, creating a more inclusive space for activities and events. Energy efficiency measures will also be implemented during this phase to address the issues identified in the Energy Audit.

Phase 2 focuses on relocating the Museum and Snooker room, along with implementing energy efficiency measures. This relocation aims to bring the snooker area closer to the social spaces while providing a larger, well-curated room for the Museum to exhibit artifacts and educate visitors about our local military and heritage history.

Phase 3 will concentrate on improving insulation and ventilation in the hall, which is the largest space and has the highest energy loss. We will work closely with the groups, clubs, and events held in this space to find suitable alternatives within the building.

Phase 4 aims to reduce energy consumption by installing a Ground Source heat system, with the potential of transforming it into a district heating system.

In addition to these efforts, we take pride in continuing to host the local food bank and offering a diverse range of activities and clubs for community members of all ages. The Legion has become a hub for socialization, support, and cultural heritage, enriching the lives of everyone in our community.

By actively listening, collaborating, and adapting, we believe we can create a sustainable legacy of positive change that will benefit future generations.

We seek support to help implement these changes, as it is your generosity and involvement that make all of this possible. We have various fundraising events throughout the year, which are listed below and open to anyone who would like to attend. If you are unable to join us at these events but still wish to contribute, we have a GoFundMe page where you can make donations online at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/regenerate-oldmeldrum-royal-british-legion> or in person.

Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our community. Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Friday August 18 th	Summer Quiz
Saturday September 9 th	Patrice & McRuvie - Comedy
Saturday September 23 rd	Pepperpot – Live Music
Sunday October 8 th	Jersey Notes – Live Music
Saturday November 11 th	Bounce Bingo
Saturday November 25 th	Family Ceilidh – Fairdin Band
Sunday December 31 st	Family Hogmanay Party – Fusion

Community Survey for Meldrum Parish Church and Hall



The people of Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church have been serving the community for many years and we want to continue being an integral part of this wonderful community of ours for many more years to come. To help us do that, we need to know how we can support the community better especially in these difficult times. We are also assessing the Church buildings to make them work better for the community and would like to hear your views on what things we should focus on.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please complete this survey and help influence the future of Meldrum Parish Church

Completing this survey online will be the quickest and easiest way to take part and for us to collate the results, but please feel free to use this paper version if that is easier for you. Simply return your completed survey to the Church Hall on Albert Road. The online version is available at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MeldrumChurch or scan this QR code. We really appreciate your help and input to this process.



PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY BY 30 SEPTEMBER

This survey is being conducted by the Kirk Session of Meldrum Parish Church with support from Community Enterprise's Accelerate Programme. If you require any survey assistance, please contact Dan Rous from Community Enterprise, on dan@communityenterprise.group

Church and graveyard (Kirk Brae)

Do you attend, or have you ever attended, Meldrum Parish Church? *(Please tick)*

Attend Regularly	
Have Attended	
Not Attended	

If you do attend or have attended, what is/was it for? *(Please tick)*

Sunday Service	
Occasion (Christening, Wedding, Funeral)	
Other (please state)	

Would you consider making use of the Church for a Musical Event? *(Please tick)*

Yes	
No	
Maybe	
Please provide details:	

Do you visit the graveyard to pay your respects to a loved one? *(Please tick)*

Yes	
No	

Would it be helpful if the main Church building was open more for any of the following?
(Please tick)

Toilets		Drinks for a small charge		Quiet Times		Pastoral Support		Other? Please provide detail
Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes		
No		No		No		No		
Maybe		Maybe		Maybe		Maybe		

Please give us your views on the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am happy to consider adaptations to the Church to make it more usable by the community					
I think the Church should be open more often					
I support new energy efficient adaptations to Church Building					

The Church buildings need adaptations to make them more usable for the community. Have you any comments on what these could be?

--

Church Hall (Albert Road)

Do you currently use the Church Hall? (Please tick)

Every week (or more)	
Every month	
A few times a year	
Occasionally	
Never	

What have you used Church Hall for?

This can include current usage and past activities you have attended. (Please tick all that apply.)

Family Worship		Youth Club	
Story and Play		Men's Breakfast	
Yoga or other sports/fitness group		Parties/Dances/Ceilidhs	
Guides/Brownies		Pop Up Shops	
Toddler Group		Other:	

Is there anything that puts you off using Church Hall?

Please tell us why and highlight any potential solutions.

Is there any activity you would like to see in the hall that you would make use of?

Please tell us how you feel about the following future suggestions for the Hall:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
More classes/training					
More daytime activities					
Provide advice/support services					
More seasonal events					
Concerts & performances					
Upgrade the facilities					
Parking					

Please give us your views on the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am happy to consider any changes to the Church Hall that will help increase the activities					
I support new energy efficient adaptations to Church Hall					

New Church Building?

A few years ago, draft plans were drawn up for a new Church and Community Building on land off Urquhart Road at Meldrum Grange. This concept hasn't gone away, but we need to make sure it is the right idea for the community now before we spend any more money (which we would need to raise through external funding). The aim is to bring together all of our Church and Community needs into one brand new, environmentally friendly space, that would be open for all to use and connect as appropriate. Please give your view below:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am happy to consider developing a new Church and Community Building on the Urquhart Road site.					
I am happy to see a mix of large and small space for maximum community benefit.					
I am happy to consider the sale of the Albert Road Church Hall to part fund this new development.					
I am happy to consider the sale of the Meldrum Church to part fund this new development.					
Comments:					

General

We encourage everyone to take part in this survey. If you are answering on behalf of your household, family or other group please tell us how many people this survey represents.

Please write the number including yourself.

Children (0 - 10)	
Young people (11 - 17)	
Adults (18+)	

If you are interested in any of the above, would like more information about this survey including receiving a summary of responses, or would like to get more involved with utilising our spaces for community benefit, then please leave your name, number and email here:

--

GDPR regulations mean that if you do leave your contact details, we have to check you are happy with what happens with your data. *If you have given contact details, please complete below.*

I am happy for Community Enterprise to store my contact details whilst this research is ongoing.	
I'm happy for Community Enterprise to share my contact details with Meldrum Parish Church so they can get in touch with me about this survey.	

If you would like to speak to someone from the church about receiving pastoral, practical or other support, please email info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT – UNSUNG HEROES - by Alan Petrie

Mrs Winnie Reid was the Church roll keeper for many years before passing after her long battle with Parkinsons. Her husband Sam is well known to many in the village and during his successful professional career at Kingseat Hospital he was also a driving force behind his second love - Kingseat FC. Forever "organising" events, he developed a talent for promoting fundraiser entertainment shows - predominantly at Kingseat hospital hall (sadly, recently lost to fire) to bolster hospital recreation and his football team funds. He continued this "passion" after retiring, focusing on raising monies for Parkison's. During this time he was well supported in the "promotional"activities by a colleague, Stuart Begg , who often compèred too.

Since Winnie passed away Sam decided he would call it a day from organising anything and wanted to take a back seat, but Stuart had "got the bug".

Since then he has organised 4 or 5 concerts in the British Legion with the entire proceeds being donated to local groups. The first concert post COVID was a Christmas concert performed by Brandon McPhee, the young and highly acclaimed button accordion wizard and his band, including Manson Grant and Robert Cameron (of the old Manson Grant and the Dynamos. Remember them? ☐) and two excellent Irish musicians. The concert raised £500 each for the Legion funds, the local Scouts and also Guides.

At another concert in March, £600 was donated to Meldrum and Bourtie Church as well as the Legion. Previous ones have seen MAIG also benefit to similar levels.

Stuart just "likes and enjoys" his promoting hobby and living in Aberdeen too makes this all the more remarkable.... traveling to and from Oldmeldrum for meetings and the like all at his own expense.

He needs a wee bit of help obviously and can "lean" on Sam when needs be but he is helped hugely by Dorothy (Dot) Davidson.... as Queen of the ticket sales! There is no "formal" committee group but his little "co-opted" band of helpers from Sams time also includes: Eileen Arthur, Margaret Robertson, Marjory Murray, Phylis Scorgie and myself and my wife Thelma (albeit with poor Thelma's dementia now, this is more a kindly "inclusive" aspect.)

Following that successful March concert we had a short debrief meeting and coffee at Morris' and I attach a photo of us-including the reluctant Sam, but excluding Thelma.

Stuart persuaded us to help with another concert in October. This will hopefully attract perhaps a slightly different demographic age group and features a fabulous Jersey Boys group. Stuart saw them somewhere down south last year and waxed lyrical about them. More folk from Oldmeldrum in the audience would be a huge boost !!

Again all funds raised will be donated locally and it would be great if anyone reading this would make the effort to buy a ticket and come along, not just to enjoy what will be a great concert but help their village organisations stay alive.

*From L to R
Alan Petrie, Sam Reid, Marjory Murray, Eileen Arthur,
Phyllis's Scorgie, Stuart Begg (the principal !!) Dot
Davidson and Margaret Robertson*



PRESS RELEASE.

The Jersey Notes treat you to an evening of nostalgia as they magically recreate the style and sounds of one of the biggest acts of the twentieth century. These seasoned performers capture the trademark vocal virtuosity, tight harmonies and crisp choreography that made 'The Four Seasons' one of the greatest vocal groups of all time.

Featuring all of their biggest hits including: Big Girls Don't Cry, Sherry, Walk Like A Man, Working My Way Back To You, Oh What A Night (Dec 63) and many more, the boys take you on a musical trip down memory lane and remind you exactly why Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons sold over one hundred million records and earned themselves a place in the prestigious 'Rock and Roll Hall of Fame'.

Following their huge success at the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow and The Kings Theatre, Edinburgh, The Jersey Notes are now taking the nation by storm and bookings are flowing in for theatres and venues up and down the country.

No matter what your age, you will recognize the songs and won't be able to stop yourself from tapping your feet, singing along and getting down on to the dance floor. With fabulous costumes, tight vocals, slick moves and a comedy flare this show has all of the ingredients for a great night out!

The proceeds of this show will be donated to The RBL Oldmeldrum branch and Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group (MAIG).

Tickets are available from Dot Davidson on 01651 873323 or 07827 392677, Alan Buck on 07803 294358 or The Royal British Legion Club.

In aid of
**The RBL Club Oldmeldrum
and Local Charities**

THE JERSEY NOTES
Scotland's No. 1 Tribute to the music of
Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons
www.thejerseynotes.com

**RBL Club Oldmeldrum.
Sunday 8th October 2023.
Doors 1.00pm. Show 2.00pm.**

**Tickets
£15**

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

A Service for the whole family



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

Come along and give *A Different Kind of Worship* a try yourself!



EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO
'A DIFFERENT KIND OF WORSHIP'

Tea, Coffee, Fellowship & Friendship

Meldrum Church Hall,
Albert Road



Karen Mae Simpson

Tel: 01651-872935 / Mob: 07811-362215

Email: karenmaesimpson@gmail.com

Web: KarenMaeSimpson.com

Are you fed up being in pain?
Would you like more joy in your life?
Would you like to reduce the stress and fatigue around you?
Are you ready to take that step of change?
Would you like to empower yourself, to be the best that you can be, with your health and wellbeing?



It has been another busy term for girlguiding in Oldmeldrum. We have over 75 girls involved in Rainbows (age 4-7); Brownies (age 7-10) and Guides (10-14 years old). All units follow the Girlguiding Programme, do lots of fun activities, play games and earn badges. Congratulations to all the girls who have worked hard to recently achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.



Girlguiding is a volunteering charity and if you would like to get involved, please contact us: Visit www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk or email stralochgirlguiding@gmail.com for more information. We have approximately 20 fantastic volunteers in Oldmeldrum but we are always on the lookout for more, there is a volunteer position for everyone and units meet on different nights (Mon-Wed) and times in the Church Hall or Meldrum Sports Pavilion.



Bereavements

Mrs Barbara Reid	15th March 2023
Mr John (Johnny) Duncan	20th May 2023
Mr William (Roy) Allan	25th May 2023
Mrs Margaret Mackay	13th June 2023
Mrs Mary Grant	13th June 2023
Mr Sam Hird	16th July 2023
Mr Alfie Morrison	18th July 2023
Mr Ian Durward	29th July 2023



MELDRUM & BOURTIE MEN'S BREAKFAST

Why Men's breakfast?

The men's breakfast is designed to encourage, empower and build up men. It is open to any man regardless of background. It is there to allow men the opportunity to be themselves in a safe environment. These are arranged quarterly.

The men's breakfast is a way of sharing a meal together, and listening to a variety of speakers (one each event) on a range of subjects pertinent to men.

We hold it in Meldrum & Bourtie church hall, on the main road - so it is easy to find and there is parking available at the church car park which is close by. Though we have no fixed charge, we do put out a donation bucket to cover costs.

Meldrum had their Men's breakfast Saturday 3rd June at 8.30am, it was well attended by men from the town as well as from the church. It is a good way to show that Christian men are fairly normal and safe to mix with! The gospel message always goes down well when you get fed.

We receive a full Scottish cooked breakfast and really good coffee before we listen to the morning speaker. For June we had Gregor Howitt from Dyce talking on the theme 'Does God really mean me?' with a guy giving his story on how God has worked in his life.

This November meeting will be the first anniversary of holding the men's breakfast and we're going large and holding a joint event to celebrate.

We are holding this joint breakfast with Men Of All Ages on Saturday November 4th at 8.30am. The speaker is Ian McDowall from 'Tough Talk'.

Men Of All Ages are a group from this part of Aberdeenshire, that hold two large events a year, so we are glad to be working with them for November.

Tough Talk are a group of men ranging from power lifters, body builders, ex-bouncers & debt collectors, ex-villains and hard men; who tell their amazing stories.

We expect a good number, so please note the date in your diary and book your space, either by emailing or ringing Billy (07968000610 or info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com) or letting him know after church services. Booking your space helps with the catering as it is useful to know how much to cook.

Hope to see you there..

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER
8.15 FOR 8.30 TO 11.00AM
MELDRUM CHURCH HALL
All Welcome

Featuring:
MOAA
Men of All Ages

Special Guest Speaker:
Ian McDowell

TOUGH TALK

Praise, Prayer & Fellowship
To book your seat.
Call Billy on 07968 000610
Or Email:
info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com

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Meldrum and Bourtie Church Community Christmas Tree Project



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

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

All while you can advertise your group or organisation. If you could let us know your expected height/width of your tree we can pre-select a suitable place. Ideally use of battery powered fairy lights are best - but don't let us hamper your creative flare! If you could note your interest, and proposed measurements by Monday 20th of November.

Set up would be anytime from 2pm-6pm on Friday the 24th of November.

The last two years we have had the most imaginative and wonderful designs by individuals from the community as well as organisations including Co-Op Oldmeldrum, Physiotherapy and Pilates Company, Meldum Health Walks, Ramblers, Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space, Meldrum Primary School, St. Matthew and St. George Church, Naughty Knitters, Meldrum Library and Village Church and The Rotary just to name a few. Last year our overall winner was the Health Walk Group! This year we hope even more individuals/families/groups take part in bringing our community together for our **3rd Annual** Community Christmas Tree Project.



Community Christmas Concert and Sing-a-long on Saturday 16th December at 5.00pm. Do you play an instrument? Do you have a band? A Singing Group? A poem or reading? We are inviting anyone who would like to be involved in the Concert and Sing-a-long to prepare something special as we all come together and join in the Christmas Spirit!



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!



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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

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

Deadline for our next Meldrum Connect is 12th November 2023

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

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



Blythwood Care's 2022 Shoe Box Appeal produced nearly 89,000 gift-filled boxes, with boxes being donated from Shetland to Cornwall and from Northern Ireland to Kent.

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

Overall the boxes received were seven percent up on last year. The extra boxes allowed us to send three lorry-loads instead of two to Ukraine, around 16,000 boxes.

2023 Leaflets are available from Meldrum Parish Church on Sundays, or the Connect Cafe at the Church Hall on Saturday 9th September and 14th October.

Filled Shoeboxes can be dropped off at the Connect Cafe, or Meldrum Parish Church, by Sunday 22nd October 2023.



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Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

September 2023.

Included in this issue of Meldrum Connect is the Community Council's Emergency Advice document. Please keep it in a safe place, ready for use. You never know when you may need it – be prepared!

At our May meeting Neil Woodward from Aberdeenshire Council's Money Advice and Welfare Rights Team gave an informative presentation. This team can provide free, impartial and confidential advice. It can help you to: complete benefit claim forms, challenge a benefit decision you disagree with, deal with some low-level debts and recommend other organisations and agencies that can also help you. If you would like to check your benefit entitlement, feel free to contact the team. Drop-in sessions will be held on the 1st and 2nd Monday of every month 9.30am till 11.30 am at The British Legion in Oldmeldrum. Home visits, face to face appointments and telephone calls can be arranged too. If you would like to receive support Neil can be contacted on 01467 538981 or 07443781166 or neil.woodward2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Allan Rae and Stephen Park from Kirkwood Homes reported on the proposed Newbarns housing. Thankfully Claymore Homes will now be including bungalows in The Glebe development. The Community Council continually asks developers to include bungalows & homes for first time buyers.

Meldrum 2030's Market Evening on June 28th was very successful. There will be another Market Evening on August 30th 5pm – 7.30pm and a Market Day on September 27th 9.30am – 12 noon.

The Formartine Bus Forum took place in Ellon on May 25th. Community Council members attended to voice local concerns and to ask questions about bus services. The next forum will be in Oldmeldrum.

We recently held our A.G.M. and still have spaces for new members from all areas. Please contact us if you would like to join us. Details can be found on our website <https://oldmeldrum.org>

Alex Pirrie, Aileen Watson and Jason Strathdee from Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership will be attending our next meeting on August 22nd in the Sports Pavillion to discuss how improvements and changes are progressing at Fyvie/Oldmeldrum Medical Practice.

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I am a Holistic Therapist with twenty years experience.
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For further details on the benefits of energy healing treatments please visit my website.
I am a Full Member of the SourceSTAR™ Association, and the only SourceSTAR™ Master Teacher in Scotland, registered to teach SourceSTAR™ Energy Healing. More details can be found at The SourceSTAR™ Association website - www.sourcestarenergy.org
Fiona

sourcstar3@gmail.com www.energyhealing.scot 07565732429

COAT OF ARMS FOR OLDMELDRUM

There is a new flag, displaying our Coat of Arms, flying from the Town Hall in Oldmeldrum. Some of you may have spotted it. The Community Council applied for funding to cover the cost of heraldic flags and these can also fly from the Village Hall, Daviot, the flagpole at the Bruce Seat and the flagpole at the viewpoint at the Whin Roadie. Other ways of displaying our Coat of Arms are being discussed. Please get in touch with any suggestions and ideas you may have.

The origin and meaning behind the Coat of Arms.

The arms were granted on August 31st 1954.

Old Meldrum was created a Burgh of Barony in 1671 in favour of Adam Urquhart, 2nd Laird of Meldrum. The arms refer to the three notable families, Meldrum, Seton and Urquhart, who have successively been lairds of the lands of Meldrum. At the top of the shield there is the crowned black otter of Meldrum on its silver field. The Latin motto, " Do well and speak well " was inspired by the " Mean, speak and do well" used by the Urquharts of Meldrum.





Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

EMERGENCY ADVICE

[The purpose of this advice is to make you aware of problems that may exist in an emergency and what you can do to help yourself, your friends, your neighbours and how you can obtain help.](#)



Household Emergency Plan

In an emergency (severe weather, flooding etc.) it may be some time before any help can arrive. Depending upon the circumstances, weather problems roads blocked etc., this may be 2 to 3 days. It's very important that you and your family get together to **plan and prepare** to be able to look after yourselves, and if necessary, help friends and neighbours.

Remember look after your own safety first. It's better to stay in and tune in to local radio than go out. However, if you do go out, make sure you are suitably prepared for the conditions.

The Community Council will, if possible, set up an information kiosk in both Meldrum and Daviot. **Place TBC. Keep informed of developing situations.** Listen to news broadcasts and weather forecasts etc. This will help you plan and prepare. Emergency services will help you if you must evacuate your home by knocking on doors, use of loud hailer etc. They will also help you move to a place of safety. If possible, take a small emergency grab bag with you.

In case you can't get home agree with your family two meeting places: one near home and one further away. The important point is to communicate with your family as to your location and status. Send a text message. Remember stay put unless it's safe to move.

If it is safe to do so you should check on your neighbours and any vulnerable people you know of living close by. **It's vital to remember to look after your own safety first. If you become a casualty, you can't help anyone, and who will be available and able to help you? Remember stop and check for danger first.** The emergency services will, when necessary, liaise with The Community Council.

Plan and prepare.

You should keep enough **food and water** and other **essentials** at home to last at least **a few days**. Emergency kit. If you have to evacuate, take a small grab bag with you if possible. The **top ten things to include** are:

Radio with spare battery or wind up radio Torch with spare battery First aid kit Important documents Bottles of water	Spare key home & car Spare glasses or contact lenses Toiletries and important medicines Pencil and paper, penknife, whistle Pet supplies
<p>Visit our website www.oldmeldrum.org for resilience information and updates.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire's Council Planning for Emergencies website www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communities-and-events/safety-and-emergencies/planning-for-emergencies</p>	

Contact Numbers. In the event of an emergency call 999 immediately.

Emergency services	999	Floodline Scotland	03459881188
Police non-emergency	101	NHS 24.	111
Loss of power (SSEN)	105	Scottish water	08000778778
Gas emergency	0800111999	Insurance	