

MELDRUM CONNECT



Connecting Kirk & Community
A Newsletter for the Meldrum Community

The Community Council are looking for volunteers to assist with emergency response in times of severe weather and potentially loss of power to keep vulnerable people safe. They also remind car drivers of which websites are available to refresh their memories on the dealing with winter conditions - do you have a torch, warm clothes, blankets, a pair of boots/wellies, spare hat & gloves, just in case you break down or slide off the road? Do you have a phone charger cable in your car?

Have you switched to winter windscreen wash?

Flip flops on Ben Nevis? No thanks! Emergency winter kit in car? Good idea!

Rotary are warming up the sleigh, de-icer at the ready, to transport Santa around the local communities. Please sing along as they go by and support them with donations so they can keep up their wonderful efforts to support local groups.

Meldrum Parish Church have also awarded many grants to local groups this year and have a plethora of activities and services, throughout December. The Community Christmas Tree Project is on again for all to see, in the church.

Good work from Peter Myers for keeping the history of wartime Meldrum alive.

Check out the smart new signage in the William Forsyth Community Garden, on South Road, which celebrates the life of this local Biologist.

Well done to the Guild for the diverse range of speakers they attract - next year 'Therapists' and 'Oil & Gas Transition'. Keep it up.

Looking way ahead to April 2026, there's a Ladies Afternoon Tea - don't be fooled! There's a Prosecco starter! All in aid of CLAN.

Kayleigh's Wee Stars are having their festive 8km run on 21st December. Will you join in?



Merry Christmas to all.

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Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

The Meldrum, Bourtie, & Daviot Community Council continues to support the people of our area making sure that your views are made clear to Aberdeenshire Council. To enable us to do this we require your help. Please join us, we have a few vacant positions, Come to one of our monthly meetings, or e-mail an issue to our secretary (details below).

Flooding We don't have a major problem in our area, but we do have one or two problems. These problems may become worse due to more spells of severe weather which we are advised by the Met Office will happen in the near future. Action is required about known problems now. Plan and prepare are the key words. We need to make sure that Aberdeenshire Council is fully aware of these problems and is taking suitable action to help solve them. One ongoing problem is the culvert under the Meldrum House roundabout. This takes surface runoff rainwater from Meldrum House estate. It seems that the current culvert, installed years ago, is now too small to handle the current water volume. During severe weather this can result in an overflow leading to flooding of the A947 road and Benview gardens etc. We are currently waiting for information from the council about when they are planning to carry out work to fix this problem. The Community Council has a small supply of sandbags available in Meldrum and we encourage residents to do their best to report blocked drains, and take precautions to protect their homes and help each other should it be necessary.

Resilience We have a small resilience group and a supply of some emergency equipment held in both Meldrum and Daviot. We are currently looking for volunteers who may be available to offer some help should an emergency arise. (talk on the phone, hold a light etc.) It's important that we all plan and prepare to look after ourselves and help each other, if able, for a few days in an emergency. Don't forget you may be cut off due to weather etc., with no electricity for a day or three.

Planning. We are a statutory consultee on all planning matters in our area. One major current development in the design stage is the building of 214 homes on land to the East of Newbarns. Two consultations have been held in Meldrum to date.

Traffic HGV passing through the centre of Meldrum are a major problem which has resulted in severe damage and disruption being caused. This is a matter high on our priority list.

Winter safety: With winter coming round the corner, it's important that we all plan and prepare for possible disruption caused by severe weather. There is a large amount of useful information on the "ready Scotland" web site (<https://ready.scot>).

The highway code (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>) has some good winter driving information see rules 226, 228, 229, 230, 231, 235, and 236. You should always Plan and Prepare to help Prevent Problems. You may be an excellent driver or rider, but other people are not so good. Another vehicle sliding across the road could result in damage to your vehicle, and or a spell in hospital for you. Remember if in doubt don't go out.

Winter driving essentials

Ensure your vehicle is correctly serviced.

Ensure your tyres are in good condition with good tread depth. Consider fitting winter tyres during the winter months. At lower temperatures, below 7 deg C, they will give better grip than normal tyres.

Make sure your windscreen washer liquid is suitable for the winter temperature.

Keep your fuel tank topped up.

Pay attention to weather forecasts on TV and radio see highway code rule 228.

It's a good idea to carry the following items in the car with you in an easy to reach place see also highway code rule 228 Warm coat, de-icer, high vis vest, torch, mobile phone c/w charging lead that will fit your car, jump start cable and or power pack.



Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

Clear all windows using a scraper and de-icer before setting off. If you run the air conditioning it will dry the air and help keep the windows clear see highway code rule 229.

If the weather outside is treacherous, you should avoid driving if possible. See rule 228.

Remember to look after your own safety first. If you become a casualty, you can't help anyone and who will be available to help you?

Community Council contact Secretary janchalmers1@hotmail.com

Gordon Duncan

(Chairperson Meldrum, Bourtie & Daviot Community Council)

Santa and his Sleigh will be visiting the communities in and around Oldmeldrum from the Tuesday 2nd December until Friday 12th December.

Santa has lots of visits in each community so he will not be able to stop and have children on the Sleigh as he travels through the streets. But, Santa will be playing Christmas songs, shouting Ho Ho Ho and waving as he passes through the following communities:



Tues 2 nd Dec	Rothienorman
Wed 3 rd Dec	Tarves
Thurs 4 th Dec	Methlick
Fri 5 th Dec	Daviot
Mon 8 th Dec	Oldmeldrum South
Tue 9 th Dec	Oldmeldrum North
Wed 10 th Dec	Newmachar East
Thurs 11 th Dec	Newmachar West
Fri 12 th Dec	Kingseat

A few days before each visit we will post our itinerary on Facebook. This will detail the route and approximate times of our schedule. Our Facebook posts will also provide a link to an on-line tracker, so that you can follow Santa's progress. We hope you don't miss him! There will also be an opportunity to see Santa at the switching of Oldmeldrum's Christmas lights on Sunday 7th December.

The Rotary Club will once again be donating 25% donations to the Parent Council of each local primary school, with the remainder going to our community fund for distribution to local worthy causes. Your generosity is appreciated, and we look forward to sharing the festive spirit and fun.

Thank you for all your support in 2025 and Merry Christmas from all the members The Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District.

MELDRUM SOLDIER SERVED IN INDIA AND BURMA

By Peter Myers

Technical skills learned in Civvy Street have been put to good use by the Army. In the early years of World War II, soldiers who had worked as fitters were directed to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps where they were trained to repair and maintain armoured fighting vehicles as well as mechanised transport.

A Meldrum man who served as a fitter in the RAOC was William Aiken of Fingask Lodge. He was fortunate to survive the Burma Retreat in 1942 only to die from illness not long after reaching the safety of India. Before the war he had been an apprentice fitter at the London and North Eastern Railway's locomotive, carriage and wagon workshops at Inverurie, which he cycled to with other employees from Oldmeldrum. His pre-war military experience in the Territorial Army with the 6th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, helped him to adapt quickly to Army life. William was transferred from the 9th Gordons to the RAOC in March 1940.

After training, he was posted to India and disembarked at Bombay on July 22, 1941. In December, William was posted to the 17th Indian Division at Ahmadnagar and was attached to the Indian Army Ordnance Corps' workshops there, where fitters were trained in recovering stranded tanks. (See accompanying photograph.) On January 3, 1942, he embarked at Calcutta for Rangoon where British and Indian troops awaited the Japanese invasion of Burma which began on January 22. The defenders' only tracked armour were the Stuart light tanks of the 7th Armoured Brigade, who had come from North Africa. The tank crews played their part in helping the British forces pull out of Rangoon, which was abandoned on March 7. They managed to bring away enough supplies of food and fuel to help sustain the retreating army. (The accompanying photo shows the crew of a Stuart tank of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment in Burma during 1942.)



Lieutenant-General William "Bill" Slim, who was appointed commander of the newly constituted Burma Corps, realised he couldn't stem the Japanese advance, and his task was to save as many men as possible to fight another day from the two divisions and armoured brigade of Burma Corps. While William and his fellow-fitters strived to keep vehicles serviceable, the crew of the only surviving Stuart tank was given the task of smashing up expendable motor transport at a road block near Shwegyin so as to deny them to the enemy. Only four-wheel-drive vehicles and ambulances were allowed to embark on steamers for the crossing of the Chindwin River. The other 70 Stuart tanks had been immobilised earlier.

The retreat of almost 1,000 miles in three and a half months was the longest performed by the British Army. Official figures record that 13,000 men were killed, wounded or missing in the retreat, and did not include those who would die later from disease. Sadly, Serjeant William Aiken was among the latter when he died at a casualty clearing station on July 19, 1942, from diphtheria, aged 20. His grave is at Maynamati War Cemetery, Bangladesh, where more than 700 World War II casualties are commemorated.

William's brother, Andy, who had served with the Royal Air Force in the war, was a dedicated member of the Royal British Legion Scotland. The Remembrance Sunday parade at Oldmeldrum, in which he was a standard bearer, had particular significance for him as he remembered his brother who had died so young in the service of his country.

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.

WILLIAM FORSYTH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our Town and the William Forsyth Community Garden

Oldmeldrum is already firmly on the tourist map, thanks to the renowned Glen Garioch Distillery, the ever-beautiful annual floral displays by MAIG, and our historic Town Hall and square. The **Meldrum Community Garden Project Charity** aims to build on this reputation through the ongoing development of the **William Forsyth Community Garden**.

The garden already offers a peaceful woodland walk, wonderful views of Bennachie and the Grampians, and a connection to the town's history through its namesake, William Forsyth.

This year, as part of our continued efforts, we've added two new historical information boards to the reverse side of the main garden sign. The first presents a timeline of Oldmeldrum's development—from prehistoric times to the present day. The second shares the story of William Forsyth himself, the celebrated Oldmeldrum-born biologist for whom the garden is named. He is also honoured through the Memorial Garden within the main site.

We believe everyone has an interest in the past, and we hope these new additions will provide both locals and visitors with something informative, enjoyable, and memorable. They form part of our long-term goal to further establish Oldmeldrum as one of Scotland's must-visit destinations.



Interested in learning more, then visit us on Facebook. Click on this QR code.

Norman Brammer, Chairman,
Meldrum Community Garden Project

ALZHEIMER 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.





Our first meeting of the new session of The Guild was held on Monday 8th September. The Speaker was Dr. Pauline Larmour who spoke on her experience in Malawi 2022-25. Malawi is a safe and beautiful country but also one of the poorest who survive on what they grow. There is a cycle of drought and flood. While Dr. Larmour was in Malawi she was teaching Psychiatry in Medical School where there are now 3 Malawian Psychiatrists and another 7 training. The main issues are Alcoholism, Anxiety, Depression and Bipolar. 2 Nurses from Cornhill Hospital also volunteered to go out to Malawi and it was a culture shock for them. The talk was very interesting and enjoyed by all.

The Guild outing was held on Monday 29th September.

We had a lovely meal at the Garlogie Inn served by friendly staff followed by some time in Mains of Drum Garden Centre where we had time for shopping. Everyone enjoyed the day out.

Thanks to Bain's coaches and their Driver.

The Guild met on Monday 13th October and the Speakers were Jill Ewen and Keith Linklater from RBS Fraserburgh who gave a talk on Scams and Fraud. They informed us of the types of scams used e.g. purchase, investment, romance, money muling and rental scams. We were advised to use unique passwords. Members shared their experiences of scammers which was interesting. It was an informative talk and very well received.

The Guild met on Monday 10th November and the Speaker was Mhari Watt who gave a talk on The Chelsea Pensioners. Mhari told us about her visit to the Royal Chelsea Hospital in London and showed some slides of the Building including the Living and Dining areas. She also told us that to become a Chelsea Pensioner you need to have a good Army Record, be of good character, good health, no spouse and be over 65. The talk was informative and enjoyed by all.

The Guild Syllabus is as follows:

12th January 2026	Therapets Speaker: Diane Wood
9th February 2026	Oil and Gas Transition Speaker: David Watson
9th March 2026	Speaker to be arranged
13th April	A.G.M. Speaker: Pat Patrone

The World Day of Prayer will be held in Meldrum Church on Friday 6th March 2026 (time to be arranged).

BEREAVEMENTS

Mrs Cathy Ross	7th September 2025
Ms Angie Brown	17th September 2025
Mr George Watt	21st September 2025
Mr Michael (Mike) Maclurg	31st October 2025
Mr Barrie Raeper	3rd November 2025
Rev. Bob Spencer	14th November 2025





North East Aberdeenshire National Trust for Scotland Members' Centre

(A registered Scottish Charity SC02422)



We had a wonderful treat in September when the music students of Meldrum Academy collaborated with us to stage a concert in Daviot Hall. They are such a talented bunch and we thank them for performing. In October we had a visit to the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen. Amazing to think that such important groundbreaking research is happening on our doorstep. Aberdeenshire folk, however, are no strangers to discovery and innovation especially in the field of medical progress as Fiona Musk, NHS Grampian Archivist, was able to tell us when she spoke to us in November about the past, present and future of the Foresterhill campus. join Upcoming events are listed below:

7th December, 3pm Methlick Parish Church – Carols for Christmas (Tickets £12 include tea/coffee, mince pies and shortbread available through Eventbrite)

January (date and venue TBD) – The Work of the Mercy Ships – Marguerite Connolly

24th February, 11am (tea/coffee from 10:30am), **Library Headquarters, Oldmeldrum** – The History of a House – showcasing the research resources available at the library.

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

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

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



MELDRUM PATHS GROUP

A very busy year for Meldrum Paths Group has gained us 2 electric trimmers - thank you for voting for us to continue our path maintenance in and around Oldmeldrum.

Our Oldmeldrum Community e-bikes have been in demand, providing the community with both a low carbon and low cost means of commuting and also an opportunity to explore local paths tracks and roads with the attendant social, recreational and health benefits that come with such activity. As part of this project we have introduced Ladies Cycle runs, which have mostly been on beautiful days and involved many unusual landmarks and a cafe or two.



After 13 years of focus by MPG and support of the Community Council, Aberdeenshire Council commissioned a major transport assessment (STAG) to determine the best route for a path linking Oldmeldrum, Inverurie and Daviot. The path will bring immediate community benefits and help the Council and Scottish Government meet their objectives for Active Travel, health and well-being. The final report was approved by both Formartine and Garioch Area Committees and the council is now engaged in reaching out to the landowners along the proposed route.

Our new path constructed to link Forsyth Drive and Meldrum Academy has proved to be extremely popular and due to public demand we have printed a second edition of our popular walking and cycling route map that is available in local shops and businesses.



Meldrum Connect Community Funding Grants



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

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

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

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

info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com



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



01651 873 873



End of Another Summer Growing Season



It's hard to believe we've reached the end of our second summer growing season!

This year brought an abundance of beautiful produce — especially tomatoes thriving in the polycrubs — and even a successful crop of grapes!

We've also dedicated special plots to support our community: one for the food pantry at the British Legion and another for the local primary school. Thanks to generous funding from the church, we will be able to purchase essential equipment for these plots, for which we are truly grateful.



Progress this year has been a little slower, mainly due to the loss of our valued community volunteer Sandy Davidson, and the unavailability of a digger. Nevertheless, the show must go on!

We focused on improving the front gate area, removing weeds, laying down membrane and woodchip to suppress future growth, and edging around the car park — giving the whole site a much neater appearance. It was hard work by hand, but the results were well worth it.

We also prepared the foundations for a log cabin, kindly gifted by a member of the community. The cabin was dismantled last weekend and is now being reassembled by Ian Reid with help from his son Keith — and it's coming along beautifully.

The next step is to lay foundations for the summerhouse gifted by the Meldrum Community Council, which will be dismantled and brought to the site.

Looking ahead, we plan to begin work on the woodland area, creating a peaceful woodland walk for everyone to enjoy. One of our members has already installed bird boxes to encourage nesting and wildlife in the area.

As winter approaches, we're preparing for next year — weeding, turning over soil, and for those who follow the "no dig" method, adding fresh compost. We look forward to spring, and to another successful season filled with the same joy and abundance of fruit and vegetables as the last two years.

Lorraine Kelly



Dear Friends,

As Advent unfolds and the lights begin to shine a little brighter across our community, we find ourselves once again approaching the wonder and mystery of Christmas. This Advent in church we have been asking ourselves *"What Child Is This?"* As we are invited to pause, look closely, and ask the honest, searching questions that rest at the heart of the nativity story.

Who is this child born in a manger—this child who disrupts expectations, turns the world toward compassion, and invites us into a new way of being? What does this child reveal about hope, about peace, about the presence of God who comes near to us in tenderness, vulnerability, and love? And perhaps most importantly: what does this child awaken in *us* as individuals, families, and a community of faith?

As we make our way toward Christmas Day, may we allow these questions to shape us - opening our hearts to wonder, rekindling our imagination, and renewing our commitment to be bearers of light in our village and beyond.

And what a season it is shaping up to be! We have a rich calendar of gatherings, celebrations, and opportunities to connect with one another. You are warmly invited to everything listed below, and encouraged to bring neighbours, friends, and family along. There is a place for everyone here.

* December & Christmas Season Offerings

Weekly Gatherings

- **Morning Worship** – *Every Sunday at 11.00am* A warm welcome awaits as we journey through Advent in our worship series *"What Child Is This?"*
- **Tunes and Tea** – *Fridays at 4.00pm* A dementia-friendly gathering—light-hearted, musical, and full of good company, a blether, and your favourite old tunes. All welcome!

* Special Events in December

- **7th December, 7.00pm – Prayer and Praise Evening Worship** An informal evening of contemporary songs, Scripture, prayer, and fellowship.
- **12th December, 6.30–8.30pm – Christmas Youth Club** For young people P5 and up. Games, fun, snacks, and Christmas cheer! Meets every second Friday of the month.
- **20th December, 10.00–3.00pm – Community Christmas Tree Project Open Day** Come along to view the amazing, creative trees submitted by our community. Enjoy a mince pie, cast your vote, and celebrate local imagination!
- **20th December, 5.00pm – Christmas Carol Singing in the Church** Join us for a beautiful evening of carols, candlelight, and performances from talented folks right here in our parish.
- **21st December, 4.30–6.00pm – Bricks and Bites** A new family-friendly gathering with mountains of LEGO and DUPLO, along with food and relaxed fellowship for all ages.
- **22nd December, 6.30pm – Carol Singing Around the Village** Meet at the Christmas tree in the square as we bring songs of joy and light to our neighbours.

* Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

- **24th December, 3.00pm – 'Wee' Christmas Eve Service** A joyful, interactive celebration for young children—filled with glitter, lights, laughter, and dancing.
- **24th December, 11.00pm – Watchnight Service** Carol singing begins at 11.00pm, with the service starting at 11.30pm. A peaceful, meaningful way to welcome Christmas.
- **25th December, 10.30am – Christmas Morning Celebration** Come as you are—Christmas jumpers, cosy scarves, and all - as we celebrate the arrival of Christ with joy and gratitude.

In addition, you are invited to join our Book Group where we continue to meet monthly for thoughtful conversation and fellowship around compelling books of faith.

- **January:** *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen
- **February:** *God on Mute* by Pete Greig



As we journey together through Advent and into Christmas, may we recognise in the Christ-child not only a story we rehearse each year, but a living invitation to transformation - an invitation to hope, to peace, to courage, and to deep compassion for our neighbours and ourselves.

Thank you for the many ways you embody that spirit throughout the year. May the warmth, joy, and blessing of this sacred season surround you and those you love.

With hope and gratitude,

Rev. Alisa McDonald - Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Church



Christmas in Meldrum

Morning Worship Every Sunday @ 11.00am
Tunes and Tea Every Friday @ 4.00pm

- 7th Dec. 7.00pm Prayer and Praise Evening Worship
- 14th Dec 6.30-8.30pm Christmas Youth Club
- 20th Dec 10.00-3.00pm Community Christmas Tree Project Open Day
- 20th Dec 5.00pm Christmas Carol Singing in Church
- 21st Dec 4.00pm Bricks and Bites
- 22nd Dec 6.30pm Carol Singing around village
- 24th Dec 3.00pm 'Wee' Christmas Eve Service
- 24th Dec 11.10pm Watchnight Christmas Eve Service
- 25th Dec 10.30am Christmas Morning Celebration

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

CHRISTMAS RETIRING COLLECTIONS

There will be retiring collections at the Services on 21st, 24th and 25th December. The monies collected will be split equally between the 'Leprosy Mission' and the 'Friends of Anchor'.

Meldrum Kirk Book Group
LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
Join us 7.30 PM

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

January Book

HENRI J. M. NOUWEN
Life of the Beloved
by Henri Nouwen



February Book

PETE GREIG
God on Mute: Engaging the Silence of Unanswered Prayer
by Pete Greig



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

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

EVERY FRIDAY
at Meldrum Kirk
4.00-5.00pm
(no Tunes and Tea from 18th July and returning on 15th of August)

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



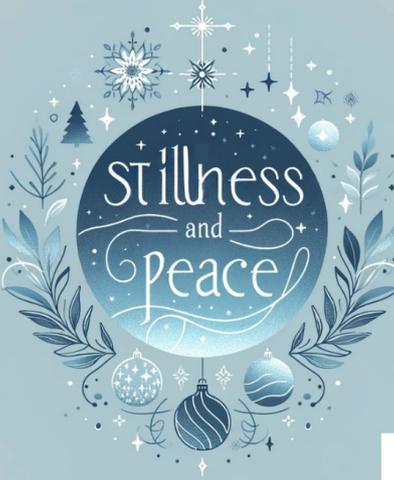

BRICKS & BITES

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!

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

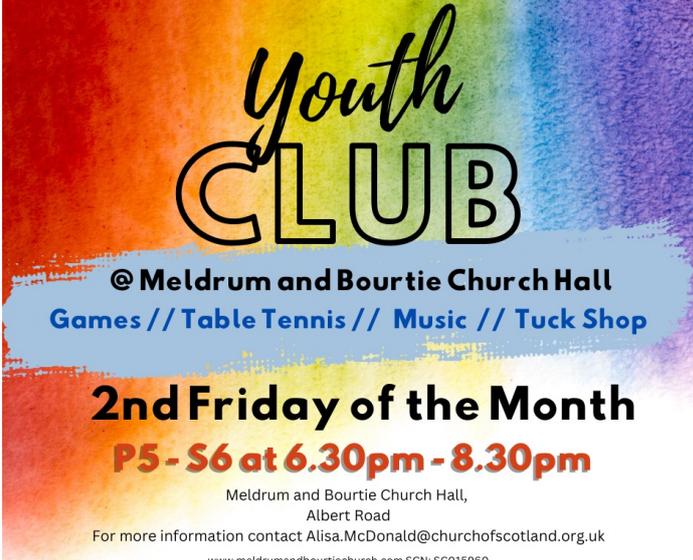


Sunday 30th November
at 2.30pm in the Church hall

A Service of healing and hope for those who find this season hard or have lost a loved one.
Tea/Coffee served

HEALING AND HOPE
All Welcome

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



PRAISE MENS PRAYER FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Sat 7th March 2026 - Doors open 8:15 am
Guest Speaker: TBC

Location: Meldrum Church Hall, Albert Road, Oldmeldrum AB51 0DB
 To Book: Call 07968 000610 or email: info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com



FELLOWSHIP

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

MELDRUM CAFÉ

<p>OPENING HOURS:</p> <p>Thurs 10-3.30pm. Friday. 10-3.30pm Saturday 10-3.30pm</p>	<p>Christmas hours Café closing at 2pm on Saturday 20th December Reopening at 10am on Thursday 8th January 2026.</p>
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Thank you to all our customers for your support. We look forward to seeing you again in 2026.

MELDRUM 2030 - LADIES AFTERNOON TEA

An opportunity for all the ladies of our town ,along with their family and friends,to have a great afternoon of Fizz, Food and Fun and support Meldrum 2030 and ultimately CLAN Cancer Support.

Meldrum 2030 are hosting a Ladies Afternoon Tea in The Royal British Legion hall on Saturday 25th April 2026. See attached advert.

The aim is to raise enough funds to ensure that Oldmeldrum is included in the CLAN Trail 2027. The Book Bench Trail this year was a great success and brought lots of families into the town centre which obviously is a benefit to the local business community.

Supporting CLAN Cancer Support is the ultimate aim. Cancer is unfortunately something that affects us all, either personally or through a family member, neighbour, friend or work colleague etc.

The afternoon will start with a Prosecco reception followed by a Luxury Afternoon Tea. There will be a few fun games with the chance of winning a great prize, live music and disco. There will be a guaranteed prize winner at every table. Prizes from Tiger Lily Boutique who will also have a pop-up shop for the day.

See the attached advert for full details.

By the time you read this there is a chance that the event will be sold out but just in case please enquire to Jan on the number in the advert.

Even if the event is sold out and you would still like to support the cause there is the chance for any local business or individual to sponsor part of the afternoon in the following ways.

Sponsor the Disco £200, Sponsor the Live Music £250 or Sponsor The Prosecco Reception £500. Donate a raffle prize.

Any sponsor will receive as much publicity as we can possibly arrange , or of course if you wish to make an anonymous donation we will respect your wishes

Meldrum 2030
In aid of CLAN Trail 2027

An afternoon of
Fizz, Food & Fun!

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2026
RBL HALL OLDMELDRUM
PROSECCO RECEPTION 1.00PM
FOR 1.15PM | EVENT FINISHES 6.00PM

TICKETS £40P.P. | TABLES OF 10
(INCLUSIVE OF GAMES AND TABLE PRIZE)

Prosecco reception, luxury afternoon tea and a chance to dress up, let your hair down and your body boogie!

Live music, disco and raffle

Guaranteed prize winner at every table - prizes from Tiger Lily Boutique

Book your table now from
Jan 07828 547540 or Laura 07753 237837
Any dietary requirements must be advised at time of booking

OLDMELDRUM RAMBLERS



Autumn in this area shows up our countryside in the most glorious colours at this time of year and The Ramblers always make the most of it. Looking out over Dunecht House and Estate was particularly spectacular. Another lovely walk was just along the road at Core Hill where you could see for miles in every direction.

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.

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.



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
8th February 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>



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!



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.

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

FOR MORE INFO



WEDNESDAY YAPS



MERRY Christmas FROM HADDO ARTS

SIGN UP TO OUR MAILING LIST TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW ABOUT OUR 2026 SEASON

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE SCOTLAND OLDMEDDRUM

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?"

Bumps, Babies AND BREWS

FREE DROP-IN GROUP

Group for expecting parents and young families

Peer, professional and heartfelt support with a warm cuppa for bumps, newborns, babies and parents.
Thank you to Scotland Birth and Baby, Breastfeed Scotland and BrewDog Inverurie for your free support!

- Monthly Birthday Celebrations
- Infant Feeding Support
- Guest Speakers
- WhatsApp Support Group

Speakers on Feeding, Infant Sleep, Perinatal Mental Health, Car Seats, Fitness, Baby Classes, Infant Massage, C-Section Healing, Pelvic Health, Chiropractic, Inclusion, Neurodivergent Birth and Parenting and more!

Tuesdays from 10AM @ BrewDog Inverurie

Reassurance
Weighted Feeds
Infant Feeding Specialist IBCLCs on Hand

WEIGHT CHECK WEDNESDAYS

First Wednesday of the Month
Scotland Baby & Breastfeed
Scotland Clinic
16 Coutens Park
Oldmeldrum, AB510PG
9:30-12:00

*Drop-in or Register for this FREE Baby Clinic

Direct Booking Link:
<https://lbttr.to/pPEFU>

JOIN US

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

Our congregation was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of our Rector the Reverend Bob Spencer on 14th November. Not only was he our rector, but he was also a devoted husband, father and grandfather and we pray for the comfort of his wife, Sylvia and the rest of the family. We appreciate the help from the Bishop and the Diocese in supporting ongoing Sunday services through December. We are particularly grateful to lay reader, Mr Gordon Brown for leading the services during Bob's illness. As you might imagine we may need to adapt our plans over the next few weeks, but we are still hoping to have our usual Christmas Eve service at 4pm. This will follow the format of a nine lessons and carols service. We hope you might join us in that celebration of the birth of Jesus, who shines like a beacon to guide all of us through the darkest of times.

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.

Christmas Eve: 4pm: Nine Lessons and Carols

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

KAYLEIGH'S WEE STARS TURKEY TROT 2025



Kayleigh's Wee Stars are delighted to be hosting their second festive running event on **Sunday 21st December** at Meldrum Legion. Last year saw over 100 runners brave the winter weather to run 8km, raising funds for terminally ill children and their brave families. Together they raised over £3000! The event will have a family festive feel to it with Christmas Activities for runners' families and refreshments for all. We are a local charity and really appreciate your support. Keep an eye out on www.kayleighsweestars.co.uk and our Kayleigh's Wee Stars Facebook page for more information on how to enter. Entries will open in November!



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.





Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal's visits to Aberdeenshire



The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy was delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to Aberdeenshire recently. Her Royal Highness visited three Aberdeenshire venues; Sinclair Agricultural and Recycling Services Ltd (SARS), Udney, Mackies of Scotland and Bennachie Parish Church.

I was honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness to Mackies of Scotland where Her Royal Highness met members of the Mackies' team, explored Mackies' sky to scoop journey, and learned more about the passion and care that goes into making their ice cream and chocolate. Mackies generate twice as much energy as they use and are near to achieving their goal of self-sufficiency in renewable energy, with the aim of making their ice cream the greenest in the world!



Miss. Sarah Mackie DL welcomed Her Royal Highness to SARS. At SARS The Princess Royal met the Sinclair family, team members, selected suppliers and supporters of the business. The visit highlighted how the sixth-generation farm business has diversified into becoming an industry leader in agricultural contracting, waste management and renewable energy.

Her Royal Highness' final visit of the day was to Bennachie Parish Church Kemnay where she was welcomed by Mrs. Lorna Smith DL. Host for the visit was Rev. Neil Meyer. The enlarged parish was formed in September 2023 by the union of what was originally eight congregations: Blairdaff, Chapel of Garioch, Cluny, Echt, Midmar, Kemnay, Kintore and Monymusk as part of the Church of Scotland's readjustments through its 2019 Radical Action Plan. Worship is sustained by technology, including live streaming, pre-recorded and joint services. The Princess Royal was given the opportunity to witness Bennachie's innovative approach to worship first-hand when she watched the other four places of worship go live on screen and heard greetings from Monymusk, Kintore, Echt and Chapel of Garioch. Following her visit to Kemnay Parish Church Her Royal Highness toured the Commonwealth War graves in the cemetery. Her Royal Highness then moved on to Kemnay Church Centre where she met volunteers who support the church community in cafes, children's activities and charities.

Anniversaries, Birthdays and Honours

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 for further information. I recently had the most special moment in Fraserburgh presenting Mrs Margaret Watt with a card on her 105th birthday. Mrs Watt is believed to be the oldest resident in Aberdeenshire and was in sparkling form, telling many stories about her remarkable life. What a privilege to meet such a wonderful lady. I was joined by Cllr Ann Bell for the presentation.



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.

www.lord-lieutenant-aberdeenshire.co.uk or contact us on 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



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!



Station Road, Oldmeldrum, AB51 0EZ
01651 872481

OLDMELDRUM TENNIS CLUB INVITES YOU TO...

SOCIAL TENNIS FOR ADULTS

ALL WELCOME

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KEVIN POPE 07742422141

MRG

ELECTRICAL

OLDMELDRUM
BASED,
COVERING
ABERDEEN
CITY & SHIRE



📞 01651 873668

✉️ INFO@MRGELECTRICALSERVICES.CO.UK



Office for Low Emission Vehicles
Approved EV Charge Point Installer

SCOUTPOST 2025

1st Daviot & Oldmeldrum Scouts will again be delivering Christmas cards and letters **to local addresses within Daviot and Oldmeldrum villages.**

There will be a ScoutPost box in the Paper Shoppe in Oldmeldrum **from Monday 1st to Friday 12th December.** In a change from previous years, we will be carrying out deliveries over one week only. Cards will be collected on Fri 12th Dec and delivered week commencing Mon 15th December.

Place your Christmas post and suggested donation of **40p per card/letter** in the ScoutPost box. Please include the **ScoutPost destination address code** (see below) on each envelope.

SCOUTPOST represents excellent value and helps us to fund equipment and activities for our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Thank you for your support, it means a lot to our Group.

For any queries regarding ScoutPost, please contact scouts@1stdomscouts.org.uk.

ScoutPost Destination Code (please write this on each envelope)

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