

# MELDRUM CONNECT



Connecting Kirk & Community  
A Newsletter for the Meldrum Community



# Welcome to MELDRUM CONNECT

## Welcome to the June edition of Meldrum Connect.

Thank you for the enthusiasm shown for the March magazine and for the flood of new articles supplied.

Our Guest Article, from Andrew McCartney, is all about the early days of Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group, ('MAIG'). How they have grown, from 2002, to produce lovely light displays and from an early "primitive operation", to the wonderful and professional flower displays we see now.

There is also the story of how the Garioch Distillery and Meldrum House were used by various company's and regiments during World War 2.

If you are a vintage car enthusiast you will learn that, as far back as 1964, a group of former Inverurie Academy pupils (remember that Meldrum Academy only opened in 2002) and some enthusiasts from Oldmeldrum resolved to form a motor club, that eventually resulted in the creation of the Garioch Vehicle Restoration Society.

Cycling Without Age started in Denmark in 2012, with the aim of helping older people and those with limited mobility, including children, to get outside and enjoy being in the fresh air. There are now 50 groups across Scotland and we have volunteers running one right here in Meldrum.

On the subject of bikes, Oldmeldrum Community E-Bikes (a project by Meldrum Paths Group) have several e-bikes for hire, to help you to commute locally or to get out into our outstanding Aberdeenshire countryside. All for just £25 a week.

The Oldmeldrum Community Pantry continues to operate out of the Royal British Legion – see their new opening times inside.

The Community Council have been busy and have once again employed our Town Orderly to keep Meldrum looking good. They have also recently replaced batteries and pads for the Oldmeldrum Square defibrillator at a cost of over £500! They held a Bingo Evening in Daviot Village Hall to help raise funds for these projects.

As you can see there is great work going on all the time for the benefit of Meldrum Community.

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## Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group (MAIG) – How it all began by Andrew McCartney

MAIG formed in September 2002, when the population of Oldmeldrum was ~ 1500. Oldmeldrum has now doubled to 3200! Current and planned building developments will see a further expansion.

### *How it all started.*

The founder committee members were Margaret Robertson, the late Nan Greczylo, the late William Law, Frank Mathers, Andrew McCartney and shortly afterward Sandy Dunbar, Harry Duncan and David Shand joined to make up the committee.

At our first meeting, it was decided we should provide Christmas Illumination for the town and a race night allowed us to purchase 8 lights for the town centre.

We then decided to go about brightening up the town during the summer months. By today's standards, when I think back, this was quite a primitive operation. In the early years plants were received as mature plants from Aberdeenshire Councils Nursery, at Aden Park, Mintlaw and kindly transported in open lorry and trailer courtesy of Raymond Scorgie.

The late Norman Duguid kindly allowed us to use the area of the old mart (now Otter Avenue) to transfer the plants into the baskets which were hung out on an "A" frame to 'establish' in the open air (no Polytunnels in those days), which were then put out on display in time (hopefully) for Meldrum Sports.

We had much support from local businesses, such as Monyana Engineering, now Fishers Offshore, who constructed and donated a purpose-built water bowser, which for a few years was towed with a tractor hired from Aberdeenshire Council, until such time as we were able to purchase our own second-hand tractor. Others who offered support were Grampian Steel Services and the Webster family who stored our equipment and gave valuable assistance throughout the year.

During the summer months, water for the flowers was taken from the Mill Burn, at the bottom of Mill Road, until eventually by kind permission of the Davidson family we were able to obtain a water supply from Meldrum Motors and secure garaging for our tractor and water bowser.

Our tenure at the old mart site was for the first 2 years until Lesley and Norman Gill kindly offered the group their steading buildings at Foresterhill Farm, on the outskirts of the town, on the Methlick road. This new location allowed us to erect the "A" frames in an old building without a roof which gave protection to the growing plants. Eventually, we were able to up our game by purchasing a second hand Polytunnel from the old tree nurseries at Tillicorthie close to Udny, and with the help of Grampian Steel Services the frames were removed, transported, modified, and erected on an old building foundation at Foresterhill Farm. This new facility made such a difference and eventually, we were able to install a heating system through grant funding from the Formartine Area Committee which allowed us to expand and develop our summer displays. Meanwhile we continued to organise fundraising events and with each passing year were able to expand on our Christmas light programme whilst at the same time promoting our "Best Christmas dressed Retail premises competition which each year is sponsored by Meldrum House Hotel. Over the years the retail premises have put on a great display but probably the best one was Dot & Jim Davidsons efforts when their whole window display at Meldrum Motors for their Nativity creation made up of straw bales with Mary in the Manger and the baby Jesus in the crib, angels etc and in the back ground the late Jim had wired up an electric motor with a mouse connected to a continuous wire with the mouse scuttling through the Manger at regular intervals. Brilliant!

In the next edition of Meldrum Connect I will continue the development of MAIG to the present day.

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?



**Karen Mae Simpson**

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## Oldmeldrum Tennis Club

At the present time Oldmeldrum Tennis Courts are unplayable. The fence on one court is down and lying across the court and the net on the other court has a broken fixing. The courts are also incredibly slippery due to moss.

Aberdeenshire Council is aware of the issues and will get a contractor to fix the fence and will also spray the courts to kill the moss. We can only hope that these issues are dealt with quickly so the club can resume playing.



### Oldmeldrum Library

Oldmeldrum Library is open to the public on a Tuesday from 2 - 7 pm, Wednesday from 9 am - 2pm and Thursday from 12 noon - 5 pm, when you can pop in to borrow and return books. We also deliver regular activities that take place during open and closed time that range from a weekly writing group to a fortnightly Bookbug session, and monthly reading group, to "book to research" local studies slots, where you can book a time to come in and research your local and family history.

We are also looking forward to the annual event, Summer Reading 2023, that launches in June which is a fun reading activity for all ages. To find out about all our resources and activities visit our website at <https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/>

You can also keep up with news and events taking place at Oldmeldrum library by following us on Facebook.



## 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](mailto:Oldmeldrumbc@gmail.com) or send us a message on Facebook.

### ARTICLES

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

**If you have a story to tell or an event to advertise that you think would interest the community, we would be delighted to hear from you.**

**Please email us at [meldrumconnect@gmail.com](mailto:meldrumconnect@gmail.com).**



# Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

**May 2023.**

Our tree planting event to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee went well on the 4<sup>th</sup> March. The Lord Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire, Sandy Manson, officiated and was ably assisted by our special guest, Jim McColl. It was a cool morning but that did not dampen the great community spirit.

A Local Development Plan sub group exists for discussion, awareness and to work on our responses for the 2028 plan.

We invited Police Scotland to our March meeting. P.C. Davis attended to discuss issues in our community. We asked members, councillors and members of the public to submit questions and concerns prior to the meeting. The topics covered included vandalism, speeding traffic in Meldrum and Daviot, anti-social behaviour, inappropriate and inconsiderate parking of vehicles and some cases of theft. P.C. Davis suggested an increase in police patrols and the Early Intervention Officer revisiting schools.

A special meeting was held in The Swingle Suite to discuss Fyvie/Oldmeldrum Medical Practice. Alex Pirrie and Aileen Wilson from Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership attended. They were invited to discuss the change of management at Fyvie/Oldmeldrum Medical Group when Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership take over the running of the practice.

Zero Carbon Daviot held a successful Sustainable Travel Event in Daviot Hall on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Meldrum 2030 held its second successful Market Day on the 29<sup>th</sup> March. The next one will be a Market Evening on the 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Trying to keep on top of litter, particularly in The Square, is a big job! We are happy to be able to employ our town orderly again this year.

We have recently replaced batteries and pads for the Oldmeldrum Square defibrillator at a cost of over £500. We maintain a number of these and to help with this expense we plan to hold a couple of fundraising events. The first was a bingo evening in Daviot Village Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> May

and a Meldrum event will take place later this year.

We keep monitoring new housing development work and act accordingly if we feel issues need to be addressed. Recently a Meldrum Health Check by Aberdeenshire Council was carried out. The Community Council, Meldrum 2030 and the L.D.P. sub group will be discussing this and share views and information. There are public meetings planned to revisit past Meldrum and Daviot Future Vision Reports when members of the public will be able to make suggestions and discuss what they feel is important in their town or village.

New information finger posts have been erected in both the small and large town squares in Oldmeldrum. These give useful and interesting information. They were paid for by Developer Obligations.

We have had lengthy involvement and discussion around bus service provision for Oldmeldrum and the surrounding area but in particular regarding Daviot. Now that the Ready 2 Go bus service is no longer available, Daviot finds it has a very limited bus timetable and residents feel cut off and unfairly treated. The Formartine Bus Forum is restarting this year and a representative will voice these concerns. An Aberdeenshire Council spokesperson was unable to attend a recent Community Council meeting to discuss this subject.

More information about events and what we do can be found on our website [oldmeldrum.org](http://oldmeldrum.org)



Station Road, Oldmeldrum, AB51 0EZ  
01651 8724581



# Oldmeldrum Bowling Club

Pleasure Park, Oldmeldrum  
Aberdeenshire

**Try Lawn Bowls**

*New members welcome*

- Just wear flat sole shoes/trainers  
Bowls provided
- A sport for all ages and all abilities
- Hats nights every Monday 7pm
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram message for more information

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.



# MRG ELECTRICAL

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## North East Aberdeenshire National Trust for Scotland Members' Centre

A registered Scottish Charity SC024227

The North East Aberdeenshire NTS Members' Centre has had a busy few months. Unfortunately, the weather has conspired against us this year, forcing rearrangement of some of our plans. We eventually held our January Musical Afternoon Tea in February and our "Evening with Mark Stephen and Euan McIlwraith", originally scheduled for March was postponed and rearranged for 17<sup>th</sup> May. While spending a late Spring evening in the wonderful surroundings of Haddo House is sure to make this event even more special this has meant that our "NTS Gardeners' Question Time" which had been scheduled for May has had to be postponed. Dates will be announced later. Nothing interfered with our AGM, however, and after the necessary business was concluded we enjoyed a fascinating talk about the Norwegian aviator and adventurer, Tryggve Gran who made the first powered flight across the North Sea from Cruden Bay to Stavanger in July 1914. Look out for the monument commemorating this achievement the next time you are in Cruden Bay. During the Summer the Members' Centre usually organises visits to interesting properties and this year is no exception. We will be making a morning visit to Finzean Estate on 8<sup>th</sup> June (tickets £10 includes light lunch). The afternoon of 26<sup>th</sup> July will see us at Kemnay House (Tickets £15 includes refreshments) and on 28<sup>th</sup> August we will visit NTS property, Leith Hall where we will have a tour of the house and enjoy lunch before exploring the superb gardens at our leisure (Tickets £12 includes lunch). A programme of talks and social events from September through April 2024 is currently being finalised. Watch this space! Non-members are very welcome to attend events. A minimum donation of £3 is requested for talks, while tickets for other events are either available through Eventbrite or can be obtained by contacting the email address below. Look out for event information posted on local notice boards and on NTS property Facebook pages. If you are a member of the NTS and would like to enhance your membership, get more involved and help support our local properties then join the North East Aberdeenshire Members' Centre. Annual membership costs £12. Members are kept up to date with Members' Centre news and wider NTS developments through regular newsletters. To join contact Dr. Alistair Flett, Easter Crichtie Cottage, St. Katherine's, Aberdeenshire. AB51 8SR (01651 891620) or email [ne.aberdeenshire.mc@gmail.com](mailto:ne.aberdeenshire.mc@gmail.com).

## Energyhealing.scot

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I am a Holistic Therapist with almost twenty years experience.

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Energy is the Life Force. Energy Healing at its core focuses on the invisible energy fields of the body.

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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](http://www.sourcestarenergy.org)

For further details on the benefits of energy healing treatments please visit my website. Fiona



[sourcestar3@gmail.com](mailto:sourcestar3@gmail.com)



[www.energyhealing.scot](http://www.energyhealing.scot)



07565732429



## Cycling Without Age

Have you seen Oldmeldrum's electric trishaw Meldrum Meg out and about again now the weather has started to warm up?

For those of you who might not know Cycling Without Age (CWA) started in Denmark in 2012 with the aim of helping older people, people with limited mobility including children get outside to enjoy being in the fresh air.

The charity spread across many countries coming to Scotland in 2017 when a group in Falkirk saw its potential for improving the lives of people living in the area.

There are now well over 50 groups, called Chapters across Scotland with trained cyclists known as pilots.

The trishaws travel at walking speed so each outing is more than a bike ride, it's a whole social experience for passengers talking to people they meet, chatting with the pilots and telling their stories about their lives. There is no cost to passengers so the scheme is available to anyone.

A few people in Oldmeldrum heard about the trishaws and after raising the necessary funds through donations and grants, and getting volunteers trained in how to manage it, our trishaw was launched in summer 2021.

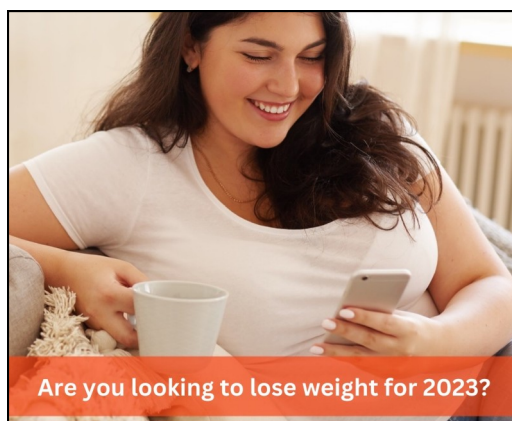
We find that our passengers often ask to be taken up to the Community Garden on South Road to see the lovely views over the hills, or go round The Square to see and smell the beautiful flowers or maybe visit parts of Oldmeldrum they haven't seen for a while.

Very often the outings go on a wee detour stopping outside the coffee shop or for an ice-cream.

The trips out need to be arranged in advance, are weather dependent and last about half an hour or so. Because the main roads are so busy the trishaw doesn't go outside Oldmeldrum.

Would you or anyone you know like an outing sitting in the front of the trishaw? Or maybe you would be willing to volunteer to join our small group then you too could offer this free service to local people or your own family members. For more information or to ask about outings or volunteering please phone 07726784018 or email [meldrummeg1@icloud.com](mailto:meldrummeg1@icloud.com). Our Facebook Cycling Without Age Scotland Oldmeldrum has interesting photos of past outings.

Look out for us over the summer months when we hope to take the trishaw to some of the activities happening locally.



Are you looking to lose weight for 2023?

Attend **FREE**, weekly, informal, online sessions, supported by regular Facebook, WhatsApp and 1-2-1 telephone conversations to help you achieve a really amazing weight loss.

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Email: [sandra.paterson@lighterlifementor.com](mailto:sandra.paterson@lighterlifementor.com)

## Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is enjoying our second edition of the Meldrum Connect. I thought in this edition I would just try and introduce myself again for those who don't know me already. I am from the United States originally but have lived in Scotland now for over 15 years, which seems impossible to believe! Most of that time has been spent in the Northeast of Scotland living in Aberdeen. My husband is a native born Aberdonian loon and together we have three young children, Archie, Finley and Arabel. But the manse also includes three furry creatures, our dog Elmer and two cats, Juniper and Remy. We moved to Oldmeldrum during the covid pandemic, when I was actually six months pregnant with our daughter Arabel.

One of the questions I often get asked is, 'Do you like living here? Do you feel settled?' And of all the places I have lived, in USA and in Scotland, Oldmeldrum feels so much like home: warm and fuzzy, comfortable, and inviting. This wee village is such an amazing place of dedicated and inspiring people. I am so delighted we have this Meldrum Connect to highlight all the remarkable things going on in our community. When I was interviewed by the hiring committee at Meldrum and Bourtie Church I said that my passion is the community: connecting the community. I deeply believe that my calling is to help the Kirk be at the heart of the community, connecting, growing, enabling, supporting, encouraging, together.

Hopefully you can see and read all of this passion in the Meldrum Connect and in the ways Meldrum Kirk is engaging with the community. I feel incredibly blessed to be serving as the minister of Meldrum and Bourtie Church and to be a part of this wonderful community.

In my (limited) free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, exploring the beautiful Scottish countryside, or being out on the water on the paddleboard. Thank you for taking the time to get to know me a bit better, and I look forward to continuing to serve and connect with our community through the Meldrum Connect and beyond.

Rev. Alisa McDonald



**MELDRUM KIRK  
POP-UP SCHOOL  
UNIFORM SWAP  
SHOP**

**16-19TH  
AUGUST**

Alongside the **POP-UP CHARITY SHOP** we will also be running our successful **POP-UP SCHOOL UNIFORM SWAP SHOP!** Drop off and Shop times the same.

Please donate all gently used school wear and come along to get the next size up!

For more information email:  
Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk



# MELDRUM KIRK POP-UP CHARITY STORE

# HUGE SALE

Come browse tons of household and clothing goods at amazingly low prices



## 16-19TH AUGUST

### Collection/Drop off times:

13-15 August  
12.00-16.00

### Sale Hours:

16 Aug Wednesday  
10.00-16.00 &  
18.00-20.00

17 August Thursday  
10.00-16.00 &  
18.00-20.00

18 August Friday  
10.00-16.00

19 August Saturday  
10.00-17.00

Meldrum Kirk Hall, Albert Terrace

# explore

life

faith

meaning

Got Questions?

Come explore together

Welcome to everyone

Alpha

Alpha Course Starting in September 2023  
at Meldrum Kirk

for more info contact [Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk)

# Military Meldrum

By Peter Myers

Armed Forces Day will be celebrated this year on Saturday, June 24, when we have the chance to celebrate the service of men and women in the British Armed Forces. During World War II, soldiers were a familiar sight in Oldmeldrum where they were based for training before eventually going off to fight overseas. Among the earliest Army units to be billeted in the town were the gunners of 127 (Highland) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, which was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel C.H.D. Springfield.

The regiment had been raised at Arbroath in August 1940 and on October 24 that year, it opened its HQ at Meldrum House, which also accommodated the officers' mess, after moving from Inverurie. The HQs of 301 and 304 Batteries were based at Glengarioch Distillery, where whisky production had been suspended during the war, while D troop of 304 Battery moved to Fintray House for the



defence of RAF Dyce until returning to Meldrum a month later. A Norwegian battery was attached to the regiment while at Meldrum.

Oldmeldrum resident Jim Presly, who was a schoolboy at the time, recalled that the soldiers' mess was on the malt barns' ground floor while the other floors had bunk-beds where the men slept. The Army cooks would often give Jim and his pals something tasty to eat. There was also a NAAFI canteen in Distillery Road.

Gunnery practice was important to keep the gunners on their toes and shoots took place at the Cabrach, the Sands of Forvie, near Newburgh, and the Culbin Sands, near Findhorn. Other exercises were held with the 5th/7th Gordons and 5th Black Watch of 153 Infantry Brigade, part of the reformed 51st Highland Division. The regiment began to exchange its old field guns for more modern equipment including the quick-firing 25 pounder gun-howitzer and the 4.5in howitzer. All the training and exercises in Scotland and England were put into practice in the campaigns that would lead to ultimate victory. The 127 Field Regiment supported 153 Infantry Brigade from the Second Battle of El Alamein in October 1942 through North Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany to VE Day.



Among other soldiers to be billeted in Oldmeldrum was Ellon man Peter Rennie, who was serving with D Company, 8th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, in the summer of 1941 and whose wartime experiences were recorded for the Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen. He helped man a machine-gun post in a concrete pillbox on the north bank of the River Ythan's mouth at Newburgh. They also laid mines on the riverbanks, while guided by the Royal Engineers, and set out barbed wire to keep out members of the public. He didn't think the minefield was a success because when the tide came in some of the mines used to strike each other and explode.

In the winter of 1941-42, D Coy was billeted in Glengarioch's malt barns and it was while there that they learned their battalion was to be converted to a new role and be designated 100th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery (Gordon Highlanders), and was destined for India. Peter, now a sergeant, sailed to India in 1943 and served at Ledo airfield in Assam, where he helped guard and load supplies which were flown to the Allied forces fighting the Japanese in China. From August 1944, his regiment joined the offensive against the Japanese in Burma.

# Garioch Vehicle Restoration Society - by Michael Watt & Tom Sked

In 1964 a group of former Inverurie Academy pupils and some enthusiasts from Oldmeldrum resolved to form a motor club. On 27th January 1965 the first recorded meeting of the club was held and a Committee appointed. Only 4 days later the first event was held in Kemnay. Several other Rally events followed in July 1965 and the name "Garioch Motor Club" was adopted. During August of the same year the first Vintage Rally was held and 12 vehicles took part. These were the beginnings of the now well-established annual rally. The aim of the "G M C Old Vehicle section" was to provide a service to restorers and those interested in old vehicles and their preservation. The name adopted in November 1967 was the "GMC Vehicle Restoration Section". The first news sheet featured a sketch, which became the basis of the present club Badge and was printed the same month by Tom Sked, a founder member, who has provided much of this history. In 1968 the office bearers met with the Stonehaven Town Council representatives to discuss the achievements of Stonehaven's forgotten inventor- R W Thomson and the Thomson Memorial Fellowship was born. Steps were taken in November 1969 to break away from the GMC to make way for the go ahead" Strathbogie car club". While the Garioch

Motor Club itself died a death, it gave birth to two healthy babies "Garioch Vehicle Restoration Society " and the "Thomson Memorial Fellowship " Today the Garioch Vehicle Restoration Society has a membership of over 230, meets regularly and attracts a large turnout of vehicles to the annual rally. The aims of the club have not changed since they were established at the first meeting held in 1964, with the priority being given to the encouragement of preservation, restoration and maintenance of public interest in veteran, vintage and post-vintage vehicles. The rally this year will be held as usual on Sunday 6th August in the pleasure park. We have only had to cancel the rally once due to bad weather and twice due to the recent pandemic. During the year we arrange visits to places of interest which is well supported by club members. I was lucky enough this year to visit Dean Cemetery in Edinburgh to R W Thomson's gravestone. On Rally Day we have a display from the "Thomson Memorial Fellowship ". They have discovered a huge amount about the Stonehaven inventor.



## Want to Make Friends?

(Check our Online Reviews)



 **All Welcome!** 



Thu-Fri-Sat  
10:00 – 15:30

Great Food  
Small Prices  
Cash Only



Raising Funds for the Community

## Oldmeldrum SWI

Did you know there's been a Women's Institute in Oldmeldrum for over 90 years? Affectionately known as 'the rural', the Scottish Women's Rural Institute began in Meldrum in April 1927 with a basket making demonstration. Fast forward to May 2023 when our speaker Cat Dalzell, the basket maker behind Bramblethorn Baskets, will be showing us all how to weave stars from the willow she grows!

With an emphasis on fellowship, crafts and homemaking skills, the Scottish Women's Institute (or SWI as it's now known) retains the ethos of the past whilst acknowledging the present and embracing the future. The organisation aims to connect women locally and nationally to improve their quality of life through education, friendship, sharing and having fun.

During session 2022/23, at Oldmeldrum SWI, we've learned about running a small business soap making from 'Essentially You' Soaps at Ellon, been taught how to use a defibrillator by the Community Resilience Facilitator from the Scottish Ambulance Service, and the Garioch Community Kitchen helped us make more of our slow cookers to create healthy, thrifty meals. We've had talks about the Book of Deer textile banners, the allotments being developed in our village by Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space, and the art of furniture restoration by Newburgh's Cottack Workshop. Rounding off this session's programme in June we are visiting Ellon Castle Gardens for a guided tour.

If you're interested in learning more about the SWI, have a look at the national organisation website [www.theswi.org.uk](http://www.theswi.org.uk). Discover more about Oldmeldrum SWI on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/oldmeldrumswri](https://www.facebook.com/oldmeldrumswri) and to find out more about joining us, contact Lorna Reid, at [swi.oldmeldrum@gmail.com](mailto:swi.oldmeldrum@gmail.com)

The Guild met on 13 March 2023 and the Speaker was Barbara Elliott who spoke about M.A.I.G.

She told us that M.A.I.G. was set up in 2002. They take responsibility for the Christmas Lights and Flowers in Oldmeldrum.

Aberdeenshire Council supply Bedding Plants and they buy in 500. They also grow their own Plants from seed. They are given the land from the Golf Club and in return any surplus electricity from the Solar Panels is returned.

The Golf Club also donate the Christmas Tree for the Square. Barbara gave us an account month by month of the activities of M.A.I.G. including the Monthly Draw. It was a very interesting talk and appreciation was shown for the dedication and hard work of the Volunteers.



The Guild AGM was held on 10 April 2023. Kathy gave a short talk on the Business of The Guild and an update on upcoming events and our Outing. The Speaker was Pat Patrone who spoke on the theme "Wee Seeds Big Trees".

She spoke about different kinds of seeds, size, shape and colour and each seed is a miracle as it grows. Charities grow from "Wee Seeds to Big Trees" as we have seen in projects such as Mary's Meals, Maggies, The Vine Trust, Air Ambulance, Guide Dogs, ARI Garden and Christian Aid. Pat made up 10 packs of seeds and we had to guess the name of the seeds in the pack. On a personal note Pat reflected on her recent holiday to Japan and told us about when Christians were persecuted and crucified and how Christianity has survived and grown. It was a very interesting talk and enjoyed by all.

Our meetings commence again on 11 September 2023 in Morris's Hotel at 2.30 pm.

# 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'

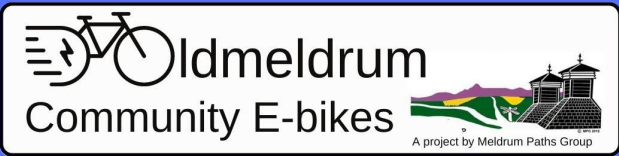
Tea, Coffee, Fellowship & Friendship

Meldrum Church  
Hall,  
Albert Road

## **Bereavements**

Mr Leslie Murison	3rd March 2023
Mr James Leslie	12th March 2023
Mr Tom Fryers	23rd March 2023
Mr Alexander (Sandy) Will	12th April 2023
Mr Henry Strachan	12th April 2023
Mr James (Jimmy) Wilson	19th April 2023
Mr James (Jim) Moir	22nd April 2023
Mr Ronald Green	23rd April 2023
Mrs Carolyn Simmers	25th April 2023





# Community ebike hire

[ebike.oldmeldrum.org](http://ebike.oldmeldrum.org)

Electric Mountain  
Bikes and City  
bikes

JUST  
**£25**  
PER  
WEEK



Concession prices available  
Contact [ebike@oldmeldrum.org](mailto:ebike@oldmeldrum.org)

The Church of Scotland  
World Mission Council

# SUNDAE SUNDAY

The Church of Scotland HIV Programme

Changing the world one scoop at a time



**25th of June**  
Our June  
*A Different Kind of*  
**Worship will be a**  
**Sundae Sunday**  
**Service**  
Raising funds and  
awareness for the  
various Church of  
Scotland HIV/Aids  
projects worldwide one  
scoop of ice cream at a  
time!

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353  
[www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

Everyone welcome!

Email: [hiv@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:hiv@churchofscotland.org.uk)



**RED ROOSTER  
LIFTING**

## CRANE SERVICES

- SUPPLY OF OVERHEAD CRANES & SWING JIBS
- CRANE INSPECTION
- PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE
- ELECTRIC HOISTS



CONTACT: +44 (0)1651 872101

[SALES@REDROOSTERLIFTING.COM](mailto:SALES@REDROOSTERLIFTING.COM)

# GIRLS' BRIGADE

## THE PLACE TO BEE



Come along and learn new things  
whilst making friends and having FUN!

EXPLORERS  
P1-3  
5-6pm

CRAFTS

MONDAYS  
Kintore Church  
Hall

GAMES



COMMUNITY

JUNIORS  
P4-7  
5-7pm

TRIPS

BRIGADERS  
S1-6  
5-7pm

For more information  
email - [kintoregb@yahoo.com](mailto:kintoregb@yahoo.com)  
insta - @1st\_kintore\_gb



**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 to try**

**5 /10 sessions £7.50/ £15.00**

**A snack is provided you just need to bring a plate and a drink. We also provide tea/ coffee and 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!**







**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.rbsoldmeldrum.co.uk](http://www.rbsoldmeldrum.co.uk)

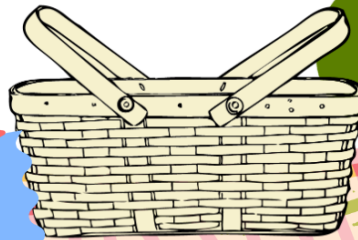
E-mail [enquiries@rbsoldmeldrum.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rbsoldmeldrum.co.uk)



**PICNIC TO GO**

Available again  
this summer

**FREE**



**PICNIC LUNCH TO GO**

*Cause' every little bit helps!*

**COLLECTION IS EVERY MONDAY**

*during School Holidays from  
Meldrum Church hall on Albert Terrace  
from 12.15pm-1pm*

*Supported by Meldrum Kirk Benevolent Fund to  
support those in need in our community.*

For more information please email: [Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space

In the run up to the summer months the OGGs lead group would like to update locals on the ongoing progress of Oldmeldrums first Allotment Site.

With spring being somewhat wet and cold this year and not the most favourable for the task of preparing the site, the OGGs lead group have not let this dampen our spirits!

Much progress has been made, with the site now being ready for fencing to be erected in the coming weeks. The entrance road has been tarred, ready to complete the top dressing of the full access road to the plots and the car park. We will then proceed with marking out the individual plots ready for folks to get on and starting growing.



Members of the OGGs lead team along with a volunteer work force, have and will continue to meet to tidy the surrounding areas by strimming the bank and the building of our community pumpkin patch. Alongside making the wooded area a great place for locals to come relax and enjoy the views over Barra Hill.

Tasks ahead of us will include the roadway wooden edging, grass seeding and bulb planting, pathways, water pipe system/tap installation, slabbed areas and erection of polycrubb tunnels and sheds.

If any of these tasks are within your skillset or you are interested in lending a hand on site please contact [oldmeldrumgreengrowingspace@gmail.com](mailto:oldmeldrumgreengrowingspace@gmail.com) or message through our Facebook page.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all local residents for their understanding during the development stages of the site. And for those who have chosen The Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space as your local cause through the Co-op fundraising scheme.

At present nearly £500 has been raised to go towards the allotment site. And we would like to urge those not yet using the card to access information on your next visit in store.

Written by Angela Snowie-Lead group member



# Recycling with Meldrum Primary School

Meldrum Primary School along with the parent council (MPiP) would like to inform you of two opportunities for recycling within the community which also helps to raise funds for school.

Old ink cartridges can now be deposited in our recycling bin from 'The Ink Bin' which is located in Oldmeldrum Co-op. You will find the Ink Bin beside the till.



Used but wearable clothing, paired shoes, handbags and belts can all be deposited into our clothing bins at the bottom end of the school car park and are then collected by 'Rag Bag'.



## ADVERTISING in Meldrum Connect

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

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

Deadline for our next Meldrum Connect is 13th August 2023

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

# 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 often our tongues have done as much work as our legs! Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City have some lovely walks and we try not to make them too hilly.



We are affiliated to the Grampian 50+ Network which is the umbrella organisation for ramblers throughout Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray. They organise large events which gives us a chance to meet folk from other areas.



If you are interested in finding out more about Oldmeldrum Ramblers and are aged over 50, please either phone Sandy McIntosh on 01651 872656 or email him on [sandy.mcintosh@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.mcintosh@gmail.com).



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

## Come Join us!



A Meldrum Kirk Community Project

**ARE YOU A LOCAL CHARITY?  
ARE LOOKING FOR A FUNDRAISING  
IDEA?**

**EVERY 2ND  
SATURDAY FROM  
10 AM-12 NOON**

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](mailto:info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com)  
[www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com](http://www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com)