

MELDRUM CONNECT

Connecting Kirk & Community
A Newsletter for the Meldrum Community



Welcome to MELDRUM CONNECT

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This is the first edition of the quarterly magazine, Meldrum Community Connect and we hope it will indeed connect people and bring to light the huge amount of good work going on in broad daylight and behind the scenes in Meldrum.

Whatever happens at national levels in Scotland or the UK, there are many things we cannot directly influence, but we have a great deal of influence locally, in our own community.

The backbone of society are the volunteers who consistently work away improving their community. Everyone has a chance to have a positive influence.

We asked for an article on the history of Community Groups in Meldrum and Ron Wallace has provided an eye-opening article to show what has gone on since the 1980's.

There are many organisations all working, at present, to improve Meldrum.

Everyone will know the work of the Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group (MAIG), which strives all year to produce an

amazing array of flowers and plants that lift our spirits.

Perhaps fewer are aware of Meldrum Community Café that is a friendly meeting place in the square, gives youngsters work experience and has been on the go well over a decade.

Do you know about Tennis, Badminton, Bowling, Walking, Yoga, electric bikes for hire, the Trishaw?

Do you know what the Community Council does?

Do you know that Meldrum has a population of just 3000 people and yet we have **16** Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO's) <https://www.oscr.org.uk/search/>

We hope this magazine will highlight all the groups and organisations who are making a contribution and give them all a chance to say what they are doing. If you wish to supply generic contact details for your group, (eg, an email address that doesn't change when the Chairperson changes) then please supply this for the next edition, so we can compile a table.

We hope you get plenty of interest from Meldrum Community Connect.

What's in a Name? The history of Oldmeldrum Community Group

A brief history after 30 years as Chairman of OCG McEg, CDG
by Ron Wallace

Oldmeldrum Community Group (OCG) was formed in March 1986 following prompting and enthusiasm from Anne Simpson, Community Education Worker, after volunteers went door-to-door to survey one in four houses, in Oldmeldrum.

The results indicated a high level of interest in community activities and a large number of individuals were willing to initiate or assist in a wide range of educational, recreational and social programmes.

By March 1986, a Friday Youth Club started in Meldrum Primary School. All activities used existing halls or facilities in Oldmeldrum but the group looked for their own building. As well as targeting activities for under-18s, another main priority for this early group was something for young mothers because there seemed so little for them.

The principal officers elected at the AGM were; Chairperson – Dr Ron Wallace; Vice-Chairperson – Ed Owens; Secretary – Jenny Beber; Treasurer – Richard Jacomb. Also seven other committee members were elected.

By February 1990, the OCG, along with other local groups, was organising a variety of community education activities over six days (Mon- Sat) throughout term-time. These included; Creche, Kindergym, Badminton, Science Club, Computer Club, Cubs, Playgroup, Brownies, Scottish Country Dancing, Craft Class, Highland Dancing, 5-a-side football, Yoga, Art Group, Youth Club, Short Tennis and Junior Gymnastics.

By August 1994, the range of activities offered had expanded to include;

2s Group, Adult Art, Aromatherapy, Art for Kids, Badminton (adult & junior), Beginners Guitar, Junior

Computer Club, Craft Club drop in, Creche, Easy Does It (exercise for over-50s), Figure Painting (toy models & figures), French for Children, Kindergym, Model Club, Ramblers (50+), Short Tennis, Yoga, Youth Club (Friday evenings).

To illustrate the range of volunteers and helpers involved; the Junior Computer Club on Tuesday evenings was generally run and supervised by Ron Wallace, but if he was not available, a village resident, Amy, who had celebrated 19 birthdays was happy to take over supervision... the lady in question had been born on a leap year on 29th February so she was actually 76 years old!

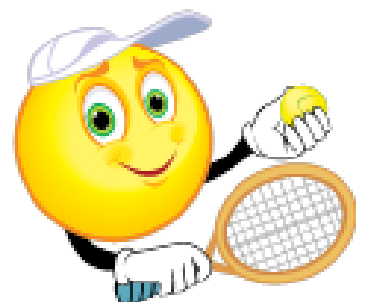
In September 1992 the group had the first of various name-changes forced upon it by Aberdeenshire Council, re-labelling it **Meldrum Community Education Group (McEg)**. It did, however, benefit from the luxury of two dedicated rooms (Portacabins in the grounds of Meldrum Primary School - the only school in Oldmeldrum, at that time). The McEg name survived for 11 years until another buzz word was forced on us - the **Network Development Group (NDG)** which was our most disliked and unhelpful label! Luckily, repeated appeals to the council caused them to relent after two years and a final change was made in 2005 to the **Community Development Group (CDG)**. The group survived as this until March 2015 when (again, upon insistence by Aberdeenshire Council) the group was disbanded. The council was mostly very helpful throughout the 30 year existence of this group, with Community Education Workers Anne Simpson, Ian Todd, Bob Leonard, Tudor Gebbie and Neil Ironside providing enthusiastic help.

Oldmeldrum Tennis Club

Oldmeldrum Tennis Club meets at the tennis courts in the Pleasure Park during the summer months. Adult evenings are Tuesdays and Fridays, starting around 6.30pm. We usually start on the first Tuesday after the school holidays, weather permitting. This year that is Tuesday 18th April 2023.

We are always looking to recruit new members, whether seasoned players or beginners. If you are interested, please just turn up on a Tuesday or Friday evening or phone Jeff on 07760 350509 or email Jeff on jeff.burnz@gmail.com for more information.

Our AGM will be mid to end of March so please email for further details if you would like to attend. All are welcome.



Alzheimer Scotland

I am Susan Westcott and I am the Community Activities Organiser for Alzheimer Scotland.

We have social groups for people living with dementia and their carers to have a blether, a cuppa and fun. Contact Susan for directions and transport information.

(e-mail swestcott@alzscot.org or phone no. 07876 003154)

*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.*

We unfortunately don't have anything running in Meldrum but we do have at Port Elphinstone and Ellon. Details are as follows:

Ellon Social Group, Kirk Centre, Station Road, Ellon

Thursday 9th & 23rd March 14.00-15.00 (Thereafter normally on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month)

A social group for people living with dementia and their carers to have a blether, a cuppa and some fun.

Port Elphinstone Social Group

Port Elphinstone Community House, Flat 1-18 Pinewood House, Elphinstone Road, Inverurie. AB51 3UX

Tuesday 21st March 2023 11-12 noon. (thereafter normally on the 3rd Tuesday of the month)



FRIDAY
24 MARCH 2023



QUIZ NIGHT

7.00PM-10.00PM

£5 TICKET

Come as a Team or on your own!

Max 6 people per team

@ Meldrum Church Hall

Albert Road



BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC SUPPER & ANY BEVERAGE OF YOUR CHOICE

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.

If you love Scotland (and of course you do!) you may also be interested in local history, visiting interesting places and getting together with likeminded friends for a good blether. If you are, you could also consider joining the North East Aberdeenshire NTS Members' Centre. The Members' Centre was formed nearly 50 years ago with the primary aim of raising funds to support the National Trust for Scotland and, in particular, Haddo House, Fyvie Castle and Pitmedden Garden. Over the course of its existence the Members' Centre has raised and donated many tens of thousands of pounds to fund projects at these local properties. Fundraising activities include organising concerts, talks and presentations and visiting historic houses and gardens, many of which are not open to the public. Most events take place at either Haddo House or Fyvie Castle. Talks are free to members who also get priority booking for ticketed events. Non-members are very welcome to attend. A minimum donation of £3 is requested for talks, while tickets for other events are available through Eventbrite. Look out for event information posted on local notice boards, on NTS property Facebook pages. Upcoming events include "An evening with broadcasters Mark Stephen and Euan McIlwraith" 7pm on the 9th March in Haddo House Library (tickets £15 available through Eventbrite include drinks and canapes); 7pm on the 19th April at Fyvie Castle; Members' Centre AGM followed by a talk on the first flight across the North Sea (Cruden Bay to Stavanger) by Tryggve Gran, NTS Gardeners' Question Time in May at Haddo (date TBD); 8th June morning visit to Finzean Estate (tickets £10 includes light lunch); 26th July visit and tour of Kemnay House (Tickets £15).

We are very lucky to have Haddo House, Fyvie Castle and Pitmedden Garden on our doorstep. They are not only historically important, they are also an important part of our community and these wonderful properties need our help more than ever. So, 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 Crichton Cottage, St. Katherine's, Aberdeenshire. AB51 8SR (01651 891620) or email ne.aberdeenshire.mc@gmail.com.



In aid of The RBL Oldmeldrum and
Meldrum & Bourtie Church

An afternoon with
The Brandon McPhee Trio
& Scotland's Son of Fun **Eddie Rose**

Sunday 16th April 2023
Royal British Legion Club Oldmeldrum

Doors open 1.15pm. Show 2pm
Tickets £15 including interval ice-cream

Tickets available from:

Dot Davidson - 01651 873323
Dot (Mobile) 07827392677

RBL Oldmeldrum - 01651 872527

On Sundays @ M&B Church
@ Cafe' Connect in Church Hall

**** Raffle Donations Welcome ****

Oldmeldrum for me has always been important. Firstly it is the place where my Parents live, as well as my Sister and all her family. My two boys went to Meldrum Academy. For me it has to be the best Academy in the Northeast and I could find no fault and have nothing but happy memories.

Previously I was a youth coach for Formartine United and my team played most of their home games at the Pleasure Park. I've spent many a morning in the rain or a howling gale watching my team.

Last May I was given the privilege of being Elected to Aberdeenshire Council as one of your local councillors. Since then, I've met many local people and have always tried my best to help them. Potholes and flooding still remain a constant issue, but this perhaps is not a big surprise given the exceptionally heavy rain we have had of late.

Mixed with the snow and ice, it makes the perfect

recipe for problems with the roads. It seems just as one pot hole is fixed another appears. As I look around Oldmeldrum, many of our roads resemble a patch-work quilt.

Last month I was invited by the police to take part in an early morning Speed Check exercise in the ward, it was fascinating to see the headlights on the approaching cars dipping down as they started to hit the brakes as they saw the Hi Vis jackets and police van. Speeding out and about Oldmeldrum is still of concern, and I have asked the police to continue with these checks.

As I write this, the days are getting longer and spring is definitely in the air. With the Easter break fast approaching, have a lovey time.

Derek.

Please feel free to contact me on any of the following ways;

Tel : 07788 980814

Email : cllr.d.ritchie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Facebook : Councillor Derek Ritchie

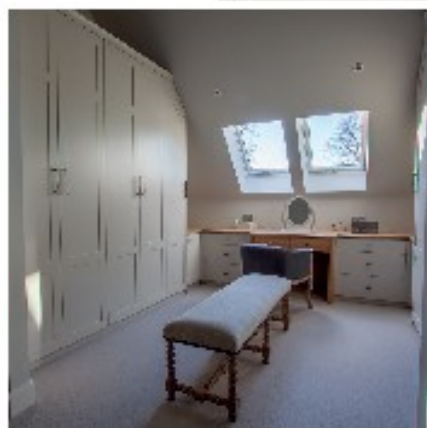
paterson
OF OLDMELDROM

Artisan Fittings
Custom Made For Your Home

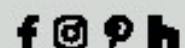
Bring Your Dream Interiors To Life With Paterson Of Oldmeldrum

At Paterson of Oldmeldrum, we specialise in creating bespoke fittings tailored to your family.

Whether it's spacious wardrobes or chef-standard kitchens, we are with you every step of the way - from design to installation. Visit our website or follow us on our socials to see how we can transform your home.



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SALES@REDROOSTERLIFTING.COM

**CYCLING
WITHOUT
AGE**



Do you know someone who is unable to get around very well but who would still like to get out and get some fresh air?

Oldmeldrum's volunteer group of 'Trishaw' cyclists can take anyone, of any age, for a gentle trip round the local streets, free of charge, and at a leisurely pace.

And if you're fit and healthy yourself and have the odd hour or so to spare, why not join the team as a volunteer? The trishaw is electrically powered and all trips are in the local area.

For more information or to enquire about booking a trip contact:

sheenacc@gmail.com or tel: 01651 873034
or check out our facebook page.



Station Road, Oldmeldrum, AB51 0EZ
01651 8724581

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Meldrum Paths Group SCIO are working to develop and improve pathways in the Oldmeldrum area, promote responsible access and provide opportunities for walking and wheeling (bicycles, pushchairs and wheeled mobility aids).

Paths linking communities

We are working hard in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council to deliver the community's long-term priority of a safe pathway for walking and wheeling that links Oldmeldrum and Inverurie. Other routes that we are working to develop include links to Daviot and to Pitmedden. The Group is also seeking to establish shared space designation on local minor roads for vehicles, pedestrians, riders and cyclists and have also started an electric bike hire scheme to make the countryside accessible to many more people – see article below.

You can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/meldrumpathgroup/>

Email meldrumpathsgroup@hotmail.co.uk

To view routes Paths Group members have used go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/meldrumpathsgrouproutes/>

Oldmeldrum Community E-bikes (A project by Meldrum Paths Group)

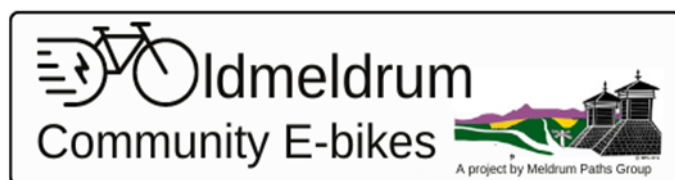
We are seeking to provide low carbon travel facilities through our community e-bikes project. This is a project to encourage local folk to get out and about on a bike. We are very grateful to Cycling Scotland, Fisher Decommissioning, the Energy Saving Trust and Aberdeenshire Council for the support we have received to get this project off the ground. Our e-bikes are modern, comfortable and efficient machines that will take the strain out of climbing the local hills. They will help you to explore the beautiful countryside around Oldmeldrum and get some exercise and fresh air without the worry that you won't be able to pedal up a steep hill.

Hiring an E-Bike

We have two types of e-bike for hire.

- Step-Through, commuter style e-bikes are suitable for mainly road use and are very comfortable. These bikes don't have a crossbar.
- Our Hard-Tail eMTBs are suitable for both road and moderate trail rides.

All the e-bikes are really easy to use. We will provide lights, repair kit, a helmet, a lock and a charger and show you how to use your e-bike the first time you hire.



Where can I go on an E-Bike?

There are lots of lovely quiet roads and tracks within easy reach of Oldmeldrum on an e-bike. The hills are no problem – let the battery take the strain. It is really easy to reach Inverurie, Pitmedden, Ellon, Haddo, Daviot, Bennachie, Chapel of Garioch, etc. all on quiet roads and tracks. You can really go anywhere within the range of the battery, which should be at least 30 miles on a full charge. We prefer you to ride your e-bike away and back from Oldmeldrum and use it within the local area. We don't

encourage transporting our ebikes in a vehicle; they are too heavy for normal bike racks and we really want you to use them locally.

Who can hire an E-Bike?

The bikes are available to adult (18+) residents of Oldmeldrum, Bourtie, Daviot and the surrounding local area. We will also consider hires to those who live elsewhere but commute to Oldmeldrum.

Cont.

Sustainable travel

Our scheme is all about encouraging sustainable local active travel and leaving the car at home for relatively short journeys and leisure rides. Consider using an e-bike to commute to work or for other essential journeys such as shopping. It's great to use them for leisure as well. The battery will take care of the hills for you!

For 2023 we are offering 7 days hire Friday to Friday for just £25. That's less than £4 per day! We will also offer concessions on request – just contact us if you require this.

You can find us online at <https://ebike.oldmeldrum.org>

We're on Facebook too. @EbikeMeldrum
Meldrum Paths Group SCIO SC051977

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

Tel: 01651-872935 / Mob: 07811-362215
Email: karenmaesimpson@gmail.com
Web: KarenMaeSimpson.com



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

29 April
2pm - 5pm
@ Meldrum Church
on Kirk Brea

The top half of the poster is decorated with various stylized floral illustrations. On the left, there is a blue flower with a grey center, a pink flower with a yellow center, and a large orange flower with a yellow center. On the right, there is a yellow flower with a brown center, an orange flower with a yellow center, and a branch with red berries. At the bottom, there are three flowers: a large orange one with a yellow center, a green one with a yellow center, and a pink one with a brown center. The Christian Aid logo is a red arrow pointing right, with the word 'christian' in white lowercase letters and 'aid' in large white lowercase letters.

christian
aid

Floral Display and Concert

This Christian Aid week we are decorating
the Sanctuary with floral displays.

Displays can be sponsored or any village
organisation can submit their own display.

Floral Display in church Week 14-20 May

Concert by Ythan Singers

20 May 4.30

tickets £10/£7 concessions

SAVE THE DATE!

07.05.2023

*C O R O N A T I O N
C E L E B R A T I O N*

*BE THERE IN THE SQUARE
DETAILS TO FOLLOW*

Hello,

I don't know about you, but this year I feel like every part of my being has longed for and needed the remedy of Spring. Lighter days, warm air, fresh rain, the sound of the birds chirping away. Every year I am reminded how marvellous the gift of Spring is in demonstrating before our very eyes the beauty of rebirth, new life, and the blossom of hope that springs all around us. It is as if the very earth itself is reliving the story we tell as Christians, of hope reborn for all in the renewal of life on that first Easter morning. But, for all the burst of colour, from the snow drops to the tulips, to the new shoots of green buds... Spring can also be a hard season. My youngest goes to Haddo Kindy, and outdoor nursery on the grounds of the Haddo Estate. As you drive up the long drive you see the devastation created from Storm Otto, the graveyard of trees and branches lying on top of the already devastated patches from Storm Arwin a year ago. As I write this my home country, the United States, is facing unprecedented storms all across the whole span of the country, from snow, wind, rain, and tornados. It has only been a few weeks since the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria took the lives of around 23,700 people and left millions without homes. Spring is a season of struggle. As Christians we journey through the season of Lent before the Holy Week of Easter and resurrection. A reminder that Jesus fasted for 40 days alone in the wilderness to prepare himself for the ministry ahead of him. It seems the wilderness we live in nowadays is the vastness of nature crying out in pain and need under the pressure of climate change. I wonder what the wilderness can teach each of us in this changing season. Change is hard for us as people. But what we are seeing more and more of is how hard this change is on our planet as well. Change is hard. That is the lesson of Springtime. Sometimes our ideas bloom too early and die by a cold snap. Sometimes we build the nest in a tree that can't withstand the rising winds. But, sometimes the winds calm down and the sounds of nature sing and we understand again the power of struggling through the changing landscape in order to arrive at the other side. As people of faith we cling to hope in all things. A hope that defeated the death itself.

Easter Blessings to you all,
Rev. Alisa McDonald



Last Sunday of the Month
11.00am in the Church Hall
A Service for the whole family



Meldrum Church Hall,
Albert Road



EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO
'A DIFFERENT KIND OF WORSHIP'

Tea, Coffee, Fellowship & Friendship

The Guild had their Christmas Party in Morris's Hotel on 12th December 2022.

We were served a delicious meal by friendly and efficient staff.

We had a raffle ticket which was exchanged for a gift from the Secret Santa.

It was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all.

On the 9th January 2023 Norman Wright from Aberdeenshire Council came along to The Guild to give a talk on Recycling Waste.

He was very knowledgeable on the subject and answered lots of queries.

The subject of litter was brought up and he explained it was always a problem in an Academy town.

He also informed us that new bins are to be introduced for plastic and cans. The talk was interesting and well received.

The Guild met on 13th February 2023 and the Speaker was Rev Alison Jaffrey who spoke and showed slides on "A Trip to Iona".

She told us about the trip with her family and some members of the Congregation.

They travelled on 3 Ferries to get there and visited the Benedictine Nunnery, St. Oran's Chapel, the Abbey and the beautiful scenery of the Island.

They went on long walks, saw lovely beaches and had Prayer time and Communion in the Abbey. A most enjoyable talk which was enjoyed by everyone.

Next meetings of The Guild:

13th March 2023 Speakers - Barbara Elliot and Moira Greig - Talk on MAIG

10th April 2023 A.G.M. Speaker - Pat Patrone

The World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 3rd March 2023 at 2.30 pm in the Church.



The poster has a vibrant rainbow background. The word "Youth" is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below it, the word "CLUB" is in a large, bold, black, blocky font with a white outline. Underneath "CLUB" is the text "@ Meldrum and Bourtie Church Hall" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below that is "Games // Table Tennis // Music // Tuck Shop" in a blue, sans-serif font. Further down is "First Friday of the Month" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by "P5 - S6 at 6.30pm - 9.00pm" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. At the bottom, in a smaller black font, is "Meldrum and Bourtie Church Hall, Albert Road" and "For more information contact Alisa.McDonald@churchofscotland.org.uk". At the very bottom is the website "www.meldrumandbourtiechurch.com" and the SCN number "SCN: SC015960".

Youth Club

On the first Friday of the Month is Youth Club!! Come along to enjoy an inclusive welcoming space for anyone P5-S6 from 6.30pm-9.00pm.

We have pool tables, table tennis, games, Lego, Minecraft, music, tuck shop and much more. It is a fun, safe space for all.

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



'Wee' Easter

Service

A fun, interactive family
celebration of the Easter
Story full of songs, crafts,
stories, egg hunt and more!

2 April 2023
Meldrum Kirk
2.00pm
All Welcome!

Bereavements

Mrs Isabella (Bell) Donald	13th November 2022
Mrs Helen David	17th November 2022
Mr James (Jim) Fowlie	27th November 2022
Mrs Kathleen Florence	29th November 2022
Mr John A Stephen	9th December 2022
Mrs Mary Keith	26th December 2022
Mrs Margaret Moir	29th December 2022
Mr William (Bill) Duncan	18th January 2023
Mr Elliot Walker	20th January 2023
Mr Grant Robertson	25th January 2023
Mrs Jane (Jean) Sands	4th February 2023





Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group MAIG

Spring Clean up

If you would like to join us to reduce litter levels in our town, for our environment, our wildlife and our own health and well-being why not support our spring clean up?

Our litter pick event is a great family way to meet new local people young and old.

The event will take place on Saturday morning 15th of April.

Volunteers should meet adjacent to the Meadows Veterinary Centre Station Road, at 9.30 am, where they will be allocated an area to cover. All volunteers will be supplied with high viz tabards, litter picks, and plastic bags. Volunteers should bring their own protective gloves.

Please help to keep our town beautiful and put the date in your diary.

Summer Floral displays

MAIG will soon be starting to pot up and prepare plants for the 2023 display. You don't need to know anything about flowers to volunteer with us. We welcome all abilities to our group and any offers of help will be very welcome. Contact can be made through the Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group Facebook page.

Meldrum
CAFE

Want to Make Friends?
(Check our Online Reviews)

Meldrum
CAFE

🚗🚗🚗 All Welcome! 🚗🚗🚗

Thu-Fri-Sat
10:00 – 15:30



Great Food
Small Prices
Cash Only

Meldrum
CAFE

Raising Funds for the Community

Meldrum
CAFE

The Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space



The Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space is excited to announce that the hard work put in by the OGGS lead group with support from the Meldrum community, Aberdeenshire Council, and local businesses has led to construction starting on Oldmeldrum's very own Allotment Site in the coming weeks.

Since the first village meeting held on zoom in April 2021, work has been ongoing behind the scenes. To come up with the best location, design the site, seek rental and planning permissions, secure funding, source materials, and the expertise to get the project off the ground. During this time, our lead group, with Gary Oliver at the helm, met regularly over zoom and in person. The site at Meadows Vale in Oldmeldrum was the perfect location. The site has the added advantage of being exposed to all-day sunlight and will be home to around 30 plots ranging between 5m x 5m, 10m x 5m, and 10m x 10m. Each plot will be supplied with a shed for storage and a water butt for rain collection. With growing space for disabled access through raised beds and a communal Polycrub undercover tunnel, a wildlife wooded area, space for communal leisure areas, a future fruit orchard, and a pumpkin patch!

During our time together, the lead group members have visited various established allotments in the Aberdeen and shire area. Sites such as Aden Country Park Allotments, Garthdee and Slopefield allotments, and Inverurie allotment. Through these visits, we have gathered the shared knowledge and information of established sites, helping us establish a space for the Meldrum and surrounding area communities to take advantage of.

During the Xmas period of 2021, the OGGS group entered the Meldrum and Bourtie Church Christmas tree competition. We won "best use of materials" with a tree made from used pots!

We also had a table at the Meldrum Day in 2022 allowing locals to see the vision for the site. This gave people the opportunity to show support by buying homegrown fruit and veg seedlings, in our first efforts to raise funds.

Additional funding was secured through successful applications to the National Lottery, Aberdeen Voluntary Action, Scottish Government rural and islands grants. We are currently part of the Co-op local community funding till October 2023.

Our collective vision is to improve mental health through growing fruits and vegetables, environmental sustainability, and community involvement and spirit. Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space hopes to bring together the Meldrum community of all ages, through collaboration with the local primary and academy schools to teach the younger generation about plants alongside seasoned growers.

To follow the progress, visit the Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space Facebook and Instagram pages where progress updates will be posted.

Written by Angela Snowie-Lead group member



Roundup Spring 2003

The Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum and District covers a large area including Daviot, Kingseat, Methlick, Newmachar, Oldmeldrum, Rothienorman and Tarves and over nine evenings and one weekend, before Christmas, the Club helped Santa and Rudolph with his Sleigh to visit all of these communities. Santa and the Club would like to thank each of them for the enthusiastic support that we received when visiting - a fantastic £2700 was collected for charitable purposes. Some of the funds are allocated to a Community Fund operated by the Club which is inviting applications for financial support from local individuals or organisations for activities which support these communities.

Applications will be considered for awards of between £50 and £200 meeting the following criteria.

- Applicants must be from these communities or the cause must support the local area around these communities
- Applicants must be completing a portion of any fundraising themselves
- Any item purchased must be for group use / benefit
- Any funds awarded must be utilised within 12 months
- Funds must not be used to cover salary or employment costs in any form

Applications from individuals who are looking for sponsor style funding to help 3rd party causes will not be considered.

If you have any queries or would like to apply for financial support from the fund please email the Club Secretary at rotaryomd@gmail.com who will send you an application form which must be completed and returned by 30th April 2023.

The Club works with and supports some of the local Primary Schools and the Academy with Young Photographer and Young Writer competitions and running Interact clubs in schools. We also organise the area heat for the Rotary Primary School Quiz in which all the local Primary Schools compete against each other in a general knowledge quiz, held at the Academy on the 8th of March, with the winners going on to compete in a regional competition.



The next big event for the club is the Easter Egg Hunt at Haddo, which is jointly run by Ellon and Oldmeldrum Rotary Clubs and Haddo House over the Easter period. In May, again jointly with Ellon Rotary, we will be running the GoLOCO event at Lochter Activity centre where we will be supporting some young school leavers to develop leadership skills. In June we will be supporting the Rotary organised regional "Kids Out" event which provides an activity day out at the Bridge of Don Barracks for around 500 special needs children in the North East of Scotland.

The Club meets twice a month at the Redgarth Hotel in Oldmeldrum and we have the facility for remote participation with Zoom for those who cannot make it in person. You don't have to be a member to help with any of our activities and guests are very welcome at our meetings. If you would like to come along to a meeting or help at any activity or want some more information about the Club please email the Club Secretary at rotaryomd@gmail.com



We are delighted to be able to contribute to this first edition of Meldrum Connect Newsletter. Our children have been busy learning about Scots and Burns poetry and many enjoyed taking part in our recent recital competition which was judged by two former teachers. Well done to our year group winners. The children have also loved inviting their parents into school to share their learning during class assemblies. Following a long period of time during Covid where we could not have visitors in school, it is lovely to have everyone visiting us again.

We are looking forward to our Health Week from 13th - 17th March. Our focus will be on mental wellbeing as well as celebrating our school community. In May, we plan to have our first ever Careers Week, hopefully involving lots of members of our community too.

Everyone is enjoying visiting our newly revamped school library. We have purchased some new book stands and comfy beanbags for the children to use when they come to choose a new book. We are in the process of adding to our library stocks by purchasing some new, up to date non-fiction books too.

Our Parent Council, Meldrum Parents in Partnership (MPiP), support the school in many ways. One of their new initiatives, started last term, is a monthly Coffee Catch Up which all parents/carers are invited to. The dates are listed in our school newsletter so please come along if you can.



Carol Harper
Head Teacher



We have started a Men's Fellowship Group which will meet every few months for food, fellowship and often a speaker. We had our first successful gathering on 19th November where we heard the speaker Ricky Bain with the benefit of a very yummy full breakfast of egg, bacon, sausage, black pudding, hash browns, tomatoes, mushrooms, beans, tea and coffee. We met again on the 25 February, with many new and welcomed faces turning up, where we enjoyed another full and hearty breakfast and heard Ian Christie talk about his life and how playing the Bagpipes took him around the world

Mark your diaries:

Our next event will take place on the Saturday 3 June @ 8.30am in Meldrum Church Hall, Albert Road.

To stay up to date and book your seat for the Men's Fellowship Group please email info@meldrumandbourtiechurch.com





Meldrum Bourtie & Daviot Community Council

What is your Community Council and what is it doing for you?

It is a voluntary organisation set up by the local authority and run by residents to act on behalf of its area. It plays an important role in local democracy and its general purpose is to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to Aberdeenshire Council, and to other public authorities, the views of the community which it represents. Community Councils are made up of people who care about their community and want to make it a better place to live.

Meldrum, Bourtie & Daviot Community Council undertakes a wide range of activities which promote the well-being of its neighbourhood. We bring local people together to help make things happen, we protect and promote the identity of our area, advise, petition, influence and support on behalf of residents.

We are regularly involved with our Aberdeenshire Councillors and some of the issues we are currently addressing with their help are flooding, drain clearing, planning applications, staffing at Fyvie/Oldmeldrum Medical Practice, C.C.T.V. in Oldmeldrum Town Square, library services, road surfaces and the Local Development Plan, to name a few.

Community Council members have enjoyed being involved in The Queen's Jubilee Beacon Lighting, Meldrum Day, our first Market Day, holding defibrillator training evenings and preparing our Coat of Arms for heraldic flags. The work is varied and interesting. Whether it's employing a town orderly, writing an Emergency Advice document or planning public events, we try to do our best for all.

We are planting a tree in March to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee under the Green Canopy Initiative. Details will be made available on our website.

Meldrum 2030 is holding its 2nd Market Day on the morning of the 29th March in Meldrum Town Square.

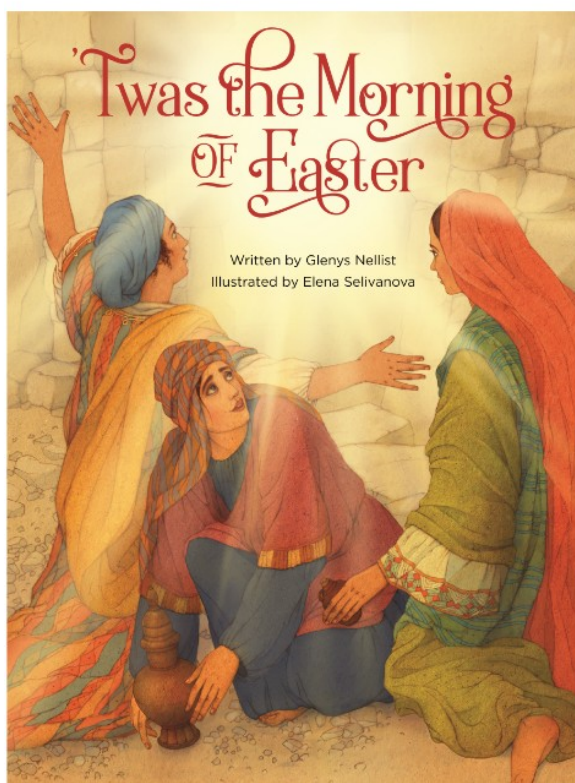
Regular monthly updates are received from Oldmeldrum and Daviot community organisations which all do fantastic work. We support them with their work where we can.

If you would like to join your Community Council and help to make your area a better place to live then please come along to one of our monthly meetings to find out more.

They take place on the last Tuesday evening of each month in Oldmeldrum Town Hall at 7pm, apart from the months of July and December and our October and April meetings are held in Daviot. You'll be made very welcome. More information can be found on our website oldmeldrum.org



Easter Storywalk



Go on a Storywalk this year and read the story, 'Twas the Morning of Easter' by Glenys Nellist.

You will find the pages on boards throughout Meldrum. With interactive questions and a hidden Easter Egg to spot on each page.

We hope you enjoy this new way of exploring the Easter Story.

Starting point will be the Meldrum Community Gardens.

ADVERTISING in Meldrum Connect

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

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

Deadline for our next Meldrum Connect is 14th May 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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO EASTER SERVICES AT MELDRUM & BOURTIE

2 April Palm Sunday

10.00 Bourtie Kirk

11.00 Meldrum Kirk

14.00 'Wee' Easter

Service at Meldrum Kirk

6 April Maundy Thursday

19.00 Joint service at
St. Matthew's Episcopal

7 April Good Friday

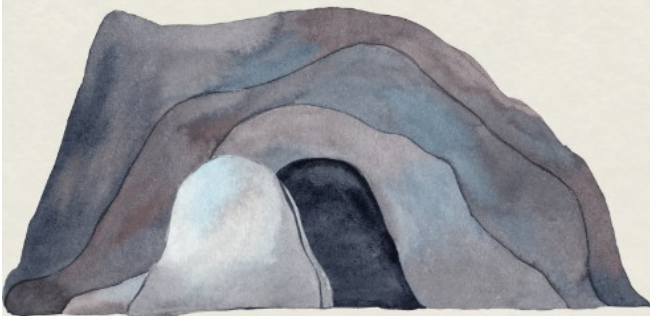
19.00 Meldrum Kirk

9 April Easter Sunday

9.30 Easter 'Sunrise' walk from
Meldrum Gardens to Church
Hall for Breakfast

11.00 Meldrum Kirk

HE IS NOT HERE:
FOR HE IS RISEN.



Oldmeldrum Bowling Club

Oldmeldrum Bowling Club meets at the Bowling Green in the Pleasure Park during the summer months.

The green is 'opening' on Sunday 23rd April at 2pm - all are welcome.

'Hat Nights' are held on Monday nights where anyone who wants to try Bowls can come along and take part. These commence initially at 6.30pm, changing to 7pm later in May.

