In April 1973 Macmillan Organiser Nancy Hart approached Meldrum Provost Alex Florence to see if they could set up a local fund raising committee for this cancer charity. The first recruits included Bunty Webster as Treasurer and Marjory Murray. Now, 41 years later …… they have decided it is maybe time for a change. John Whyte, Chairman since 1996, also decided to stand down at the last AGM in March.

Meldrum Matters invited all three for a coffee to review some of the highlights in this very long period of community service.

Marjorie remembered that the first fund-raiser was a cheese and wine at Mounie Castle. This was followed by regular jumble sales in the Town Hall, coffee mornings and fashion shows (Bunty recalls that male models included John Whyte, Colin Donald and Sam Reid.) There are not many initiatives that this group failed to try out. The ‘Matter of Opinion’ evening included local celebrities Jack Webster, Chris Harvey, Sara Mack and Peter Mitchell.

The Golf Tournaments have been a regular fixture for many years (now organised by the Golf Club but with money still going to Macmillan.) Regular concerts in the Legion and ‘Aly and Phil’ concerts in the school have all been well attended. The local group has also joined in with national initiatives like ‘the Biggest Coffee Morning in the World.’

Overall the Oldmeldrum Committee has raised over £200,000 since they started. Marjorie noted that their first golf tournament made £199 which was a lot of money in 1975. Each competitor paid 1p per stroke! (They raised £2000 at the last outing? Still 1p per stroke??)

This Committee clearly knows what it takes to put the effort in to raise awareness, arrange venues, obtain licences and organise food and entertainment. Helpers also have to be organised, money has to be counted and accounted for, problems resolved and the final clearing up done. Nobody wanted to focus on the effort however. It has been hard work at times but always rewarding.

People have always been very generous and over the years many local people have been helped through the trauma of a cancer diagnosis by the Macmillan organisation. Macmillan provides information, advice and support related to the illness and also other practical help. In conjunction with Citizens Advice form filling can be made easier and financial help arranged.

Alan and Thelma Petrie are now to take up the roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and the old hands wish them well - and might just lend a hand now and again?

The first AGM in 1974.
Back row left to right, Bunty Webster, Alex Florence, John Gordon, Margaret Thomson, Sheila Davidson, Ada McGillivray,
Front Row:- Dr Le Roux, CDR H S Shaw, Nancy Hart, Marjorie Murray.
Contact your local Councillors:

Jim Gifford (Con)
07766 497856
Allan Hendry (SNP)
07824 461744
Paul Johnson (Ind)
07799 582879
Cryle Shand (SNP)
07876 475365

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Send us a letter:
Tell us what you feel strongly about.

How can we make Meldrum Better?

Meldrum Matters
mmb@cromlethill.com

or use the mailbox in the cafe

THE MELDRUM YOUTH CAFÉ
The Meldrum Youth Café every second Friday night from 7.30-10pm in the Meldrum Café. Phone Shona on 891030 for details

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Dear Making Meldrum Better,

Can you provide us with information on the use of the Lower Hall so that we know when we can go to the library without interrupting a meeting?

Regards

A Library user. Will address this. Thank you, Editor.

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Oldmeldrum Tennis Club

Adult evenings are Tuesday and Friday

Oldmeldrum Tennis Club meets at the tennis courts in the Pleasure Park during the summer months. From 22 April 2014, adult evenings are Tuesdays and Fridays, starting around 6.30 to 7pm. We usually have a team in the Buchan League, playing a few Sundays in May and June. Junior coaching takes place on Saturday mornings. The tennis courts are due to be resurfaced and re-fenced later this year, so club members are really looking forward to playing on brand new courts. 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 Ellie on 01651 873061 or Marguerite on 01651 872542 for more information.

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Sustainability...

How can you achieve this for your organisation with the help of the Aberdeenshire Social Enterprise Network?

Wednesday 4th June, 12 - 2pm
Acorn Centre, West High Street, Inverurie, AB51 3SA

Wednesday 11th June, 12 - 2pm
Peterhead Projects Ltd., 28 Marischal Street, Peterhead AB42 1HS

The newly re-launched Aberdeenshire Social Enterprise Network invites you to join us for a networking lunch. The network plans to provide you with an organisational action plan, also an opportunity to join a professional network which offers advisory support. Please come along - confirm your place with Lindsay Adam on 01330 825027 or email; Lindsay.Adam@cvsa.co.uk

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Grow Your Group - Funders Fair

Date for your diary - Wednesday 1st October 2014
Kintore Arms Hotel, Inverurie

A day where a range of national and local funders will be available with information on their grant schemes, plus workshops on a range of funding related topics. Individual surgery appointments available with funders in the p.m. Confirmed participants so far are: Comic Relief Bank of Scotland Foundation BIG Lottery + Awards for All Robertson Trust Climate Challenge Fund Voluntary Action Fund Garioch Partnership Cash for Kids Children in Need Just Enterprise - Support for Social Enterprise CVS Aberdeenshire - Grantfinder Programme

If you want to register an initial interest to be sent further information, please e-mail: Diane.Miller@cvsa.co.uk

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What's on in the Town Hall?

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<td>Adult Art Group</td>
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<td>Tai Chi</td>
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To book the Town Hall contact Lindsay or Keith Allardyce
Telephone: 07986 260629 or Email lindsay@jazzyb.demon.co.uk

Our most grateful thanks to Lindsay and Keith Allardyce for volunteering to manage the Hall Bookings from now on. Please help where you can by leaving rooms as you find them and by taking away rubbish.

Meldrum Cafe

Are you interested in helping in the cafe?
Why not come along to the cafe on Tuesday 3rd June at 3pm for a cup of coffee and find out more.

If that date does not suit you contact: Mary Robertson 01651 872266 and arrange another time.

A new coffee machine is installed in the Meldrum Cafe. The old one has many tales it could tell. And each cup of coffee could tell its own story. What do we all talk about .....? Have you a cafe story you are able to share with us? A free lunch for all the ones we can print!

Top pic: Helen Whyte, Mary Robertson and the engineer from Caber Coffee discuss how it works.
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Maggie’s Centres are places where anyone affected by cancer is welcome - from just being diagnosed or undergoing treatment, to post-treatment, recurrence, end of life or in bereavement. Maggie’s also warmly welcomes family and friends of the person with cancer.

A wide range of practical information and emotional support is offered at all Maggie’s Centres, including Maggie’s “Programme of Support” which is tailored to each person’s individual need. The professional experts who work at Maggie’s will guide you through practical information and emotional support to help you to find the support you need and your Programme of Support can range from advice on finances and nutrition, to stress management and relaxation, and much else. The Programme of Support is designed to help at any stage of cancer and can be accessed at your local Maggie’s Centre, as and when you need it. For more information, call Maggie’s on the number below or search for your local Maggie’s Centre on the website.

Maggie’s Aberdeen,
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Aberdeen
AB25 2UZ

Susan Sutherland on 01224 645928
aberdeen@maggiescentres.org
www.maggiescentres.org
Meldrum Moments - The Movie -  
DVD available from the Meldrum Cafe  £5.00

Meldrum Moments - this film covering the history of Oldmeldrum is now on sale. Local people tell the story of the Battle of Barra and discuss more recent wartime experiences. We trace the history of granite from its origins to its present day use. We look at how water features in ancient legends - and our local whisky. Through it all we consider the life of the farmer and the struggles for power and prosperity from the stone age to the present day.

The bigger story behind Meldrum Moments........

The film provides only a short summary of the incredibly rich history of Oldmeldrum. Someone once said that the detailed history of any one village is the history of the whole of life. This does appear to be the case with Oldmeldrum. In order to share the background to the film we propose to have a series of articles in Meldrum Matters. Chapter one follows.


“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”

The earth was formed around 4,500 million years ago. By about 3,500 million years ago there were chunks of hard crust and the first forms of life had already begun as very simple molecules that could reproduce themselves. The various pieces of the earth’s crust have been moving around over the years like large driverless dodgem cars and life slowly evolved on each island. The rocks we see in and around Oldmeldrum today were created at the same time as the Caledonian Mountain range. This was formed 400-500 million years ago when chunks of the earth’s crust—or continental plates—collided. Interesting to note that a huge ocean had previously separated the north and the south of the British isles before this collision quite undemocratically smashed them together and they have so far remained stuck together.

In their prime the Caledonian Mountains would have looked like the Himalayas do today. The continents have since carried on moving, colliding and separating so that right now parts of this same mountain range can be found in North America and in Norway. Apart from the North Sea and the Atlantic opening up and carrying away bits of our mountain range nothing else quite so dramatic has happened in this area since this crustal crash. One other interesting point to note is that this collision happened south of the equator in desert conditions. We have since moved north across the equator and finally arrived at our current location around 65 million years ago.

The three balls we have in the square are made from three different types of rock formed during the Caledonian collision. Two of the balls are made from Granite and Gabbro. These materials were formed when masses of still molten rock escaped into the base of the mountains from under the earth’s crust as it folded and cracked during the collision in a gigantic slow motion crunch. This material remained compressed in the core of the mountains (unlike volcanic lava that escapes and froths to the surface). The third similar material - Gneiss—was a pre-existing rock that was altered and hardened by the heat and pressure of the mountain building. All three rock types became the hard most durable elements in our local landscape. The rocky outcrops on Dartmoor were formed in a similar way but they are 200 million years younger and were created in a different collision. The Caledonian Mountains have now been eroded away so that all we have left of them are these hard rocks surrounded by material from the erosion - some of it transported many miles by glaciers and rivers.

As we drifted north over 500 million years the climate has changed a lot. Equatorial rain forests have come and gone. All over the globe the various forms of plants and animals evolved to survive, or not survive, as conditions changed. Some of these climate changes finally helped the evolution of the first humans around 7 million years ago in Africa. Between 130,000 years ago and 40,000 years ago early humans may have made it this far north. Neanderthal sites have been found in the south of England near the B9077 road. This site is 5000 years old and one of the earliest known permanent settlements in Scotland. A building of this size shows that people have settled down in one location to farm rather than simply following food and game to wherever this existed naturally.

The carved balls we now have reproduced in the square probably date back to this same period. Our, locally typical, ‘recumbent’ stone circle is formed principally of a ring of stones, like all other stone circles. However, there is one large ‘recumbent’ stone laid on its side, usually flanked by the two largest of the standing stones immediately on either side. The stones are usually graded in height with the lowest stones being diametrically opposite to the tall flankers. The recumbent stone typically lies between the SSE and SW points of the circle. These circles were often found beside cremation sites and were where people gathered – perhaps to trade, gossip and find a mate? The circles are usually on good farmland, near hill-tops. The position of the sun, moon or certain stars relative to particular stones is thought to have provided farmers with a calendar. They needed to know when best to sow crops - then as now. The sites are often visible one to the other so they may have communicated with beacons between them – for party invitations etc?

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Balbridie is the site of a Neolithic timberhouse in Aberdeenshire situated in south Deeside near the B9077 road. This site is 5000 years old and one of the earliest known permanent settlements in Scotland. A building of this size shows that people have settled down in one location to farm rather than simply following food and game to wherever this existed naturally.

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The carved balls we now have reproduced in the square probably date back to this time and may have been used at gatherings. The original ones were the size of tennis balls and are found in Aberdeenshire and also found on Orkney, Skye, Iona and Lewis. Perhaps they were used in meetings to determine who had the floor to speak? Or were representative of a family group? They were too ornate to be used simply as weapons. Perhaps they were wedding presents?
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Courses coming soon: Body Wrap, Eyelash Tinting, Eyebrow Design.
MELDRUM MUSICAL SOCIETY
10th Anniversary.

Calling all members of MMS past and present.
A social evening is planned to celebrate our anniversary.
Friday June 13th, Morris’s Hotel, 7.30pm.
RSVP to thejigreeners@aol.com or Shona on 872214 by the end of May.
New members always welcome.

Bennachie Art and Crafts Appreciation Society, a locally based group of people interested in the visual arts, has a busy year ahead.

BACAS meets on the last Tuesday of the month, in the Catholic Church Hall, Inverurie, to enjoy talks, demonstrations and workshops on a wide variety of topics connected with the visual arts. In addition, members are offered opportunities for trips, workshops and opportunities to exhibit their own work. Our meetings are relaxed, sociable and varied. We welcome visitors interested in possibly joining us - you don’t have to be a painter or crafter, experienced or beginner, just come and enjoy.

Currently exhibiting at the Acorn Centre, we will also hold our Annual October Exhibition in Oldmeldrum Town Hall, 18 - 25 October. We are delighted to say that, for the first time, our members will be able to show their work as part of North East Open Studios. You will find us at Garioch Bowling Club during NEOS week, 6 - 14 September. If you are a painter, crafter or photographer interested in showing your work at either of these events you are warmly invited to join BACAS.

The aim of BACAS is to promote the enjoyment and practice of the visual arts. Not all of our activities are for members only. We hold weekly painting sessions in Oldmeldrum Town Hall on Monday mornings, which are well attended and much enjoyed. We are also grateful to Mitchells Dairy who let us use their walls to co ordinate monthly displays of work by local artists. If you would like to show your work at the Dairy please contact 8bacas8@gmail.com. Work may be offered for sale if the artist wishes but the emphasis here is to display for the pleasure of the public using the Dairy and for the artists themselves. This is a rare opportunity for artists to show their work completely free of hanging costs or commission.

BACAS will hold its AGM on Tuesday 27 May when the programme for 2014 - 2015 will be announced. If you would like to know more about BACAS please come along and meet us.

The Strawberry Tea/Cabaret Royal British Legion Hall on SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST 2.00pm until 5.00pm

Featuring Irish artist Kevin Kearney with special guests Jim and Marisha Addison.
Loads to eat, glass of wine or drink of your choice from the Bar all for £10.00
Tickets will be on sale in June from Winnie & Sam Reid 1 Provost Drive tel.01651 872571.
This event is held in aid of Parkinson's UK Garioch Branch Christmas

Inspirations Coffee Morning

Held in the Town Hall.
Coffee is served between 10-10.30am followed by a short programme with an invited speaker.
There are two dates left in this session.
6th June Mr John West
4th July Mrs Rosemary Ross
ALL ARE VERY WELCOME
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Do you have any comments on the management of the Meldrum Cafe or the Town Hall? Making Meldrum Better is always keen to have comments or ideas.

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“Very reliable, thorough and friendly cleaners. I would highly recommend them!” Mrs Chapman, Bridge of Don

“It’s heaven coming home on a Wednesday to a spotless house. Worth every penny,” Mr & Mrs Riseborough, Methlick

and Cruden Cleaning is highly recommended by Anna and Richard Stephen from Hoodles Play Barn, Oldmeldrum too!
23rd WORLD JAMBOREE 2015:

Three Meldrum Academy pupils have been fortunate enough, after a rigorous selection process, to be invited to attend the 23rd World Scout Jamboree which is being held in Japan. Alasdair Glen, Emily Watt, both Explorer Scouts at Methlick and Kirsty Bruce, a Guide at Methlick, are the lucky trio. The World Jamboree is held every 4 years.

Some 30,000 Scouts from nearly every country in the world will converge on the venue, Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi City, on the Southern tip of Honshu Island. The theme of the Jamboree will be ‘Wa’, which has many meanings including harmony, unity, friendship and peace. ‘Wa’ also stands for Japan in August 2015.

The UK Contingent is made up of 3,000 Scouts and Guides from all over the country. Between now and July 2015 they will be preparing for this adventure of a lifetime, including learning about Japanese culture and international Scouting. As an important part of their fundraising efforts, the UK Contingent will be supporting a number of Scouts from developing countries who would otherwise not be able to attend.

If you wish to support them in anyway contact willowtree@craigdam.fsnet.co.uk.

Meldrum Academy Senior Pupil at the European Parliament

Emily Low attended the Euroscola programme in Strasbourg this February, an event organised by Rotary Clubs from across Europe. The trip comprised of a variety of activities, designed to prepare all 27 Scottish candidates for the Euroscola Day in the European Parliament (l’hémicycle), which is situated in the heart of Strasbourg. These activities included a street questionnaire, explaining grammar points from posters around the city, and presentations with different group members every evening. At every opportunity they were encouraged to immerse themselves in the unique culture and practise our French whenever possible.

The focus of the trip, the Euroscola day, allowed all the students to put their French, teamwork and communication skills into practice by debating in groups with around 500 students from across the E.U. on current issues, such as the environment and food wastage. Emily would like to thank to everyone who supported her, especially the Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum for providing this fantastic opportunity.

Active Schools Meldrum Holiday Programme

For future holiday activities see the Active Schools website or call Marie Dobson on 07823 536237.
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Profile your group, advertise your fund raising activities. This is free to non-profit making groups. Costs are covered by our advertisers and profits from the Meldrum Cafe and Town Hall lets. The only cost is printing. Compilation and distribution is by volunteers.

**Einsmohr Hotel**

The Einsmohr Hotel is a small, family run hotel in the picturesque village of Pittodrie, only 15 minutes drive from Aberdeen & Puss Airport. It is ideally situated for golfing, fishing, shooting, bird watching and lies on the Castle & Whisky Trail.

The hotel is run by husband and wife, William & Karen Berris, along with their dedicated staff. Their aim is to make your stay, whether business or pleasure, a pleasant and memorable one. Whether you want to come back and stay with us again and again.

Food is served daily in the beautifully furnished Winter Lounge, where we offer an excellent menu both at lunch time and in the evening.

All dishes are prepared by our brigade of chefs in the kitchen led by head chef Craig Nisbet. We use the finest local produce and seasonal ingredients, with the emphasis on quality without compromising on value.

Before or after your meal you can relax in a large, comfy armchair beside the log burning stove to enjoy a pre dinner drink or an after dinner liqueur and coffee. Why not sample a whisky from our extensive stock, or go mail, or order a bottle of wine from our varied wine list.

Food is also served in the local bar where we offer a simple choice and snack menu. You can still enjoy with the local characters and enjoy a game of pool or darts.

Tel: (01651) 842214
Oldmachar Road, Pittodrie, AB42 7BY
email: info@einsmohrhotel.co.uk
www.einsmohrhotel.co.uk

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Business Centres also situated in Oldmachar, Inverurie & Ellon at competitive rates.
Local Development Plan 2016 - moves forward following consultation

The next Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) takes a significant step forward over the next two months, following extensive consultation over the winter. Consultation on the “Main Issues” discussion document had 1,827 responses and raised over 6,000 individual issues. These submissions have now been analysed and will be presented to Aberdeenshire's Local Area Committees in May and June. In July, decisions are expected to be taken by the Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) as to what will be in the “proposed plan” to be published later in the year, based on the feedback provided by local councillors. The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2016 will be a planning blueprint for the future of the area. It will include policies and proposals to determine where new development such as housing and offices will be carried out from 2017 until 2027. The Main Issues Report raised questions about whether some of the land use policies in the current plan are adequate and appropriate for the period 2017 to 2022. It put forward the sites proposed for development by landowners and developers for public comment.

Aberdeenshire Council web site

Volunteer Reporter(s) Urgently Wanted

Would you be willing to attend Community Council Meetings on behalf of Meldrum Matters and provide reports of their discussions? We could arrange a rota if more than one person interested. Please contact us and let us know - See back page for contact details or call 07810 218077.

Meldrum Matters has always been happy to print anything given to us by the Community Council. But, despite repeated requests Meldrum Matters has never been able to access up to date Community Council minutes or obtain contributions from the Community Council on their activities. So it is suggested that we need people to attend their meetings who will let us know what they are discussing and what they are saying on behalf of the community. Anyone is entitled to attend their meetings and all items have to be openly discussed. We can then tell everyone what is being discussed and you can make your views known. **Editor**

Comment on the above request for a volunteer reporter

In their formal submission to Aberdeenshire Council on the proposed new Local Plan (See above) Oldmeldrum Bourtie and Daviot Community Council proposed that “There is an urgent need to give consideration to extending the present relief road from the roundabout at the west of the town on the B9170 to the south & east to join the A947 to the south of the town. Such a development would give considerable relief and safety to the town center.”

Aberdeenshire Council have always made it clear that we would need to accept a very large housing development to fund such a bypass. At the last public consultation on the issue, 5 years ago, developers suggested that up to 2000 new houses - or as many as would fit between the Ellon Road and the Inverurie Road - would be needed to pay for the necessary infrastructure - a new school etc. in addition to the bypass. Is this what the Community Council are proposing? Is this what we have said we want as a community? Are we to be asked for our views before the Community Council continue to promote this in meetings with Aberdeenshire Council officials? The Community Council should not promote this (or anything else) without proper publicity and consultation.

Meldrum Matters has always been happy to print anything given to us by the Community Council. But, despite repeated requests Meldrum Matters has never been able to access up to date Community Council minutes or obtain contributions from the Community Council on their activities. So it is suggested that we need people to attend their meetings who will let us know what they are discussing and what they are saying on behalf of the community. Anyone is entitled to attend their meetings and all items have to be openly discussed. We can then tell everyone what is being discussed and you can make your views known. **Editor**

BROADBAND UPGRADE

20th April - The towns of Balmedie, Drumoak, Ellon, Fraserburgh, Insch, Kemnay, Oldmeldrum, Old Rayne, Peterhead and Turriff have all been announced as the next areas to be connected to high-speed fibre broadband thanks to the further roll-out of the £410 million Digital Scotland partnership.

Aberdeenshire Council has invested £16 million pounds as our contribution to this project - 10% of the total contribution from all Local Authorities in Scotland.

We have made that investment in order to bring superfast broadband speeds to all parts of Aberdeenshire especially to the 20,000 or so properties who have no broadband access at all.

The programme started earlier this year and will be completed over the coming few years.

High-speed fibre will be run to new cabinets in all our communities with very rural areas being served by some other technology which will give them good broadband access as well.

Local advertising will advise people when the new high-speed fibre is available in their areas and they can then contact their own ISP to arrange connection to the new service.

Cllr Jim Gifford
Leader of Aberdeenshire Council
Ward Member - Mid Formartine

Tel/Fax: 01651 869493 (Office 01224 775573)
Mob: 07810 030774
Email: cljr.j.gifford@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
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To be distributed in August

### Contact us

**Making Meldrum Better**
Cromlet Hill South Road
Oldmeldrum
AB51 0AB

**Phone:** 07810 218077  
**E-Mail:** mmb@cromlethill.com

Or just post in our mail box in the Meldrum Cafe

### What's on

- **Community Council Meetings**  27th May, 24th June, 26th August, 23rd September, 28th October and 25th November in Lower Town Hall at 7.30 pm
- **Introduction for potential new Cafe Volunteers** Tuesday 3rd June at 3pm in the Meldrum Cafe. See Page 5
- **Social Enterprise Network**  Wednesday 4th June, 12 - 2pm, Acorn Centre. See Page 3.
- **Meldrum Musical Society**  10th Anniversary. Friday June 13th, Morris’s Hotel, 7.30pm. See Page 11
- **The Strawberry Tea/Cabaret** Royal British Legion Hall on Sunday 31st August 2.00pm until 5.00pm. See Page 11
- **Inspirations Coffee Morning** 6th June and 4th July. See Page 11
- **Pitmedden Music Festival** 6th and 7th June. See page 13.