

# Grantown Heritage Plaques: The “Institute”



*The Victoria Institute (old and new)*

The Victoria Christian Institute, known variously through the years as the Institute, the YMCA, the Community Centre, the Y, was completed just after 1897, Jubilee year, helped largely by public subscription.

It boasted a tea room, reading room and library, as well as indoor and outdoor sports activities. It now is a multi-function community centre and includes a small theatre and a soft play area. It had a heightened role during WWII and still plays a prominent role at times of crisis such as during the coronavirus pandemic.

Many meetings and lectures have been held within its walls, including meetings of the Grantown Society, Victorian concerts “for the indigenous poor” and talks, often with lantern slides, by such as Ernest Shackleton on Antarctica



*Alex. Ledingham Photo.*

## Indoor Sports and Entertainments.

### THE VICTORIA INSTITUTE

the property of the Y.M.C.A. and Club, is a popular rendezvous for Indoor Sports, such as Badminton, Carpet Bowls, Billiards, Broadcasting, Concerts, Dances, and other recreations. There is also a Library and Reading-Room.

*Extract from “Guide Books to Grantown-on-Spey and District” Published by the Grantown-on-Spey Amenities Association 1932 and 1935*

**ENTERTAINMENTS.**

WHILE open-air recreations are the outstanding features of Grantown-on-Spey, there are numerous local agencies who give their services in promoting entertainments throughout the season. There is an excellent Picture House with up-to-date programmes, The Clan Grant Pipe and Drum Band give bi-weekly performances, and frequent Concerts, Dances and Dramatic Entertainments are successfully arranged by the co-operation of various local societies. The Annual Show and Games arranged by the Strathspey Farmers' Club and held in August is one of the most popular events in the North.

**THE GRANTOWN - ON - SPEY GAELIC CHOIR** was formed in 1931 and has won distinction at National and Provincial Mod competitions at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oban, Fort-William, Newtonmore, Kingussie and Grantown.

*A. Ledingham.*