

# In the PICTURE

May 2024

Send news to: [revmartythomas@outlook.com](mailto:revmartythomas@outlook.com)

Delivered free to every home in Letham and district by  
Forfar All Souls @ LETHAM (Charity Number SC002417)



**Letham Primary** collected and donated 198kg worth of food / toiletries for the Forfar Foodbank on the 15th March 2024. (see page 7)

This will feed 20 individuals, 14 couples and 10 families! What an achievement! A huge thanks to our whole school community!  
Mrs Williamson

## Neighbourhood Watch SCOTLAND

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## Village Calendar

I was reminded a couple of months ago about the Village Calendar that I used to put up in the ground floor entrance to the Feuars Hall. The reminder came about as there was a clash of dates with the Pensioners and the Bowling Club. This is where every organisation running an event could note down the details to avoid any such clashes. It could also be used for anyone wanting to know what was going on in the Village. I have now put a calendar, running from April to December, up in the entrance hall and I hope it will be of value to the Village as a whole.

Elaine Saunders

## Youth and Safeguarding Report -

March 2024

As I explained last year, the General Assembly of 2022 agreed substantial reform of Safeguarding Training for everyone working or holding positions within the Church of Scotland. This has been implemented over the last year.

There is now a requirement for all elders to undergo a 3 hour safeguarding training course every 5 years. Those people who have undergone PVG checking, to allow them to work with children and other vulnerable groups, must do an additional short training course to ensure they are kept up to date with all the current guidelines and practice.

The elders here in Letham, who currently serve on the kirk session, have now completed all the necessary courses. The courses were very well run and highlight the importance of everyone being vigilant in dealings with children and other vulnerable groups.

We have several people who have completed the PVG checking process. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024, we will be part of Forfar - All Souls Church of Scotland and we are looking forward to some changes in the way we worship. There will be opportunities for more people to become involved in new initiatives, working with children and other vulnerable groups, in Letham and Forfar. If you would like to join the team, and are willing to undergo the PVG checking process, please speak to Irene McGugan or Norma Craigon for more information.

Norma Craigon

### *'In the PICTURE'*

Welcomes items of news and expressions of opinion from organisations and individuals within the community, provided such articles are signed.

Published items do not necessarily reflect the views of either the Publicity Group or the Kirk Session of Forfar All Souls Church.



Rev. Martyn Thomas celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with all the congregation of Letham Church, on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Martyn is a much loved and well respected member of our congregation, and we sang happy birthday to him.

There was of course cake after the service, which we all enjoyed.

We hope that Martyn will continue to produce In the Picture for a long time to come.

Thank you, Martyn, for all you do.



I'm Rev Maggie Hunt. I've been in Forfar for over 9 years now, previously working with St Margaret's Forfar. I am very much enjoying our new united church and getting to know folks in Letham where I will be preaching most Sundays. You have such a lovely village and I hope you will come up and say 'hello' when you see me out and about during the week, finding my feet and learning my way around the various halls, shops and community facilities. I'm quite easy to spot as I look a lot like the Vicar of Dibley!

I have a passion for mission and outreach and enjoy finding new ways to connect with people where they are and offering the hope of Christ. Before becoming a minister, I worked for many years with CrossReach [Church of Scotland Social Responsibility] working in volunteer management and engagement. I am looking forward to working with you all in Letham to find new ways to support, care for and meet the needs of folks where you are. I live in West Forfar with my husband Gareth, our adult daughter Amy and our cockapoo dog Molly.

Rev. Maggie Hunt is a member of the Team Ministry which serves the Forfar All Souls Union of Churches which includes All Souls Church @ Letham.

Other members of the team are: Rev. Dr. Karen Fenwick and Rev. Heather Gourlay.

## Letham Church Services

### Morning Worship

At 10.30 am

Services Conducted by

a member of Team Ministry

Formal Holy Communion will take place on **Sunday 5th May 2024 at 10.30 am**

## Pentecost

Is recognised as the birth of the Christian Church and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus Christ's disciples. It is sometimes called Whitsunday.

This year Pentecost Sunday is May 15th.

## Prayer For May

Dear Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness and grace that has seen me through this year so far. I don't know what this month will hold, but I know You do. I am grateful that You have foreseen every day before I've lived it and you have a hope filled plan to lead me victoriously through everything I face. Please keep me close to You and grant me your strength, energy and power to see me through each day. I offer up all that I am, all that I have and all that I do and ask You to take what I have and multiply it for good and Your glory. I look forward to all You will do in me and through me this month. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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## Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for **June 2024** issue is

**Saturday 18th May 2024**

Material may be sent to Joan Smith,  
9 Burnside Road (01307 818937)

E-mail: [joan\\_77@btinternet.com](mailto:joan_77@btinternet.com)

or to Rev Martyn Thomas

14 Kirkgait (01307 818084)

E-mail: [revmartythomas@outlook.com](mailto:revmartythomas@outlook.com)



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'We farmers are the first to feel and the first to fight climate change. If we want to leave something for our children, we need to take measures to mitigate the effects of climate change now. We farm from the heart and we love growing. With

the love I have for my land, I don't see myself working anywhere else', says Jaime Alberto García Flórez, who grows cocoa and Fairtrade coffee on his farm in Colombia.

But Jaime's vital work costs money. Without a fair trade system and government climate funding that has been promised, but not yet delivered, the future of farmers like Jaime is at risk.

Right now, the UK Government is planning new laws aimed at preventing deforestation.

To learn more and have an opportunity to sign the new petition to ask our government to ensure legal changes to tackle deforestation do not place the burden on farmers like Jaime check out [fairtrade.org.uk](http://fairtrade.org.uk).

## Letham & District Community Council The James Cosgrove Award

Anyone wishing to nominate someone for the award should complete a form and return it to any member of the Community Council or put it in the letter box (15 The Square) by June 14th.

The Nomination Forms will be in the Book Shop.

## LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

The 2023/24 season ended on the 9th April with the AGM and bulb competition.

Congratulations to Dorothy and Liz.

Our next event is a plant sale in the village hall on Saturday 11th May from 10am to noon.

Donations of plants will be very welcome as will buyers. Proceeds of the sale go to supporting the Flower Show on Sunday 11th August and schedules will be available soon in the Post Office and the Auldbar Cafe.

An 8 x 6 greenhouse is available (without glass) free for pick up, to first caller.

Bill Muir

07908339420

## LETHAM VILLAGE LITTER PICK



The occasional showers did not dampen spirits, and people of all ages including residents from Jubilee court and representatives from various groups or clubs came to help keep our village tidy. And what an amazing result.

Afterwards they enjoyed various refreshments, soups and sausage rolls and a few treats for the kids.

Look forward to seeing even more of you next time.

## IT CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS



### IT BEGINNERS COURSE

The inaugural class will take place in the Feuars' Hall which is above the BOOK SHOP ( opposite the bakers) on Wednesday 14th May at 7 pm.

Dr Michael Kay will talk about internet security.

This will be an opportunity to discuss among ourselves how many classes we would like and what the most convenient time is for everyone.

We can also suggest topics for each course.

Sandra MacRae Mobile 0753 850 5489

alexandramacrae1941@gmail.com

### Letham Pensioners

Due to the reduced members on the Letham Pensioners Committee, we have had to find an easier way to collect subscriptions from existing members and to encourage new pensioners to join us, and to book the annual outing. Membership is open to anyone who is 60 or over and is not in full time employment.

We will be in the Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May and will be accepting subscriptions from existing Members and, hopefully, gaining some new members. Membership costs just £2 for the year. Benefits of membership include a subsidised outing and Christmas party. We will also be accepting bookings for the annual outing, details of which are on the flyer included in this edition of In The PICTURE. The outing will cost £16 for members. Non-members may be able to come if there is space on the coach. The cost for non-members will be £20.

We are hoping that as many people as possible will be there for the short AGM at around 3pm. It is very important for you to know what we have done over the past year and how we spend the money.

Tea and coffee and biscuits will be served.

Elaine Saunders Treasurer, Letham Pensioners

## TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 4

*"I've seen many a ruined building,  
but never a ruined stane."* (Hugh McDiarmid)

### SMOOTH PASSAGE FOR THE COACH

Aye, it's about stanes again!!

We Lethamites may imagine that cassie stanes only featured in Letham but recently, with the installation of the flower beds in The Square. However, only a few villagers know that old cassie stanes of long ago can be found in The Den. Many fowk will truly say they have never seen cassies anywhere in The Den. This claim demands an explanation. Here follows that explanation.

When the village was founded in 1789, there was little means of instant communication. Scotland did not employ jungle drums or smoke signals, or long horns like the Swiss. Nor did there exist, telephones. Communications had to be face to face. Enter the Arbroath to Brechin daily coach service. This coach came through the new village of Letham. Entering the village via Grant Roy's Brae, it then crossed the Vinney just upstream of the bridge which is there now. But the bridge wasn't even built when the coach began to run.

Blunt Neuk, where Isobel Sword now stays, used to function as a sort of motorway cafe to service the drouthy and hungry passengers travelling past. When I came to the village in 1947, it was still possible to see parts of an ancient notice painted on the wall of Blunt Neuk. "Wines and Spirits" could still be discerned. I dare say that ham and eggs and scotch broth also featured on the Menu. The name Blunt Neuk gives the name away. The gable end at the side of the Burn is rounded to allow the coach to emerge from the burn without colliding with the gable. There followed a gey, stey brae before the coach could enter the end of Blairs Road at The Hedges. No wonder the human contents of the coach partook of a pech at Blunt Neuk. I bet the horses enjoyed the rest as well.

But to return to the cassies in The Den. They are in the Burn, just upstream from the new bridge. The land on the south side of the Burn slopes from the road to the Burn. Some serious howking amongst the stanes in the Burn reveals a perfectly smooth road of cassies, to ease the passage of the coach.

JAMc



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## LETHAM & DISTRICT



President Lynne Slater welcomed members and our Guest Judge for the evening, Mary Wyllie, President of Kingsmuir SWI.

Lynne presented a slideshow incorporating many of the exhibits from the Angus Federation SWI show held on 29th and 30th March 2024. Letham did very well on achieving tickets and we were very pleased with our overall results. Many of our members attended the show over the weekend and congratulations were given to all who participated. We are already looking forward to competing in the show in 2025.

Mary kindly judged this month's competitions.

### Easter flower arrangement

1. Joan Smith 2. Colette McNeill 3. Lynne Slater

### Pressed flower bookmark.

1. Colette McNeill 2. Frances Webster  
3. Lynne Slater

### Garden flower of the month.

1. Victoria Alexander 2. Colette McNeill  
3. Evelyn Balfour

Meg Bundock proposed thanks to Mary for judging the competitions.

A few of our members attended Eassie and Nevey SWI for a musical event on the 3rd April 2024 and all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

We will be holding our A.G.M. at our meeting on the 7th of May 2024 and also presenting trophies to our competition winners throughout this year.

Lynne concluded the evening with thanking all the members for attending and helping on the evening.

Colette McNeill (Press Secretary)



## Learning Together

### Group Weekly Bible Study

Letham Church Hall  
on Mondays at 1:30pm.

Toys and drawing materials  
available for children.

Tea, coffee and snacks provided.

All are Welcome.



## Dundee and Angus Foodbank



Dundee Foodbank and Angus Foodbank, for administrative purposes, merged in November 2021. However the aims and purpose remain the same and that is to provide emergency food parcels for those in need and to support people in crisis.

“We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.”  
Food donated in your area will be used to feed people in your area.

### CURRENT NEEDS

Baked Beans	Tinned puddings
Teabags	Pasta Sauce
Tinned vegetables	Tinned fruit
Soap	UHT Milk

**Please bring your donations to Letham Church on Sunday mornings.**

Financial donations can be Gift Aided, allowing the Foodbank to claim a further 25% from HMRC.  
[info@dundeeandangus.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@dundeeandangus.foodbank.org.uk)  
Tel 01382 698020



This is part of the 198 kg of the food items collected by Letham Primary School for Dundee and Angus Food Bank. (See front page.)

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## Letham Feuars' Committee

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Supporting *'In the PICTURE'*

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Open At Least Six Days a Week  
in Letham Feuars' Hall, Auldbar Road.

All takings used for the benefit of Letham.

For information about the Feuars please contact  
[lethamfeuars@gmail.com](mailto:lethamfeuars@gmail.com)



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Books for children are free.

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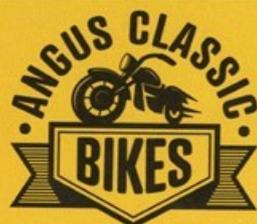
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