

In the PICTURE

July/August 2024

Send news to: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

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Forfar All Souls @ LETHAM (Charity Number SC002417)



P7s from Letham Primary School were asked by The Letham Craft Shop to produce a collage display, using materials sourced at the shop itself. This was in honour of their 50th birthday which they celebrated in May 2024. They worked very hard to produce a stunning collage which was displayed in the shop. P7 enjoyed being creative with the wide variety of materials available to them. They were all delighted with the finished product. *Mrs D Williamson*

Letham Church also honours the Craft Shop for their service to the community for 50 years

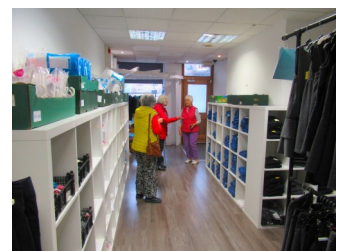
The Anchorage New Community Space West High Street Forfar



Recently was celebrated the opening of Forfar: All Souls' new mission hub in West High Street.

Described as the town's "new community space" the hub, named "The Anchorage", will provide additional space for the long-established pop-up school uniform "shop", relocated from St Margaret's and other activities involving local groups.

Cutting the ribbon are (l to r) the Rev Dr Karen Fenwick, the Rev Maggie Hunt and the Rev Heather Gourlay, ministers of the newly-formed church grouping. (photos by John Crichton)



As part of the "Forfar All Souls", Letham Church invites all to visit "The Anchorage"

Letham Church Services
Morning Worship
At 10.30 am
Services Conducted by
a member of Team Ministry

John Chinnock



29 July 1933 - 8 May 2024

Letham said goodbye to John Chinnock at a service in the parish church on 22nd May. He died, after battling cancer for several years, aged 91. He had lived in Letham since retiring and been an active member of the community. He leaves his wife Stella whom he married in Dundee in 1962.

His life began in London. Then, as he was preparing to go to university his mother died and he was needed to help look after his two younger sisters. When he did get to university he studied biology and went into teaching. He was a good teacher who loved sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm and went out of his way to help any pupil who needed a little extra help to understand the lesson. Outside of the classroom John was a scout leader, a very practical way to help young people learn positive attitudes through a variety of activities. He helped neighbours' children with their homework and many youngsters in Letham benefited from his support. He taught in Dundee and in Dumfries but when Stella's mother became ill they had to move back north.

As a biologist and botanist John was interested in every aspect of the natural world. When younger, he and Stella often went hiking and it was a way of getting closer to nature. One burning issue that concerned him was climate change and what we are doing to our environment. He kept up his scientific interest to the very end, reading journals and magazines in order to keep up to date.

John was a regular attender at the church in Letham until he was no longer able, regularly reading the Bible lessons on a Sunday. He saw no conflict between his faith and his science. He attended the Monday afternoon Bible study, because although he was already very knowledgeable about the Bible he was still keen to learn more. Before it stopped during Covid John attended the men's prayer breakfast, enjoying the fellowship.

John and Stella had no children of their own, but they were very close to the wider family, her much younger cousins, his nephews and nieces and great nieces. And of course, as a teacher, his legacy is the profound influence he had on countless children over many decades.

Letham Seniors (formerly Letham Pensioners)

At the AGM on May 18th, 2024, it was decided to change the name of Letham Pensioners to Letham Seniors. This is because our constitution states that membership is open to all people over 60 and not in full time work. Due to the changes in the pension system over the last few years, state pensions are not paid until the age of 67, so you may not be a pensioner, but you can be a senior!

The other change made at the AGM was that the cost of membership will rise for the first time for many years. The decision was that from **June 2025** membership will cost £5 per annum.

Lastly, following on from the success of warm spaces in the last 2 winters, it was decided to ask the Church if we could run a joint afternoon in the Church Hall on Friday afternoons each week, starting on Friday 19th July. The Church and the new All Souls Kirk Session agreed. There will be tea/coffee, biscuits and maybe cakes. There will be some games like cards and dominoes available, but it will be more for companionship.

Volunteers will be required, as neither the Church nor the Seniors Committee have the manpower to run this every week. 2/3 people will be required each week to make tea and coffee, do the washing up and to ensure that the hall is left clean and tidy. You don't have to be a Senior to volunteer! Please see the separate notice with times and contact details.

Elaine Saunders (Treasurer Letham Seniors)

Cosy Cuppie In the Church Hall on Friday afternoons 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Starting on Friday 19th July

This is a joint venture by Letham Seniors (formerly Letham Pensioners) and Letham Church



Come along for a Cuppie and a biscuit or maybe a cake. There are card games etc for those wanting to play, but if you just want to catch up with people, then that is OK.

Volunteers will be required so please contact Isobel Sword if you can help.

Telephone 01307 818362 or 07981 740 888

Email isobelsword@hotmail.co.uk

From Rev Maggie Hunt

Summer is here! The weather may not be the best but it is certainly warmer and children and young people are enjoying a much needed long summer break to engage in play and enjoying the outdoors. Gardens are in full bloom and our thanks go again to those who keep the church garden and grounds looking lovely for everyone who visits.

Although some things are slowing down or taking a break over the summer months, here at All Souls Letham we are 'gearing up' for a summer of fun and friendship. We are hosting family fun afternoons each Tuesday 1pm till 3pm for kids and their parents or carers to enjoy time with us and we welcome Letham Seniors on Friday afternoons for 'Cosy Cuppies' from 1.30 – 3.30pm with company, conversation, cuppies, cookies and cakes!

We have also opened our new Community Space on West High Street in Forfar and look forward to seeing you there when you are in the town [we're just next to The Meffan]. Our new space is called 'The Anchorage' because it is a place where all are welcome to come, to rest, restore, restock and reconnect for a time. A safe place just to be in the storms of life or when needing a break or a place to relax in town. The Anchorage is the new home of our School Uniform Project, making free school uniform available to all. We have a large collection of school trousers, skirts, pinafores, shirts, blouses etc and a fair number of Letham Primary sweatshirts too. Uniform is available at any time on request by emailing me on mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk or by popping into the Anchorage to choose new-to-you clothes for yourself. Any donations of 'too small' clothes are very much welcome and can be dropped off at the Anchorage or at Letham Church on a Sunday morning.

At church over the summer, we are exploring the story of David – the shepherd boy who killed Goliath and eventually went on to become king. Come and join us to find out more each Sunday at 10.30am

Rev Maggie

Letham Church

Notices

Normal Services Sundays at 10.30 am

Conducted by Ministry Team Member

Informal Communion first Sunday of the Month

"For anyone who isn't able to get to church for a service of Communion, the church can come to you. Just get in touch, either with Rev Maggie Hunt or any office bearer in Letham church and we'll fix a time that suits you.

The minister will bring all that is required."

Family Fun afternoons

We are looking forward to seeing kids and their parents or carers at our new 'Family Fun' afternoons each Tuesday afternoon from 1pm to 3pm during the school holidays.

Each week there will be a different story, a craft, a game, toys and some colouring activity too as well as juice and a snack for kids and a cuppie for the adults. You can come for the whole time or just pop in for a short while so don't worry if you aren't here at 1pm!

This is geared at primary school aged children but preschoolers and older kids are welcome too.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Next Issue of 'In the PICTure'

Deadline for **September 2024** issue is

Saturday 17th August 2024

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

E-mail: joan_77@btinternet.com

or to Rev Martyn Thomas

14 Kirkgait (01307 818084)

E-mail: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

Letham Primary



Letham Primary held a school community picnic ahead of their annual Sports Day in June. This was a super day and attended by many. Children and their friends and family came together for a picnic lunch and it was lovely to see everyone. Here is a small selection of photos from the day.

Other Photos are available from the school
Mrs D Williamson Depute Head Teacher

This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind...let it be something good.

- Anonymous

Strawberry Tea at Letham Church



Many enjoyed the teas and strawberry scones, pancakes and biscuits on Saturday 22nd June

Thanks to all who helped and to John Crichton for the photos



FEET FIT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Jubilee Court Residents' Committee proposes resuming the keep fit classes for senior citizens, which previously took place in the Residents' Lounge at Jubilee Court. In order to ensure adequate numbers to make the classes worthwhile, it is proposed to welcome all older members of the Letham and District community to join in.

To enable us to assess the level of interest in this project could you please let me know by email or phone that you would be interested in participating in these keep fit classes, which would take place once a week. Or alternatively let me know at the first meeting of the new Letham Seniors Group which will take place at 1.30 pm on Friday 19th July. (See item about Letham Seniors Group else-where in this edition of 'In the PICTURE')

Alexandra MacRae: Phone:- 0753 819310 :
Email:- alexandramacrae1941@gmail.co.uk



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LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

Annual Flower Show

Letham Village Hall On Sunday 11th August
 from 1.30pm to 4pm

Show schedules are still available in the village
 craft shops and the post office

Trophies won last year to be returned on the
 morning of the show at the Hall

Gardening club is to start the 2024-25 season on
 Tuesday 10th September.

Bill Muir 07908339420

"Age is of no importance unless you're a cheese."
 Billie Burke

"Change is not a four letter word... but often your
 reaction to it is!"
 Jeffrey Gitomer

Lowson Memorial Church Food Bank

Letham Church supports this food bank which
 supplies food drops twice a week and supports
 many local groups (Toddlers, Pensioners' Lunch
 Club and local school nursery.) They can also
 respond if someone makes contact needing imme-
 diate help. And there is no need for an official
 referral system to be able to access this support.

Tins and packages etc. are required together with
 donations.

**Please bring your items to Letham Church on
 Sunday mornings**

Thank you. Forfar All Souls @ LETHAM

TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 6

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

A STANE THAT SPEAKS TO US FAE LANG SYNE – PART 2

You will remember from last month's episode,
 that the Dunnichen Stone was relocated to the
 Meffan Institute in Forfar. At this switch over
 point, Sheriff Kermack intervened. Keen that the
 stone be returned to its calf country (even in
 replica form) he got an associate, a worker in
 fibreglass, to create a replica of the Dunnichen
 Stone on his kitchen table.

This artwork took place over several months. I am
 told that the lady of the house was mightily
 relieved when the stone, the replica, the left over
 fiberglass and the buckets of adhesive eventually
 departed and the kitchen table was at last returned
 to its original purpose.

The fiberglass artist lived in a Dundee housing
 scheme.

Robin Millar of East Mains of Dunnichen enthu-
 siastically filled the replica with concrete and
 erected the pretend stone of 683 AD at its present
 site. Today the stone sports a clump of moss on
 one shoulder and occasionally shows evidence of
 a bird strike to add to its authenticity.

How come a Pictish stone should be unearthed
 near Dunnichen? It is said that the Picts won a
 battle at Dunnichen against the Northumbrians on
 20th May 683 AD. The unearthed stone may have
 been carved in memory of that battle.

Today our Dunnichen Stone, the replica, stands
 close to the ancient battlefield. Understanding our
 history helps us understand ourselves. JAMc

'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 @ Letham.

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For information about the Feuars please contact

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LETHAM & DISTRICT



On Tuesday 4th June 2024 Letham & District SWI enjoyed a wonderful 100 year celebration, with afternoon tea at the Lands of Loyal Hotel.

President Mrs. Lynne Slater welcomed members and guests, Angus Federation Vice President Mrs. Alison Beattie and Federation Treasurer Mrs. Maureen Macleod.

A mention was given for the members unable to attend on the day all of whom were very much missed.

During our celebration we were visited by Jeanette Simpson a member of Whalsay Institute Shetland Federation SWI, who happened to be a guest at the hotel. It was lovely to see a fellow member and she kindly gave us a gift to enjoy on our day, which was very much appreciated.

Mrs. Jeannie Mair, our Institute Treasurer gave an informative talk on our past 100 year history, from past presidents to presentations, competitions, winning various trophies and of course having dancing, trips and lots of fun.

On display was a collection of archives and photographs going back to 1924. They were amazing to see, brought back lots of happy memories for some of our members and remain to be a very important part of our heritage today.

Lynne recounted the last 100 years with each passing decade and throughout this time the SWI has remained constant and supportive to the women of Scotland.

Pre 1950 our members in Letham numbered between 70 and 100, although as the years have passed this has slowly declined, and we are keen

to have more women join us. The SWI has continued to move forwards over time, and although skills and knowledge continue to be shared at our meetings, we have also adapted to having various classes, demonstrations and information online.

The SWI continues to connect women locally and nationally, improving the quality of life for many. Our focus is on friendship, sharing, having fun and informally learning whilst still preserving our cultural heritage.

We currently are a small group of women in Letham who would encourage anyone to come along to our meetings, bring a friend and see what we are all about. Everyone is made very welcome.

You do not have to be an amazing baker or crafter, however if you enjoy company and learning new things, support and encouragement is given to anyone having a try.

In our monthly meetings we have a varied selection of entertainment, demonstrations and speakers who cover a wide range of subjects. No two meetings are the same, but each meeting is informative and fun. New ideas are always encouraged and welcomed!

Lynne thanked everyone and presented members and guests with a memento she had crafted herself, commemorating the occasion.

We will have another article "In The Picture" at the end of the summer with more information of our next session, into 2024/25 outlining our schedule and first session meeting on the 3rd September 2024.

Colette McNeill (Press Secretary)

For further Information contact:

Lynne Slater (President)

Tel: 01307818631

lethamswi@gmail.com or

Meg Bundock (Secretary)

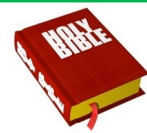
Tel: 01307 818544

margaretbundock@outlook.com



Learning Together

Group Weekly Bible Study



Letham Church Hall
on Mondays at 1:30pm.

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