

# In the PICTURE

October 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)



**Forfar all Souls @ Letham**  
**Announce**  
**Service of Holy Communion**  
**In Letham Church**  
**On Sunday 2nd November**  
**At 10.30 am**  
**Service Conducted by**  
**Rev Maggie Hunt**

**Forfar all Souls @ Letham**  
**Harvest Thanksgiving**  
**In Letham Church**  
**Sunday 20th October**  
**At 10.30 am**  
**Followed by Soup and sweet Lunch**  
**In Church Hall**  
**All very welcome**

**LETHAM FEUARS COMMITTEE**  
Registered Scottish charity: SC003197  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Village Hall, Auldbar Road, Letham  
Fri 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7pm  
PLEASE COME ALONG AND TAKE PART IN THE  
PLANS FOR YOUR VILLAGE  
AN INVITATION IS ALSO EXTENDED TO VOLUN-  
TEERS WHO MAY WISH TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE  
Nomination papers etc in the bookshop soon

## **Letham Seniors'** **Coffee Morning**

The Seniors are holding their Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 23 November. Come and join us for our annual fundraising event for the Christmas Party. Everyone is welcome, and you don't have to be a Senior to enjoy a cup (or two) of tea or coffee and seasonal fayre. The cost for an adult is £3 and for a child 14 or under the cost is £1. Very good value. There will be the usual stalls such as tombola, lucky squares and home baking.

## **Cosy Cuppie In the Church Hall** **on Friday afternoons 1.30pm to 3pm** **Until "Warm Spaces" starts in November**

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](mailto:isobelsword@hotmail.co.uk)

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

## FOOD PROJECT BACKGROUND - AND HOW TO ACCESS SUPPORT FROM IT

### Background:

We thought it would be helpful to provide some background to the Food Project which we now support. It started in 2016 after the Rev Dr Karen Fenwick, (the then Minister of Lawson Memorial Church) began to experience an increase in the number of people knocking on the door of the Manse with pleas for help to get food. A group of volunteers rallied round to form a Food Project Group. Pat McDonald was asked to co-ordinate this and from funds donated by members of the congregation was able to gain the support of local food suppliers.

In 2020 Covid-19 struck and everywhere was in lockdown but the Food Project group continued to support those in need, and on a much larger scale as the list of those requiring support grew – at that time over 50 households (approximately 120 people).

God was at work and the Church had huge support from Greggs, Strathmore Foods, Saddlers the Bakers, Aldi, Tesco, ASDA and the Angus Upcycling Project, with St. Margaret's and East and Old Churches all handing in bags of food. All of the above have continued to support this work.

This Food Project would not have been a success without a willing band of helpers. They collect food nightly on a rota basis from the food stores and deliver twice weekly in all kinds of weather. It is a Food Project not a Foodbank as food parcels are delivered - the families don't collect from the church. Monetary donations continue to be received from various individuals and organisations and these enable the Project to prop up or supply the store with food bags, labels etc.

### How to access support:

The contact email for immediate support is [pat@strathdeveron.co.uk](mailto:pat@strathdeveron.co.uk) or [lowsonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lowsonchurch@gmail.com)

If anyone from Letham makes contact, food parcels can be made up and someone from Letham will collect the bags and deliver the food to the families. We can discuss with individuals how this can be done. If it is a one off delivery there will be tea, coffee, milk, cereal or porridge, tins of soup, peas, fresh vegetables, fruit, pasta bake, Bolognese Sauce, beans & sausages, beans, rice, spaghetti, bread, rolls, frozen meals, eg. chicken pieces, fish fingers and ready-made meals when these are available. It depends what is in the freezers. If families require more than one delivery, arrangements can be discussed for this. The items mentioned above are what is provided weekly. Non perishable goods are better so UHT milk, cereal, tins of soup, fruit, bolognese sauce, beans etc are especially welcomed from contributors such as the members of Letham Church.

The aim of this initiative has always been to support where possible by giving a hand up rather than a handout in the hope that this will see individuals and families through difficult and tough times while they manage their budgets, priorities and circumstances through change. PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS IN ANY WAY YOU CAN.

## The Pupil Lead Group at Letham Primary School have Chosen their new group name and Logo for session 2024/25

### “The Dependables”

Eva Martin in Primary 6 was the winning design— all other designs can be found on 'X' (formerly twitter) @ Letham PS



### *‘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.

### **Next Issue of ‘In the PICTURE’**

Deadline for November 2024 issue is

**Saturday 19th October 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)

## THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR



It's not too early to start preparing for Christmas!

This year again we are going to order Real Advent Calendars. These are the UK's only Fairtrade advent calendars which come with a 24 page Christmas activity story book and also help support charitable causes. The calendars and book are a good way to share the Christmas story with children and at the same time support Fairtrade.

They are not available in supermarkets.

Price per calendar - £5.00.

If you wish to order a calendar, please contact Maureen Buwert 07767084887

**LAST DATE FOR ORDERING-  
SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER**

## Fair Trade Breakfast



*Photo by Bruce Mair*

Taken at Fair Trade Breakfast on Sunday 15th September. Many Fair Trade items and literature were on hand

Breakfast was followed by Service conducted by Rev Maggie Hunt

## From Rev Maggie Hunt

Here at All Souls Letham we have spent 6 weeks thinking about our relationship and responsibility for our planet and all of life on earth. As we move towards Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 20th October we begin to turn our minds to the things WE need to let go of, like leaves on a tree. Things like self doubt, jealousy and pride. We celebrate Harvest with a community soup and sweet lunch in the church hall on Sunday 20th to which everyone in the village and on the farms around us, are invited.

We look towards a new season together with lots going on...here in the village and at All Souls Lowson, and at The Anchorage on West High Street Forfar. New groups, activities and opportunities to get together and get to know each other over a cuppie or some soup or a board game and a craft session.

Look out for more details and posters around town as the month progresses.

## IN THE PICTURE" ANNUAL APPEAL

Every year at this time we offer an opportunity for members of the Church and the wider community to contribute to the printing costs of "In the PICTURE". The cost of this is currently £206.28 for every edition of the magazine.

Those who chose to advertise with us provide a welcome assistance with printing costs, and we particularly appreciate the contributions and support of our 16 current sponsors.

We are also indebted to our distributors who generously give of their time to deliver the (almost) 1,000 copies ten times a year, free of charge to every household in Letham and district.

To make your contribution to the printing costs of "In the PICTURE", please use the envelope which you will find inside this issue of the magazine. If you pay tax, you have an opportunity to allow the Church (now Forfar All Souls) to benefit further from your contribution through the Gift Aid scheme.

Envelopes can be returned at Church, or placed in the special box in the Key Store shop.

Thank you in anticipation for your generosity – as always.

**PUBLICITY GROUP**

## Phyllis & Dennis Towns



Sadly, we lost two of Letham's well-known residents this year. They moved to Letham 36 years ago and immediately got involved in the local community and village events.

**Phyllis's** contribution to the local community is incalculable.

She was part of Letham Pensioners for 30 years, and for more than 20 years she was their president, a role she thoroughly enjoyed, although she never ever saw herself as a pensioner. She particularly loved organising the bus trips, Christmas party and the Johny A Thing to raise funds each year.

She was part of a group who ran the lunch club, and every week she would be at Jubilee Court helping to serve meals until this well loved and social event unfortunately ended. The Letham Seniors as The Pensioners are now known have started a social event every Friday afternoon in the church hall, where anyone can come for a cup of tea or coffee and chat, the sort of event which Phyllis would have loved.

Phyllis was also on the hall committee for as long as anyone can remember and helped informally at the Basement when they were short of volunteers and for all her endeavours was a worthy winner of the Cosgrove Award.

**Dennis** was part of the Feuars' Committee and would enjoy dressing up as Santa at village Christmas events, and as George Dempster - the village founding father at local events. When he was physically able, he helped to put up the village square Christmas lights and as a mark of respect following his death, the village flag was flown at half-mast in the square. He was on the Community Council for over 20 years, including a stint as chairman. Perhaps his biggest achievement for the village was being part of the group who were instrumental in organising the set up of the health hub at Jubilee Court. He also went round raising money for the first defibrillators in Letham, and who can remember him getting his beard half shaved off for this.

Both Phyllis and Dennis were a big part of Letham and will be sadly missed by not just their family and friends but by the Village who they both served for so many years and called home.

*Isobel Sword*

"Faith is to believe what you do not yet see, the reward for this faith is to see what you believe." *Augustine*

## Letham Litter Pickers



*Photo by Midge Allan*

Letham Happy Wanderers met on 29<sup>th</sup> August and collected rubbish, mainly from central Letham streets and the Park Area. This was followed by tea and pancakes in the Church Hall. The Letham walkers liaise with the Kingsmuir Village Hall Committee, sharing their equipment, which is partly funded by Sustrans. Other local groups have similar litter picks throughout the year, ensuring our village is clean and tidy.

## LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

We opened the winter season with a good attendance on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of September with talk from Pippa Clegg on the challenges of gardening in Kilry and Glen Isla.

Our next evening is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October when Tracey Williams will give a talk on her recent visit to Dewstow sunken gardens and grottos in Monmouthshire. If you look them up on the web this will be an interesting evening, both historically and the gardens.

Come and join us and bring a friend.

Bill Muir

07908339420

## Letham Seniors' Christmas Party

This is advance notice to all members who have paid their subscriptions by 30<sup>th</sup> September, that the visitor for your area will be coming round late October/early November to see if you would like to come to the Christmas Party on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

There will be a meal with a glass of wine and of course entertainment. We have not had a price from our caterer yet, so I can't tell you the price, but I am sure that it will not be much more than 2023.



## All Souls Church Guild



**9 October Sure Foundations Theme Afternoon**  
**Rev Maggie Hunt at LETHAM Church**

**23 October Gardiner Steel Band**

The Guild meetings are on **Wednesday afternoons at 2 pm** fortnightly in the Lawson Church Hall and usually finish between 3.30 and 4 pm unless otherwise intimated.

We welcome old and new members or if you just want to come along to hear more about any of our programme topics you are very welcome join us. The Guild Membership is £17.00 for the year or FREE for the first year for anyone who has never been a Church of Scotland Guild Member.

**Please bring your own mug for a cup of tea or coffee.** A wrapped biscuit is provided.

If you need more info or have any queries please contact Linda Stewart 01307 469255 or email [lin-das28@btinternet.com](mailto:lin-das28@btinternet.com)

*Linda Stewart All Souls Church Guild Contact*

*If you need a lift to the guild please contact Norma Craigon at 818275*

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**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 9:30 to 1:30pm**

Special holiday rate of £15 per child for the entire course, to cover certificate and other course costs However if the cost is prohibitive or more than one child in the family taking part, please advise when booking, as discounts may apply.)

Places are limited: ideally book a.s.a.p.

Information and registration forms from

*Jo Revie at [Enquiries@bezalel-education.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@bezalel-education.co.uk)*  
 or message 07586569823 .

Should you be unable to attend, but Arts Award are of interest please get in touch.

This course is certified by Trinity College, London and more information on the award scheme can be found at: [www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk)

## TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 8

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

**A DOLMEN IN IRELAND ERECTED  
 TO COMMEMORATE MONASTERBOICE  
 CONNECTIONS WITH LETHAM. (Part 1)**

What is a Dolmen, you may well ask?

An Irishman once described a Dolmen as a VERY large picnic table. There are several Dolmens to be found all over Ireland. They were erected hundreds of years ago - no one knows why. Like Scotland's cup and ring stones, (our Girdle Stane for example), their purpose and reason for being, is unknown. But we do know they are over 3,500 years old.... older than the pyramids.

How can Letham lay claim to such an ancient thing in Ireland?

As the year 2000 loomed into view, all communities were urged to mark the beginning of this special century. Here in Letham we twinned with Monasterboice in Ireland. After all we had connection with Monasterboice from the year 400 AD.

How to commemorate this new century? Our twins in Ireland found a set of stones in a farmer's field. They may have been a collapsed Dolmen from yesteryear. They decided to re-instate these stones into a 'modern' Dolmen.

Here we reciprocated by creating in steel, a replica of what is known as the Kirkbuddo Stane which is a Pictish Christian Cross. This replica was made by a local craftsman, the late Jake McBride, and galvanised in Forfar. This cross was erected at Crosston Farm. It was erected with a time capsule buried below it. Amongst many other artefacts the capsule contains the names of all the Letham school pupils of the year 2000.

The cross still stands at Crosston Farm.

*(To be concluded in the next edition of In the PICTURE.)*

JAMcG

Scottish Charity No. SC028492



Anyone interested in saving Letham drama group?

Please can we ask you to attend a get together on Tuesday 15th October at 7:30pm, Letham Village Hall. This is an opportunity to discuss rebuilding the group for the future.

Unfortunately, lack of interest will see the current drama group cease to operate.



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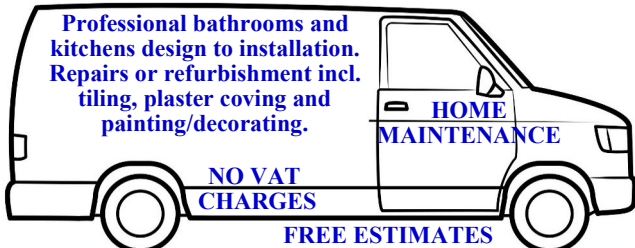
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## LETHAM &amp; DISTRICT



President Lynne Slater welcomed back members to our first meeting of the new session and it was wonderful to have several visitors join us and our new member Dorothy Goss.

We had an excellent start to the evening with our demonstrator Mr Mike Satchell along with his wife Ellen.

Mike is a local glass design artist, living in Angus and he kindly agreed to come and showcase some of his work. Mike has spent the last 20 or so years teaching himself and perfecting his art. He was greatly inspired by Rennie Mackintosh, having discovered his work later in his life and is also fortunate to have some of his own designs on display in Hill House, Helensburgh. In his words, He didn't need anything else.

The Craft Shop in Letham was instrumental in helping Mike source supplies for his craft when he was just starting out.

During the evening we all watched as Mike decorated a glass panel, using lead and coloured inlay whilst answering numerous questions, taking us through his design journey whilst making it all look easy.

Mike designs mirrors, vases, candle holders and glass wear and regularly attends craft fairs throughout Angus.

On behalf of all the members and visitors, I can say we all had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Mike kindly judged this month's competitions.

Garden flower of the month. 1st Isabel McClung.

2 Empire Biscuits. 1st Dorothy Goss.

Favourite glass item. 1st Frances Webster.

*Colette McNeill (Press Secretary)*

## TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 7

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

STANES FROM THE DEMOLISHED KIRKDEN  
ADORN THE FRONTAGES OF HOUSES  
ON EAST DEN BRAE.

In the year 1952, Kirkden kirk was demolished.

The houses on the right hand side (going downhill) on East Den Brae were about to be built, on sloping land. This land was secured by building substantial frontages with the stone from the duntakings from the recently demolished kirk at Kirkden.

So, from looking down on our devout forebears at their solemn Sabbath services, weddings and funerals for 100 years or more, (does anyone know when the kirk was built?) the purpose of these old stones was changed to supporting the many family homes on East Den Brae.

A task these stones have fulfilled admirably to this day, 72 years later. We salute them.

Demolition of the kirk was not a complete razed to the ground event. A part of the wall remains and that is topped by the kirk bell. Colourful aubrietias sprout from the walls and flower gloriously in the springtime, and this all sits alongside the ancient graveyard where the gravestones make very interesting reading of times gone past

The old kirk is worthy of inspection - it is open at no charge. The walk can begin on East Den Brae to see the great stonework in front of the houses, go downhill into the Den and cross the Vinney. You can get to Kirkden via the entrance road at the bottom of Grant Roy's brae.

After visiting the kirk you can walk along the path in a westerly direction, cross the Vinney and go up the brae to join Braehead road and Gardyne Street by the school.

JAMcG

## The Bible in 50 words

God made. Adam bit. Noah arked. Abraham split. Joseph ruled. Jacob fooled. Bush talked. Moses balked. Pharaoh plagued. People walked. Sea divided. Tablets guided. Promise landed. Saul freaked. David peaked. Prophets warned.

Jesus born. God walked. Love talked. Anger crucified. Hope died. Love rose. Spirit flamed. Word spread. God remained. *Anon*



## Learning Together



## Group Weekly Bible Study

Letham Church Hall  
on Mondays at 1:30pm.

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Tea, coffee and snacks provided.

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## Letham Feuars' Committee

Registered Scottish Charity: SC003197

Supporting *'In the PICTure'*

Remember **LETHAM BOOK SHOP**

Open Tuesday to Saturday  
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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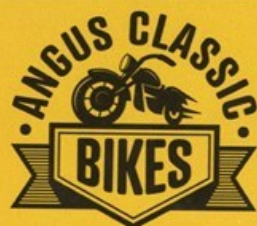
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