

# In the PICTURE

February 2025

Send news to: revmartythomas@outlook.com

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



## FAIRTRADE FACTS



The Fairtrade Foundation works hard to help make sure that farmers and other workers in many Countries throughout the world receive fair payment for the work which they do and the products which they produce.

Here is a snapshot of some of what they have to celebrate.

- \* Farmers and workers globally earned an estimated **£1.7 billion in Fairtrade Premium payments** since 1994, enabling vital investments in their communities.
- \* Over **100 MPs signed our pledge** to be the change and champion fairer trade.
- \* Almost **twice the number of people heard about Fairtrade Fortnight** in 2024 compared to the previous three years and we saw a big boost in Fairtrade sales.
- \* The UK came together during **Fairtrade Fortnight** to support the **5,000+ Fairtrade products** available.
- \* Hundreds of **Fairtrade groups and schools** have shown their passion for Fairtrade.
- \* Around **400 UK businesses** partnered with us to amplify Fairtrade's message through inspiring marketing campaigns and local projects.

We can all help to make sure that 2025 is an even more successful year for Fairtrade by asking in shops for Fairtrade products and buying goods which display the little Fairtrade logo.

*Maureen Buwert*



**Forfar All Souls @ Letham  
Church Services  
Sundays at 10.30a.m.**

## WARM SPACES - LETHAM

Letham Church will open the Church Hall every Friday during the winter to provide a Warm Space for all. Come and enjoy refreshments and company in a relaxed atmosphere.



Broth 'n' blether

**Tea, coffee and  
home-made  
soups**



Coffee and tea-  
conversation

**Crafts, games, conversation**

**Everyone welcome, no matter what age.**

**Letham Church Hall: Fridays 12noon-2pm**



## Learning Together



Weekly Group 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.**

### Letham & District Community Council The History of Letham Paths

Letham is blessed with a network of paths in and around the village, many of these would have been lost had it not been for Jim Cosgrove starting to cut them and ensure that they are accessible to all of us. He was an active member of the Scotways Charity from its early inception. Letham & District Community Council has been a member of Scotways since that time.

More recently all Local Authorities were required to draw up plans of CORE Paths (but not required to maintain them!) Letham has a CORE Path Plan, but some paths were missed off this plan. A Core Paths plan is not required to be the only source of information about rights of way.

Letham & District is determined to ensure ALL our paths & rights of way are accessible for all of us and are mapped and publicised appropriately with the help of our Local Authority, Scotways and The Ramblers of Scotland.

Since the time of Jim Cosgrove, Letham paths have been kept accessible through the help of volunteers. Equipment has been bought for them to use, mainly through donations given by individuals and through grants obtained by Letham & District Community Council. The original ride on mower was bought with a grant obtained by Letham & District Community Council.

Letham & District Community Council hold a separate bank account solely to hold donations for Letham Paths. Currently the volunteers are involved with installing some appropriate drainage where paths have become waterlogged in recent years. This work will use a considerable amount of funds just for materials. Without volunteers to carry out the work the funds we hold presently would not cover the cost of the work.

**It should be noted that Letham & District Community Council ensure that the equipment used by our volunteers is insured appropriately and the volunteers discuss and arrange maintenance of the paths with Letham & District Community Council.**

***The maintenance of Letham Greens is also, mainly carried out by the Paths Volunteers, using the same equipment, BUT agreed with the members of Letham Feuars Committee. (Letham Feuars' Committee hold Title to the Greens).***

More recently, when the original ride on mower reached the end of its useful life, we were very fortunate to have Letham Feuars' Committee funding a replacement mower. Sadly, funding for **replacement** equipment is not readily available, but thankfully Letham has the Feuars' Committee willing to work in partnership with The Community Council for the benefit of everyone. Donations have been received from the committee for many years, as this fulfils one of the charity aims of Letham Feuars' Committee, through helping to look after the environment.

Letham & District Community Council is happy to receive donations for Letham paths and will ensure that our paths can remain accessible for all of us to use appropriately.  
*Isobel Sword*

### Letham and District Community Council

#### Defibrillator update

The Letham and District Community Council committee can now provide an update on our on-going defibrillator fundraising efforts. In 2024 we set out to raise money to increase defibrillator numbers and accessibility for public use in Letham and surrounding areas. We are delighted to announce that we have been able to purchase the defibrillators and outside cabinets we need to achieve this and work is underway to organize fitting of these life saving devices which will be accessible 24hours per day for everyone to use when needed.

The total amount raised from Just Giving Fund-raiser, Keystore cash collection and donations directly to LDCC committee members was a staggering £1497.21 with a further £500 donation from The Letham Keystore and £200 donation from the Letham Santa sleigh collection.

We would like to thank everyone who donated with a special thanks to Rags and Curtis at The Letham Keystore for supporting us by collecting on our behalf and their very generous donation. We could not have achieved this without all of your generosity! It is very much appreciated.

We look forward to providing you with an update when the work is completed and the committee plan to organize further CPR training session if anyone is interested in learning a life saving skill. Our fundraising efforts will continue to ensure this life saving equipment is maintained and ready for use when needed. LDCC

### DEFIBRILLATOR



A defibrillator has now been placed within the grounds of Letham Bowling Club, for use by the community. Go through the gate, turn right then follow the instructions on the cabinet.

Following the unexpected death of Mr. Brian Milne his family requested that donations following his funeral go towards the purchase of a defibrillator. This raised a considerable sum and was supplemented by Mr. Milne's family without the need for further fundraising.

## **Hospitality Report - January 2025**

Here we are at the start of a new year and it is a good time to look back on our achievements in 2024. It has been a very busy year since the formation of Forfar All Souls way back in March.

Hospitality in the 3 worship centres, Aberlemno, Lowson and Letham, is planned and organised by the All Souls Hospitality Team. This team is ably assisted by a willing group who help prepare and serve at each of the events. While people tend to be based in the place they worship most frequently we can be called on to help out in other worship centres if needed. This is helping to build friendships within the All Souls church family. I'd like to highlight a few of the events, mainly those held in Letham, because there are too many to mention them all. All events are advertised in In the Picture and the church What's On sheet and are open to all. You will be made very welcome.

Our Warm Spaces event, providing soup and cakes on a Friday, continued through January until the end of March. We welcomed a regular group each week and we started again at the beginning of November. Thanks go to the Keptie Bakery and the Keystore for their donations of bread, cakes and milk each week.

Our first joint hospitality event of 2024 was the service of union in the Lowson on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The team organised a lovely supper after the service and many commented on how nice it was to be able to meet people from the other worship centres in our union.

We organised a Strawberry afternoon tea here in Letham on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. This was well attended, with many coming from Forfar, and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

Our next event was the FairTrade breakfast here in the church on 15<sup>th</sup> September. This was an opportunity to highlight the work of FairTrade and enjoy a lovely breakfast while taking part in the service.

This was followed by our harvest lunch, after the service on 20<sup>th</sup> October, when we enjoyed a selection of lovely soups and puddings.

Our Christmas event was Cakes and Carols here on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone who attended enjoyed the lovely service led by Maggie, the singing and the cakes. To round off the year we served mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread after services on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and Christmas Eve.

I must say a huge thank you to the dedicated team here in Letham who are always willing to donate and help with teas every week after the service and the various social events. Social events are a very important part of worship and they would not happen without the willing helpers. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Having a large team of helpers ensures the same people are not called on for every event and we would always welcome extra helpers. If you would like to volunteer to help with the setting up, preparation and serving at the occasional event please ask anyone at church for further information. You will be made very welcome.

*Norma Craigon*

## **From Rev Maggie Hunt**

**Happy New Year!** - yes I know it is February but I haven't 'seen' you since December so it only seems polite to wish you the best for 2025.

I don't know about you but I am already looking forward to the lighter evenings and warmer/drier days of spring. I am desperately seeking out signs of the coming season in green shoots, buds on trees and the tiny flowers of snowdrops and aconites pushing through the frosty earth.

In the darkness of winter it can feel very cold and harsh and so we all need to keep an eye on our neighbours and offer not only practical help but friendship and company where needed, to ensure everyone feels included and supported. I look forward to seeing some of you for a cuppie and a chat on Sunday mornings or on visits to your homes – please just ask if you'd like me to pop in some time.

### **Sunday worship.**

We are looking at Jesus through new eyes/ with a different perspective each week in February. Wondering and Questioning together as we explore the bible stories of Jesus' teachings.

### **Learning Together.**

Our Bible study group meets on Monday afternoons in the church hall and everyone is welcome from all churches and denominations.

### **Housegroup.**

We are starting a new Housegroup on a Friday morning for those who would like to deepen their faith and find new ways to reach out in faith. For more details contact Rev Klaus Buwert.

### **Warm Spaces.**

Our group meets each Friday lunchtime for Soup, bread and cakes. All are welcome to come along for some good food and company.

### **Celebrate Recovery**

There is a new group starting in the church hall on Friday evenings from the end of January for anyone with addiction issues who would like some support.

See page 4 for more information

## Food Project

The usual tinned and packeted goods are required for the Food Bank also toiletries. Letham Happy Wanderers donated large boxes of goods—most welcome at Christmas. Please bring your items to Letham Church on Sunday mornings .

**A big thank you for all donations. If anyone in Letham requires immediate support from the Food Project please contact [pat@strathdeveron.co.uk](mailto:pat@strathdeveron.co.uk) or [lowsonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lowsonchurch@gmail.com)**

## LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

On Tuesday 21st January we held our annual quiz night, with Colin Ainsworth as our regular quiz master.

This was a night of good laughs, with probably more banter than answers. Many thanks to Colin.

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 in the Bowling Club, we welcome Lynda Marshall from The Hand PICT Showcase Gallery in Letham, Lynda will be demonstrating the botanical printing process for scarves using natural materials.

For all interested in plants and craft skills this promises to be an interesting evening.

Come along and bring a friend  
Bill Muir 079083392

## '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 **March 2025** issue is

**Saturday 15th February 2025**

Material to be sent to Rev Martyn Thomas  
14 Kirkgait (01307 818084)

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

And to Jeannie Mair

2 Idvies View (01307 818600)

E-Mail: [j.mair382@btinternet.com](mailto:j.mair382@btinternet.com)

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

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



Three of the Window Dressings, one the traditional crib scene, at the Letham Church Christmas Services. Displays were by members of the Congregation and organised by Joan Smith

## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

My name is Graeme McIntosh and I am from Dundee, now living in Letham. I am starting a "Celebrate Recovery" meeting at the Letham Church on Friday nights from 7pm - 9pm.

Celebrate recovery is for all those that have habits, hurts and hangups. It's a programme aimed at helping anyone that wants it, to heal. It is a faith based Christian programme looking at principles we find in Scripture tackling identity issues, mental health issues, substance abuse etc etc.

I am passionate about seeing people heal and be set free. I myself was an addict from the age of 13 -31 and have been clean now for 11 years. I lead a very different life now, one I couldn't have imagined before. But it's possible and I'd like to help others experience the same life giving freedom. If you are interested or know anyone that could benefit please do contact me. I know it can take a huge effort to make the first step but one phone call can make a difference. *Graeme Mcintosh 07752735288*

## Pudsey Day

### Letham Primary School

Raised a whopping £187.30 for  
BBC's Children in Need 2024!

Thank you everyone for donating!



Pictures for each class are available to view  
on our school "X" account @Letham PS  
*Mrs D Williamson Deputy Head Teacher*

If a math teacher had four apples in one hand and  
five apples in the other hand, what would they  
have altogether? *Really big hands!*

## TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 11

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

A THREE YEAR OLD BAIRN

A SHELTYE – AND A MOUNTIN' STANE

Recently, at Warm Spaces, which if you dinnae ken about this, is a fine opportunity ilka Friday in the Kirk Hall from 12 noon until around 2 p.m. for enjoying tasty home-made soups followed by a variety of sticky buns and cakes and coffee or tea. The bread and the buns are provided by the Keptie Bakery (for free); the coffee and the tea are laid on by the Kirk, and the milk is donated by Keystore. The delicious soups are contributed (for free) by the Kirk's best soup makers. This weekly get-together also offers a chance for a good catch up with neighbours and freens. During one of these delightful Warm Spaces events, I came across news of a stone in the village that I had not heard before.

An indulgent father bought his three year old daughter a wee Shetland pony. It proved to be, even though it was a Shetland, too high for the bairn to mount. He installed at the front door a mounting stone for the wee lassie to clamber on tae, afore getting on the wee cuddie's back. A tethering link was attached to the wall for the halter. I was delighted to hear that the stone established at least 60 years ago is still at the front door of the house the wee lass was born into, and so is the tethering link.

This tale comes directly from a senior citizen of the village. The location of this particular stane is not disclosed, so if there are reports of people peering closely at front doors, they will know this curiosity comes from a stone story in ITP.

May I take this opportunity yet again to praise the delights of Warm Spaces on a Friday. You are invited to join us!  
JAMcG

"

"

**WHILE IT IS FEBRUARY, ONE  
CAN TASTE THE FULL JOYS OF  
ANTICIPATION. SPRING STANDS  
AT THE GATE WITH HER FINGER  
ON THE LATCH.**

– PATIENCE STRONG



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## KeyStore Letham



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## Naturelle

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Echinaforce 50mls	£12.99
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Nature's Aid	
Vit. C 1,000 mg	£9.99
Vit C Chewable	£9.99
Immune Support 90 tabs	£25.99

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## LETHAM &amp; DISTRICT



After a very unseasonably warm Christmas, January arrived with an icy blast and unfortunately our first meeting was cancelled, however February is fast approaching, and our next meeting will be held on 4th February 2025 at 7.15pm in Letham Bowling club.

This will be a games night along with a raffle and our January competition entries will be judged along with February's.

February being a short month I include our March events for information.

We will be holding a quiz night on Tuesday 4th March at 7.15pm in the Letham Bowling club. Other Angus Institute members have been invited to join us, and local residents /visitors will be very welcome. The cost per team of 4 is £12.00 or £3.00 per person.

Light refreshments will be provided and there will be a raffle on the night and prizes for the winning team.

Our quiz night last year was a great success, so we hope everyone will come along and have a fun evening.

Our competitions will also be held.

3 Peppermint slices

Photograph- In The Gloaming (8"x10" mounted)

Garden flower of the month.

On Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd March 2025, Angus Federation SWI Show will take place in the Reid Hall in Forfar, for which there is a small admission charge.

The Show gives all the SWI members throughout Angus the chance to display their skills in sewing/crafting/art/ baking/flower growing and arranging and all members of the public are welcome. The exhibits on display last year were outstanding and a great deal of preparation goes into making the show a success.

There will be posters and flyers put up around the village in the coming weeks showing more information.

I look forward to seeing everyone in February.

*Colette McNeill (Press secretary)*

### Thought for February

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3



## All Souls Church Guild



### Happy New Year

The Guild members are having their usual extended Christmas break until 26<sup>th</sup> February in the hope that the worst of the wintry weather will be avoided

Theme for 2025 is—**Sure Foundations**

Dates of Meetings are:-

26<sup>th</sup> February: **"Friends of Toowa, Uganda"**

Speaker: Anne-Marie Pitt.

7<sup>th</sup> March (Friday): **"World Day of Prayer"**

Venue and time to be confirmed

12<sup>th</sup> March: **"Faberger Eggs"**

Speaker: Mary Ballantine

15<sup>th</sup> March (Saturday) **"Coffee Morning"**

10.00am to 11.30am - Usual Stalls and Raffle

Tickets £3.50 payable at door in aid of Guild

Funds - Venue: Lawson Church Hall

26<sup>th</sup> March: **110<sup>th</sup> A G M** - Rev Dr Karen Fenwick

9<sup>th</sup> April: **Author Chris Longmuir**

23rd April: **Closing Social - Spectrum Choir**

We welcome you to come along to any of our meetings to hear more about any of our programme items. **Please bring your own cup or mug**, a wrapped biscuit is provided.

All Meetings are on Wednesday afternoons at 2.00pm in Lawson Church Hall, finishing between 3.30 and 4.00 pm unless stated otherwise.

If you need more information or have any queries please contact Linda Stewart at 01307 469255 or email [lindas28@btinternet.com](mailto:lindas28@btinternet.com)

*If you need a lift to the Guild please contact Norma at 01307818275*

## Men's Fellowship Group

In 'Lawson Church' Buildings

1 Jamieson Street, Forfar

on the 3rd Monday of the month

@ 10.30 am (10.15am for Tea/Coffee)

17th February: "Service on HMRY Britannia"

Speaker: **Angus Spence**

17th March "Flodden Fields"

Speaker:- **Donald Innes**

21st April "NE Scotland Herring Industry"

Speaker: **Ian Grimmer**

*More info from David Adam: 07889573885*

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## Letham Feuars' Committee

Registered Scottish Charity: SC003197

Supporting *'In the PICTURE'*

Remember **LETHAM BOOK SHOP**

Open Mondays to Saturdays  
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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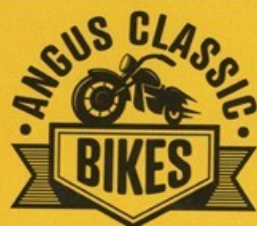
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
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