

# *In the PICTURE*

May 2025

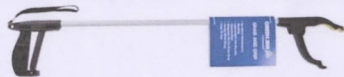
Send news to: [revmartynthomas@outlook.com](mailto:revmartynthomas@outlook.com)

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

## LETHAM FEUARS' COMMITTEE



### *Litter Pick*



*10:00am*

*Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025*

*Meet outside the  
FEUARS HALL*



*Refreshments Provided*

## Letham Gardening Club Plant Sale and Coffee Morning



In Village Hall  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 10 am to Noon  
Plant donations and purchasers  
All Welcome

## COSY CUPPA



In Letham Church  
Hall



Every Friday 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

Come for a free cuppa, homemade cake & chat

All ages very welcome

It is hoped that we will be joined by a variety of  
people who will bring helpful information.

Our first confirmed visitor on 30th May will be

PC Jo Greig, Community Police Officer

## Letham & District Community Council

Nominations for the Cosgrove Award  
are invited.

Nomination forms will be available in The Book  
Shop, 15, The Square, Letham.

Please put completed nominations in the letter-  
box there, by June 18<sup>th</sup>, addressed to Letham &  
District Community Council.

### Letham Paths

A reminder that the Community Council holds  
an account to support any maintenance work on  
the paths which is carried out by volunteers.  
On-going costs are involved, and donations are  
always needed and appreciated.

## **Forfar All Souls @ Letham**

### **Property Report April 2025**

It has now been a year since Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden became Forfar All Souls @ Letham. It has been a year of organising the committees and getting to grips with how to best serve this new parish of Forfar All Souls. Unfortunately a convenor for the property committee has still not been found so the Management Groups of the 3 churches and the Anchorage are still, at this time, looking after their own properties. This makes it difficult sometimes to see the way forward for getting some works done but we are deeply committed to maintaining these spaces so they can continue to serve as places of worship, fellowship, and community. We also recognise the importance of keeping everyone informed about the state of our church, hall and manse. This report outlines the current conditions, maintenance efforts, and any upcoming projects for all three buildings. But first, the Presbytery Annual Building Records Inspection was held last month and I'm pleased to report that ours passed.

#### Church Building and Hall Update

In July last year we had a visit from the Presbytery Buildings Officer, Jamie MacNamara. Jamie has a wealth of experience in the building industry and is a conservation surveyor and heritage specialist. He gave the buildings a thorough going over and although we still await a written report from him, he found our buildings to be in very good condition with only some work to be done on the exterior walls of the church and the louvered window below the church bell. Recently, we had to replace the handle on the church door. The interiors of the church and hall are in good shape and all annual checks to fire alarms, fire extinguishers and electrical appliances have been completed with only a replacement fire alarm in the kitchen needed. A new TV screen was installed in the rear of the sanctuary to assist the minister and visiting preachers. Outside the gardens have been ably looked after by Bruce. We are very grateful for the time he has spent on them so that we can enjoy the lovely colours of the seasonal flowers planted.

#### Manse Update

In October the manse became vacant. We asked Jamie MacNamara to take a look and advise us of anything that needed doing. As it is now policy that, if a manse is not needed for a minister, it should be sold we have spent the months since then getting it ready for sale. The gutters have all been cleared out and the decorators have been in to freshen up the hallway, 3 bedrooms and the bathroom ceiling. Volunteers came in to give it a clean after that work was completed. The garden and paths have been cleared of weeds and moss, the grass cut, the railing at the front door painted and the door cleaned, all also done by volunteers. Many thanks go to those willing souls.

It is now up to the General Trustees to put the property up for sale and as the building is now empty, for insurance purposes, all utilities have had to be turned off, we hope it will not be long before this happens.

### Upcoming Projects and Financial Considerations

An application was put to the session for the completion of Phase 3 of the church plans. It was agreed that this could go forward and the finance committee have taken on the task of finding funding for this. These plans will see the provision of ramps to the fire exits at the back of the hall and church, landscaping to provide accessible parking and to solve the drainage problem at the gate which floods whenever there is heavy rain.

#### Conclusion

The church, hall and the manse are in good condition overall, and we are thankful for the continued support and care from our congregation. The next few months will be focused on maintaining the buildings and addressing minor repairs. We are confident these efforts will ensure the longevity of our spaces for years to come.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions. We welcome your input and thank you for your ongoing commitment to our church community.

God bless, June Scott Fabric convenor.

## **Letham Seniors**

(formerly Letham Pensioners)

**Letham Pensioners Membership Subscription and AGM**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Letham Village Hall**  
Collection of subscriptions 2pm - 3.30pm

#### *Reminder*

It was agreed at last year's AGM that the membership fee would be increased to £5 for the year. Any current member unable to come on that day will receive a home visit. Details of this year's trip will be available on the day.

**AGM 3.30pm - 4.30pm**



## **Labours of Love**

This is the name of an art exhibition currently displayed at the Meffan Institute in Forfar by well known Letham artists Lawrie and Meg Harris.

The husband and wife both graduated from Gray's School of Art, with different art styles, and continue to enjoy their own projects 60 odd years later.

The exhibition at 20 West High Street Forfar is open until 30/06/2025

and the opening hours are 10.30 -1600 ( closed Tuesdays), admission is free.



## Letham All Souls Church Easter Sunday



Good Friday Empty Cross and Easter Cross



Some Ladies with Easter Bonnets



Esme one of the group collecting hidden Easter Eggs in the Church grounds

All pictures taken by Bruce Mair

Easter Service was led by Rev Maggie Hunt

**Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!**

## From Magie Hunt

Hi! Spring is here and there are signs of a lovely summer to follow. This May there is lots to see and do in and around Letham so I hope to catch up with you when I am in the village.

On 4<sup>th</sup> May we have a special church service with Holy Communion for everyone and on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May there is a VE day commemoration at Forfar Cross. There will be a chance to remember VE day as part of our service at All Souls Letham church at 10.30am on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Our next big celebration is Pentecost – the birthday of the church – on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am. Come along and join the party as we get together to share in songs, stories and some fun.

### Summer craft and game times

Last summer we ran weekly kids groups on Tuesday afternoons at the church hall. If you would like something like this again during the summer holidays, please let me know so that I can arrange volunteers and organise crafts, games etc.

Rev Maggie [mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk]



Irene McGugan was presented with a long term certificate as an elder by Rev Maggie Hunt

## Forfar all Souls @ Letham

### Announce

### Service of Holy Communion

### In Letham Church

**On Sunday 4th May At 10.30 am**

**Service Conducted by**

**Rev Maggie Hunt**

## At rest - George Alexander Rennie



George Alexander Rennie (known fondly to us all as Geordie) was born on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1948 in Broughty Ferry, Dundee and passed away peacefully at Strathmore Hospice, Forfar on

17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 after a short illness. Geordie's funeral was held at Parkgrove crematorium on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at which there was standing room only. A true reflection on how well known and how well thought of our Geordie was. A collection made for local charities at the service raised £1100 and has been distributed within the village to four local groups.

Geordie moved to Letham with his foster mum and her two daughters and grew up in The Square in Letham and then later East Hemming Street. He went to Letham Primary school and left school starting work with D Japp, Slaters. The story goes they travelled around on a motorbike and sidecar (Geordie in the sidecar ladder and all). A remarkable sight, I'm sure. He then worked with other local firms Nicol builders, Adamson builders, Mitchell of Letham, Peebles potato merchants and latterly Lumgair Brothers, Gask Farm where he remained for twenty years up to retiring at sixty.

Geordie was a worker and a real perfectionist, his work had to be right no matter what job he was doing. He was a dab hand at drystone dyking and would often comment that he couldn't get on for people stopping to admire his handiwork and asking if he could do a wee job for them. He was always happy to help anyone out and in his younger days helped with putting up the marquee for the scouts, he never ever missed a date. He helped at the scout dances and has helped numerous friends in their gardens.

Geordie loved a blether and loved to hear everyone's news and keep up to date with what was happening in the village. He especially had time for all bairns and aye had a penny in his pocket for them. He is one of our real Letham 'worthies' and a friend to so many, he will be missed and remembered by us all.

On behalf of David Lumgair

## TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 14

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

A DAUD OF RED SANDSTONE HAS  
ENTERED SCOTTISH HISTORY  
– BUT IS IT A FRAUD? (Part 1)

Edward I, King of England, the so called Hammer of the Scots, in his quest to subjugate Scotland, issued an order to a group of soldiers in London to travel up to Scone, in Scotland, and bring back with them the Stone of Scone which the Scots used to crown their Kings upon. At the same time, he ordered at great expense, a new golden throne with a space underneath the seat for the Scottish Stone of Destiny.

The soldiers duly arrived at Scone Abbey and received a jolly reception from the Abbot. Ushered into the dining hall, they were entertained with a welcoming cup of mead. They were assured that the Stone would be brought to them. After several generous cups of mead, a stone was presented to them. It looked the part – was big and heavy – and had two iron carrying handles.

"That was easy", thought the soldiers, as they set off to take the Stone back to London. On arrival, the soldiers proudly presented the Stone they had received at Scone Abbey. When King Edward I cast his eyes upon it, he turned to the soldiers and red faced with anger, he exploded to them, "You fools! You have got the wrong Stone." The order for the golden throne was cancelled. An aged seat was secured from a school where the Dominie used to sit at school Assembly. A joiner was called in to alter the chair to take the Stone the soldiers had brought from Scone.

After a long line of monarchs had been crowned on this Stone in Westminster Abbey, three Scottish students took the Stone. When they moved it from the chair, it fell into two parts, and in the history of the event, the students were said to have expressed the opinion "They have broken our Stone and have not told us!" The sojourn out of Westminster Abbey came to an end when the Stone was left before the High Alter in Arbroath Abbey.

This is all very well, but where does this Stone enter the lexicon of stones concerning Letham?

(to be continued.....)

JAMcG



## Letham ELC

The children have enjoyed a tea party in our Letham ELC. They have been reading and enjoying the story 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea'. The children took part in setting up and preparing for their tea party. A wonderful time was had by all!



## LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

Our 2024/25 evening sessions ended on April 14th with our AGM and members bulb and house plant competition. The feeling was that it was a very successful season and we now take a break in the evenings until September.

However, we are holding a plant sale with coffee morning in the village hall on Saturday 10th May between 10am and noon, when plant donations and purchasers will be welcome.

The flower beds will be tidied and planted up early May, with our final event of this season being the Flower Show in August. Many thanks to all who volunteer to help.

*Bill Muir* 07908339420

### '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.

## Letham Primary Children Supporting the Month of the Military Child:

National Dandelion Day is particularly fitting for Month of the Military Child, as dandelions symbolise the resilience of military children and their families who often relocate and adapt to new environments.

Children at Letham Primary dressed in yellow on Friday the 4th April to symbolise and recognise our military children and their families.



Here we have P1 and P5 classes photographed.



*Mrs D Williamson Deputy Head Teacher*

### Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for June 2025 issue is

**Saturday 17th May 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)

# Shiells

Solicitors and Estate Agents

House Sales and Purchase      Estate Agency  
Executry Estates      Wills  
Leases      Powers of Attorney  
Commercial Law

31a St David Street Brechin DD9 6EG

01356 622171

[shiells@shiells-law.co.uk](mailto:shiells@shiells-law.co.uk)

Partners Steve Middleton & Gair Couston  
Members of TSPC

## 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)



**Hand Pict  
Showcase Gallery**

14 The Square, Letham, DD8 2PZ



**Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm  
Sunday 12 noon to 4pm (Closed Monday)**

We are a co-operative of local Crafters and Artists, all  
goods for sale are handmade to a very high quality with  
care and attention to detail.

If you are a Crafter or Artist we have spaces available.

Call in or telephone 07821222785



**JOINER & BUILDING CONTRACTOR**

- All aspects of joinery work
- New Builds & Extensions
- Loft conversions & Renovations
- Kitchen installation etc.

A reliable, professional service with quality assured  
Tel. – 01307 819413      Mobile – 07801066772

## LETHAM TREE SERVICES

All aspects of tree work undertaken

Hedges and Shrubs trimmed

Firewood for sale

30 years' experience

Maryfield, Park Road, Letham

07779 782250

# SNIPS

Hairdressing salon

Ladies, Gents and Kids Styling


Tuesday - Friday 9am - 5pm      Saturday 8:30am - 3pm

Call the salon or PM our Facebook page  
to book your appointment.

**10% discount for new customers  
only with this voucher.**

18A The Square, Letham, Angus

Tel: 01307 818814


 @SnipsofLetham


Sales • Repairs • MOTs

Parts • Tyres • Vapour Blasting

Ultra Sonic Cleaning



 [info@angusclassicbikes.co.uk](mailto:info@angusclassicbikes.co.uk)

 [www.angusclassicbikes.co.uk](http://www.angusclassicbikes.co.uk)



01307 463838

Angus Classic Bikes • 40 Brechin Road • Forfar • Angus • DD8 3JX

## JOHN CONBOY ELECTRICAL

45a Blairs Road, Letham

Tel: 07905 824155 / 01307 818779

Email: [johnconboy3@msn.com](mailto:johnconboy3@msn.com)

**Domestic & Commercial work**

**Inspection & Testing reports**

**Smoke alarms**

**PAT Testing**

National Inspection Council for  
Electrical Installation Contracting



APPROVED CONTRACTOR



## LETHAM & DISTRICT



On Tuesday 1st April, President Lynne Slater welcomed members, visitors and our guest speaker for the evening, Mr Ewen Milne.

We were very privileged to have Ewen come along to share with us his role as a Funeral Celebrant and after embarking on his new career path after Covid, Ewen began working across all of Angus and Dundee.

This has lead Ewen to encounter many different experiences, from sadness and grief, to joyous celebrations for a loved one and meeting people from all walks of life.

Ewen has held funerals in Hotels, Churches, Bowling clubs, Golf Clubs and Crematoriums and throughout, one thing remains constant. Ewen believes that everyone deserves a personal, compassionate and dignified celebration of their life, regardless of their beliefs or lifestyle choices and endeavours to give this to the deceased and their families.

Ewen finished the presentation with a question and answer session which got us all thinking! I can say that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Ewen kindly judged the monthly competitions.

### Garden Flower of the month.

1. Colette McNeill 2. Evelyn Balfour
3. Lynne Slater

### 3 Easter themed biscuit

1. Meg Bundock 2. Lynne Slater
3. Frances Webster

### A sewn spectacle case.

1. Meg Bundock 2. Colette McNeill
3. Lynne Slater

Ewen was thanked for his presentation by Lynne.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 6th May 2025 and will be our final meeting for this season.

We hope to see all our members before we close for the summer.

Lynne thanked everyone for coming along.

*Colette McNeill (Press secretary)*

## ***Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Allelujah***

This is one of the most loved Easter hymns and has been for many years. It was written by an Anglican minister called Charles Wesley in the 18th century : along with his family he wrote many of today's favourite hymns.

## Letham Happy Wanderers

The Wanderers met on Thursday 4 April, 12 years from their first walk. Around six walkers from that time still walk regularly and were present for the walk to Dunnichen and back before a small celebration of tea and chocolate easter cakes.



On Thursday 27th March, the walkers again undertook a litter pick within Letham village. The group are appreciative of Kingsmuir Village Hall for the kindly loan of their equipment. Regrettably, there was much more rubbish than usual collected, hopefully our collection in the autumn will be much less.



One of the long-term walkers, Midge Allan, (pictured second left) is a wildlife enthusiast, and encourages us in our appreciation of the countryside. Forfar Loch is her favourite haunt and she regularly litter picks there and watches wildlife. She was aware that the hedging at a popular bird nesting site on the north-west corner of the Loch had died off, so set to and raised £100 to remedy this. She organized a raffle for a beautifully knitted knee blanket and used the money to purchase bare root hedging, trees and wooden supports etc.

The Wanderers wish to thank **ROOT Central One, in Letham**, for their most generous donation of bramble, rose, beech and birch hedging and also their big reduction in the price of two beech trees. The Council Ranger Service gave their permission for the planting, which Midge undertook along with 2 Rangers, Friends of Forfar Loch and young helpers on Sunday 6th April. It is hoped bird nesting will resume in 2026.

New walkers are welcome and can meet the group at 10am every Thursday morning at the Church Hall.



**T: 01674 658501**

**M: 07873 566500**



**E: [info@oakwoodtreesandlandscaping.co.uk](mailto:info@oakwoodtreesandlandscaping.co.uk)**

**W: [www.oakwoodtreesandlandscaping.co.uk](http://www.oakwoodtreesandlandscaping.co.uk)**

## KeyStore Letham



### Opening Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 6am - 7pm  
Wednesday - Saturday: 6am - 8pm  
Sunday: 8am - 7pm



**01307 818840**



9 Gardyne St, Letham,  
DD8 2PR

- Fresh groceries and daily essentials at fantastic prices
- Locally sourced, seasonal produce
- Fresh, daily delivered rolls and baked goods
- Wide range of household essentials and favourites
- Lottery tickets, magazines, and newspapers
- Gas and electric top-up services



## Naturelle

### Pulses & Grains

Organic Red Lentils 500gm	£2.49
Organic Quinoa 500gm	£3.79
Organic Walnuts 250gm	£3.89
Organic Brazils 250gm	£5.19
Organic Pumkin Seeds 250gm	£3.99
Scottish Honeyberries	£6.50

Local honey and hemp oil also available

59 Castle Street, Forfar 01307 468738  
Opening Hours Mon-Sat 9:30am - 4:30pm

Large selection of local honey available.

Please pop in if you need any advice.



## STRATHMORE



### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**4 Roberts Street, Forfar**

Privately Owned 24 hour service

Offering a personal, caring and professional service in your time of need.

Golden Charter Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

**Telephone 01307 460777**

## DUNRIC DIY

**26 Blairs Road, Letham**



Flower, Herb & Vegetable Seeds  
Compost, Tomato Planters, Potting Grit  
Lawn Treatments, Plant Feeds, Weedkillers  
Fence, Shed, Decking & Garden Paint/Stain  
Secateurs, Loppers, Shears, Forks, Spades, etc,

**Open Mon-Sat 9am-5pm**

**Tel: 01307 818011**



## ANDY'S MOBILE SERVICE

Established in 1994 and still going strong

Mobile 07951 542370

Tel. 01307 818747



## Radiant Looks

### Health and Beauty Salon



- Advanced Facials
- Manicures / Pedicures
- Gel Nails - Hand & Feet
- Waxing
- Tinting - Lash & Brow
- Bridal Make-up

Stockist of Decleor, OPI,  
Environ, Make-up

*Jane Alexander*

*Qualified Beauty Therapist*

10c The Square, Letham, DD8 2PZ

[www.facebook.com/radiantlooks1](http://www.facebook.com/radiantlooks1)

Tel: 01307 818157 or 07749 845410



## CENTRAL MOTORS LETHAM

*your local, reliable & family owned garage*

- QUALITY USED CAR SALES
- HYBRID SPECIALISTS
- AIR CON RECHARGE
- DIAGNOSTICS
- CALOR GAS
- M.O.T. TESTING
- SERVICING
- EXHAUSTS
- BATTERIES
- TYRES

**\*NOW DOING HYBRID SERVICING AND REPAIRS\***

01307 818924

[MAIL@CENTRALMOTORSLETHAM.CO.UK](mailto:MAIL@CENTRALMOTORSLETHAM.CO.UK)

5 EAST HEMMING STREET LETHAM