

# In the PICTURE

June 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)

FORFAR ALL SOULS

## SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2025  
Lowson Memorial Church, Jamieson  
Road

10am -  
12pm

Raffles  
Games  
Food



### 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.

### 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 letterbox  
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.

### Sunday Worship

In Letham Church

10.30 am



## WARM SPACES APPRECIATION

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, a "Thank You" card and accompanying letter were left in the Church Kitchen. The communication was addressed to "The Warm Spaces Team" but the sender decided to remain anonymous. This is what he/she wrote:

*"A big THANK YOU to all who participated in this venture. The Hall preparers, table setters, soup makers, soup servers, tea and coffee makers, table clearers, dish washers, Hall restorers to order – to name but a few.*



*THANKS also to Keystore and the Bakers for their unfailing provision of milk, bread, rolls, scones, buns and cakes weekly.*

*Finally, THANKS to all the customers who appeared every Friday. If the noise level in the Hall was anything to go by, everyone enjoyed the chance to socialise with friends, old and new.*

*So to all – "Haste ye back" next winter.*

The Warm Spaces Team really appreciates these comments – thank YOU,

## TO THE SOUPER TROOPERS – AN ODE

At twelve o'clock, on the dot, soup was served, nice and hot.

Autumn, winter and spring - just the thing!

Well known veggies – some that were not, peeled, chopped and simmered in the pot.

Some days, for a treat, the soup was "fishy", served to us in a nice little dishy.

Chicken, ham, pasta and lentils galore, the calls to the servers were "More! We want more!"

Sadly its over, we make our way home, knowing next Friday we must make our own".

ANON

*Thank YOU, Anon, whoever you are!!*



**The Quiet Garden Movement**

Gardening programmes emphasizes how peaceful gardens are and how good for our mental health, either working in them, seeing things grow, or just relaxing among the greenery and flowers.

The Quiet Garden movement is an ecumenical Christian charity which combines the positive benefits of being in nature with the positive benefits of ancient spiritual disciplines. It is about sharing an outdoor space for the inner journey. It is about escaping the noise so as to listen to the still small voice. It is about connecting with the God who made it all and who made us.

Hundreds of people in a global network have made their gardens available, either to individuals or to groups to visit. We are delighted to join the movement and provide a Quiet Garden in Letham. To find out more or to visit call 07519756437.

## Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for **July/August 2025** issue is

**Saturday 21st June 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)



## Finance Report May 2025

This will be a very different report from ones I have given before.

As you all know, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 we joined in a Union and became Forfar All Souls. Rhona Nicol became the Treasurer, with previous Treasurers sending her weekly details of offerings.

Lowson became the lead church, and their OSCR number and bank account were used. The other bank accounts had to be closed. Unfortunately, DLK bank account is still open as, despite several reminders, 3 members are still paying in their Direct Debit into this account. Hopefully this will be settled soon.

I can't give you any details of the annual accounts for 2024 as there have been many, many problems joining the finances of the all the churches. This has taken a great deal of work by the Treasurer, and then the Partner of the Accountancy firm refused to sign them off because of 2 Trusts, one of which is the Wilson Peter Trust managed by us. He has been told that this Trust has a separate OSCR number and bank account, and that they are a completely different entity and not part of All Souls' finances. All I can tell you is that there was a deficit in 2024.

I have been promised that the money in our Renovation Fund will be used for the renovation of the grounds of Letham Church. Other reserve moneys will be used to make up the costs.

We have requested that the Manse be put up for sale - again. And now await the General Trustees' instructions. They have many properties to sell so it might be a while yet.

Elaine Saunders (Finance Group )

## Welcome June

May your heart and  
mind to open enough to  
receive the Blessings of  
New Month!

Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give  
you the desires of your heart. - Psalm 37:4



## From Magie Hunt

Hello everyone,

The sun is shining [at the moment at least] and the summer is breaking through into the late spring days. Schools will enjoy a last month of activities, events and learning opportunities before a much needed break and we are all looking forward to long warm days ahead.

Here at All Souls Letham we have enjoyed a busy month in May thinking about how we live as people of hope - we've been looking back at VE day 80 years ago and thinking about the future of the church amongst other things.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> we invite you all to join us for a Pentecost Party at the church at 10.30am. An informal celebration service with party food and good cheer all round for all ages. If you can, please wear something red.

School Uniforms for next year are available through our school uniform project based at the Anchorage on West High Street. The wee shop is open Tues – Thurs 10 till 12noon and we can take requests and leave for collection here in the village if needed. Contact Rev Maggie at [mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk) Donations of 'too small' uniforms at the end of term will be collected, laundered, pressed and labelled as soon as possible, ready for another family to take for free and enjoy in August. Let's do our bit to help our young people "reduce, reuse and recycle" [as well as saving a little money too].

### Dempster Day – 10<sup>th</sup> August

The Church is looking forward to Dempster Day and, as last year, we invite everyone in the village to join us for "Ice Cream Sundae Sunday" at 10.30am where we enjoy a bowl or two of ice cream [with toppings!] during our informal worship.

If you still have room, we'll be offering a soup and sweet lunch in the church hall from 12noon til 2pm for everyone in the village - so whether you are involved in the gardening club flower show or the Dempster day teas and activities, or just joining in the fun; you can grab a bite to eat with others in our hall to keep you going.

Children's crafts and activities will be available from 12noon as well.

Rev Maggie [[mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk)]

## Letham Primary School



A huge thank you to Letham Bowling Club for continuing to support our upper classes to learn key skills in bowling, aiming for targets and the bowling jack.



Primary5 have had a wonderful first few sessions this term.



## Letham Happy Wanderers

Enjoying the sunshine, the rhododendrons and azaleas and a good walk at Cortachy along the banks of the river South Esk on Thursday 15th May. New walkers always welcome. Usual start is from the church at 10am every Thursday.

## 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 2)

Last month, we looked at some of the history surrounding the Stone of Destiny, but where does this Stone enter the lexicon of stones concerning Letham?

At one time, we had a Scout Master who also did a spell as Sunday School Superintendent and latterly became the Beadle of Letham Church. His name was Pete Robertson, affectionately known in the village as Auld Pete.

He reports that he had to see our then Minister, Rev Davidson, at Dunnichen Manse about some Kirk business. Upon entering the Minister's office, he found a stone looking awfully like the well news papered Stone of Destiny. Speaking with Mr Davidson a number of years later, when asked about this event, he said, "I couldn't possibly comment." This sighting of the Stone of Destiny took place the evening before its early morning appearance at Arbroath Abbey. So we can imagine it was laid off at Dunnichen in preparation for the following day's activity at Arbroath Abbey.

The theory is that the Abbot at Scone had the real Stone whistled away for safekeeping, buried in the nearby hills. The Stone has, after following many a circuitous route, now found itself on display at the old City Halls in Perth which have been converted into a Museum, where it is free to see.

It is hard to imagine that the Scottish nation was crowning a succession of monarchs on a daud of old red sandstone. It has been suggested that the wily old Abbot at Scone Abbey handed over the cover stone for the Abbey cesspit. A Scottish wag produced a small booklet called "The Cludgie Stane", which makes the case for this interpretation of events. The original Stone of Destiny must be intricately carved and befitting of a nation's monarch to be crowned upon. The real Stone never left Scone and is probably still there – somewhere.....

JAMcG

## '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.



## VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945

Two ladies, long-time residents in our village, recalled their childhood memories for In the PICTure.

Mrs Muriel Gray was 10 years old in 1945, living with her parents and brother in Knightswood, Glasgow. Their home was directly under the flight path of German bombers which, during the war, regularly visited Clydeside. Hence the need for emergency buildings known as Anderson shelters placed in gardens, away from falling masonry.

Muriel recalls the air raid sirens shrieking, rousing everyone from slumber and out into the cold shelters. Over time the adults lined the shelters with wood and sourced paraffin heating stoves whilst rich tea biscuits and flasks of tea provided sustenance until the all clear sounded.

A bomb did hit the housing nearby and Muriel remembers the earth-shattering noise of the explosion followed by many small birds twirling around, these having been released from damaged bird cages. Another vivid memory was seeing large queues of children with gas masks and name cards slung around their neck, awaiting evacuation to the country. Whilst she cannot recall street parties or dancing at the end of the war in 1945, Muriel remembers visiting Girvan, an unexpected treat. Difficult days but on looking back she feels there was strong camaraderie amongst both children and adults which enabled the tough times to be endured.

Mrs Ethel Carnegie was nearly 11 years old on VE Day, 1945. She lived in Carmyllie with her grandparents next to Carmyllie school, her parents believing she was a safer there than walking 3 miles back and forth to school from her own home. Readers may also remember Ethel's brother, Marshall Rae who, being much younger and not at school, was permitted to stay with his parents. All the adults worked the land, using horses for which Ethel's Dad was both blacksmith and farrier. A small detachment of Land Army ladies also assisted, working the land providing food for Angus. Most families also used the Co-operative store for food shopping where most foodstuffs were scarce and rationed. It was a few years after war ended before Ethel tasted a banana. Like most rural families, heating was open fires or stoves, light was from Tilley lamps, news came via the radio and even in the country blackout was enforced.

As Muriel, Ethel has no recollection of street parties or dancing to celebrate VE Day, however, as a treat some time later, Mum, Dad, Ethel, and Marshall travelled by train from Frioekheim to Arbroath for a day out, truly a rare event.

Thinking of the 1940s, Ethel can hardly believe the progress there has been over the last 80 years but feels that the lessons of past wars have not perhaps been learned.

ITP thanks both ladies for sharing their memories with us all.



**FAIRTRADE**



During Fairtrade Fortnight last year, the Fairtrade Foundation asked people to take action and encourage their MPs to **be the change** for the farmers and workers whom we rely on every day. The response to this request over the next 6 months was good - MPs all over the UK know how important fairer global trade is to their local community and some have pledged to play their role in changing it for the better.

### What was achieved?

Supporters who asked their MP to be the change : **3742**

Local communities that got involved : **636 out of 650 constituencies in the UK**

MPs who pledged to 'be the change': **134**

In February 2025, The Fairtrade All-Party Parliamentary Group was reformed to promote Fairtrade within Parliament; to deepen the relationship between local Fairtrade supporters and parliamentarians; and to further raise awareness of the importance of fairer trade.

The Fairtrade Foundation recently reported some important news about Sainsbury's and Fairtrade -

"We have been brewing something very exciting with our longstanding partner Sainsbury's and can announce today that all of their brand 'by Sainsbury's' black tea will now be Fairtrade!"

They pointed out that tea farmers and workers currently face huge challenges due to rising costs and the increased impact of climate change. When shoppers choose Fairtrade tea, this means that the farmers can sell more on Fairtrade terms and are able to put healthy food on the table, invest in their communities, look after their families and plan for the future.

Fairtrade tea will be starting to arrive on the shelves over the next few weeks and should be widely available at Sainsbury's stores from June.

*Maureen Buwert*

**God**

*is able to do  
far more abundantly  
than all that  
we ask or think*

- Ephesians 3:20

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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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## LETHAM &amp; DISTRICT



President Lynne Slater welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting and Presentation of Trophies.

A summary and reports were given on a successful year by The President and Office bearers.

Thanks was given to the Committee and to all the members for their hard work and commitment over the past year in helping the group thrive, welcoming and encouraging new members to come along and join us.

We had a fantastic year with a range of varied and interesting demonstrations from glass decorating to a Japanese tea ceremony, our annual quiz and monthly competitions.

A thank you also to our judges who kindly gave their time to join us.

Lynne has made the decision to step back from the role of President tonight after having been in the post for the past seven years, a role she has excelled at with her energy and ideas, always thinking ahead and putting others first.

The members are at the forefront of every choice and decision she has made and she will continue to remain a vital member of the group and a "go to" for her knowledge and expertise.

Meg Bundock thanked Lynne for all her hard work, generosity and commitment to the ongoing success of the group in encouraging us all to remain pro active and keep moving forward.

Jane Nicholson, a former President gave a vote of thanks, remembering Lynne when she joined the group, a keen member "wanting to have a go" at everything, becoming President and taking the group through Covid.

Lynne set up Zoom meetings and those unable to join in weren't forgotten, as information and quizzes were delivered to their homes. Communication and support was vital in that worrying time.

Lynne has truly been a leader and friend to us all and is very much appreciated for all her hard work, putting so much effort and energy into the role. A token of appreciation was given to Lynne from the members.

Dorothy Goss, Lindsay Smith and Wendy Cameron will take over as the new Committee for the next season in September, supported by our members and we look forward to an exciting 2025/2026.

#### Annual trophies were presented as follows:

Flower of the month: 1. Colette McNeill ; 2. Jeannie Mair; 3. Isabel McClung

Handcrafts Tray : 1. Lynne Slater ; 2. Francis Webster; 3. Meg Bundock

Edith Nicol Housewives Cup: 1. Lynne Slater ; 2. Frances Webster./Dorothy Goss 3. Meg Bundock

Lynne Webster Rose Bowl for most points at the Federation show:

(Handcrafts and Home-skills)

1. Lynne Slater 2. Jeannie Mair
3. Meg Bundock/ Dorothy Goss/ Victoria Alexander.

Mrs Tarbat Silver Rose Bowl, most points overall in the monthly competitions overall:

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

Letham and District SWI are now into their 101st year and we keep striving forward, trying new skills and always to have fun.

We will be having our annual day out, Afternoon tea on June 5th, at The Lands of Loyal Hotel. Always a special treat, not to be missed.

Lynne thanked everyone for their support and friendship throughout her time as President, presenting us all with little gifts and she looks forward to seeing the members at the Afternoon tea.

We do not have any meetings over the summer but commence again on the 2nd of September 2025, when we will have a new schedule of speakers and demonstrators.

There will be another entry to In The Picture over the summer, with more information for the next season.

For the new syllabus and further details about us, please visit our website: [www.lethamswi.org](http://www.lethamswi.org)

*Colette McNeill (Press secretary)*

## LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

On the 10th May we held a very successful plant sale and coffee morning, so a huge thank you to all those who helped, and to all in the village who generously donated plants and those who came to purchase. Our next major event is the flower show on Sunday 10th of August.

The flower beds in the square will be refreshed at the end of May with a change in style. This year we intend to make a change from planting annuals to shrubs and perennials in two of the smaller beds, with the other two being changed for next year.

I would like to make a plea for other members in the village to join the group looking after the flower beds..

*Bill Muir*

*07908339420*

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." —C.S. Lewis

"When you arise in the morning think of what a privilege it is to be alive, to think, to enjoy, to love."  
— Marcus Aurelius





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