

# In the PICTURE

July/August 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 GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

### Letham Village Hall

SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> August 2025

1.30 pm to 4 pm

Presentation of Trophies and Awards at  
2 pm

Staging Times

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August – 6.30 pm to 9.00  
pm

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August – 7.00 am to  
9.00 am

Please return the trophies won last  
year at either staging time

Schedules are available in the Post Office,  
Letham Craft Shop, Auldbar Cafe and the  
Hand Pict Showcase Gallery

Normal Gardening Club sessions will begin at  
7pm in the Bowling Club on Tuesday  
9<sup>th</sup> September 2025



ALL SOULS CHURCH GUILD  
Charity No: SC 002417

## COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Guild Funds

SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST  
10 am – 11.30 am

@  
LOWSON MEMORIAL CHURCH HALL

Adults £4.00 pay at the door

\*Raffle \*Home Baking \*Gifts \*Crafts

Sunday Worship  
In Letham Church  
10.30 am



COSY CUPPA

In Letham Church  
Hall



Every Friday 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Come for a free cuppa, homemade cake & chat

All ages very welcome

## Annual Stated Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> June Summary of the Letham update

The year since the formation of Forfar All Souls has been eventful. In Letham, our services have been led most weeks by Rev Maggie but we are grateful to others who have stepped in to cover. We have been pleased to welcome many new people to our services in Letham each Sunday.

We have had a wide variety of services through the year. We enjoyed ice cream Sunday and celebrating harvest with a lunch after the service. Christmas and Holy week were particularly memorable. Our singing group performed at Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Monthly informal communions continue, along with a more formal communion in May and November. We enjoyed celebrating several birthdays and other important anniversaries during the year. We served a FairTrade breakfast and sold FairTrade Advent calendars and Easter eggs. In addition to our services, a house group meets every 2 weeks. Our Warm Spaces event on Fridays during the winter was well attended by many from the village.

We have maintained our ECO congregation silver award and we hope to improve our drive and parking later this year. Our grounds are well looked after with lovely flowers and shrubs.

Many people in the village support the Church of Scotland's collection of used stamps. This year the stamps are supporting the work of the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza which, sadly, was bombed recently.

The elders from Letham Church are all involved in at least one of the Forfar All Souls kirk session groups (Worship, Pastoral Care, Finance, Business, Hospitality, Property, Communications and Safeguarding) In addition, the elders based in Letham are part of the Letham Management Team. This team ensures that aspects of running the Letham worship centre are dealt with speedily. A new TV, which ensures the minister and congregation can follow the service, was installed recently.

We have attended joint services and enjoyed the hospitality at events at the Lowson and Aberlemno. Our, still relatively new, union has a great future and we, in Letham, are keen to work together to be part of this future.

*Norma Craigon, Presbytery Elder*

## PASTORAL CARE REPORT: JUNE 2025

I have been giving a report on pastoral care for about 12 years – and I am aware that I am now as much in need of receiving it as being able to offer it! But all the previous reports have concerned the legacy parish of Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden – a relatively small and manageable area.

As you know we are all now part of the much larger All Souls congregation – together with the former St Margaret's, Lowson, Aberlemno, Guthrie and Rescobie. The numbers involved seem daunting and there is presently a small group trying to work out the best way in which pastoral care can be delivered in this new situation.

Jimmy Scott and I are the representatives from Letham Church building on that group, together with Jeannie Mair as our roll-keeper. The group is chaired by Helen McLeod our organist here at the moment and she is from the legacy St Margaret's congregation.

The group's first task has been to divide the new parish of All Souls into manageable districts, and then to ascertain how members in these new districts would prefer the Church to contact them.

This the reason that you all recently received a short questionnaire which you were asked to complete and return or to email your response to a given e.mail address. I am assuming that everyone here today has done so!

However those who have not yet replied are being given a second chance.

Elders have been asked to visit each home in their district which has not replied to assist members to register their preferences.

Naturally all of this takes time; patience is required.

In the meantime if you need any help or support which you think we could offer, please get in touch with the Minister or any of the elders who will see what can be done. We remain a loving, caring church – even if right now we are struggling to get better organised.

*Jane Nicolson.*



## PENTECOST SERVICE



The Service was in Letham Church Building and was conducted by Rev Maggie Hunt and the singer was Peter Scarlett

Photos taken by John Crichton

## From Maggie Hunt

Summer is here....complete with sunshine and rain. The kids are off on holiday and many of us are making the most of the longer days.

We had a wonderful Pentecost Party at the start of June with singing, music and party food (including an amazing Red Velvet cake...thank you Elaine).

Our next community event is Ice-cream Sundae Sunday. We hold this at the end of the school holidays each year and this year it coincides with Dempster Day.

So....we're making a day of it. Free Ice-creams at church for all, with a children's storybook and songs at 10.30am then a free lunch for everyone in the village from 12 noon. We'll have FREE crafts and activities for kids and grown-ups from 12noon till 3pm too. Pop the date in your diary and support us in supporting our community.

The following Sunday (17<sup>th</sup>) we will be holding "Back to School" event at 10.30am with free pencils, notebooks etc for kids and treats for school staff.

Also remember that you can get FREE school uniform for Letham Primary as well as Forfar Academy and other local schools at the School Uniform Project Shop on West High Street Forfar or delivered to you by emailing [MHunt@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:MHunt@churchofscotland.org.uk). We will also have some Letham Primary sweatshirts etc at the church hall and you can help yourself on a Friday afternoon during cosy cuppies 2.00 till 3.30pm.



## Quiet Garden Retreat

Fancy a morning (with lunch at the end) spend in silence, to recharge your batteries and refresh your spirit? In Letham.

The date: Monday 21st July. 10am to 1pm.

For more information and to book a call 07519756437

## Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for September 2025 issue is  
**Saturday 16 August 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)

## '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 and District Scottish Women's Institutes



Letham Rural has now ended session 2024/2025, the culmination of 100 years in Letham, when members enjoyed a visit to Alyth for afternoon tea.

To celebrate our 100 years, we were pleased to donate £150 towards the maintenance and upkeep of the defibrillator within the Bowling Club Site.



The President for 2025-2026 will be Mrs Dorothy Goss (of Letham Choir fame) and a programme is already planned for the year commencing *Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 in the Bowling Club at 7.15.*, thereafter monthly on first Tuesday of each month.

There is *no charge for our first evening* when we are hearing about reflexology. Further, any lady who requires transport please telephone Dorothy on 07467071175. or [dotgoss53@gmail.com](mailto:dotgoss53@gmail.com) at least the day before the meeting.

All ladies are welcome to join us. You can see local crafts folk demonstrating, perhaps try your hand at painting, enjoy visits to other institutes, and have a grand quiz night in March... or simply come along for the chat and a cuppie.

Contact Dorothy, Treasurer Wendy Cameron, or Secretary Lindsay Smith for a chat or more information at [lethamswi@gmail.com](mailto:lethamswi@gmail.com)

## TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 14

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

### LETHAM WOOD

#### FELLED LANG SINE – NOW A FIELD

Those in the know will be aware that Mitchell's Chicken Factory is on Woodside Road. But where is the wood? The rather large field which extends from Letham to Bowriefauld was once Letham Wood. It was an old fashioned woodland, mostly Scots Pine and other native species. It also enclosed a few open spaces.

This Letham Wood accommodated flora and fauna which are no longer seen in Letham village. There used to be snipe, curlew, peewit and even an owl – none of these creatures live in Letham now.

The field as it stands today accommodates the Claas Enterprise and is festooned with agricultural machinery. Next to their ground is the recently developed Central Motors Garage. This area used to accommodate the game section of Mitchell's Chickens and was overseen by the well known but deceased character Geordie Mitchell. Now this was the Letham end of the Wood which extended as far as Bowriefauld.

In 1947, the wood was felled and prepared to be turned into agricultural land. Stones, actually big boulders, were discovered during the land preparations. The war had ended two years beforehand and explosives still seemed to be available in abundance. Mr. JCB had not yet marketed his first digger. The only way to render the big boulders into smaller chunks was to blow them up. During this time, many explosions were heard and I suspect the shattered boulders were taken off by horse and cart.

Since 1947, Letham Wood, now turned into a big field, has not been noted for its outstanding agricultural production. The only acknowledgment that this wood existed is in the name "Woodside Road".

So these big stones from the time of the ice age used to be an important part of Letham village. We salute them, these big stones, in absentia, but it is important that we mark their passing.

JAMcG



## ANGUS SMALL REPAIRS SERVICE



Angus Small Repairs Service is a not-for-profit charitable organisation based in Forfar but covers the whole of Angus.

The organisation was set up to help the elderly (60+) or disabled residents of Angus to remain living at home independently, safely and in comfort by providing a reliable and trustworthy repairs service. No repair is too small and we offer joinery, plumbing, electrical and small building works. We started trading 12 months ago and since then our Small Repairs Officers have carried out over 1050 individual repairs.

We can carry out repairs to owner/occupier properties, and for social and private rented properties anything which is tenant responsibility.

The Small Repairs Service is a chargeable service, with subsidised rates for certain repairs which are for safety i.e. fitting grab rails, keysafes. As well as the smaller jobs we can also carry out larger works and we are more than happy to discuss your needs either over the phone, email or text.

Finally, our volunteer initiative allows us to replace bulbs, change batteries in smoke/heat or carbon monoxide detectors and hang curtains completely free of charge. The bulbs and batteries are also supplied free, and you can access the service as many times as you wish. Through the volunteer service we also offer a Garden Tidy service (until September) for pay-what-you-can-afford but so far this has been very popular, and we currently have a waiting list.

All the positive feedback, the fantastic reviews and the personal interactions and chats with all our clients during the past 12 months has helped to validate our original thoughts; that this is much needed and valuable service for our 60+ or disabled residents.

We could never list all the jobs we do as its extensive, but myself (Helen) and my colleague Kath, are always on the end of the phone and happy to talk through your repairs.

To refer to our services or need advice:

Office: 01307 496506 Mobile: 07752 190259

Email [info@angussmallrepairs.org](mailto:info@angussmallrepairs.org)

## KILT WALK 2025 – UPDATE!

Irene McGugan is tackling the Dundee Kilt Walk again this year - ! This is a 20 mile hike from St Andrews to Dundee which takes place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August.

A target of raising £1,000 was set, and to date – thanks to generous support from family and friends – (and including Gift Aid) half of that total has been achieved. In the last few weeks before the event, it is hoped to raise the full amount.

The charity which will benefit is Tour de 4, set up by Sir Chris Hoy to raise funds for others who like him are facing cancer. This new fundraising charity aims to change the perception of people battling stage 4 cancer. The charities included are Breast Cancer Now, Cancer Research UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, Maggie's and Prostate Cancer UK.

### ALL FUNDS RAISED BY MY KILT WALK WILL GO TO THIS CAUSE.

“Sir Chris has been my “hero” for a long time. He is a legend of Scottish sport. There is not much I can do for him at this time, but I can walk and I can fundraise. I want to do this small thing to support him now”.

If you are able to donate to this hugely important cause, please go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/irene-mcgugan3>

If on-line giving is not for you, please feel free to see me at church or elsewhere to contribute in person or get in touch.

[irene.mcgugan@btinternet.com](mailto:irene.mcgugan@btinternet.com)

01307 818436 or 0771 575 9138

### THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Irene.

## Letham Senior Membership

Everyone on our lists should have been visited to collect their membership fee for 2025/26. If you have not paid your membership fee of £5, and would still like to do so, please contact Elaine on 01307 818230, and we will get someone out to see you. Please remember, your membership should be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in order to be able to attend the Christmas party. If you are a new Senior (60 or over and not in full-time employment) or new to the Village and district (Bowrie and Craichie) and would like to join, please contact Elaine or Isobel by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

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Supporting *'In the PICTure'*

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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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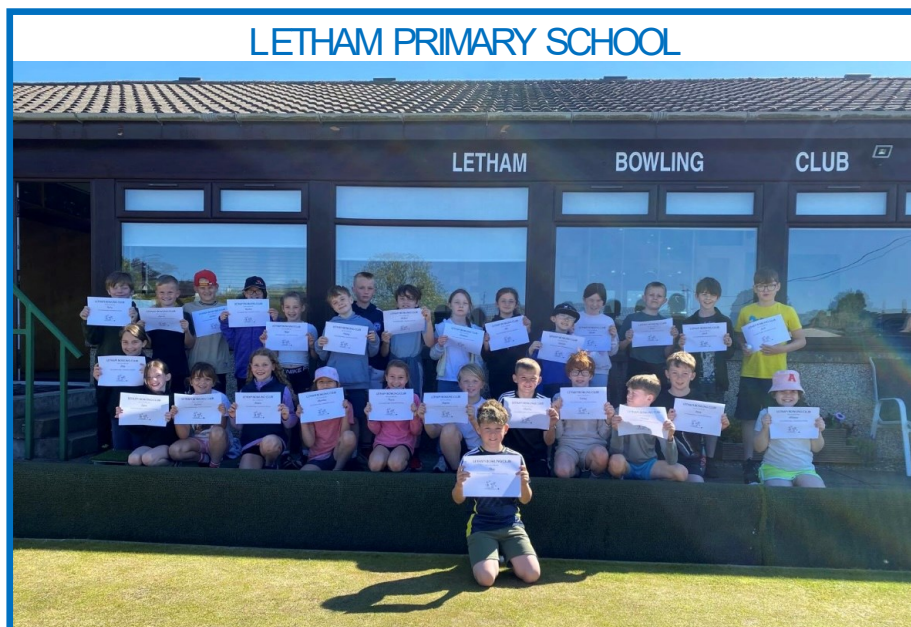
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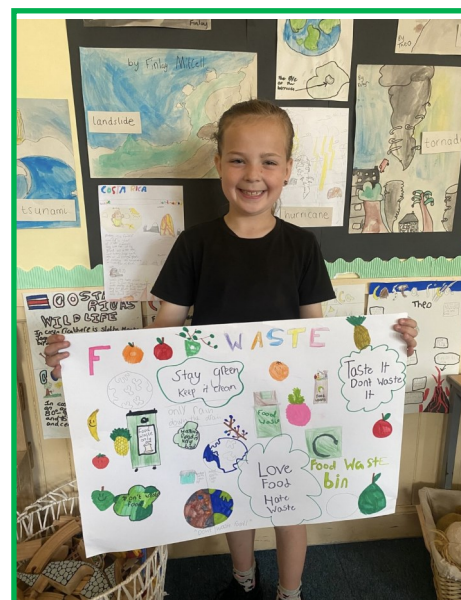
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A huge thank you to the Letham Bowling Club for once again hosting our P4 and P5 classes to support them in their learning of bowls. Here we have both classes receiving their certificates.

Mrs D Williamson Deputy Head Teacher



Bella in P4 has taken the time to fundraise for a school food waste bin. She raised a total of £132.30 with the help of her mum and the Letham Community. Bella is passionate about the planet and really enjoyed her class topic of 'Farm to Fork'. This gave her the inspiration to try and make a difference. Well done Bella.

Mrs D Williamson

Deputy Head Letham P.S.

## All Souls Church Guild

### Let Us Build A House

The Guild is now on a Summer Break and instead of a "Trip" this year we went to the Royal Hotel, Forfar for High Tea on Wednesday 4 June.

Saturday 23 August - Coffee Morning in the Lowson Church Hall 10.00 am – 11.30 am. Fruit Loaf and wrapped biscuits, Ticket £4.00 pay at the door. Raffle, Cake & Candy and Gifts Stall Donations welcome and Home Baking should be wrapped and the ingredients listed for allergens.

Our regular meetings will resume during Guild Week on Wednesday 17 September with an Opening Social and the details will be in the September Newsletter.

Please contact me at [lindas28@btinternet.com](mailto:lindas28@btinternet.com) if you require more information.

Linda Stewart

## Poetry Recital in support of Guide Dogs

"Forfar Guide Dogs Fundraising Group"

Are hosting a poetry recital by

Ian Nimmo White, a local published poet, in support of Guide Dogs Uk.

Ian will read Burns, Dylan and some of his own work.

Tea and coffee will be served.

It will be held on 23rd August at 2pm in the East and Old Parish Church, High Street, Forfar.

Tickets are available by contacting myself by email or telephone.

Margaret Russell

on 07759954304,

email '[marussell2019@gmail.com](mailto:marussell2019@gmail.com)'





**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)**

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