

In the PICTURE

Apryl 2026

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Forfar All Souls @ LETHAM Charity Number SC002417)

LETHAM SENIORS

SPRING COFFEE MORNING

LETHAM VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 18th APRIL 2026

10am TO 11.30am

TEA, COFFEE AND HOME BAKING
PLUS HOT CROSS BUNS

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£4



**£1 FOR CHILDREN
(14 AND UNDER)**

**Plus Cakes for sale, Tombola
and Lucky Squares**

Come early to avoid disappointment

Congratulations Joanne



In All Souls @Letham Church, on Sunday 22nd February, Joanne Whyte was presented with the prestigious King's Scout Award by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Angus, Malcolm Taylor TD, DL.

The award is hard earned and covers leadership skills, community service, physical activity and varying expeditions amongst other categories.

LETHAM SENIORS AGM

TUESDAY 12th May 2026
Church Hall
2pm

Everyone is welcome to come and see how we have spent your money in 2025/2026, and give your ideas on activities and fundraising for 2026/2027.

If you can help in any way, or even come onto the committee, you will be greatly appreciated.
Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available.

LETHAM SENIORS

Brew & Blether

Every Friday afternoon in the Church Hall
2pm to 3.30pm from April 24th

Everyone, regardless of age, is welcome to join us for free tea, coffee, home baking and lots of Blether.

On the 1st Friday of the month (starting on 1st May 2026) we invite people with Dementia or other illnesses, together with their carers, to join us for Music and Memories.

We are hoping to have live music and a good sing-along. There will also be games to play, especially designed for those of us with poor memories.

We are sorry that all vulnerable people **MUST** be accompanied by a carer of some sort, due to regulations.



**All Souls Letham Church
Sunday Worship**

10.30 am

Annual Founders Service

The service, in All Souls Letham Church on Sunday 22 February was conducted by Rev Maggie Hunt, in the presence of around 50 members of the 1st Dunnichen (Letham) Scouts, their leaders and the district Scout leader.



Letham House Group

Meets every two weeks on Friday mornings from 10.30 am, for those who would like to deepen their faith and find new ways to reach out in faith.

For more details contact Klaus Buwert.

Klaus@buwert.co.uk

WARM SPACES - LETHAM



Broth & Blether

Tea, Coffee and
**Home-made
soups**



Tea or Coffee

Everyone welcome, no matter what age.

Letham Church Hall: Fridays 12.-2pm

This Session ends on 17th April

Youth and Safeguarding Report March 2026

The church here in Letham has been part of Forfar All Souls Church of Scotland for nearly 2 years. Because we are now part of this union, all our safeguarding is now done under the name of Forfar All Souls. We have 3 separate places of worship at Aberlemno, Letham and the Lawson Memorial. There is also the Anchorage mission centre in Forfar.

There are many activities happening every week in each of these buildings and in the community. Specifically for youngsters here in Letham, we held craft activity sessions for children and their parents at Easter and on Dempster Day. This will be repeated at Easter this year on Saturday 28th March. We hope to encourage families to come along and have fun. We have enjoyed having the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts joining our worship and we look forward to seeing them again soon.

While many of the events at All Souls are for children, others are for adults who are classed as being vulnerable for one reason or another. We must ensure children and vulnerable adults are kept safe. People who work with these groups must be recruited in accordance with the Church of Scotland procedures and most will need to go through the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) checking process. Most of our helpers will need to attend refresher training this year to ensure they are kept up to date with the latest information.

All the church groups are listed in the regular All Souls newsletter and we would welcome new faces to help with all the groups running in the different worship centres. If you would like to help with any of them, please speak to Irene McGugan or Norma Craigon and we can give you further information about whether you would need to complete the PVG process, or not. It is all done online these days and the training can also be completed online or in person.

Safeguarding training is also essential for all the elders who serve on the session. We have over 60 elders and, while some have done safeguarding training recently, most will need to do a refresher course at some point this year.

Irene and Norma are the safeguarding coordinators in Letham and the other worship centres have their own co-ordinators. Please speak to us if you have any questions about the PVG process or safeguarding training.

Norma Craigon

In memory of TOM MCCLUNG



Tom McClung died after a short illness. Tom met Isabel at an Aberdeen Angus event and they married in 1979 and enjoyed 46 years together.

They moved to East Ne-vay where Tom continued farming, and became involved in Eassie church and community. Indeed he received a certificate for 40 years as an Elder.

He and Isabel retired from farming and moved to Letham in 2001. Tom immediately became part of village life. He was involved with grass cutting; he joined the Feuars' Committee; he received the Cosgrove Award for helping to maintain the path from Letham to Dunnichen; and he joined the village Hall Committee. He also maintained his love of curling and made new friends at Probus. Travelling was now easier and together he and Isabel visited many countries.

Family was, of course, the most important thing in Tom's life. As well as a loving father, he was a devoted grandfather and great grandfather.

We remember a warm, kind, gentle, helpful man, much loved by his family and friends and we shall miss his company.

Rev Carleen Robertson and the McClung Family

Easter reminds us that even the darkest moments can bloom into light through God's love.

Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for **May 2026** issue is
Saturday 18th April 2026

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

E-mail: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

And to Jeannie Mair

2 Idvies View (01307 818600)

E-Mail: j.mair382@btinternet.com

From Maggie Hunt

Happy Easter everyone!

He is risen; Alleluia!



How lovely to celebrate new life with everyone. At Letham church we have a wonderful cross that gets absolutely covered in spring flowers and early summer blooms to remind us that Easter is about life in all its fullness – not just

the promise of heaven when we die. This year we also had our wee singing group share three new songs with us and enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary and the church grounds – chocolate for everyone!

April is a month of spring colour – blue skies, green grass, blossom on trees and even the occasional rainbow from those April showers. A time to see new life and new opportunities.

If you've never been to church, or not been in a while/ages – perhaps you might like to come along one week and join us. I bet you'll recognise faces from the village and you'll be made very welcome.

We meet at 10.30am in the church building on Dundee Road, just round the corner from the shops. There is disabled parking in the grounds if you need. I can't wait to meet you.



LETHAM AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



The Annual General Meeting of the Letham & District Twinning Association was held recently and the following office-bearers were elected for 2026:-

Convener : Alexandra MacRae

Vice-Convener: Marguerite McMichael

Secretary: Morag Fraser

Treasurer: Leonard Pellow

The meeting discussed possible activities for the coming year, the most significant of which is a visit to our twinned community of Leguillac de l'Auche. Two years ago it was the turn of our friends from Leguillac to visit Letham but this year (2026) it's our turn to visit Leguillac which is a charming hilltop village clustered round a Romanesque church near Perigeux in the Dordogne. Each person (or couple) from Letham will be hosted by a family from Leguillac and your only outlay will be the transport cost from Letham to Leguillac de l'Auche.. We fly to Bergerac and our friends from Leguillac pick us up at the airport.

On each visit so far, our friends at Leguillac have laid on a marvelous tour of the sights of the region and delicious French cuisine. The visit is provisionally arranged for 6th to 12th July

If you are interested, please contact our Secretary, Morag Fraser (contact details below) - and you don't have to be an existing member of the Twinning Association but we hope that you'll become a member.

Secretary of Letham & District Twinning Association :

Morag Fraser: (morag-fraser@hotmail.com)

PEN PALS SOUGHT FOR 2 FRENCH TEENAGERS

Two girls aged 14 and 19 from our partner community Leguillac de l'Auche seek pen pals of a similar age so that they can communicate via email and/or WhatsApp. If you would like to take up this offer please contact Sandra MacRae (alexandramacrae1941@gmail.com. 01307 819310 (Convener of the Letham & District Twinning Association)

The Dangers of Anthropomorphising

(i.e. attributing human forms, behaviours and emotions to non-human animals and objects).

I was saddened to read last month's article by JA McG's and his anthropomorphising of Magpies as 'having an evil streak'. Claiming that this humble bird has an evil streak is neither helpful nor scientific. I noticed that nothing was said of the Great Spotted Woodpecker, who also predates other songbird nests. Both of these birds and merely doing what comes naturally to them to feed themselves and their young.

Major research by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the University of East Anglia in 2025 provides an interesting overview of nest predation across the UK. The data was collected by camera traps and, for anyone interested, provides some very interesting and informative data about a whole range of nest predation. This research found that Magpies and Grey Squirrels were rarely implicated in songbird nest failure. (Barton, MG, Conway GJ, et al 2025).

The UK is officially one of the world's most nature-depleted countries on the planet.

The State of the Nation Report of 2023 is the most comprehensive report on UK wildlife and shows a prolonged and persistent reduction in wildlife species across the nation. The main drivers of this decline have been identified as intensive agricultural land management, pollution, climate change and habitat loss.

Along with songbirds, our Magpies are equally at risk from our man-made hazards and I would suggest that rather than pointing the finger at a particular bird for our songbird decline, we should all be doing whatever we can to protect and cherish every single species of wildlife that we are lucky enough to come into contact with.

Dorothy Stables

RAG BAG COLLECTION

Last date for collection

Sunday 12th April 2026

All monies raised will contribute towards the costs of the redesign of our grounds and parking spaces.

Wearable Clothing (not work clothes), Shoes, Handbags and Belts.

Regret, bedding & towels not permitted.

Please leave at the Church or any queries, bags needed, uplift required etc.

Phone Bruce Tel: 01307818600

TALES OF LETHAM (C)

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks."
John Muir

HENS, PIGS, MICE AND OWLS

At first glance these four creatures seem to be quite unconnected. However, in 1947, Letham was more or less an open cast hen run, albeit the hen flocks were enclosed by individual hen runs. It was possible at that time to hear a cock crowing at any time throughout the day and throughout the night.

These hens were also accompanied by a number of pigs, some of whom used to have a free run on the land now built over and known as Idvies View. These pigs were owned by Rab Moug who worked for a potato company which operated throughout the adjoining countryside. His work which included dressing tatties at outdoor tattie pits yielded a fair quantity of brock tatties. These brock tatties featured prominently in the diet of the pigs.

What has all this to do with owls?

Owls known for their hunting and their hooting during the hours of darkness, were part of the life and sounds in the rural countryside. Now that I have mentioned the main characters in this month's Letham story, I can further explain why hens, pigs mice and owls with their fluctuating fortunes came to be part of this Letham story.

The hens were fed outside and grains were involved. The pigs were also fed outside at troughs where brock tatties and other foodstuffs were involved. All these animals were fed outside and there was an inevitable overflow of foodstuffs. This overflow was eagerly nibbled up by a pretty large population of mice. That was why the owls grew in number and prospered, by feeding on these mice. In 1947, most villagers kept hens. Some villagers kept pigs. The prospects for mice increased and the prospects for owls increased.

Today, I have enquired locally of several villagers, but only a few of them have heard an owl hoot in the night. In 1947, every villager heard an owl's hoot each night. So the prospects for the expansion of populations of all these creatures pivot on the availability of food. There are not so many hens, and probably no pigs in the village today, and that is a reflection of the low population of hens, pigs, mice and owls in Letham in 2026, as opposed to the case in 1947.

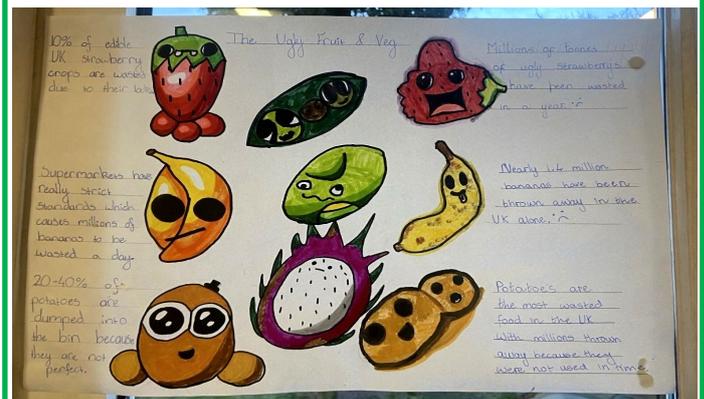
This tale of Letham's domesticated animals and the owls capitalising upon the availability of food is an example of the changing village which we now live in.

JAMcG

Letham Primary School

Primary 7 have been Learning for Suitability 'Ugly Vegetable Campaign' They have produced this statement and posters:

"We have been discussing food waste and the impact it has both on the environment and all the resources that go into producing the food in the first place . We have found out some staggering facts about how much food is wasted. The Ugly Vegetable is a campaign that tries to persuade that even if a fruit or veg. doesn't look perfect it is still edible We created our own Ugly Veg characters to illustrate the problems of food waste and to persuade people to buy our not solvable veg!"



LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

On Tuesday 10th March we invited Steve Ludlum to guide us through a DIY process, with each of us completing a Japanese style arrangement of floral art. At the end of an enjoyable evening and some beautiful arrangements, we had to agree that the Japanese style may have been somewhat eluded. Many thanks to Steve.

On Tuesday 14th April we end our 25/26 season with our AGM and our members bulb and house plant competition, with prizes to be won.

Many thanks are due to RouteOne for very generously mulching the two large flower beds in the square.

Notes for your diary:

Plant Sale : after much rescheduling our plant sale is confirmed for Saturday 23rd May 2026, together with a coffee morning in the village hall. Contributions to the sale will be greatly appreciated, as will purchasers.

Flower Show will be held on Sunday 9th August 2026 in the village hall. Schedules are available in the KeyStore, Letham Crafts, Auld Bar Cafe and the Hand Pict Showcase Gallery.

The Gardening Club is held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Bowling Club, starting the new season in September 2026.

Bill Muir

07908339420



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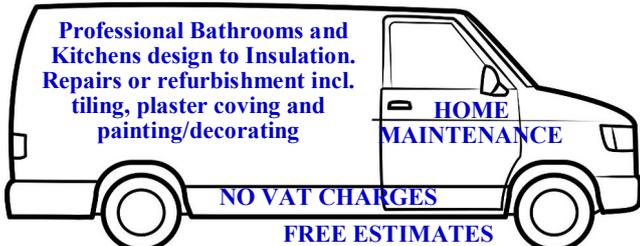


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Letham and District
Scottish Women's Institute



On Tuesday 3rd March, Letham and District SWI held their annual quiz. 10 teams, including visitors from the Kingsmuir, Padanaram, Stracathro, Memus and Fern, St.Vigeans and Colliston Institutes answered questions of varying difficulty on subjects ranging from films, books and TV to Mind your Language, Doctor! Doctor! and Just 3 Letters. First prize went to the team from Colliston with an impressive 79.5 out of 100 and the wooden spoon was taken by the team from St. Vigeans, aptly named "The Smokies".

During the break for tea and biscuits the monthly competitions were judged by our visitors from Padanaram and the results were:

Photograph of A Walk on the Beach:

1- Lynne, 2 – Colette, 3 – Dorothy.

Jar of Whisky Marmalade:

1 – Lynne, 2 – Lindsay, 3 – Dorothy.

Flower of the month:

1 – Joan, 2 – Colette, 3 – Lynne.

At our next meeting on April 7th the speaker is Reg Henderson talking about bees and honey. Competitions are a fresh flower arrangement in a teacup, a decorated hard-boiled egg and garden flower of the month.
Dorothy Gloss

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Took place on Friday 6th March 2026 in Forfar East, and Old and Inverarity Church.



The Theme "I will give you rest" was written by Christian Women of Nigeria.



Amara is a Nigerian lady who lives and works in Dundee (St Fergus connection) took part in the service and supplied snacks at end of World Day of Prayer service.



All Souls Church Guild



Let us Build a House

The Guild resumed meeting after the usual extended Christmas break on 25 February with a very interesting talk on Women in Politics. In March the Happy Ukes (Ukelele band) entertained with a variety of music from the 60s & 70s. At the Guild Project afternoon hosted by East Old & Inverarity Guild we had a very interesting talk on the Project "Build my Church: Bear Necessities for Bulgaria".

Our Coffee Morning was on Saturday 21 March, and a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supported us in any way. Your continued support to the Guild is very much appreciated and will enable us to make generous donations to the All Souls Church and Guild Projects at the 2nd A G M of the All Souls Guild on 25 March.

We only have 2 meetings left on the Theme – "Living Stones" before the summer break

8 April **Your Garden in Spring – Les Craib**

22 April **Closing Social – The Mitchells (Christine & George)**

You are welcome 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 pm** in the Lawson Church Hall and will finish between 3.30 and 4 pm unless stated otherwise. Please contact me on 01307 469255 or email: – lindas28@btinternet.com if you require any more details.
Linda Stewart Minute Secretary

Two silk worms had a race.
They ended up in a tie.

A man collapsed on a Ferris wheel today.
Paramedics say he's slowly coming round.
Albert Einstein was a genius but his brother
Frank was a monster.

'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.

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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



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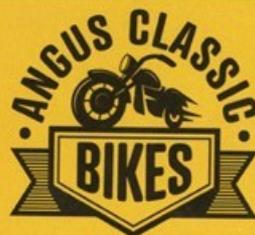
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