

# In the PICTURE

February 2026

ITP was established in 1995

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

## **Lively Letham -the Largest Angus Village**

In the final damp weeks of 2025, our village was a busy place where the spirit of generosity and Christmas abounded. The Square twinkled with lights, shop windows were decorated and Santa figures were on display in the gardens of many homes: Santa even visited the village personally in his tractor and was present at the Light Switch-on.

Mr Mac Andrews kicked off the season by holding a dance and raised £4,722, split evenly between Maggi's Care Centre Dundee and Oncology Ward 32, Ninewells refurbishment program. What a super achievement.

The Dunnichen Scout Troop treated the village to a fireworks display and hosted a tasty BBQ. A few weeks later the Troop ran a fun quiz, raising money for their cause.

Letham Seniors held a busy Christmas Coffee Morning in the Village Hall when Brenda Jepson won a beautifully decorated Christmas cake, made for the occasion by Isobel Sword. The tombola, cake and craft stalls were popular and almost £600 was raised at the event. The Seniors Christmas meal was held a few weeks later when Scott Carnegie's music was much appreciated.

The Line Dancing Class held their party in the bowling club, dancing the night away along with friends from Brechin. Letham SWI also held their party night there, read about it in their article.

The Christmas Light Switch-on at the Square was a well-attended event, hosted by the Feuars and Santa visited to spread sweets and happiness around. The tree was donated by Mr Mark Irons and the lights switched on by two Letham School pupils. Letham Village Choir led the carol singing before mulled wine, hot chocolate, mincemeat pies and doughnuts were served.

Letham Church held many services, led by the Rev Maggie, including a \*dress up\* Nativity Sunday, a service when the Church Choir sang, a service for those who feel sad and alone at this time and also a traditional Watchnight Service. Ten windows in the Church were decorated, each with a Christmas theme, and were much admired. A \*cake and carols\* afternoon proved popular when Letham folk were joined by folks from All Souls Forfar.

Letham Happy Wanderers held a Christmas get together and were pleased to donate food and toiletries to the Food Bank. As always, should you know of

a family in need, please use the ITP e mail and the request will be passed on or contact any elder.

Letham School also held a lot of Christmas activities and have already launched into Scotland Week activities about which they will let us know next month.

January is usually a quiet month (not least as we have probably spent more than we budgeted for in December) and this year it was cold. February now though, and all our groups and organisations have restarted for 2026: there is something for everyone and thanks go to all organisers and leaders and helpers who hold events and classes in the Village Hall, Church Hall, Scout Hut and Bowling Club. Please see your 2025 edition \*In the Know\* for contact details.

*From all at \* In the PICTURE \*  
Our good wishes for a Healthy and Happy 2026*

## For Sale



The manse at 7 Braehead Road is up for sale.

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### **Viewing Arrangements**

By appointment with: The Church of Scotland Law Department.

Please email [properties@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:properties@churchofscotland.org.uk)

If you know of any friends or family who are looking to move to a warm friendly village with good amenities and a house just a stone's throw from the local school, please pass on this information.

## All Souls @ Letham Hospitality Report - January 2026

Here we are at the start of a new year and it is a good time to look back on the events we have been involved in in 2025.

Hospitality in the three 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.

2025 saw a Burns Supper, Easter meal, fairs in the summer and Christmas and a coffee morning to name a few. 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.

I'd like to highlight a few of the events held in Letham. 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.

We held a soup and pudding lunch after the service on 10<sup>th</sup> August, Dempster Day. This was an opportunity for anyone in the village to have a lovely lunch before attending the Dempster Day activities around the village.

The next event was the Fair Trade breakfast here in the church on 21<sup>st</sup> September. This was an opportunity to highlight the work of Fair Trade and enjoy a lovely breakfast while taking part in the service.

This was followed by our harvest lunch, after the service on 12<sup>th</sup> October, when we enjoyed a selection of lovely soups and puddings.

On the following Saturday, we held a fundraising coffee morning and bric-a-brac sale. This was another successful event, raising £400 for our Letham grounds improvements. This should be happening soon.

Our Christmas event was Cakes and Carols here on 18<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 at the Watchnight service on 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 in all the worship centres. Helpers from Letham were welcomed at many of the Lowson events during the year.

Having a large team of helpers ensures the same people are not called on for every event and we would always welcome extra helpers. You do not need to be able to cook or bake. There are many other ways in which you can help. 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



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## USED STAMP APPEAL

**The Church of Scotland have been collecting used stamps since 1995 but this project has come to an end.**

Since 1995 an amazing total of £96,459.67 has been raised for projects such as the HIV programme, the Mount Olivet boys' home in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, tree planting in Malawi and, most recently, Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza.

While the Church of Scotland has stopped collecting them, other charities may still take your used stamps. Have a look on the internet and send your stamps to a charity which you would like to support.

Grateful thanks are extended to all those who have collected their used stamps. Thanks also go to those who have trimmed, packed and posted the stamps to the Church of Scotland over many years.

### Christmas at All Souls Letham



Scouts with Christmas Decorations they've made.



ADVENT CANDLES reminding us of the gift the Christ Child brings to those who accept Him, The centre one reminds us that He is the Light of the world.



Two of the window decorations



Some of the Congregation in Nativity Scene.  
Photos by Members of the Church

### From Maggie Hunt

It is a cold winter's day and I look out of the manse window to frost on the garden. Spring seems so long away and yet, there is hope. There are green shoots of snowdrops and early daffodils beginning to push through the ground and some of the trees have tiny signs of buds appearing. When life is dark [and I think we can all agree that world politics make our world seem very bleak and dark right now], there is ALWAYS hope. And always something to look forward to.

At All Souls Letham this month we have a few 'extra' or 'special' services happening:

On Feb 18<sup>th</sup> from 2pm - 3pm Rev Maggie will be in the sanctuary offering ashes to those who would like. There will be tables with prayer ideas and activities to do if you want and a hot cuppa to keep us warm.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb at 10.30am we welcome our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to church for Founders Day.

We also start our Lent season mid February and everyone is welcome to join us. We are using resources and linking in with a digital church called Sanctuary First and so you can take part in person, through our social media and through Sanctuary First's online reflections, prayers and small groups.

Link is <https://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/home>

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March we are organising transport to Forfar for everyone to come along to a relaxed, social afternoon with a concert by Bruce Davies Tickets available at the church or from Rev Maggie.

## 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 & Blether

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



Tea or Coffee

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

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



FAIRTRADE



It may be easy to think about Fairtrade, and what it's all about, at certain times of the year (such as Fairtrade Fortnight), but the Fairtrade Foundation reminds us that every trip to a supermarket or online store is an opportunity to choose fairness. Our everyday choices can help farmers in some of the poorest parts of the world earn a decent living, send children to school, empower women to build businesses and help protect the planet.

In the past year, the Foundation has worked hard to keep us informed about ways in which different groups - people in schools, places of worship and community groups, as well as individual folk, are connecting with each other, supporting one another and standing in solidarity with people who grow our food and make our clothes.

The focus for 2025 was on the tea industry, with the campaign slogan being 'Brew it Fair'. In December, more than 22,000 signatures were taken to 10 Downing Street - calling for the government to 'Brew it Fair' and take greater action to protect tea farmers and workers. 85 MPs are backing change in the tea industry.

At a local level we were again able to order The Real Easter Eggs, and The Real Advent Calendars, both of which use Fairtrade chocolate. During Fairtrade Fortnight, we enjoyed a Church service focusing on Fairtrade and including a Fairtrade breakfast, and sincere thanks are due to Norma and her team of helpers for organising the food.

As we move on now in 2026, this might be a good time for each of us to consider if our support for Fairtrade simply means commending what other people are doing, or if we could make even a few changes to our shopping lists to include Fairtrade products.

Maureen Buwert

*A clear conscience is a sign of a fuzzy memory*

**'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 Seniors Christmas**



Letham Seniors celebrated the start of Christmas with a lovely lunch in the Village Hall, which was decorated and looking beautiful.

We were able to give members this lovely celebration at a subsidised cost due to the support we receive from the community, thank you.

The coffee morning held towards the end of November was extremely well supported, raising almost £600, a tremendous help towards our funds, again thank you.

The next event will be our spring coffee morning, we look forward to seeing you there.  
*Isobel Sword*

**Music and Memories**

We are thinking of starting an afternoon of music and memories for people with Dementia and their carers.

It would be held on Monday afternoons, from 2.00pm to 3.30pm, starting in the New Year, and would be in the church hall, which has disabled friendly access.

A meeting to discuss this is being arranged.

Should you be interested in coming or would like to help out with the music or tea making etc, please contact Elaine on 01307 818230.

I thought growing up would mean fewer problems. Nope—**just more expensive ones.**

Being an adult is knowing your dreams are **more sleep, not success.**

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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)

### Next Issue of 'In the PICTure'

Deadline for **March 2026** issue is

**Saturday 14 February 2026**

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

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

And to Jeannie Mair

2 Idvies View (01307 818600)



## All Souls Church Guild

Let us Build a House



2025 – 26 Theme – Living  
Stones

Forfar All Souls Guild meets every 2 weeks, at 2.00pm on a Wednesday afternoon, in the Lowson Church Hall.

There are always interesting speakers and there is an opportunity to join in fellowship while enjoying a cup of tea.

All are welcome.

Transport can be arranged from Letham

Please contact Norma Craigon on 07432 650084 if you would like a lift

### Diary dates for 2026

25 February Women in Politics – Linda Clark

11 March Happy Ukes

18 March Guild Project Afternoon at East & Old Church Build my Church – Bear Necessities for Bulgaria

21 March (Saturday) Coffee Morning All Souls @ Lowson Hall 10.00 – 11.30 am

Linda Stewart: All Souls Guild Contact  
[linas28@btinternet.com](mailto:linas28@btinternet.com).

## Letham Gardening Club

On the 13th of January we once again welcomed Colin Ainsworth as our quiz master.

Colin whose knowledge is second to none set us 40 questions, some of which we knew and some we didn't, a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

The teams were closely balanced with the points difference being between 56 and 58. So more than one point for some of the questions. Colin has played quiz master for us for a number of years now and it always seems that the less we know the more banter and fun is had. A huge thanks to Colin for his time and expertise and once again we acknowledge that the quiz masters decision is always right.

Our guest speaker for Tuesday 10th February is Valerie Orr from Hillend of Burnside, Kingsmuir, on the knowledge and skill of growing cut flowers in Scotland.

The club is held at 7.30pm in the Bowling Club.

Come and join us and bring a friend

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Please pop in if you need any advice.

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Letham and District  
Scottish Women's Institute



On Tuesday December 2nd, the ladies of Letham and District SWI enjoyed a fine Christmas Party. We passed the parcel (with forfeits), played Christmas Carols on boomwhackers (tuned plastic tubes) ate far too many sausage rolls, mince pies, tiffin and Biscoff fudge, drank Prosecco (alcohol free for the drivers) and generally had a good time. The competitions were judged by Ruth Watson and the results were:

Cheese Straws: 1. Victoria, 2. Lynne, 3. Dorothy  
Table decoration: 1. Lynne, 2. Dorothy,  
3. Lindsay.

Garden Flower: Collette, 2, Victoria, 3. Lynne.



Sadly due to the poor weather conditions our January meeting was cancelled so we now look forward to a visit from the Letham Community Choir on Tuesday 3rd February to which we would like to invite all members of the Letham community. 7.15 in the Bowling Club, £6 per person which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Please bring your own cup/mug. January's competitions will be judged that night along with the February competitions which are 3 chocolate truffles, a Valentine's card (any paper craft) and a garden flower of the month.

Dorothy Goss

## TALES OF LETHAM (A)

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

*John Muir*

It is a wee bird, smaller than a blackbird. It is black all over but sports a jaunty white bib. It lives next to us and is an unbelievable gem of nature. It feeds mostly underwater. It crawls along the stones and foliage and mosses of fast flowing burns - always going upstream, so that the drummel created by the action of turning over stones to find insect life for eating, is quickly swept away by the fast flowing water. This calls for seeing underwater and legs with the strength of an all in wrestler and the thickness of a twig in comparison to other birds that don't crawl upstream to find their food.

When it is out of the water on pebbles or near the stream, it has a bobbing habit which together with its underwater feeding, bequeaths it the title of "dipper". The Latin name for dipper birds refers to the genus *Cinclus*, with the common European or White-throated Dipper being *Cinclus Cinclus*.

So is this not a marvel? It swims upstream using its claws to take a grip of the pebbly bottom of the stream. It must have a tremendous capacity to hold its breath, to see underwater, to eat underwater and make progress up a fast moving stream underwater.

The dipper must live close by, more or less on, or in, a fast running stream, and the dipper seems to operate best when the air is full of the sounds of fast running water. By the middle of this month (February) it will be sitting on eggs to ensure the newborn chicks can fully capitalise on the burgeoning expansion of insects by the burn in the spring.

Its nest which is not easy to spot is always by the river bank and often presents as a hole beneath an overhanging bundle of moss.

What an exquisite nesting spot, and that is all happening in the Vinney Burn not far from where you are right now. The burn in fact is the dipper's whole life – as you are unlikely to see a dipper in your garden.

In the 1800s a Minister of a church down near Lunan Bay told of the delights of the dipper that he had observed in the Lunan Burn, which we know is the burn which can be found at Friockheim, up to the bridge over the Vinney, (the bridge built in 1937), at the western entrance to the village. Upstream from that point, it is the Vinney, whose source is to the west of Letham somewhere in the Lour Estate.

This first wildlife observation begins with the dipper. Surely, an amazing bird, which lives beside us.

JAMc

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## Letham Feuars' Committee

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