

# In the PICTure

September 2026

ITP was established in 1995

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

## Dempster Day 2026

Dempster Day on 9th August commenced with Ice Cream at the Church followed by a pizza and pudding lunch. One thirty saw the opening of the Annual Flower Show in the village hall whilst the Scout area opened at 2 pm. There, a BBQ was run by the Scouts, Coffee and Tea by Letham Seniors, Games for children, Craft Work displayed by HandPict and a small display of elderly vehicles. A fun day when villagers made the most of the sunny weather.

The Annual Flower Show was hosted by Bill Muir who welcomed attendees, thanked all entrants and noted, with regret, that the weather had depleted the entry numbers.

Mr Colin Ainsworth congratulated the winners and presented the prizes. The Burgess Rose Bowl for most points in the Show was awarded to Dorothy Stables whilst the children's sections were won by Poppy Low and Grace Murray. Twenty two trophies were presented, Frances Webster and Gelda Pryde being amongst the recipients, and some of the prize winners are pictured below.





## WINTER BREW & BLETHER



From **Friday 6th November**, Brew and Blether will start a winter programme. This will be led by church members, instead of Letham Seniors, but it will still have the dementia friendly musical event on the first Friday of every month. There are also some new events and activities planned.

This means that the Church Warm Spaces event will not be running over the winter. The Warm Spaces event was of its time and much appreciated by those who attended during the last few winters. Those who attended last year really appreciated the social aspect of the event and this led to the afternoon Brew and Blether being set up over the summer. Continuing Brew and Blether over the winter means that this social event continues to be available for anyone in the village who would like to share a cuppie and a blether on a Friday afternoon. It is free and runs from 2-3.30pm in the Church Hall.

All welcome.

### Calling all Seniors in Letham, Bowrie and Craichie

The last date for renewing your membership for Letham Seniors is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026. Please contact the committee member who usually collects your membership money, etc, to renew. Anyone wishing to join for the first time should contact Isobel Sword or Elaine Saunders. You can find us in the church hall on Friday afternoons between 2pm and 3.30pm. Membership is open to anyone who is 60 or over and not in full-time work. Membership costs £5 per annum and includes a subsidised annual outing and Christmas meal/party, plus a Christmas present. Act now to avoid disappointment.

*Elaine Saunders, Treasurer*

### Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for **October 2026** issue is  
**Saturday 19 September 2026**

Material to be sent to Rev Martyn Thomas

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

And to Jeannie Mair

E-Mail: [j.mair382@btinternet.com](mailto:j.mair382@btinternet.com)



## Report on M.A.F. by Sandra Macrae

Mission Aviation Fellowship is a global Christian humanitarian organisation operating in 12 Countries. It uses aviation to deliver aid, medical care and support to isolated communities

With a fleet of more than 100 light aircraft it delivers passengers and goods safely over derelict roads, violent conflicts and natural disasters. Its pilots transport food and water, health professionals, emergencies workers and Christian Missionaries to over 1000 remote communities. Practical help; Spiritual hope; Physical healing, is the MAF remit.

At present a global fuel crisis is threatening to ground life saving flights. People in the world's most isolated places could be left without care, help or hope. People like South Sudan women can suffer for decades with devastating childbirth injuries like obstetric fistula leaving them incontinent, isolated and rejected. MAF flights could be their only way to reach life-changing surgery.

The 2025 Review highlights MAF's work in Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Kenya, Madagascar, Timor-Leste, and Arnhem Land. Further details are available on the MAF website (<https://maf-uk.org>). I would like to highlight the relief MAF was able to bring to an old lady in South Sudan called Ayor who has lived all her adult life with a fistula injury which she rarely speaks about. This injury resulted from the birth of her fourth child over 40 years ago. Her baby died and she was unable conceive again. Like other women in her country, she did not have the assistance of a midwife or doctor, and a result was obstetric fistula. After one surgical failure, she was flown to the Lutheran Mission Hospital at Juba, where a specialist medical team successfully treated her. Ayor was able to return with dignity to her village.

UNICEF describes South Suda as the world's largest internal displacement crisis, and children are paying the highest price. Relentless attacks on hospitals, schools, water and power supplies have left children and families without access to essential services. 17.3 million children require protection and emergency services and MAF is one of the agencies that does that.

MAF has a problem when a remote village does not have an airstrip. The problem is being investigated and Dave Waterman an engineer in Uganda in 2017 now at home in Ashford (Kent) is trying to produce drones. He estimates that in 3 years MAF will have its own drones to help in places with no airstrips.





## Fair Trade



Fairtrade Fortnight 2026 is just around the corner! From 21 September to 4 October, people across the UK will come together to celebrate fairer trade and support the farmers, workers and communities behind some of the products we rely on every day.

Throughout the two weeks, the focus will be on the theme of Fair Pay, encouraging people to remember a simple truth: fair pay matters because everyone deserves the chance to live well. However we earn a living, we all deserve to be paid fairly. Supporting Fairtrade helps support fairer pay for the farmers and workers behind products we love.

In Letham this year we'll be promoting Fairtrade, with a Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th September at 10am in the Church Hall, and a focus on Fairtrade in the Church service on Sunday 20th at 10:30am. If you wish to find out more about the importance of the Fairtrade movement and how it is helping millions of people throughout the world and also to reflect on justice, fair pay and care for creation, and the role we can all play in building a fairer world, then come and join us on the 19th or 20th (or on both days) and show your support for fairness for all.

Maureen Buwert

## From Maggie Hunt

What a wonderful summer we've enjoyed! As I write this, the harvest is being brought in from the fields – rape, oats, barley, wheat and tatties. The countryside is abuzz with activity and the village is resting after a very full and wonderful celebration on Dempster Day - complete with Flower Show, teas, barbeque and tombola as well as our Icecream Sundae Sunday and lunch at the church in the morning. Thank you to EVERYONE in the village who made it such a great day.

We look forward as the schools and colleges return to a month ahead of various highlights including a Fairtrade Coffee Morning in the church hall on Saturday 19th September when we highlight how well we can eat with food that is ethical, locally grown or fairly traded from abroad.

We are hosting a social afternoon on Wednesday 23rd September at 2.30pm where folks from all around the area from different churches [and none!] are invited to gather for 'Praise and Song with a cuppie and a scone!' – All time favourite hymns and songs with poems and musical pieces all enjoyed with cuppies and lots of home baking.

We also will celebrate the work of our farmers as we come together to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 4th October. All are welcome – (even if church isn't your thing) to both the church service and the Harvest Lunch to follow at around 11.45/12noon.

Rev Maggie Hunt [mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
07557381932



## Stamps for Parkinson's UK

I am collecting stamps for Parkinson's UK. As someone with the condition, I have first hand experience of the research, support and campaigning which the charity funds. The charity welcomes any UK and foreign stamps (old, new or used), First Day Covers, presentation packs and albums. There are boxes in the Sanctuary and Church Hall at Letham Church for any donations or if you would like them to be collected please let me know.

Parkinson's UK will be very grateful for all donations.

Many thanks Janet Niven (Mob: 07743 683823)

## All Souls Letham Church

### Open Days

Saturday 12 September 12 noon to 4p.m.

Sunday 13 September 10 a.m. to 1.p.m.

Visitors are invited to learn about the history of our church which was built in 1845 following the Disruption of 1843, as a free Church of Scotland, becoming Church of Scotland in 1929

We have Victorian stained-glass windows, a modernised interior and some beautiful banners to view

Tea and coffee will be available for visitors

Scottish Charity No. SC028492



### **LETHAM DRAMA GROUP NEEDS YOU!**

Letham Drama Group was founded in 1976 and went from strength to strength, giving pleasure to our village both for the audiences and for all those involved. There have been wonderfully staged pantomimes over the years, involving many youngsters from the village, some who have continued to enjoy a career in drama, and successful plays, suiting all tastes, involving both adults and youngsters. Our last production was in 2022 with a comedy play 'Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue, S'il Vous Plaît'. It must have been a success as there was much laughter from the audience and no boos or fruit thrown!

Many people have asked "when is the next production?" Unfortunately, the membership is now so few in number we are restricted with what we can realistically stage. However, we do not want the Drama Group to fold.

We therefore plan to put on a small production in early December 2026. For the community, by the community. To this end we are, once again, holding an entertainment quiz night in the Village Hall on **FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER AT 7:30PM**. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

On **FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER AT 7:30PM** please come along to a meeting in the Village Hall about our next production. We need YOU! For everything both on and off the stage in order to put on a production and keep our Letham Drama Group alive.

### **Letham Gardening Club**

The gardening club starts for the new season on Tuesday 8th September and is held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bowling Club from 7.30 to 9pm until April 2027. Please note that the first meeting in September starts at 7.00 due to the registration of members.

The first session is an interesting talk on the history of the Broughty Ferry Rock Garden by Ann Taylor. This is a large garden that many folk know of, and have driven past, but never entered.

Come and join us and bring a friend.

Bill Muir

07908339420



### **LETHAM AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION**



A group of 5 people from the village recently visited our twin village in France, Leguillac de L'Auche for a short 3 day trip. Sandra Macrae from the group tells us more:

After a 3 hour flight from Edinburgh we were picked up by our hosts at Bergerac Airport and driven through a parched countryside to the charming hilltop village of Leguillac de l'Auche clustered round its old Romanesque church. Fortunately Perigord is quite heavily wooded so there was always shade in which to sit as we sheltered from sunshine and temperatures sometimes touching 37 degrees..



On arrival at Leguillac we were treated to a marvelous evening meal with the offer of local wine as Leguillac is in a wine producing area. The other places we visited were chateau of Hautefort, La Gotte de Tourtoitac, and Neuvic where they produce caviar.



On 14 of July we celebrated Bastille Day and the French National day and was addressed by the Maire of Leguillac who paid tribute to the Auld Alliance.

The welcome we received from our hosts at Leguillac, their friendship and the warmth, and efficient organisation of our visit made us reflect on our luck that we had such a friendly twinning partner. In 2028 it will be our turn to welcome our friends from Leguillac to Letham. They have set us a standard it will be hard to match.



## TALES OF LETHAM (G)

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

### Guddling

Is the word "guddling" known to you, or is it a word from ancient times that you have never heard? Way back in 1947, it was a word known throughout the village. It describes the ancient activity of getting into the Burn, for us the Vinney, which passes by Letham, preferably downstream because disturbing the bed of the Burn with either bare feet or feet clad in "gutties" is liable to raise a drummle. The act of guddling is bending over big stones in the Burn or in some parts of the Vinney edged by dykes, to try and trap a brown trout for the frying pan at home. These Vinney brown trout were often not very large but a couple of them cleaned and gutted and coated in oatmeal, before 3 minutes in a frying pan, make a very tasty and unique meal.

Moving upstream means the drummle created by your bare or guttie clad feet is immediately washed away providing a clear view of the new guddling territory. Enthusiastic guddlers used just their hands. Others, not so proficient in hand guddling, still put their hand in the water bearing a stick for poking under stones, whilst the other hand held a bag fashioned of fine meshed netting wire, on the imagined escape route.

The occasional, and very alarming contact with an eel, could put one off guddling for several days. Can you imagine the eel, stationed under a stone or in the dyke awaiting the possibility of an edible morsel being washed past, being suddenly confronted by a set of fingers. The eel's reaction would be to immediately dash forward, open its mouth wide and viciously bite said finger. This had an electric effect on the guddler. Apart from these "risks" the quest to trap a fish proceeded.

All of this activity is best pursued on a sunny afternoon. All you need is guttie clad feet and bare legs. If it is your good fortune to trap and extract a trout, these can be put together on a string of strong, flowering stem of cocksfoot grass, and hung from your belt. A good haul would be six fish to feed all the family. The highlight of my own guddling career, was in the Den just across from Grant Roy's house. The fish weighed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a pound and the flesh was pink, so may even have been a salmon! What a delightful morsel - fish directly from the Burn to the plate.

Do children today enjoy the excitement of this activity, not to mention the particular ecstasy of eating fresh trout? I have not seen a homeward bound, successful guddler bearing his catch joyfully in recent times. Does this delight no longer provide the joy it did in the past? Or maybe trout no longer frequent the Burn.....  
JAMcG



Sandy Yule, treasurer of Letham Tennis club presents cheque of just under £1,000 to Gary Anderson of Letham Feuars committee.

While tennis is currently suspended at Dempster Park, funding may be available to anyone interested in starting a new tennis club.

Enquiries to Feuars ([lethamfeuars@gmail.com](mailto:lethamfeuars@gmail.com))



Emily Hopwood has completed her chief scout gold award. She completed 9 challenge award badges ranging from World, Skills, Creative, Outdoors, Adventure, Expedition, Teamwork, Team Leader, and Personal Challenge Awards.

All at 1<sup>st</sup> Dunnichen (Letham) and Polarbears ESU (Letham) are proud of her achievement



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## Letham and District Scottish Women's Institute



The distribution date for In The PICTURE means that the first meeting of this session of The Letham and District SWI will probably have passed when you receive it. Our meeting on 1st September will see Robert

Richie telling us about his aid trip to Ukraine with competitions of 3 Biscoff truffles, your favourite fridge magnet and a garden flower. Our October 6th guest is White Cottage Wreaths, demonstrating wreath making. If you want to join in and make a wreath the cost is £20 for materials and please let me know in advance so that we have enough material for everybody. Should you just want to watch, usual fees apply. October competitions are a S'mores treat, a 4x4 Granny Square and a garden flower. "The Rural" is a great place to meet old friends and make new ones; brush up on forgotten skills and learn new ones; indulge in some light-hearted competition if you want and enjoy a cuppy and a blether.

We meet on the First Tuesday of every month from September to May at 7.15 in the Letham Bowling Club. The visitor's fee is £6 or if you want to join for the year it is £45.

For any more information please see the Letham and District SWI Website [www.lethamswi.org](http://www.lethamswi.org), our page on Facebook, or contact [dot.goss53@gmail.com](mailto:dot.goss53@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there

My favourite poem is the one that starts  
'Thirty days hath September' because it  
actually tells you something."  
– Groucho Marx

### In The Know

Inside this edition of ITP you will find a copy of "In The Know" for 2026. This is full of useful numbers. Some of the NHS numbers have changed recently and ITK gives the latest ones. We hope you find this useful, and if you think of any numbers that should be included, please let us know.  
Elaine Saunders



## All Souls Church Guild



The Guild held a Coffee Morning on Saturday 22 August and a **big thank you** to all who supported so generously. Your continued support will help us to make generous donations from our funds at our 3rd A G M in April 2027 to the All Souls Church and the Guild Projects.

On Saturday 12 September some of our members are attending the Guild Annual Gathering at Perth North Church for the start of Guild Week and the launch of the last theme "**Beyond the Walls**" of the "**Let Us Build A House**" Strategy and this year's Discussion Topic - "**Action & Mission – Reaching out to others**".

We look forward to the following new session and welcome old and new members or if you just want to come along to hear more about any of our programme topics you are very welcome join us. The Guild Membership is £18.00 for the year or FREE for the first year for anyone who has never been a Church of Scotland Guild Member.

### 16 September

Opening Social – Spectrum Choir

### Sunday 20 September

Guild Rededication Service at 11 am during morning worship at All Souls @ Lowson

### 30 September (Afternoon)

Beyond the Walls – Rev Heather Gourlay

### 14 October

Bandawe Hospital, Malawi – Sam Riddell

### 21 October

Strathmore Woollens – Christine Donaldson

### 28 October

Angus & Tayside Guilds Together Mini Gathering  
11 am – 3 pm – Kingsgait Church, Dundee

Please contact me at [lindas28@btinternet.com](mailto:lindas28@btinternet.com) if you require more information. Very Best wishes  
Linda Stewart Minute Secretary

September is like the awkward middle child of  
the year – not quite summer, not quite  
Autumn just kind of there.

### '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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## Letham Feuars' Committee

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### Supporting *'In the PICTURE'*

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Open Mondays to Saturdays  
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For information about the Feuars please contact

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