Send news to: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

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In the PICTure



February 2024

# **CLEAR Letham**

(Community of Letham Emergency Action Resilience)

is your dedicated community led organisation with a clear mission – to serve as a central hub for vital information, support, and enhanced preparedness. Our primary focus is to inform and empower the community, ensuring that you are well prepared and have access to a secure and comforting space in times of emergency.

Our group includes representatives from Letham Community Council, Letham Village Hall, Letham Church, Letham Feuars; individuals are also involved. As your community hub, CLEAR Letham aims to develop a robust network designed to make our community more efficient, well informed and resilient during emergencies.

1. Information Hub/Point of contact:

We can liaise with partners such as local authorities, utility providers, emergency services etc to provide the essential information everyone can access to keep you informed and prepared for any emergency situation.

2. Community Support:

CLEAR Letham actively works towards supporting the community, fostering better individual preparedness, and also ensuring a safe haven such as the village hall when it's needed the most.

3. Efficiency and Resilience:

Through our established network, we aim to enhance the preparedness and resilience of our community during uncertain times.

As we move forward, CLEAR Letham is committed to building a resilient and well-prepared community. We invite all members of the Letham community to actively engage with us, utilise our resources, and join together in creating a safer and more secure environment for all. Together, we can build a strong, safe, resilient and more connected Letham.

Look out for monthly updates on our Facebook page (CLEAR Letham) and around the village.





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. Starting Friday 3rd November.

Crafts. games, conversation

Everyone welcome, no matter what age. Letham Church Hall - Fridays 11am to 2pm

# FORFAR FOODBANK



As the cost-of-living crisis

continues the Foodbank is now having to purchase food to meet demand.

All donations are gladly accepted though the items below are those which are needed most.

### **URGENTLY NEEDED**

Biscuits
Tinned fruit
Jam
Long life milk
Pasta sauce

Diluting juice Long-life fruit juice Microwave puddings Tinned puddings Tinned Tomatoes

We have plenty of cereals, beans, pasta and soup.

Letham Church is open and ready to receive items for the Angus Foodbank every Sunday morning.

Financial donations can be gift aided, allowing the Foodbank to claim a further 25% from HMRC.

info@angusfoodbank.org.uk Tel. 01382 698020

In 2023 Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church, assisted by the Cubs and others, donated a massive total of 636.21kg of food and other requirements to the Foodbank.

This is 136.21kg (27.24%) above the target set and 83.61kg (15.13%) more than last year.

Dundee & Angus Foodbank have asked that their very grateful thanks be passed back to **all** who contributed.

## **Social Group Report**

The tea and coffee after the service every Sunday is very well attended and the opportunity to chat and share news is much appreciated. It also allows us to mark special occasions such as Dave Lumgair's 50 years as an elder which was held just a few weeks ago. During 2023 we were delighted to be able to hold a number of events. Covid prevented all social events and it has taken some time to have the confidence to return to pre-Covid times.

To help support people who were finding heating bills rising, we opened the hall on Fridays from January until April as part of the national Warm Spaces events. This was well attended by members and nonmembers. Soup, bread and cakes were provided every week and much enjoyed by all. We were grateful to the Keptie Bakery for the donation of cakes and the KeyStore for the donation of milk every week.

We held a coffee morning on 11th February in aid of MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship). Again, this was well attended and everyone enjoyed the lovely coffee, scones and cakes. It was also a great opportunity to find out more about the work of MAF around the world.

Our next event was a Fair Trade breakfast on 5<sup>th</sup> March. This was held in the hall and the service was incorporated into the breakfast. It was relaxed and a different, but just as meaningful, way to worship.

28<sup>th</sup> May saw us hosting a lunch to say thank you to Pat and Eric Walker on their last Sunday with us. Generous donations provided a beautiful display of delicious food and it was a truly memorable occasion.

We have continued with Warm Spaces this winter. We started in November and are continuing after the New Year opening every Friday from 11am until everyone has had lunch. The Keptie Bakery and KeyStore continue to support us and we are very grateful for this.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December we hosted a Cakes and Carols event to encourage the churches which are part of the Forfar, All Souls grouping to get together. There was a good turnout from the other churches and this made for a very successful and enjoyable afternoon. It is something we hope to repeat next Christmas. Again, the donations of cakes made a lovely display and they were absolutely delicious.

For our Christmas Eve services, willing helpers made mince pies, shortbread and mulled fruit punch which were much enjoyed.

2024 will continue to bring changes and we hope to have a wide range of events so that members from Forfar, Aberlemno, Guthrie and Rescobie can meet and get to know each other in a social setting.

Events are only successful because lots of people are willing to lend their support. Huge thanks go to those who set up and put away tables and chairs, make soup and cakes, wash dishes and donate the necessary items.

All help is much appreciated. Please speak to Irene McGugan or Norma Craigon if you would like to be involved with our events in 2024.

Norma Craigon

#### TALES OF LETHAM No. 1

#### CARMYLLIE, LETHAM AND COLOGNE: what is the connection??

When Letham village was established in 1789 (only 43 years after the Battle of Culloden) the new built houses in this new Letham were eventually all floored with "modern" Carmyllie slabs.

These were of solid stone from the alluvial sandstone quarried at Carmyllie. These slabs were big and heavy, in hernia making proportions, and must have been brought to Letham by horse and cart. They were obviously hewn, handled and laid when men were men.

My previous house in The Square was built in 1828, some 39 years after the village founding date. The house will be about 200 years old now.

Some 40 years ago, when we were modernising it, a surprise operation came mid week in my summer holiday. My surgeon, whilst investigating another ailment entirely, invited me to jump up on the bench, "to check things out since you're here anyway". So he performed an unscheduled groping sequence, the outcome of which was the diagnosis that I had two hernias. He was delighted to learn that I was on my week long summer holiday so I was asked to attend Stracathro Hospital the next day. He obviously had a thin list for hernia operations for the following day. I did not have the courage to tell him that I was spending my holiday laying Carmyllie slabs.....

Carmyllie slabs enjoyed an international appeal and market. A railway line from Carmyllie to Arbroath Harbour was installed. Boatloads of slabs went off to markets worldwide.

And a boatload was destined for the flooring on part of the Dom Kirche in Cologne. I have visited the Dom Kirche and walked on its floor. I have also walked on the floor of the pre-modernisation of the house in Letham. And in its garden too. Quite a connection.

JA McGugan

If any of you are thinking of getting married soon, please consider this carefully. On the one hand, you get to wear a pretty cool ring. On the other hand, you don't.

You know that indestructible black box that is used on planes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

I've accidentally swallowed some Scrabble tiles. My next visit to the toilet could spell disaster.

I'm not a fan of the new pound coin, but then again, I hate all change.



The start of a new year is often when we look forward, hoping to put the past behind and have a fresh start. The trouble is that it is often harder than we think it will be and by the time we get half way through January, we've already given up on the new year resolutions.

It can be particularly difficult when the world around us seems to be falling apart with wars and rumours of wars, earth wakes or massive cases of injustice.

We need to remember though that God has always been into a fresh start and gives us the brilliant building blocks of love, hope and forgiveness.

He even sends his own Spirit to help us along the way, when we make room for him.

So our prayer for the new year is taken straight from the Bible – May the God of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15 vs 13)

Rev Dr Karen Fenwick (Moderator)

Last year I had a great joke about inflation. But it's hardly worth it now. Amos Gill

#### Next Issue of 'In the PICTure'

Deadline for March 2024 issue is

#### Saturday 17th February 2024

Material may be sent to Joan Smith, 9 Burnside Road (01307 818937) E-mail: joan\_77@btinternet.com or to Rev Martyn Thomas 14 Kirkgait (01307 818084)

E-mail: revmartynthomas@outlook.com copy to Richard Moore

E-mail: richard.moore1957@outlook.com

#### Letham Church Diary

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30am Morning Worship Service conducted by Very Rev Dr Martin Fair

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30am Morning Worship Service conducted by Very Rev Dr Martin Fair

> Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30am Morning Worship Service conducted by Mr Robbie Morrison of Tear Fund

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10:30am Morning Worship Service conducted by Very Rev Dr Martin Fair followed by Informal Holy Communion

#### **Thought for February**

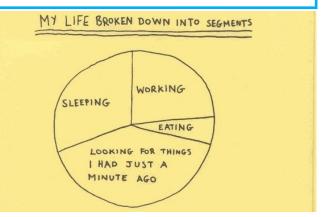
Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians v 6&7

#### Prayer

"Dear God, we thank you for the gift of life and the opportunity to see another month. As we begin this new month, we ask for your guidance and protection. May your light shine upon us and lead us on the right path. We pray for peace, love, and unity in our families, communities, and the world at large. We also pray for those who are sick, lonely, or going through difficult times. May they find comfort and strength in your love. We ask for your blessings and favour in all our endeavours. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."







Meetings are held in the Lowson Memorial Church All meetings at 2.00pm unless noted The Programme for 2024 is: 21st February: GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND Speaker: Gillian Davidson 1st March: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 6th March: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Rev Dr Karen Fenwick 18th March: COFFEE MORNING 10.00 to 11.30 20th March: PROJECT "STAR CHILD" East & Old Parish Church at 2.00pm 3rd April: FABERGE EGGS Speaker: Mary Ballantine 17th April: CLOSING SOCIAL Christine & George Mitchell ANNUAL TRIP in June- to be arranged If anyone requires transport in order to attend, please get in touch with Norma Craigon: 818275 Norma Craigon

## '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 Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church.

### Heartfelt Adult Yoga Classes in Letham Village Hall

Mondays 9.15~10.15am This class is energetic.

Thursdays 6~7pm Gentle & steady class with 15min relaxation

Monthly Yoga Nidras (relaxation) 7~8pm

All levels welcome, if you have a body, you can do yoga!

Call for a chat on 07938 568 552 or e-mail - nataliejanecrocker@yahoo.co.uk

#### February

Is the second month of the year in both of the Julian and Gregorian calendars. It was probably named after the Latin term "Februum" which means "purification". The ritual was held on the Full Moon in the old lunar calendar.

The month has normally 28 days but every Leap Year has 29 days to catch up with the Earth's yearly rotation round the Sun. It is the third and last month of the meterological winter in the Northern Hemisphere.

February is famous for Valentines Day which is celebrated on the14th. Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, Valentine's Day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE by the Roman emperor Claudius II Gothicus.

Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible that the two saints were actually one person.

Valentine's Day is when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February.

The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery.

At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbade the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.

Rev. Martyn Thomas







This year it will be the turn of Letham to host a party from Leguillac de l'Auche, the commune in the Dordogne, France with which we are twinned. Our French friends want to come for five days in August which is the best month for them and we are looking for households in Letham who have a spare bedroom and could accommodate a couple or a single person. Our guests would arrive from Edinburgh Airport on Day 1 and will be returned to catch a plane home on Day 5 so you would be obliged to provide bed and breakfast for four nights. The level of hospitality which has been laid on for us when it has been our turn to visit Leguillac has been superb so we want to return the compliment.



We propose a programme which would include a ceilidh, visits to the Meffan Museum to provide a taste of local history, a visit to the Aberlemno stones and Arbroath

Abbey, a picnic up one of the Glens or Lunan Bay (weather permitting) and a trip to RMS Discovery and the V & A in Dundee. We also hope to fit in a tour of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh on the way back to the Airport. Any suggestions for other tourist attractions to show our visitors would be welcome.

Anyone prepared to provide accommodation for members of the visiting group would be welcome.

Our programme for the coming year plans conversation classes in French and a link between pupils at Letham Primary School and the Ecole Primaire de Leguillac de l'Auche.

New members for the Letham and District Twinning Association will be most welcome. If you want to join the association and participate in our programme and/or provide accommodation for our visitors in August, please contact either of our office-bearers below:

Sandra MacRae (Convener) alexandramacrae1941@gmail.com Morag Frazer (Secretary) morag-fraser@hotmail.co.uk

Sandra Macrae

## GUIDE DOGS NEED YOU...

Are you looking for a meaningful way to start the new year? Do you want to make a positive difference in your community and beyond? If yes, then you might be interested in joining our Guide Dogs volunteer community!

Whether you can give a minute, an hour, or a lifetime, we have something for you. You can work directly



with our dogs or with people who are visually impaired. You can support raising awareness of our services, organise events for us, and so much more.

Without our volunteers, we wouldn't be able to reach and support as many visually impaired people as we do.

We are thankful for every one of our volunteers and would love for more people to join the Guide Dogs community.

For more information please visit

https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/ volunteering/

or email VolunteerScotNI@guidedogs.org.uk

IN ORDER TO KEEP A TRUE PERSPECTIVE OF ONE'S IMPORTANCE, EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A DOG THAT WILL WORSHIP HIM AND A CAT THAT WILL IGNORE HIM.





Learning Together



Group Weekly Bible Study

Letham Church Hall on Mondays at 1:30pm.

Toys and drawing materials available for children. Tea, coffee and snacks provided. All are Welcome.





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## LETHAM & DISTRICT



As you all know our much anticipated meeting for January was cancelled due to the snowy weather. This was very disappointing for everyone but on a positive note we are looking forward to our next meeting on 6th February 2024, 7.15pm at The Bowling Club, Letham.

Our competitions for the month will be

2 cheese scones,

Appliqué tote bag (bag may be bought )

Garden flower of the month.

Frances Smith, H&H Guild Convenor, will be our speaker for the evening. Frances will be coming along to give us some hints and tips for our upcoming Federation show to be held on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th March 2024 at Reid Hall Forfar.

We are hoping for better weather and to seeing all our members. Visitors will also be made very welcome.

Colette McNeill (Press Secretary)

It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.

Jerry Seinfeld

# **LETHAM GARDENING CLUB**

After a very enjoyable quiz night in January our topic for February is:

Two Scots who did well in Australia; a tour round the Coonawarra Wine Region and the Umpherston Sinkhole.

Our speaker is Joe Gibb the chair of Friockheim gardening club.

All welcome and bring a friend.

Dates for your diary:

11 May 2024 - Plant sale in Scout Hut

11 August 2024 - Flower Show in the Village Hall

Bill Muir 07908 339420

### **Information for Prayer**



1: Kenya team and for a successful AOC audit at the end of the month involving the Operations team and Kenya Civil Aviation Authority.

**2:** Give thanks for the two families joining the **Guinea** team this year. Pray they settle quickly.

3: Renewal of MAF's service permit in Liberia.

**4:** INSIGHT is the new reporting software launched by MAFI at the end of 2023. Give thanks that it has now been implemented in all the MAFI programmes.

**5:** The recruitment of Country Directors for several MAF International programmes this year.

**6:** Give thanks for the swift appointment of a new Communications Officer in **Madagascar**.

7: For continued safety for our aircraft and pilots as we fly to bring help, hope and healing to isolated places.

8: That a new engine for a C206 aircraft in **Tanza**nia will soon be dispatched.

**9:** The recruitment of teachers for the Juba Christian Academy in South Sudan and the Dakar Liberia Co-op. Having school teachers in the field enables our staff families to stay longer in mission.

**10:** Give thanks for God's provision of our aircraft as we strengthen our fleet. Continue to pray for His provision in this area.

11: The final preparations for the orientation of our new staff taking place in **South Africa** at the beginning of February.

**12:** Praise God for the dedication of a new Kodiak aircraft for **Indonesia**. PK-MAX will replace an aircraft damaged by rebels at an airstrip in January 2021.

**13:** A potential dental safari project in **Liberia** that will bring relief to many lives in remote communities.

14: Give thanks for all our partners whose heart is to bring education and opportunities to all those in isolated places.

Sandra Macrae



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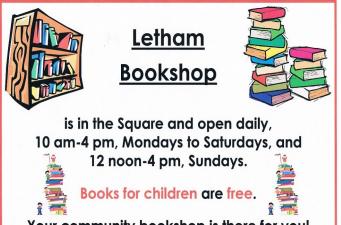
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