

LAUNTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LHS reconvened in September 2021, with much support from members. To allow space for social distancing we moved the meetings to the parish hall. We meet at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month and in the last few months we have had a varied and interesting range of speakers, from Drovers Roads to Literary Oxford and World Heritage. The wealth of speakers around the university means that Oxford features regularly - recent topics include the castle and the men who built areas like Park Town - but we aim to have a balance. In April we will hear about Sulgrave, in May, the lost villages of Oxfordshire. We welcome suggestions for topics and speakers.

At our AGM last November, we gave our thanks to outgoing officers – Ken and Wendy Babington, and Peter Barrington. We welcomed Bob Roberts as our Chairman. Cathy Procopiou and Gwen Skinner became joint secretaries as Pat Tucker stood down from that role, though happily she remains very much involved with LHS and we rely on her huge knowledge of Launton and its history.

As our local historian, Pat has gathered a wealth of material about Launton and its surroundings. She has carried out in depth research, published books about our village, and her papers are a resource for those seeking historical information now and in the future.

Launton Historical Society's greatest challenge now is to store and preserve key materials so they will not be lost. Our proposal is that the refurbished parish hall includes storage space above its entrance. We suggest it could be accessible by a robust 'loft ladder' (we are not seeking a staircase for daily access). The space itself would have clearly marked storage containers. This would be complemented by a system of digitalised papers. We have written to PHIP with our proposal and we ask the parish council to support this preservation of Launton's historical record.

April 2022