



Number 1199171.

Friends of Launton Parish Hall

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 17/04/25

At our 2024 AGM Robert Cornford offered to stand as Chair of FoLPH for a few years following a year of a rolling Chair. Ruth Ng has been our Secretary, but is now on a maternity break: if anyone wants to come forward to cover this as an interim secretary . . .

The Trustees of the FoLPH charity are Celia Evans, Jackie Webber, Cathy Procopiou, Miles Penhallow, Simon Turner, Cath Moyse and Robert Cornford.

In **October 2024** the Parish Council agreed to set up an Advisory Group to drive the project forward: FoLPH has representation on this group which has been very busy for the past seven months. The main work has been focussing on replacing the Hall roof (to buy time for decisions on the entire project, and to follow grant applications and targeted fundraising). Then FoLPH will focus on having the group plan for a phased approach to the Hall project. This involves work on how to sequence of work if it is done in phases: (e.g. electrics at the same time as insulation? Windows with insulation? Heating with Insulation? Can we do new toilets as a standalone project? How to approach replacing the kitchen?) as well as evaluating availability of funding and what we'd like to do next.

FoLPH helped in securing quotes for the new roof, and supported it with a donation of £25,000 as matched funding for a grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) grant administered through Cherwell District Council. After this donation, FoLPH has just over £21,300 in the bank for future projects to Do Something About The Hall.

We have been running an appeal to Sponsor a Tile towards the new roof. This will close on 15 May, by when the new roof should be finished.

FoLPH has been supported in 2024 by a **“smarten up”** led by Launton WI which saw big cosmetic changes to the Hall.

FoLPH has had a busy year with a variety of fund-raising events. On the afternoon of 11 August we organised an Afternoon Tea which proved very successful. On 22 September we had a Monopoly Treasure Hunt based around the board game

translated to Launton, and our thanks to Jon Spinage for organising this. On 23 November we enjoyed an evening with The (Boogie Woogie) Bellas - a lovely musical evening that packed the Hall. Thank you to The Bellas and the organising group for an enjoyable time. Finally, on 7 March Will and Emma Deeley hosted us, along with St Mary's Church, in the beautiful Tythe Barn for our Seventh Quiz Night. Our thanks to them and to Chris Frost and Jon Spinage for leading the Quiz, and to the village bakers who donated cakes. Our Spring Fair will be on 10 May this year, in the morning.

We have also been fortunate in having several generous donations, and much support with our events in the manner of donations of goods, raffle prizes etc, thank you to all.

Lastly many thanks to all involved in FoLPH for their time and work in the day to day running of the charity and also to our Trustees for their oversight, as well as all who help with events and fund raising.

The BIG PROJECT is yet to come, but with a weatherproof Hall now (almost) in place, we can move forward confidently.

Robert Cornford: Chair of FoLPH

(579 words)