

Report from The Friends of Launton Parish Hall for the Launton Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16 April 2026.

The past 12 months have been very successful for FoLPH. We ran fundraising and information events through the year, made a major contribution to the cost of installing the new roof during the year, and contributed to the work of the Parish Hall Advisory Group (PHAG). Throughout the year PHAG made applications for just over £114,000 of funds from FCC Community Foundation (the landfill funder), The National Lottery Community Fund, and Doris Field Charitable Trust, all of which were successful. Some applications were from the Parish Council, some from FoLPH, depending on the requirements of the funder.

In 2025 FoLPH received a significant donation of £50,000 from The Sheriden Thomas Will Trust to support our work in saving the Parish Hall. This has been earmarked as part of the FoLPH contribution to the current stage of work – to make the Hall warmer. This will involve installing internal insulation on all external walls; updating the toilets; installing new heating (Air to Air from an Air Source Heat Pump system); making the external walls weatherproof and then painting the outside; removing the current suspended ceiling and opening up to a pitched roof; and installing PV Cells on the Hall roof with storage batteries and inverters. We hope that this work will take place over the rest of 2026, so for the 2027 Parish Meeting the Hall will be significantly improved.

FoLPH ran fundraising events through the year: a May Day Fair at the Hall, on 10 May; a joint FoLPH/Parish Council update on the new roof (a “Wetting the Roof” event) and feedback to the February 2025 consultation, on 31 May; an Afternoon of Cream Teas in the Parish Hall on 10 August; a Beetle Drive in the Hall on 17 January; and the eighth Tythe Barn Quiz on 20 March. By the end of March 2026 FoLPH had a total of nearly £74,000 in the bank ready to fund some of the current stage of works.

The FoLPH trustees have met regularly, with four meetings in the past year. All reports required by the Charity Commission and HMRC have been submitted on time. There have been three Open Meetings reporting back to the village: our next one, together with the 2026 AGM, will be on 18 June.

Our next fundraising event will be on Saturday 9 May here – inside and outside the Hall – at a May Day Fair between 10am and 12noon. Donations of cakes, baked goods, plants, produce and preserves are most welcome. And we will be running the Grow a Sunflower competition again.

Since it was established as PHIP (Parish Hall Improvement Project) in 2015, the group has raised more than £100,000 to Save our Hall. We look forward to completing the job in the years to come.

Robert Cornford – Chair of FoLPH
(484 words)