

UFTON NEWS

May 2026 Diary

Tues	5	Food Bin Ufton Parish Council Mtg 8pm Village Hall
Tues	12	All bins
Fri	15	White Hart Pub – Village Social from 7 pm
Sat	16	Ufton Tidy Up 10 am VH
Tues	19	Food Bin
Sat	23	Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon VH
Tues	26	Food, Blue and Green Bins

Tues 2nd June Food and Grey Bin

PETER LAWRENCE INGHAM 1930 – 2026

Peter's passing marks the end of an era. Both Gillian and Peter played such a massive part in village life during their 40+ years in Ufton and in searching for an appropriate word at this time, one immediately comes to mind:

Reunited

This word will be engraved on the headstone Peter will share with his wife Gillian, recognizing their love and respect for each other.

Peter found her loss hard, but found ways to continue, not only through his many friends in and out of Ufton, but also through dogged determination – despite recent ill-health - he could still be seen astride his ride-on mower – 96 years and counting could not stand in his way!

Peter was recognized as a 'gentleman' in the old-fashioned sense and was highly intelligent. A well-regarded engineer who thoroughly enjoyed his time in the RAF, travelled widely in his early life, gained a pilot's licence as well as a Master Mariner qualification and was a keen photographer too.

But who amongst us will not recall him on sunny days, driving his Mercedes through the village, top – down, the wind in his hair, with a smile of sheer delight as man and machine were closely matched.

Surrounded by friends throughout Sunday 26th April, Peter died peacefully in the evening.

The cremation will be at Oakley Wood in May, but instead of flowers Peter wished donations to be made to LWS Night Shelter using this JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/charity/lws-nightshelter>

If you do so, please leave a message in your donation mentioning it is on behalf of Peter Ingham so the charity can monitor how much has been raised. **NB** JustGiving may ask you to leave a tip, but that is not compulsory and can be reduced to NIL.

Coffee morning, Saturday 23rd May 2026

Ufton Village Hall 10 am to 12 noon.

Come and enjoy

a cup of tea or coffee and catch up with villagers.

Everyone is welcome.

Ufton Tidy Up Saturday 16th May 10am Village Hall

With Spring and the nice weather arriving, all the greenery is springing into life, including weeds 🐛

The Parish Council is holding a village tidy up on Saturday 16th May 2026, 10 am at the Village Hall.

As they say, many hands make light work, so please come and join us.

Allotments - Public Right of Way.

The footpath which runs along the back of St Michaels Close and the edge of the allotments, is a public right of way.

The allotments do not have a public right of way over them. Therefore, you can only access them if you are an allotment holder and the only dogs allowed on plots will be the allotment holders.

Please bear this in mind when using the right of way and if you are a dog owner, please ensure your dog does not encroach onto the allotments.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR UFTON
VILLAGE HALL ARE -

Email – UFTONVH@GMAIL.COM

Chairperson – JILL BAKER –
07581188982

Bookings – TINA JONES – 07815061818

Ufton Fete – Saturday 11th July 2026 At the White Hart Pub

The White Hart are hosting the Village Fete on Saturday 11th July from 12pm to 3pm. There will be food available and an outside bar as well as lots of traditional stalls including a bottle/jar tombola, a bouncy castle, a raffle, water or wine challenge, face painting and a children's tombola.

We are now looking for help with this event in the form of donations for the tombola and raffle. We might need some assistance running one or two of the stalls as well.

***** DONATIONS WANTED *****

We would really appreciate any donations that you can spare from the following list:

BOTTLES, TINS or JARS of anything (must be in date) for the tombola

TOYS and CHILDREN's items (good quality please) for the children's tombola
RAFFLE PRIZES - anything
BOOKS (children's and adult's books)
Items can be dropped off at any of the following addresses:
4, White Hart Lane
The Old School, White Hart Lane
Or at a Village Hall coffee morning in the hall.

Date for your diary Sat 27th & Sun 28th June 2026 Cream Teas 11am – 5 pm

The Old Bakehouse, Ufton Fields. All Proceeds to www.friendshipproject.co.uk

White Hart Pub Village Social 15th May 2026 7pm onwards

The White Hart is pleased to announce it will be holding "Village Socials" on the third Friday of every month.

So put this in your diary or mark in on your calendar and come and mingle with your neighbours.

We look forward to seeing you 😊

Table Top Sale

 Saturday 23rd May · 20th June · 18th July 2026

 10:00 – 12:00

 Ufton Village Hall, Southam Road, Ufton

What will you find?

 Pre-loved clothes

 Books & toys

 Household items & bric-a-brac

 Crafts & homemade treats

 Refreshments available

 Free entry

 Everyone welcome!

 Interested in booking a table?

 Tina: 07815 061818

 uftonvh@gmail.com

REASONS FOR UPDATING THE VILLAGE HALL

The Past

Ufton Village Hall was built in the 1920's along with so many others around the country. They were built according to the standards of the time and would not meet modern day requirements.

The village halls were intended to provide a base for the local communities to meet and develop village life, groups such as the WI, Brownies and Scouts are all mentioned. At that time, many people lived and worked in or near the villages and not many people had their own transport to get out socially, so a community-style center provided a good social set up.

Many village halls also linked up with local churches particularly during festive periods or for religious ceremonies such as church weddings, holding celebratory parties. They had kitchens of some sort attached and, over the years, many added toilets. Ladbroke nearby is another example.

The Present

The Hall is a cold building, and it takes well over an hour to heat up in the winter. It has no insulation, no double glazing and as a result is costly. We spent nearly £2000 last winter (25-26) on maintenance and repairs to the heaters, one in particular failed and we had to hire.

another heater which was costly and not particularly effective.

The kitchen and toilet areas are not well designed in terms of space, the kitchen usually has items stored on top of units reducing the available workspace, and the cleaning equipment, materials and other Hall equipment are stored in the disabled toilet. Much of the furniture is also stacked around the walls of the main hall.

Socially the role of village halls has changed and most hire out to groups from not within their immediate surroundings. The Pilates class held every Monday in Ufton is a typical example, of the ten attendees and trainer only two live in Ufton. There is a much wider range of social and leisure activities available further afield these days and because most people have a car or two, they travel to these events. The village school no longer exists and pupils travel on buses or cars to get to their designated places. People living in villages travel further afield for work and employment within the village is practically nonexistent other than the pub!

The Future

Many people have expressed a desire to retain the village hall. To attract more customers and help pay for maintenance and upkeep we need to provide a better offer than the current option. If we could improve the look and feel of the main hall, for example, by providing a warmer atmosphere in winter but costing less to run, and improve the way we use the hall with more space for active areas like the kitchen, more storage options for equipment and furniture – we could present a more attractive proposition to potential users for small events like fitness classes, children's parties, meetings, and so on.

We also need to ensure we have considered use for people with mobility issues having to use wheelchairs or mobility scooters to get around. The UK has an ageing population who are all living longer. This has been taken into account also within the proposed plans and would be required anyway under modern planning criteria.

Funding

The big question! Although the VH has some funds we do not have anything like enough for these proposals. We had discussions with representatives from HS2 who have a large fund which they allocate to local communities for similar projects, and they advised that we would be considered providing we provide the right sort of information. This has to be input online in a very specific format and is being worked on currently.