

March 2026 Newsletter

Three years ago, we applied and received over £7 000 in grant funding from Uttlesford to help us reduce our Carbon footprint. We used the money to install new triple glazed windows in the old part of the Hall. As part as the grant we agreed to share our experience with others. I felt we were more interested in improving the heating in the Hall than saving the planet. How wrong could I be? This year Uttlesford county council got in touch asking us to share our experience, something we had agreed to as part of the grant. Work commitments stopped me from attending that evening, however I was encouraged to apply again for another set of Grants. Luckily for me, Pip Hudson is always more than happy to carry out surveys and come up with infinite calculations. So we applied again, and this time we secured a second grant worth £3 500, to help with loft insulation costs. I had joined “ Sustainable Uttlesford”



an organisation who wishes to encourage, motivate and support local community sustainability groups such as ours through providing them with expertise, advice and other support. The 1st anniversary invitation came just in time for Pip and myself to attend. I needed more help finding tradesmen

able to insulate our loft. We were happy to share our other achievements so far all installed by P. Hudson including the replacement of 10 halogen uplighters



with LED in the main Hall, thereby saving around £40 per month. They should have at least 30,000 hours life thereby eliminating the need for ladder work to change bulbs. The lighting level is also improved.

The long existing Urinal flushing system comprised a Urinal Cistern fed from a difficult to adjust drip feed. The system used to flush every time the Cistern filled up. By installing a battery powered men's urinals Flush controller we feel we could reduce the water usage from 175.2Cu Meters per annum (in 2024) to 10.2 Cu Meters per annum (saving us £563 per annum).

We have installed a Resideo (Honeywell), smart thermostat which is connected to the internet. This allows us the set hall temperature according to the activity for individual letting periods. The smart aspect is that it automatically calculates the pre-heating time needed to achieve the set temperature for the letting period according the outside and inside temperature. So no more



guessing how much earlier the heating needs to be switched on. The schedule is set up remotely from an app. The new thermostat is expected to pay for itself in 1-2 years, potentially sooner by avoiding errors.



**Great Tombola prizes
thank you Widdington**

In other news, We held another edition of the famous Widdington Christmas Fair in November 2025. We had lovely stalls and the usual visit from Father Christmas. Our grateful thanks to all who attended and helped and to Arkwright for sponsoring the event again this year.



**Thanks to all of you we
made £2,203 at this
year's Xmas Fair**

The 200 Club members help us fund new and old projects. This year we have purchased a Pickleball net and set. Our Chair Mike and Linda Passfield have already organised a couple of taster sessions. Do get in touch if you need help with the basics of the game and /or would like to rent the Hall. Please contact us on 07895 060446.



*Pickleball has landed in
the village Hall*