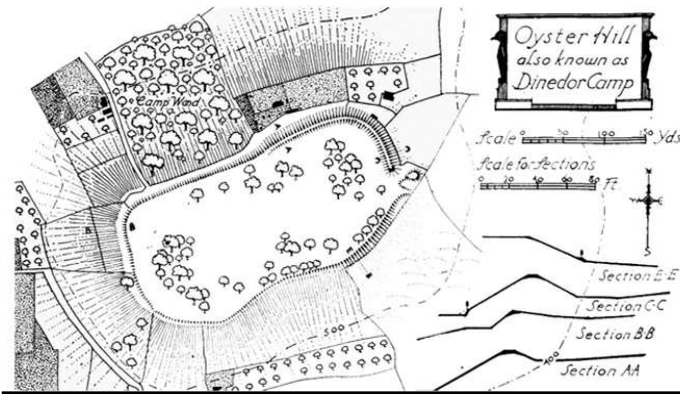


# Dinedor Newsletter

JANUARY 2024



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sat Feb 3 at 10.30 am   | Coffee Morning           |
| Tues Feb 13 at 7 pm     | Informal get together VH |
| Thurs Feb 15 at 6.00 pm | Parish Council Meeting   |
| Sat Feb 17 at 10.30 am  | Repair Cafe              |
| Tues Feb 20 at 7.30 pm  | Dinedor Heritage Group   |
| Weds March 13           | 'Pub' evening at the VH  |
| Thurs Mar 21 at 6 pm    | Parish Council Meeting   |

## COFFEE MORNING

Whatever the weather, a warm welcome awaits you!

**Saturday February 3, 2024**

Any time between 10.30 and 12 noon

Do come and enjoy a relaxed opportunity to meet with friends, old and new!

Donations go towards the Village Hall funds.



## INFORMAL GET TOGETHER

An informal get together is being planned for Tuesday evening **February 13 from 7 pm to 9 pm in the Village Hall**. Everyone is invited.

This is to share updates from all the groups in the village with thoughts and plans for the future.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles to share. If you can't make it and have suggestions, drop into the Coffee Morning and tell someone! Phone 870696 if you want to know more or email [barbaraferis@uwclub.net](mailto:barbaraferis@uwclub.net).

## DINEDOR SPORTS

Since the last edition of the village Newsletter, we have met to decide which local charities should benefit from the proceedings of our Sports Day. The following were each chosen to receive £100.00.

Acorns Hospice Trust

Herefordshire Riding for the Disabled Association

Herefordshire Young Carers

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity

Dinedor Church

St Martin's Foodshare Scheme

St Michael's Hospice

SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity)

The Little Princess Trust

Herefordshire Vennture

Thank you for your involvement and generosity on the day.

This years Sports Day will be held on **Saturday July 27, 2024**.

Please put it in your diary.

Further details from Chris Over on 07443 221846

THE DEADLINE FOR  
THE NEXT EDITION IS  
SUN MAR 24



## JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

We met on one of the coldest nights of the year so far, so we were encouraged to have 6 local people join us, as well as our Herefordshire Councillor and the Police Community Support Officer who surprised us with her visit, so we had a full agenda to get through. Fortunately, the village hall was warm and welcoming - a kind person had switched on the heating for us!

We spent some time considering the Dinedor precept. Parish Councils can set this in line with their local needs and it is paid by householders as part of the overall Council Tax. We are a small parish and the total precept we received last year was £9,500. After a lot of discussion, we decided not to make an increase for 2024/25. However, this may mean that we will have to use reserves and make an increase at this time next year.

The community support officer told us of several local issues, including an incident of poaching. We raised again speeding problems, particularly through the village and along the straight mile and we asked for the police to act. You may remember that we reported this in a previous newsletter, but unfortunately, we did not get enough volunteers for a local community speed watch group. The police were also asked to make occasional visits to Dinedor Camp to discourage anti-social behaviour.

You will be aware from our previous reports that we have spent quite a time trying to sort out the drainage problems in the village - and we are very pleased that the efforts of the lengthsman are beginning to make a difference. There has been a noticeable improvement around the village hall area and once further work is done, funded by the parish, you should see more improvement on the road between the hall and the black barn.

Since 2016, when the parish council became owners of the ancient monument at Dinedor Camp, we have been liaising with English Heritage on making sure that it is accessible and maintained appropriately. Local volunteers have been central to this but the recent tree survey identified about 6 to 8 trees needing professional attention. We are hopeful of assistance from Holme Lacy College students and/or a grant from English Heritage.

Concerns were expressed about the very poor state of the road up to the camp and we agreed to support residents to ensure that Herefordshire Council continues to maintain it.

Last year we considered a planning application for a new house at Wye Stud Farm, on the road from the village to Dinedor Cross. This has now been superseded by a new application for a larger dwelling on the same site. Councillors decided not to support the new application.

You may remember that we have been trying to find a way forward for the phone box at Upper Dinedor Cross. And we still haven't! The Village Hall committee does not want to take responsibility for it and some residents want it to remain where it is. But it is deteriorating, so decision delayed once again. What do you think? We would be delighted to have any practical suggestions.

**CONTINUED OVERLEAF**

We next meet on Thursday February 15 at 6 pm. You are very welcome to join us or to raise any issues with your councillors. If you want the council to decide on a particular issue, please contact Liz Kelso, our clerk, at least 10 days before a meeting so it can be put on the agenda. Contact details for all councillors and the Parish clerk are on our website.

### ROAD WORKS -restricted access

As part of the continuing drainage improvements on the road between the village hall and the black barn, the lengthsman's team will be working on this section, probably in the second week of February. There will be some delays to vehicular traffic during this work. Please be patient - the team will do their best to keep traffic moving and these works are much needed.

### Hereford Seed Swap

**Saturday February 3, 2024 from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm at the Courtyard Theatre**

Beginners and seasoned gardeners are invited to swap seeds, plants and tips. Those with nothing to swap can still join in and take home some seeds or plants, with cash contributions gratefully received. Tools in need of sharpening can be brought along for service, and unwanted or broken tools can be donated to 'Tools for Self Reliance'.

At 11am - Free talk by Tamsin Westhorpe 'Plan for your best ever summer garden'.

For further details email [herefordseedswap@gmail.com](mailto:herefordseedswap@gmail.com) or telephone 07880 730880

### NEWS FROM ST ANDREWS

Thank you to everyone involved in decorating the church and providing refreshments for our Carol Service on the Friday evening before Christmas. The service was well attended with children and adults giving readings relating the story of Christmas.

#### Future Services.

Sunday January 28 at 11 am, Morning Prayer. Rev. Mark Johnson.

Sunday February 25 at 11 am, Holy Communion. Rev. Mark Johnson.

Sunday March 24 at 11 am, Morning Prayer. Rev. Mark Johnson.

#### Revd Mark writes:

February can be the cruellest month – spring is on its way, crocuses and daffodils are making an appearance but the days are still short and the temperatures low and it can rain! "February fill dykes" was often used to describe the month. It was so damp that no work could be done on the fields and too early to plant anything without the risk of it rotting away. Last February was very dry, though. Perhaps this is a pointer to the changing climate that we are seeing.

As I write, 2023 has just been recognised as the warmest year on record and it could be that 2024 eclipses it. We are on the way to uncharted territory. The good news is that there is still time to mitigate some of the effects and to keep the world below the 1.5°C average but it needs concerted action. Not just from governments but also from us. Only by working together can we help this planet thrive and be a home for all of creation. It is not going to be cheap but the costs of not doing anything will soon be reaped by those trying to get insurance coverage or the rocketing price of basic foods. So let us work together, in this year when there will probably be a general election, to make a sustainable future for our children and their children.



### ROTHERWAS CHAPEL

The washed out 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas event has been re-scheduled.

**A Words and Music Event with a different theme will now take place on**

**Saturday April 13, 2024 2.30 – 4 pm**

### ROTHERWAS TOGETHER

#### Can you uncover your links to the Rotherwas munitions?

A new project hopes to help people discover their family links to the former munitions factory on our doorstep. The area surrounding Dinedor was changed dramatically in 1916, as farmland and the former Rotherwas House estate was transformed into one of the biggest munitions factories in the UK; ROF Rotherwas.

The 'Exploring Rotherwas Then and Now' project is being run by the Rotherwas Together community group thanks to funding from the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Many of our neighbours are part of the local history group which meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Herefordshire Archives.

Community historians Clare Wichbold MBE and Angela Williams will be working with volunteers and the staff at Herefordshire's Archives to create a database of information about the people who worked at the site and their lives in the county. The county archives hold the national munitions collection, the remaining paperwork of munitions workers from WW1 and WW2.

"There's a huge amount of interest in the munitions sites and the people who worked there," said Angie Gibbs, the Chair of Rotherwas Together.

"We know how keen people are to explore the site on foot or by bike and to find out how their family and friends worked and lived. We will be holding regular search days, talks and social events to help people to have fun as well as discovering more about where they live."

Tens of thousands worked at ROF Rotherwas during the first and second world war filling shells for the allied forces. The workers were mainly women who travelled into Herefordshire daily from the Forest of Dean, Worcestershire and Wales.

Many more people moved to Hereford to work at the factory, living in boarding houses, lodging with local families and even living in tents in gardens.

"There's so much wonderful social history linked to the site," said Nicola Goodwin, Dinedor resident and secretary of the group.

"We want to explore the lives of the people who worked at Rotherwas, hear their stories and bring their experiences to as many people as possible. We'll be leading history walks, holding regular events and taking the project out to schools, clubs and businesses."



An exhibition called Factory Fashion, which explores the overalls worn by the workforce in WW1, is on display at HARC until March 10th.

The group is also erecting a new sculpture, the Rotherwas Angel, on the road leading to the Shell Store. Events will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to remember the past workers and to mark International Women's Day.

If people would like to find out more about the project, or search for information about a relative or friend, please email the group at [Rotherwas@hotmail.com](mailto:Rotherwas@hotmail.com) or go to the website [www.Rotherwas.com](http://www.Rotherwas.com)

Firstly, we wish to thank all of you who attended our Christmas Social - including the Harmony Singers. Their fine performance of a varied selection of Christmas music even included what we understand to be the premiere of *The Hereford Carol*, a work by Mike Truelove arranged by Emma Rowland. It was a most enjoyable evening and a very fitting way for us all to begin the period leading up to Christmas.

Unfortunately, it appears that Covid-19 may be a condition that we now have to live with for quite some time – particularly in winter: and that while maintaining our social activities we may need to be a little more cautious in community settings.

In addition, there is the bi-monthly Coffee Morning and until very recently Afternoon Tea & Talk. However, we are reviewing the format of Afternoon Tea & Talk which because of its timing (4:30 pm to 6:00 pm) is too early in the day for some who for instance are working but would at a slightly later time have liked to attend. We do already have talks arranged in May and July, including in May soldier and adventurer, Paul Vicary, and we will confirm the timing of these talks nearer the time.

Our hall was once conceived, part funded and part built by residents during the 1990's **for the benefit of Dinedor residents**, and it has subsequently been extended and refurbished by the management committee over the last 4-5 years. At present, it is perhaps only regularly used by at most 1-in-5 Dinedor residents. How do we attract more of you to the hall? Do let us know!



We have just held our eighth session of Repair Café with a record number of bookings. Our team of volunteer repairers has reached ten – double the number we started with in April – and we have developed particular strength in electronics, electronics and sewing repairs. We do struggle in our café as we really would like to have sufficient volunteers to enable us to create two teams of at least four who each would attend every other session to serve refreshments and wash up.

If you should be interested, please let me know!

The logo for Repair Café features a stylized gear and a star on the left, followed by the text "Repair Café" in a blue serif font. Below the text is a thin blue line, and underneath that, the tagline "Bin it? No way!" is written in a smaller, italicized blue font.

Do come along to our next sessions on 17<sup>th</sup> February and/or 16<sup>th</sup> March and help us to further increase this carbon saving - booking your items for repair in with us by the Thursday before each session at:  
[www.repaircafesouthhereford.org.uk](http://www.repaircafesouthhereford.org.uk)

**Allan Simnett mob. 07721 377245**

**DINEDOR HERITAGE GROUP**

**DINEDOR, ACONBURY and the EARLY  
MIEVEAL FRONTIER SOUTH of  
HEREFORD**

**a presentation by**

**PROFESSOR KEITH RAY**

**TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 7.30 p.m.**

**At DINEDOR VILLAGE HALL**

**Admission: Members £3 – Visitors £5**

**Light refreshments served**



**further details from Chris Over on 07443 221846**

## MEMORIES OF NESTA

Some of you reading this may not recognise the name; but the silhouette of Nesta walking through the fields and woodlands of our beautiful village was ever present, and always with a Golden Retriever living its best life, close behind. Nesta lived in Delburn at the bottom of Prospect Lane, the place she called home for the next 3 decades.

Sadly, after her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in July, she became ill and rapidly declined and in her hour of need, it was incredibly heart-warming to see our community come together to offer unwavering care and support. This care extended to organising her funeral and clearing out her house. Nesta was fastidious with her paperwork and going through her belongings was like opening a time capsule, revealing Midland Red pay slips

plus a Licence to Act as a Conductor of a Public Service Vehicle....issued to one Nesta Leonard of Walford Road Ross on Wye, badge number DD 42-12-4.

One member of the community whose support may have gone unnoticed to many of you, is from our local Postman. This wasn't known until he rang a doorbell at the top of the lane a few days after Nesta's passing and spoke at length about his daily visits to Delburn even when there was no post for Nesta: always checking in, always making sure she was OK, always giving Billy a biscuit just to stop him barking.....and these weren't fleeting visits, these were 10-15 minutes catch-ups sat down in her kitchen.

His name is Paul by the way.....make sure you say hello next time he comes to your door. He joined several of the village when Nesta's ashes were scattered on the top fields looking out across Dinedor village, one of Nesta's favourite places.



### Don't have gas heating? Want to save on bills?

Do you live in Herefordshire?

Do not have mains gas heating?

Is your home hard to heat (EPC rating of D, E, F, G)?

Is your total household income under £31,000 per year?

If you answered yes to all these questions, you could qualify for free energy-saving upgrades to your home

Call **0800 170 1432** or visit [severnwyewye.org.uk/upgrade](https://severnwyewye.org.uk/upgrade) to find out if you qualify.



**No gas connection?  
Unaffordable bills?  
Apply for fully-funded  
energy-saving  
home improvements**

0800 170 1432  
[severnwyewye.org.uk/upgrade](https://severnwyewye.org.uk/upgrade)





### Household Support Fund 4 Grocery Voucher Scheme

Our Household Support Fund is moving into the next phase. Find out if you are eligible for one of our grocery vouchers today.

**What is it?**

- A Fund granted by the Government to help older people during this very difficult economic period
- We will be granting grocery vouchers to eligible households

**Who is eligible?**

1. Those in receipt of Pension Credit
2. Pensioners receiving Housing Benefit and Council Tax relief **BUT NOT** Pension Credit
3. Households with a gross income of less than £21,000 (single person) or £28,000 (couple) **NOT** in receipt of means tested benefits

**TALK COMMUNITY**

To find out if you are eligible, please contact us on:  
**0333 0066 299**  
[contact@ageukhl.org](mailto:contact@ageukhl.org)  
[www.ageukhl.org](https://www.ageukhl.org)

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Herefordshire Council

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