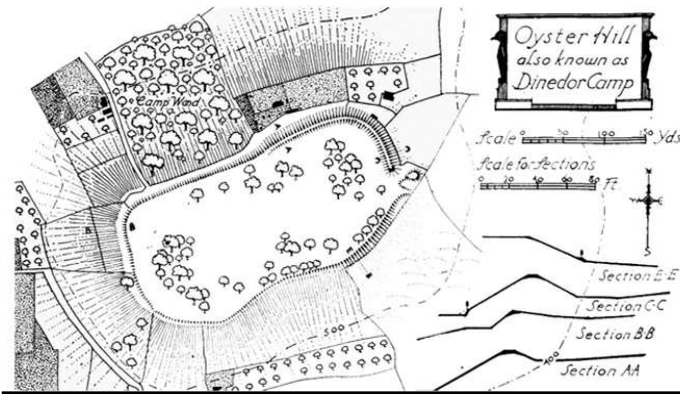


Dinedor Newsletter

JANUARY 2025



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday January 28	Parish Council Meeting	6.00 pm
Saturday February 1	Coffee Morning	10.30 -12.00
Saturday February 15	Repair Cafe	10.00 am
Tuesday February 18	Dinedor History Presentation	7.30 pm
Tuesday February 25	Dinedor Heritage Group	7.00 pm
Saturday February 28	Pub Night at DVH	7.00 pm

THANKS

A big thank you to everyone who helped in the organisation and running of the first Dinedor Christmas Market. And of course thank you to the stall holders and all who supported the event and started their Christmas shopping!

It was a great start to the festive season with the hall decorated and Santa's grotto looking very inviting. The bottle stall, book stall and refreshments raised a total of £225 which has been given to Herefordshire Vennture, which is much appreciated, especially at this time of the year. Thank you everyone

Delyth Waters

January Jackets - thank you everyone who organised January Jackets which was absolutely splendid. What a joy to be waited on by four handsome gentlemen who also did all the cleaning up! The food and presentation was superb and much appreciated by all.

Bully (Enid Bullock)

VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 1st February 1, 2025

Any time between 10.30 am and 12 noon

Do join us for this first Coffee Morning at the Village Hall for 2025. Everyone will be most welcome. Donations towards Village Hall funds



Other News: Margaret Bircher (formerly of Upper Raven) has informed us of the sad death of her husband Tom. He passed away peacefully in the early hours of Tuesday morning January 14.

THE DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT EDITION IS
SUN MAR 23

PARISH COUNCIL

Happy New Year from your parish councillors.

Usually at this time of the year we are reporting on our January meeting, but this year is a little different.

We had an extra meeting in December to discuss and agree a response to the planning application from Bloor Homes for the first phase of an urban extension of up to 540 homes, employment land, local centre, and country park with supporting open space.

Whilst this will be a big development, the outline planning consultation at this stage is only for the access into the site, not the internal site arrangements, which meant that our response had to deal only with the access, not the housing development itself.

We were very pleased that around 20 people came to the meeting, the largest number for a long time, including the chair of Lower Bullingham Parish Council and our Herefordshire Councillor. This large attendance demonstrated the importance of this development. The additional traffic for so many houses will affect us all. After a lively debate there was consensus at the meeting that the Parish Council should respond to Herefordshire Council, which is the planning authority, detailing its concerns about the access arrangements and the effect on residents. You can find the application, our Parish Council response, and the many other responses on the Herefordshire Council website.

But we are unable to report on our January meeting, as it has been postponed until 28th January, later than usual and too late for this edition of the Newsletter.

This is because the meeting planned for 16th January did not happen, as there were not enough parish councillors present to form a quorum. This was very disappointing as in January we must agree our budget for the following year and our precept, which is the money which Herefordshire Council collects on our behalf.

We have now re-arranged the meeting for **Tuesday 28th January at 6.00 pm**, with just the budget and the precept on the agenda. It is very likely that we will have to increase the precept as it has not been increased for several years. Please do come along and let us know your views - it is not expected to be a long meeting!

The start of the year is a good opportunity for us to thank every one of our many local volunteers. All the activities in the village are run by volunteers, including the Village Hall Committee and the various other local groups.

This newsletter is distributed by volunteers, with it often reaching homes on the day it is received from the printers! Thank you all.

But there is a very pressing need for one more volunteer to join the parish council. Our complement is for 5 councillors, but with only 4 at present it is difficult, as demonstrated by our aborted meeting on January 16. Why not consider joining us as a co-opted member – it is very worthwhile, a good chance to have your say on important village matters and it does not take a lot of time.

You could come to a meeting to see how it works, without any obligation.

And there is free, local training available – we would be delighted to see you and you would have a warm welcome.

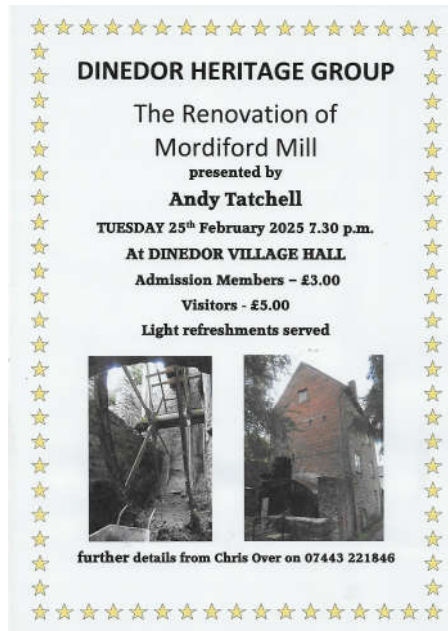
Our next meeting is on
Tuesday February 25 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Andy Tatchell will give a presentation entitled
The Renovation of Mordiford Mill.

This is of local interest as the mill is on our doorstep and should prove to be a very interesting talk.

We would welcome you on the evening and you are warmly invited whether you are a member or not.

Admission for members is £3 and £5 for visitors. Light refreshments provided



ST ANDREWS CHURCH

Atomisation – How We Lost Community

One of the big changes that we have seen in the last 40 years has been the decline in television “water-cooler” moments. Those times when a lot of people would tune into BBC 1 or ITV 1 for a particular event. We have had a number – everything from who shot JR to the coronation of King Charles 3rd but the regular, once-a-week not to be missed moments have now gone.

This is due to the change in technology around us. In the old days, if you didn’t watch the TV you could listen to the radio or music or read a book. Now you can do all those things but the plethora of radio stations is much wider, as is music via apps like Spotify and then there are video games and streaming media – everything from Netflix to TikTok. We can all hide behind our little screens, watching the stuff that entertains us while scrolling through innumerable videos of cats or whatever takes our fancy. But that has come at a cost. What common things hold us together? What can we talk about at work, or when we pick up the kids from school or at a social event? We have lost something here.

Interestingly Christianity has always been about community – about belonging. Not just to a church, a location, a holy place, but also about belonging to a wider family. It is how Christianity spread across the Roman empire and further afield. Christians looking out for other Christians, building community.

Even if you don’t have faith, we can all see the benefits of building up our community, of increasing the social capital but we must all recognise that that takes time and energy – our investment in the future to counter the forces of atomisation.



Revd Mark

Services for Sundays January - March :

January 26	11 am	Morning Service
February 23	11 am	Holy Communion
March 23	11 am	Morning Service

Changes to cashless parking in the county.

JustPark is the new official cashless parking provider for council-owned parking spaces across Herefordshire. Parking sessions can be booked via the JustPark app. This is available on iOS and Android which is free to download. Payment through the JustPark website and via calling a local rate number - 01432 805339, is also available, ensuring residents can pay using their preferred method. Those who frequently choose to pay for parking via app should download the JustPark app as soon as they can, and only from their official app store.

There will be no change in pricing for cashless parking, and motorists should be assured that their parking may also still be paid for by cash and with cards.

“Cllr Barry Durkin, Cabinet Member for Roads and Regulatory Services at Herefordshire Council, said: “We are pleased to partner with JustPark. Their seamless offering, exceptional customer service, and innovative approach will deliver immediate benefits for Herefordshire residents and our many visitors. This partnership reflects our commitment to improving parking services across the county.”

Jonathan Hampson, Chief Commercial Officer at JustPark, added: “We look forward to working with Herefordshire Council to deliver a reliable, secure, and user-focused parking solution. Our priority is a smooth switchover, followed by delivering high satisfaction rates. JustPark is on a mission to make parking easier, more accessible, and more affordable for everyone across Herefordshire.”

In addition to using JustPark in Herefordshire, those using the JustPark app and website also gain access to JustPark’s nationwide marketplace of pre-bookable spaces, ideal if travelling further afield.

NEWS FROM DINEDOR CAMP

The first Dinedor Camp Working Party of 2025 was held on 19th January. Four of us continued the scrub clearance work we started in November on the East side of the camp. Back then we cleared the north east corner, this month we worked our way down the path that heads south. We met quite a few walkers who were making the most of the dry day. Our next working party will be on 16th February when we'll meet for a couple of hours in the afternoon, weather permitting. If you would be interested in joining us, please email me (Chris Waters) at admin@dinedorvillagehall.org.uk.



What Will Be the Future of Our Village Hall? Please Give Us Your Ideas.

Society is changing. The online world that we are increasingly embracing is revolutionising how we seek information, how we shop – not only for groceries and household goods, but for holidays, cars and even houses, how we communicate between each other, and how we entertain ourselves. The consequences: shops are closing and city shopping areas are being increasingly boarded up, pubs (the traditional heart of many communities) are shutting at an alarming rate, night clubs are also closing as those who previously attended them question the safety of doing so, and a generation or two keep in regular digital contact with friends and family by Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok rather than meeting up in person. Looking forward we may also find that public services are further reduced, and that services which previously were in person and at a set venue become increasingly online or available at a more remote centre. For those of us living in the countryside, this threatens us with the possibility of greater isolation, and when we need to attend a face-to-face appointment to have to go further. In such circumstances, you might consider that if services could be brought to village halls that they would prosper. However, the financial viability of village halls is also threatened by these changes in society. Less than 10% of the population of Dinedor regularly attend a function at our village hall.

If visitors from outside of Dinedor had not attended the Halloween Quiz Night, the Christmas Fayre, and our Christmas Celebration, those events would have been far less successful.



If numbers at "Move & Improve", the Harmony Singers and Repair Café were not significantly bolstered by non-residents of Dinedor they would almost certainly fail. Hire rates at our hall were last increased in April 2023 since when many of our costs have surged, and as treasurer I consider it almost inevitable that rates

from April 2025 must increase. However, we and indeed all local village halls face a very difficult balancing act: if we raise rates and hirers cannot afford to continue their activity then we potentially reduce our revenue which none of us can afford.

So, if Dinedor Village Hall is to survive, it must be a centre offering events and activities not only attractive to significantly more residents of Dinedor but to a larger number of visitors from surrounding communities. We, of course,



face competition from adjacent halls, and perhaps there may be an argument that we work more closely together to avoid duplication and clashes in dates. In the medium term, there may indeed be too many halls to justify the number of people regularly attending these halls, and for this reason it is perhaps important that locally we become the premier hall.

We do have issues of size and particularly our number of car parking spaces which do restrict the size of events we can hold. Perhaps, in 10 years' time when we have all sold our cars and rely on robotaxis, this will not be such an issue: but for the moment it certainly is.

However, and this is particularly addressed to those who do not regularly attend our hall, we as a committee are tasked with efficiently managing the hall.

Unlike many other local hall management committees, we do regularly put on events, but these are clearly not of interest to most people who live in Dinedor.

For the reasons detailed above, we realise that many of you will prefer to spend your spare time involved in other activities: but if there are events and activities you consider suitable for the facilities available at our village hall which you would be interested in attending, please do let us know.

Your ideas will be very seriously considered, as the future viability of our hall depends on our ability, with the support also of new volunteers, to offer to an increasing number of people in Dinedor and beyond a range of activities and events more appropriate for the 2020's and 2030's.

Please do e-mail us your ideas to:

hub@dinedorvillagehall.org.uk, and also let us know if you would be interested in joining an entertainment committee to help run these new activities and events. Thank you.

Allan Simnett



Making Connections!

Sharing thoughts in preparation for Herefordshire Histories Festival May 10-18



Come along to Dinedor Village Hall, Tuesday 18 Feb 7.30 pm.

A presentation showing the development of Dinedor and Rotherwas will demonstrate how habitation has affected our area, changing the map – and connectivity.

We have the chance to re-assess how our area has developed and see how we can broadcast our stories with Herefordshire Histories

The Rotherwas Ribbon connected Dinedor Hill to the Wye 4000 years ago.

The Information Board on the Heritage Trail is one of only 2 out of the 7 that has no need of updating. Rotherwas owes its name to the Saxon 'cattle' and 'special water' Rotherwas Chapel is still in Dinedor whereas HARC and the Firemen's Quarters are not. Modern technology can record what is happening; it takes people to spot the difference and see the implications.

Barbara Ferris

English Heritage was in the process of being hived off from Historic England when Ginny Slade was recruited to be the 'Free to Enter Sites' volunteer manager. Then Covid hit and unfortunately, she was furloughed! I do not think any of us have yet fully come to terms with the changes that led to the disbanded Friends to become part of a national structure and all that this involves. Ginny is now the only member of staff remaining from that time

English Heritage is a new charity with no government support. EH Staff are about to be informed of the reorganisation that all charities are facing with the impact of Government changes. We await an update meeting in early February and to plan interpretation material with the publicity department in readiness for members' Open Events in the run up to Herefordshire Histories Festival.

The Chapel is already benefiting from a new maintenance contract. It is easy to spot the difference as the hedges and gateway are raising the profile of the Chapel in promise of good things to come.

And you can now visit the nearby burial ground and have a pleasant walk round the restored lake!



Barbara Ferris

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The following appeared in the **St Martins Church Magazine in June 1936** and may be of interest!
Can you spot any names?

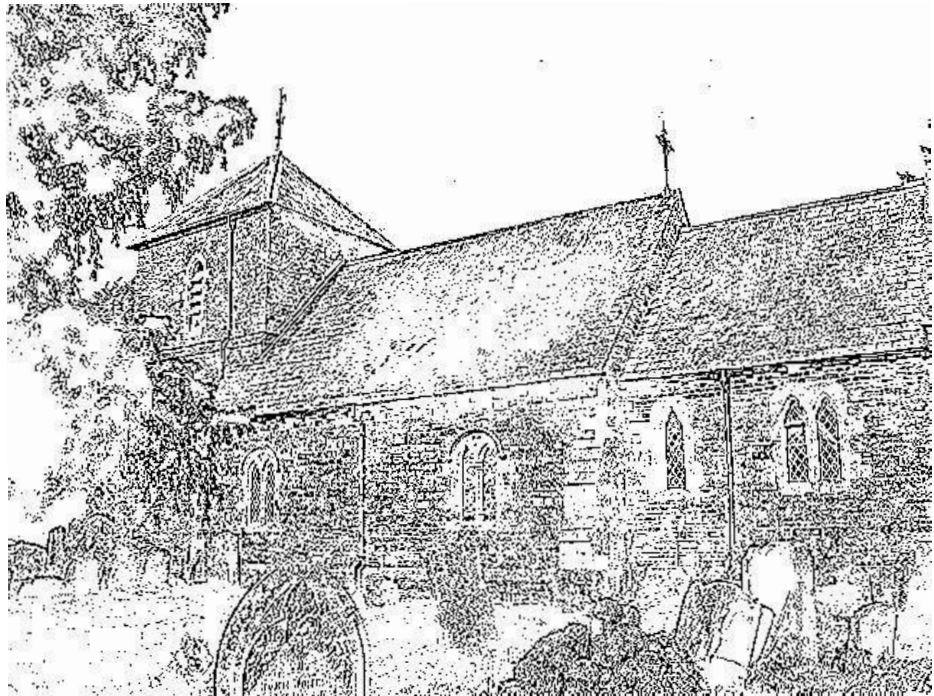
DYNDOR

CONFIRMATION of VILLAGERS – Ralph G Bevan, Michael A E Davies, Richard F Phillips, Mary T Preece, Margaret E Southall, Pauline L Townsend, Corah Townsend, Audrey Weaver were confirmed in the Cathedral on Ascension Day. On Whit Sunday 42 made their Confirmation.

MARRIAGE – June 6th. Walter Elwyn Harris and Phyllis Elsie Adeline Gaines. The bride carries with her the very good wishes of her friends at Dyndor.

On June 9th the photograph of **Mr John Gaines** was placed in the belfry in the presence of a large assembly of friends who thus recognised his long service as Clerk and Sexton. He was appointed to the office in June 1865, when 18, and with the exception of less than 12 months has continued in office for more than 70 years. Many congratulations reached him on the following day, his birthday, when he entered upon his 89th year. Truly a remarkable record.

Owing to unfavourable weather on June 2nd, the Whist Drive took place in the school instead of in the Rectory Garden as arranged. Five tables of ardent supporters of the Women's Club had a very pleasant evening. Prizes were won by Miss L Iles, Miss C Lewis, Mrs Arthur, Mrs T H Evans, and Mrs D Morgan.



The outing to Clevedon via Cheltenham and Bath was very popular and very fortunate in the weather, more especially in the afternoon and evening.

Dinedor Newsletter is published by Dinedor Parish Council

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