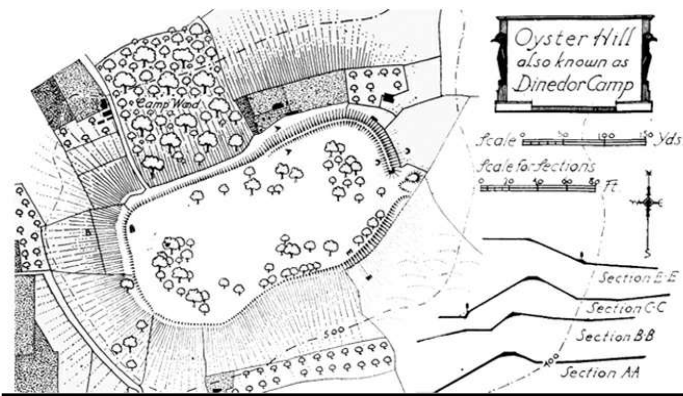


Dinedor Newsletter

MARCH 2025



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat Apr 5	Coffee Morning	10.30 am
Tues Apr 15	Parish Council Meeting	6.00 pm
Thurs May 15	Parish Council Meeting	6.00 pm
Sat May 17	Repair Cafe	10.30 am
Fri May 23	Pub Night	7.00 pm

Advance Notices

Weds June 4	Sports Planning Meeting	7.30 pm
Sun July 13	Big Lunch	12.30 pm
Sat July 26	Dinedor Sports	2.30 pm

WELCOME TO DINEDOR

A warm welcome to Dinedor to all those who have recently moved into the village.

We look forward to meeting you!

Why not pop into the village hall on Saturday April 5th - our next coffee morning! Details below.



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday April 5th

Call into the village hall any time between 10.30 and 12 noon

Enjoy coffee/tea/cakes and a chat with friends and neighbours!



Everyone will be made most welcome.

THE DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT EDITION IS
SUN MAY 20

PARISH COUNCIL

Our January meeting planned for 16th did not take place until 28th January. It had to be postponed because there were not enough parish councillors able to attend to make the quorum of 3 members. That was too late for the last newsletter, so it is the first part of this report.

We agreed to raise the precept (the amount collected on behalf of the parish council through Hereford Council's Community Charge), from the current annual total amount of £9,500 to £11,000. This local precept has not been increased for some years and this increase will mean only a modest amount extra for each household, amounting to roughly £10 - £11 per annum.

We also agreed the budget for the year 2025/26.

We looked at two planning applications, one for Coldnose Road, Rotherwas and the other for an extension to a cottage on Hollow Farm Road, and had no objections to either.

Our February meeting went ahead on the planned date, with 4 members of the public present together with David Davies, the Herefordshire Councillor for Dinedor Hill Ward, which covers Dinedor Parish.

A number of issues were raised by the residents, including the very long delay in the Turnpike Road designation, strong concerns about proposed developments at Rotherwas Industrial Estate which are affecting nearby residents and whether Herefordshire Council, as the highways authority, will be taking action following the fatal accident on the B3499. David Davies agreed to raise these issues with Herefordshire Council.

We were pleased that Herefordshire Council's enforcement officer had confirmed that housing currently being built in the parish is in line with existing planning consent.

Planning is always an important matter for parish councils, because developments can have big effects on village life. Parish councils are not the deciders of planning applications, but we can comment upon, and support, or object, to applications. We were concerned that despite an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan, which was backed by the parish local referendum in 2021, there was a high likelihood that fewer properties would be approved on a designated site, contrary to the Neighbourhood Development Plan. (Since the meeting, we have received notification that the application has been approved with conditions. You can read the detail on the Herefordshire Council Planning site)

Some good news – the funding for ditching work up to the value of £2,000 and a drainage asset survey has been agreed by Herefordshire Council and we are hoping that a further £1,000 for drainage work will be forthcoming. This work will be carried out by the lengthsman contracted by the parish council. The need for drainage improvements has been highlighted by the recent flooding adjacent to the Village Hall. The village hall committee had written to the Chief Executive of Herefordshire but received the unsatisfactory response that the flooding was deemed 'insignificant'. **Continued on page 2.**

Our very active footpaths officers, Malcolm Louch and Peter Keyse are reviewing the stiles and gates etc on existing paths and are hoping to renew some of them over the next year or so. This will, of course, be after discussion and agreement with the landowners.

We accepted the lowest quotation for making safe the storm damaged trees on Dinedor Camp. (This work has now been done).

This report should now be moving on to the March meeting but, very unfortunately, this could not take place, for the same reasons as the earlier January date – not enough council members available to make a quorum. This is a reflection that we are short of 1 councillor – we should have 5 and have only 4. We need a minimum of 3 councillors to form a quorum, so if one councillor is away and another is planning to attend, but then can't do so, the meeting cannot take place. This affects our ability to comment on planning and other issues as there is always a deadline, after which organisations will not accept comments.

Everything that happens in the parish is done by volunteers and contributes to making Dinedor a good place to live. Parish Councillors are volunteers too and to ensure that your local voice is heard by Herefordshire Council, the Police Authority etc, we need another parish councillor! If we are not able to recruit it will make the Parish Council very vulnerable and put in danger its very existence. You do not need experience; we will make you very welcome and value your contribution. Please do just contact any of us for an informal chat or speak to Liz Kelso, our clerk.

Visit the parish website for contact details.

Do want to see how we work? Come along to our next meeting on **Tuesday April 15 at 6.00 pm**. We look forward to seeing you.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Maintenance of the church is an ongoing process. Presently, part of the ceiling in the vestry has collapsed and arrangements have been made to have it repaired.



Making safe the bell frame in the bell tower and the flooring in the tower is a more pressing project. The frame is in a poor condition and as a result the bells can no longer be rung. The cost of rebuilding the frame and restoring the bells to a working condition is quoted to be in the region of £26,000. As the church is a listed building, permission has to be sought from the Diocese to strengthen the floor of the tower in the event of the frame collapsing. At the service in February there was a congregation of three and the March service was cancelled as no one attended. With no funds being generated it will be some time before the bells at St Andrew's Church are ringing again.

As numbers attending are so low St Andrew's will probably become a Festival Church, to be used on special occasions such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas, or close completely.

Joyce Nicholls has organised a Jumble Sale, in aid of church funds, to be held at St Martin's Church Hall on **Saturday 31st May, between 12-2 pm**. Joyce would appreciate some help and can be contacted on 07801292393 and joycenicholls@sky.com

Forthcoming Services.

Sunday 27th April. 6.30 pm. Holy Communion.
 Sunday 25th May. 6.30 pm. Evensong.
 Sunday 22nd June. 6.30 pm. Holy Communion.

On **April 12**, the AGM of Rotherwas Together will be held at HARC, Herefordshire Archive and Record Centre, Fir Tree Lane, Hereford HR2 6LA.

The AGM will start promptly at 11 am followed by refreshments from 11:45. This will be followed by a very special film at 12 noon when Glen Chappelle, John Hunter and Laura Tranter, will be welcomed. They were all part of the BBC Wales series 'Coalhouse at War', a series that followed three families from the Welsh valleys as they give up their 21st century creature comforts and went back to 1944 to face the hardships of life in World War II. It includes scenes in the munitions factory.

Following the screening, there will be the chance to speak to Glen, John and Laura about their experience and knowledge of life in the munitions.

All are welcome at the AGM and film showing. Entrance is free but donations to Rotherwas Together would be most appreciated. There is ample parking and the centre is easily accessible via bus, bicycle and Beryl Bike.

DINEDOR SPORTS

Please note that we propose to hold the Dinedor Sports Planning Meeting for this year's Sports on **Wednesday 4th June at 7.30 p.m.** in the Village Hall. Please join us as your input, support, and ideas are greatly valued.

The date for this years Dinedor Sports is Saturday July 26th.



Further details from Chris Over on 07443 221846

DINEDOR HERITAGE GROUP



The Heritage Group held a very interesting and successful meeting recently concerning the renovation of Mordiford Mill.

15 members and 18 visitors heard Andy Tatchell present the story of the in-depth work carried out at this local landmark.

THE BIG LUNCH



Advance Notice: Suzanne is once again opening her home and garden to host The Big Lunch.

This will be held at The Laurels, on **Sunday July 13th from 12.30** to continue what is now a regular summer fixture.

This is a great occasion and is open to all to come together and share food, drink and good company.

873170 or 07971 544889 if you want to know more.

DINEDOR VILLAGE HALL

A new hire charge tariff for the Village Hall will come into effect from 1st April 2025, and following the example of several other local village halls we shall now have a rate from 1st April to 30th September and a higher rate from 1st October to 31st March when particularly our energy costs are much higher.

From 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2025 our rates for hiring the hall will remain unchanged with an individual resident booking costing £28 for up to 4 hours, and a resident group block booking of not less than 6 sessions costing £24 for up to 4 hours.

From 1st October 2025, these rates will increase by £2 to £30 and £26 respectively for up to 4 hours.

From 1st April, 2025 resident use of the kitchen for the preparation of hot or cold meals, and resident hire of the projector will each increase to £7 for up to 4 hours.

Hall hire charges for non-residents or non-resident groups also remain unchanged until 30th September, 2025 when they will increase.

Over the last few months we have had several family celebrations held at the hall which is well equipped for such events: and if you have such an event coming up shortly and would like to see what facilities the hall can now offer you please do contact Chris, our booking secretary, on 07765 566583 or email him at bookings@dinedorvillagehall.org.uk

Likewise, if you have an idea for an activity you would like to run at the hall, Chris will be very pleased to talk to you about it.

Weekly activities at the hall currently include:

Monday evening: Short Mat Bowls

Tuesday morning: Dinedor Arts & Craft

Wednesday morning: 'Move & Improve' Fitness Group

Thursday morning: 'Harmony Singers' Choir

Thursday evening: Beginners' Line Dancing

If are interested in joining any of these, Chris will also be pleased to provide you with information regarding contact details.

SOUTH HEREFORD REPAIR CAFÉ

So many of the articles that our brought into our repair café have great sentimental value. The following by Phil Evans, one of volunteer repairers, describes just one, and indicates the skill repairers sometimes must put into achieving a successful repair.

Back, On Time

This beautiful, rare clock was brought into Hereford City Repair Café in the hope that it could be made to work again. Manufactured in the 1960's in Germany by Kieninger & Obergfell it operates using an electro-mechanical system which was not familiar to the volunteer repairers. So, the item was taken to South Hereford Repair Café where electronics expert, Ian, was able to diagnose that the circuit board had failed. With very little likelihood of sourcing another Ian decided to make a new one. With the clock reassembled there were smiles all round as it started ticking again.

Owner, Malcolm Hopkins, was delighted to hear and see it ticking again. The clock had originally been presented to his late wife for 25 years' service at H. Samuel, the jewellers, in Hereford but for the last 12 months he had heard neither a tick nor a tock. Malcolm will now pass it on to his granddaughter where, hopefully, it will continue to tell the time for many years to come.



FOOTPATHS REPORT

The inclement weather until recently has curtailed some Footpath related activities and has also made some of the paths slippery so please do continue to take care if you are walking any of the Parish Footpaths.



Having now examined almost every stile and gate on the Parish Footpaths we are in the process of detailing their condition and repairs/replacements that are needed for Herefordshire Council.

As part of that project we have taken delivery of a number of self-closing gates which are intended to replace some stiles to improve the routes to Dinedor Camp by making them more accessible and importantly more 'dog-friendly'. We have already received some offers of assistance to install these gates and if any others can give any time to help please let us know.

Malcolm Louch 07443 909955

Peter Keyse

THE BIG SWITCH- OFF

The 'Big Switch Off' event was held on **Sunday 23rd February 2025 from 7 pm onwards.**

Unfortunately we did not receive the information in time to publish in the last newsletter.

Residents and businesses across Herefordshire were asked to switch off all non-essential outdoor lights for one night (or every night if you can) to save insects, carbon, and money.

The message from the Dark Skies Herefordshire Team nevertheless continues to be very relevant.

"Unnecessary and obtrusive lighting wastes energy, adds to electricity bills and releases more carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Artificial light at night is also harmful to wildlife and interferes with our sleep patterns which can affect our long-term health"



The event was a highly visible act to do something positive to save carbon, energy and money.

It is not however a one-off event but something we can all adopt on a regular basis. It helps to reverse the severe decline of insects and other night-time pollinators. These species are important for maintaining our food security."

Natural darkness allows nature to thrive and gives us a clear view of the stars!

AN UPDATE FROM BARBARA FERRIS

February was a difficult time to hold the meeting to showcase the potential of digital mapping and the existing Herefordshire Histories Festival's website. We are leaping into a new era and I recognise the importance of technology to conveying information. However, people must care in the first place and see that it is accurate and up-to-date. There are always pitfalls.

On March 8, Rotherwas Together launched their QR coded Munitions Walk. I have the App but am waiting for it to be fully operational before I try to use it! English Heritage will be announcing their restructuring in April. I am optimistic that by May we should be able to get Rotherwas Chapel on the map and with an improved weblink. Another seismic shift in my development is called for and so much faster than 30 years ago when I was looking at an overgrown, disputed plot in the grounds of Dinedor Hall to start a new home here.

Reflecting on that different world - and person - I am grateful for the gradual process from solitary ignorance to my present community involvement. I value the people and the landscape. Getting people together is what makes things better.

Just 10 people got together with a desire to investigate our sites of special interest, (the lumps and bumps field) and the stories buried under the official secrets act (Dinedor's Secret Army). The Lottery project, Dinedor and Rotherwas Explored led to the book, masterminded by Chris Over, and a 7 board Heritage trail. The public launch was in a fly-ridden Rotherwas Chapel in 2015. That prompted the start of Friends of Rotherwas Chapel. There are more questions than answers.

Next month, 8 volunteers are meeting with our present much respected Manager, Ginny Slade to plan English Heritage's new community launch for Herefordshire's History Festival Week. May 10- 18 it will be an exciting opportunity for walks, talks and events, not just at the Chapel. The chance to flag up changes to the Chapel Rd information have wider implications for our endangered environment. Coincidentally, the new High Sheriff will be Helen Bowden of Orphan's Press - who printed our book and the boards. What a time to enjoy our growing interconnection Please cast your minds back. If you have photos or interests to share, please spread the word!

Any questions - contact barbaraferris1506@gmail.com phone 07486465257

BOSH EVENTS

Friends at Ballingham Old School Hall extend an invitation to Dinedor residents to their monthly talks. The hall is in the heart of the village - post code HR2 6NH. Doors open at 6.45 for a 7 pm start. Talks are free and there is a bar.

April 14th The Mappa Mundi - a Medieval view of the World, by Jennifer Dumbelton, librarian at Hereford Cathedral.

The 13th century Hereford Mappa Mundi is inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World register, but why does Hereford Cathedral have such a significant map? Jennifer Dumbelton will explore why it may have been made, what makes it unique and why it continues to draw people to Hereford.

May 12th: Herefordshire's Viking Treasure: The Story of the Hoard, by Tim Hoverd, Archaeological Projects Manager at Herefordshire Council.

The Herefordshire Hoard is a hoard of coins and jewellery dating to the Viking period found near Leominster, Herefordshire in June 2015. The hoard was discovered by metal detectorists. Under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996, they should have reported the find within 14 days. Unfortunately, they did not report the find and instead sold it to dealers, except a few individual pieces which were reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme's local representative. The detectorists were illegally detecting on privately owned land without the land owner's permission. Over a period of three years, investigations by specialist Archaeologists, West Mercia Police, the Portable Antiquities Scheme, Historic England, the Museum of London, and others, have pieced together the events surrounding the discovery and the fascinating story of this unique treasure and how it became linked to the criminal underworld and organised crime.

HOSPICE OPEN GARDENS 2025

As we look forward to summer, why not plan a visit to some of the wonderful gardens that will be open for you to visit. There are several new and amazing gardens to visit along with some of the regular favourites. You can visit the Hospice website for more details and to book.

<https://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/open-gardens/>



The Dinedor Newsletter is published by Dinedor Parish Council and is published 6 times a year, bi-monthly. It is distributed to your door by a group of willing volunteers but is also available to view on the Parish Council website.

<https://dinedorparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

We welcome contributions from residents - it is not always easy to fill each edition so please, if you have any news you want to share, just send an e mail to the addresses listed below.

Dinedor Newsletter is published by Dinedor Parish Council

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