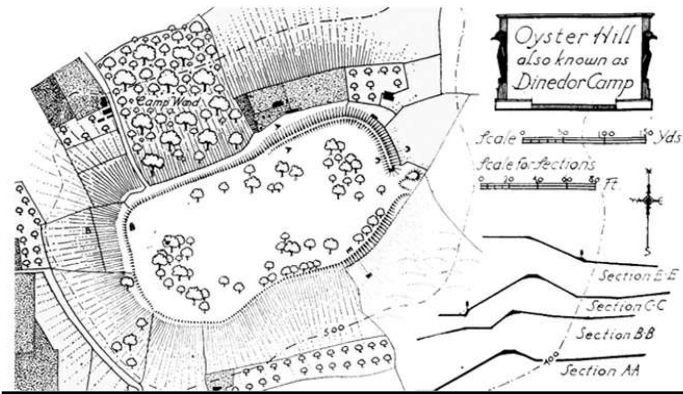


Dinedor Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2025



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

COFFEE MORNING	Saturday Dec 5	10.30 am
HARMONY SINGERS	Thurs Dec 18	10.00 am
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION	Sat Dec 20	4.00 pm
PARISH COUNCIL	Tuesday January 20	6.00 pm
REPAIR CAFE	Saturday Jan 17	10.00 am
JANUARY JACKETS	Saturday Jan 24	12.30 pm

PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the 10-year anniversary edition of reports from the Parish Council. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who make the Newsletter happen, with special thanks to the distributors who deliver straight to your post box, come rain, snow, or shine. Don't forget that we really welcome contributions - anything that you think may be of interest. Just send to the editors.

You will not be surprised, we are sure, that the important local topics which occupied the Parish Councillors in 2015 are still very high on our agenda - for example, drainage, road safety and maintenance and planning.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

On **Saturday December 20th** from **4:00 pm** there will be a Christmas celebration in the village hall with mince pies and festive snacks, mulled wine and teas and coffees to which everyone is invited. The format this year will be like that of a coffee morning with lots of opportunities for people to chat and share their plans for the week ahead.



Remember to pop your Christmas cards for friends and neighbours in the village into our Christmas post box to the left of our main doors, and these will be distributed to those attending and subsequently around the village. Also, please bring lots of £1 coins to take part in our Champagne Roll Up!



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday December 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 JANUARY 25 2026

NOTES FROM OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Our Parish Clerk, Liz Kelso, has been unwell and missed our October meeting so we were pleased to welcome her back to the November meeting. Thanks to the local residents who come, some very regularly and our councillor, David Davies.

DRAINAGE

Hereford Council (HC) has a 'Drainage Team' and we have asked to meet them to get their specialised input to the various village problems. We plan for an open meeting in January or February to agree a drainage plan, to which everyone will be invited.

ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE PARISH

In the summer a few parish councillors met with HC officers to explore ways of making drivers slow down and take care, particularly through the centre of the village. Unfortunately, nothing has materialised from this meeting and we will write again with a strong reminder that it is still a very important issue. We are very concerned that Dinedor will be used as a quick through route with the 12-month work on the Holme Lacy Road and the planned very large housing developments adjoining the relief road

ROAD MAINTENANCE

We are still awaiting the outcome of the work of the consultant, employed by HC, to advise it on its responsibilities for the maintenance of the road up to and along the top of the hill leading to the Camp. This is a very important parish issue. Local residents came to our October meeting to emphasise their worries about the unsafe very poor state of the road. Besides local people, HC schools access the Outdoor Centre by minibus and lots of walkers and families, often with children, enjoy this beautiful Ancient Monument - so safe road access is vital.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Wye Farm Stud has made an application to expand the activities at its site at the base of Dinedor Hill fort. The PC considered the application in detail and unanimously agreed not to support it. Our letter outlining our reasons has gone to HC and can be found on the HC planning website.

BUDGETS

Our income and expenditure is in line with our budget - at our next meeting in January we will be considering next year's precept.

Continued overleaf

FOOTPATHS AND DINEDOR CAMP

We were very pleased to have excellent feedback on the voluntary work day by 13 Balfour Beatty employees, helping to cut back overgrowth and clear viewpoints etc on the Camp. We have written to Balfour Beatty to give a big thanks. It has really made a great difference. We must also thank the local people who made it happen, including Brenda Louch who provided endless refreshments throughout the day. We are hoping that this will be repeated and that other employers may be persuaded to copy this demonstration of corporate social responsibility.

You will see details from elsewhere in this Newsletter that new footpath gates to replace stiles are being installed, which will help access and future maintenance. The PC decided in November not to go ahead with appointing a tree warden. Many thanks to the people who came forward - perhaps they will be happy to help with the Camp Working party?

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday January 20 at 6.00 pm.** Please do let us know what you would like us to consider - we need your views if we are to represent them effectively.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from all at the Parish Council

**HARMONY SINGERS/SING OUT STRONG**

As the choir are not needed for the annual Dinedor Christmas Celebration this year they have decided to open the doors during their usual rehearsal time and invite you in to listen. Please consider popping along to the Village Hall on **Thursday December 18th** from 10 am to lunchtime (ish!)

There will lots of Christmassy songs to listen to. The choir members will be inviting along any relatives, friends, etc. that may want to come and listen so it promises to be a great morning.

**DINEDOR HERITAGE GROUP**

Forthcoming Speakers for Winter 2026. All events will be held in Dinedor Village Hall

Members £3.00 Visitors £5.00
Light Refreshments Served

Tuesday January 27th 2026 7.30 .p.m.
Colonel Andy Taylor

The History of the Herefordshire Regiment in the First World War

Tuesday 24th February 2026 7.30 p.m.
Clare Wichbold

Stories from the Herefordshire Suffrage Campaign

Tuesday 24th March 2026 7.30 p.m.
Steve Wheeler

"Remember the Milkman"
(A Journey Through Milk Bottle History)

A huge thanks to all involved in decorating the church and preparing the Harvest Lunch in the village hall back in October. The lunch was up to the usual high Dinedor standard with a wide variety of donated dishes to choose from. The auction and lunch raised £708 for church funds. Thank you all for your donations of produce and your generosity at the produce auction.

St. Andrew's is due another Quinquennial Inspection within the next few weeks and, as generally is the case, the money raised will go towards addressing the maintenance issues highlighted in the inspection.

Future Services at St Andrew's.

Monday December 22nd at 6.30 pm - Carol Service with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Sunday January 25th 2026, 11 am. Morning Service.

There will be a joint Benefice service at St Junabius Church, Llandinabo at 10.30 am on the fourth Sunday, December 28th.

A Christmas Message from Rev Mark

Christmas - Bah! Humbug - We all recognise those words spoken by Scrooge in Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol" (or for other audiences, by Scrooge McDuck in the Disney version!).

There can be a certain cynicism around the whole Christmas season. There is a lot of pressure to "get things right." Adverts on TV and social media show us how to have the perfect Christmas lunch, to buy the perfect Christmas present for the ones we love, and to be out at the perfect Christmas party with friends and family. Our lives are not as shown in the adverts; our lives are complex and boring in comparison.

Yet the Christmas story is anything but perfect. Mary is an unmarried mother. Not quite the scandal now as it was 100 years ago, but still not "perfect". Mary and Joseph must go on a journey, again a challenge in itself, travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem. That wasn't in their plans for a home birth with family around who had done this sort of thing before. Visitors turn up who you least expect - shepherds from out of town. The last thing you would want when you have just given birth!

That first Christmas was not perfect, and it shouldn't matter that yours won't be either. In the midst of all this imperfection, the love of God came through, a child was born, and people saw that this child was special, destined for great things. So go with the flow; the imperfections don't matter. Be the one who shows love and kindness, grace, and mercy, and may you have the best, imperfect Christmas ever.

**WEEKLY YOGA CLASS**

Yoga classes to suit beginners or the experienced are being held weekly in Holme Lacy Village Hall on Tuesdays from 6.30 - 8 pm.

These will be guided yoga sessions, step by step - Strengthening, flexing, breathing, relaxation.

Drop-in £12. If paid in a monthly block £10.50 per class

Liz Turner, Into Yoga and Nature

www.intoyogaandnature.co.uk

liz@intoyogaandnature.co.uk

07765 631877

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

With Christmas approaching, our main hall will very shortly sparkle with baubles, tinsel and Christmas lights bedecking our tree, and garlands will top pictures and window sills. So, regardless of the weather outside, we do hope that everyone visiting the hall over the Christmas period will find it warm and welcoming and thoroughly enjoy their seasonal celebrations.

Do consider joining us for our village Christmas celebration on **Dec 20**. Full details are on the front page.

If anyone should wish to discuss hiring the hall perhaps for a family party over Christmas or New Year, please do contact Chris on mobile 07765 566583 or e-mail him at bookings@dinedorvillagehall.org.uk

On **Saturday January 24th at 12:30 pm for 1:00 pm** we shall again be running "January Jackets" serving a jacket potato accompanied by various toppings, a desert and a hot drink all for £5 per head. January, especially if it is cold and wet, can be a dismal month, and we do hope that this event will not only warm you but help to drive away any January blues! To help us

with catering numbers, we should appreciate if you would e-mail us at hub@dinedorvillagehall.org.uk by 14th January to tell us that you intend to attend.

Then on **Tuesday, February 10th, at 7:00 pm** local resident, Richard Gibson, will be giving us a very special talk *In Tribute To A Gallant Crew From A Grateful British Subject* which he describes as the story of a wartime poem, a missing Lancaster bomber crew and the efforts to deliver the poem, 80 years later. Intrigued? Well, pop this date in your diary and come along!

ROTHERWAS CHAPEL

Have you early memories or photos of Rotherwas Chapel? Were you a Friend of Rotherwas Chapel? English Heritage Volunteers want to create a permanent record of what was achieved in that very different time.

Rotherwas Chapel's presence today is unique evidence of incredible resourcefulness and dedicated people. Its survival is all the more remarkable in that Ron Shoesmith's 1995 report mentions its endangered situation and was distressed that his concerns were ignored. It was not till the changed world and very different Rotherwas, 20 years later, that Dinedor Heritage Group opened the Chapel to the public with the 'Dinedor and Rotherwas Explored' Book and Heritage Trail launch. The Chapel needed saving – again!

In November 2015, the iconic Herefordshire Archives and Record Centre was newly set up and thriving. The distressing condition of the Chapel prompted HARC and DHG to work with English Heritage to establish Friends of Rotherwas Chapel the following year.

10 years later, Herefordshire Histories Festival May 2026 is the perfect time to honour Ron Shoesmith, who has died recently, value the extent of his legacy and tell the story of the Friends achievements in Rotherwas Chapel – the embodiment of his spirit. An Opening and/or Closing Words and Music event/s with authentic words and Pugin acoustics in this presently cared for building is a powerful experience. It also has the support of Ben Shoesmith, his son and Jennifer Shoesmith, his widow.

Ron introduced me to Alfred Watkins and the Woolhope Club and encouraged my interest in the lumps and bumps of Dinedor. He enlarged my perception and raised my spirits. I wish to pay tribute to his vision and believe he would take pleasure and pride in such an occasion.

Are you interested in aiding a Rotherwas Chapel Volunteer led Words and Music working party?

Contact barbaraferriis1506@gmail.com or phone 07486465257 if you have something to share or would like to be kept informed. All contributions welcome!

KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT

Over the last two months, we have been progressing the refurbishment with quotations for new flooring and a further upgrade to our electrical installation. We have welcomed resident comments about the need for a rinsing sink, a small freezer unit and a microwave, and we are carefully considering these while applying for grants.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

A fire risk assessment has recently been carried out and there are changes that you will notice with the fire doors and in the kitchen and in the toilets. If you are visiting the hall please ensure you are familiar with the signs and notices about evacuating the building in the event of fire.

VESTING THE PROPERTY WITH THE OFFICIAL CUSTODIAN OF CHARITIES

We were advised by the Charity Commission at the end of July that this process could take up to 16 weeks, which has just elapsed: so we shall be following up with the Charity Commission imminently.

VACANCIES

It is very likely that our committee will have vacancies for a Secretary and Treasurer from July 2026. Ideally, anyone taking over one of these roles will have the opportunity to play understudy for 2-3 months prior to July, by joining the committee early in 2026. If you are interested, please do contact either secretary@dinedorvillagehall.org.uk or treasurer@dinedorvillagehall.org.uk.

We are also very interested to appoint leaders for a new entertainment team and a refreshment team for which you should again apply as above.

PARISH FOOTPATHS OFFICERS REPORT

We are pleased to let you know that Dinedor Parish has been provided by Herefordshire Council with several self-closing gates which are being installed in the next few weeks to replace some of the stiles on the footpath from Prospect Lane, near the Black Barn, in the Village up Dinedor Hill and by way of the permissive path right into Dinedor Camp. These gates will greatly improve access and thanks go to the various landowners and volunteers involved for their assistance in bringing this project to fruition as it has been planned for some time now. Once complete this will mean that the route has gate access throughout which will be most helpful - especially for those with reduced mobility and dog owners who find stiles can be very awkward.

Malcolm Louch and Peter Keyes.

KING'S THORN & LITTLE BIRCH GARDENING CLUB

On Wednesday 28th January the Garden Club will be running a quiz night – an evening of fun to brighten the winter blues!

Venue: Little Birch Village Hall **Time:** 7.00 – 9.00 pm
Charge for a team of 4 - £10 to incl. light refreshments. If you don't have a full team, let us know and we will sort one for you.

People are asked to bring their own wine & drinks. Tea and coffee on arrival.

It is open to all the community, so, book your table now on lesleychapman55@sky.com or **07834 771838**. Don't forget to give your team a name!



Bin It. No Way!



The motto of Repair Café International is simple but powerful. It describes a simple principle and course of action, but if adopted by us all will have powerful implications for our environment and the future. It may be at the lower end of the scale of actions that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change with policies governments set on energy generation, public transport, building standards and industrial output having far greater impact and significance: but key to the future sustainability of the world we live in remains the simple principle of not “binning it” but refusing, reducing, reusing, repairing and recycling the items we buy and consume. Repair Cafés promote this principle at the local level – within our communities – and now with some 3,800 cafés around the world repairing nearly 70,000 items a month their impact is becoming increasingly important!

In Herefordshire, there are now seven Repair Cafés with South Hereford Repair Café based at our village hall. The words “Repair” and “Café” well describe what we seek to achieve. We repair personal and smaller household items – including electric and electronic appliances, clocks, ornaments, wooden furniture, garments, and textile items, and much



more – and we sharpen kitchen knives and garden tools. We also with our café provide a social space in which our visitors can meet, talk, and enjoy refreshments while they wait for their repair to be undertaken. Everybody is welcome at each of our sessions: so, if you have not yet visited us, do come along! We do not meet in December, but we shall be delighted to see you on **Saturday 17th January**. We are also always looking for volunteers to help repair, or assist at front-of-house or with refreshments: so, if you should be interested in joining what is a very positive and friendly, local group, do let me know.

Allan Simnett, SHRC Co-ordinator

10 YEARS OF THE DINEDOR NEWSLETTER

November 2015 was the first Dinedor Newsletter in its current format. We set out with the intention of producing an edition every other month i.e. 6 times a year, updating you with Parish Council reports. Despite obstacles along the way, we have managed to do that. A lot can happen in a period of ten years – even in Dinedor and it has been interesting looking through a file of ten years’ worth of paper copies – thanks to Chris Over.

On the 28th November 2015, Downton Abbey came to Dinedor Village Hall when Lord Grantham entertained us to a 3-course meal, ably prepared by Mrs Patmore and team. In reality, it was Pam Jones and her team! The building had been cunningly disguised on the outside as Dinedor Village Hall but on the inside, it was unmistakably the Crawley family seat, with chandeliers hanging from the ceiling, family portraits on the walls and silver candelabra on the tables – all courtesy of the Art Group. A superb event that lives long in our memory.

In November 2017, we tried to go festive and print the newsletter on red paper, not one of our better ideas as no one could read it!

In April 2019, we were once again invited to Dinendie Hall (aka the Village Hall) by Lord Watersdown for a 1920’s themed 3 course dinner with food prepared by Mrs Susan Flay (aka Pam Jones again!). This was followed with entertainment and a murder mystery.

And then we reached March 2020. Coronavirus or COVID as it became known. The village rallied. We set up WhatsApp support groups but we managed to still produce and deliver the newsletter (wearing blue plastic gloves) and we encouraged each other sharing poems and anecdotes.

In March 2022, we asked if you had heard the church bells ringing at 7 pm on Tuesday evenings? This was done as a token of solidarity with the people of Ukraine. How sad that this war is still being fought.

Dinedor obviously loves eating and we fondly remember the Italian Evening and the Taste of India evenings arranged by Peter, the vicar and Joan Houghton.

The many groups that formed our village life over the 10 years have been regularly reported on – the Art Group – Short Mat Bowls – Variety, the Dinedor Choir – the WI – the Big Lunch – Jubilee and Coronation celebrations – Dinedor Sports – St Andrews – Dinedor Heritage Group and Rotherwas Chapel and most recently the Repair Café.

We have fittingly remembered the many people who have lived their lives in Dinedor who are no longer with us and we have welcomed newcomers as they have moved in.

We have tested your knowledge with ‘How well do you know your village?’ and given you the odd word search when we have been struggling to fill space.

Various villagers have shared an insight into their lives and what drew them to Dinedor. It made the newsletter more personal, made fascinating reading and we need to resurrect this. Thank you to the few who faithfully submit content – we would love to have more. **How about you?**

Dinedor Newsletter is published by Dinedor Parish Council

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