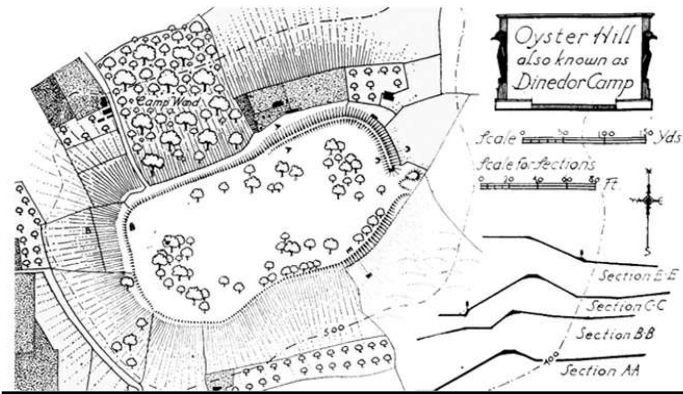


Dinedor Newsletter

MARCH 2026



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday April 4	Coffee Morning	10.30 am
Saturday April 18	Repair Cafe	10.30 am
Tuesday April 21	Parish Council DVH	6.00 pm
Tuesday May 19	Parish Council DVH	6.00 pm
Saturday May 16	Repair Cafe	10.30 am
Sunday June 14	The Big Lunch	12.30 pm



Advance Notice: Suzanne is once again opening her home and garden to host The Big Lunch. It will be the 15th occasion.

It will be held, as usual, at The Laurels, on **Sunday June 14th 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.

Please give Suzanne a call on 873170 or 07971 544889 if you want to know more.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday April 4

Join friends and neighbours in our village hall and enjoy a tea or coffee together with a cake.

Call into the village hall any time between 10.30 and 12 noon where you will find a warm welcome.

This is a great occasion to greet newcomers to Dinedor. Please consider joining us. If you need transport, please contact the editors and we will gladly arrange this.



THE DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT EDITION IS
SUN MAY 23 026

PARISH COUNCIL

This month's report covers our February and March meetings. At both meetings we welcomed local parishioners and our Herefordshire Council (HC) councillor, David Davies.

DINEDOR CAMP ROAD

We are very pleased to start this report with some very positive and welcome news about Dinedor Camp Road, which is the road up the hill, left at the top to the end. For many years, led by Duncan Green (ex-Parish Council chair), residents have been complaining about the state of the road. HC denied responsibility for its ongoing maintenance, although they had always maintained it. This saga resulted in HC appointing an expert to review the evidence that it is a public road and must be maintained by them as the highway authority, not the Parish Council or local residents. We were concerned at the cost of this review which was about £4,000 because we did not think it was necessary. We considered the issue to be very clear cut and that HC was clearly responsible. So, we were really pleased that the expert's report agreed with our view and HC have accepted at last that they are responsible!

Many thanks to all those involved and for the time they have spent on this. BUT – accepting responsibility does not yet mean that the urgent repairs have been done. So the task now is to ensure they are without further delay. David Davies has compiled a list of the 7 worse roads in his ward area, and unsurprisingly Dinedor Camp Road is one of them.

PLANNING

In February we looked at a planning application for Highfields, which is at Upper Raven on the Hoarwithy Road. This was originally a small bungalow which has been extended twice previously. We are of the view that the current proposals will create a very large building which will dominate the traditional house adjoining it and be in stark contrast to its rural surroundings. It is near the road edge and clearly visible from the roadway. We were also concerned at further light pollution in this area. After a detailed discussion and considering the objection already submitted from local residents, we agreed to object to the application. You can find our detailed letter of response on HC planning website.

In our last issue, we covered the proposed development at Glebe Farm in the centre of the village. There is no further news about this but in March we did agree our draft section 106 wish list submission to HC, for monies to be used locally which maybe available to the PC if the development goes ahead. We also considered an application to demolish the existing building and erect a new industrial building at Fordshill Road, The Willows, Rotherwas. This development is likely to increase traffic at the junction of Fordshill Road where there are already problems with speeding traffic, so we emphasised this in our response.

DRAINAGE AND MAINTENANCE

Routine lengthsman's work and drainage is jointly funded by the PC and HC. We have to apply to HC for this grant funding, which for the new financial year from April will also cover Public Rights of Way work, but the total amount we can bid for will be reduced. The increase in our precept, detailed in our last edition, will help us to make up for some of this shortfall. **Continued overleaf**

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The photographs of the new footpath gates are not available yet but we will be able to include them in the next edition.

There is no news about the disputed amendment to the Definitive Map regarding Turnpike Lane which goes from Prospect Lane down to near the access road. We understand from HC that this long-running issue is unlikely to be resolved for some considerable further time because of the number of similar cases they are dealing with.

TRAFFIC CALMING

Residents continue to be concerned about speeding traffic through the village. An application was made by the PC to HC for traffic calming measures but unfortunately Dinedor has not been classed as a priority. It has been suggested that we undertake our own traffic monitoring for which we will seek quotations from traffic management companies.

FINANCES

We expect to end the current financial year with income and spending within budget. The larger than usual increase in the precept, as reported in our last issue, will ensure that the work such as essential drainage and maintenance can continue, despite the shortfall in HC funding.

NEXT MEETING

We next meet on **Tuesday 21st April at 6.00pm** in the Village Hall. You are very welcome to come along and there is always opportunity for you to let us know your views. Alternatively, you can always contact one of the Parish Council or our clerk, Liz Kelso. Details on village notice boards or on the PC website.

ALL CHANGE

Following a procurement process, M Group Highways has been selected as the preferred provider to deliver the County's new Public Realm Service starting in June this year. They are succeeding Balfour Beatty, who did not tender.

This contract covers essential services that residents rely on, including the maintenance of roads and green spaces, highway drainage, street lighting, street cleansing, bereavement services, maintenance of bus shelters, rights of way and winter gritting.

Under the new contract Herefordshire Council will take back day to day control of public realm services, with the provider delivering work at pre-agreed rates. This approach will give the Council greater flexibility and ensure services are high quality, efficient and provide better value for money.

Our ward councillor has highlighted some of the worst roads in our area that have been highlighted as of great concern:

Witherstone - Little Dewchurch
Norton Point - Little Dewchurch
New Mills Farm Rd - Little Dewchurch
Hentland Church Road - Hentland
Bogmarsh Lane - Holme Lacy
Dinedor Camp Road - Dinedor
Hoarwithy Road - Hoarwithy.



Please take care when travelling through the village. There are large potholes that need to be avoided. These are not always visible when it has been raining as they are full of water. Several cases of damage to tyres and wheels have already been reported.

A Jumble Sale, in aid of church funds, will take place at St Martin's Church Hall on Saturday 6th June between the hours of 12 noon and 2 pm. The organiser, Joyce Nicholls, would appreciate the assistance of volunteers. She can be contacted on 07801292393 or by email on joycenicholls@sky.com. There is not an Easter Service at St Andrew's this year, the nearest service will be held at St David's, Much Dewchurch on Sunday 5th April at 9.15 am.

From Revd Mark

Unlike Christmas, when the Christian Church took over an existing feast day from the Roman Empire, the date for Easter has always been driven by following the lunar rather than the solar calendar. Using the Jewish calculations for the Feast of the Passover, Christians have moved the date of Easter from as early as March 22nd (as occurred in 1818) to as late as April 25th (1943, when a lot of people had other things on their mind!).

This variability can sometimes be a bit of a pain, especially for school term dates and the changing of the clocks. But I just want to touch on something else from the Easter story, the mystery that is what happened between Jesus being laid in the tomb at Sunset on Good Friday and the women getting to the tomb as the sun rose on the day after the Jewish Sabbath, Sunday morning.

The whole of Jesus' ministry was focused on these three days. Not that Jesus knew exactly how it was to work out, but that he had faith that, although it seemed that God had deserted him (the quote from Psalm 22 verse 1), the love of God was stronger than the pull of death and a resurrected Jesus, transformed and changed beyond our imagining, met Mary Magdalene and then the disciples on that day.

For Christians, this is a central tenet of our faith, yet our understanding of it is shrouded in mystery. How did it happen? At what time did Jesus come back from the dead? These are valid and searching questions, but we find ourselves at a loss to answer them. Some would say it was all just a fairy tale, told by a grieving group of his crestfallen followers to comfort themselves in their loss. And yet, people seem to have had a real experience of the risen Jesus, talked with him, eaten with him, heard him give a blessing of peace that changed their lives. We, some 2000 years later, also grapple with the same questions. This Easter, we step out in faith, knowing somewhere in our hearts and/or in our heads, that the love of God, revealed in Jesus, reaches out from the darkness of Good Friday into the new dawn of Easter Day and that our lives are changed and transformed for the better by Jesus and what he went through and the stories and unexplained miracles that followed in his wake.

A happy and blessed Easter to you all.



HELP MANAGE DINEDOR VILLAGE HALL

March 20th was International Happiness Day, and in the warm sunshine I hope you all thoroughly enjoyed it. On that day I attended a meeting of village hall representatives in Little Dewchurch the theme of which was how village halls can contribute to our health and wellbeing. This has echoes of Herefordshire County's Talk Community Hub initiative which we joined in 2021 and through which we obtained seed funding for internet at the hall, IT equipment and the introduction of a new community activity, "Tea & Talk" which we ran for over two years.

The aims of the HC initiative were to

- help people in communities and particularly rural communities to remain well, active and independent
- help reduce and delay the need for formal health and social care support and enable people with existing support needs to stay independent and living at home as long as possible
- enable communities to support their vulnerable people

Herefordshire Council had considered county demographics and realised that its profile was one of an aging population that in time would require increasing health and social care support, and commendably it saw community centres, village halls and other venues as places where particularly with an established volunteer network initial support might be economically provided.

So, at the meeting I attended it was suggested that village halls can contribute to health and wellbeing by

- connecting people through, for instance, coffee mornings, lunch clubs, afternoon teas and other activities at which people can meet, talk and make new friends
- keeping the community active through, for example, exercise classes, tai chi, pilates, singing, walking or yoga – of course we do already offer short mat bowls on Monday evenings, "Move & Improve" on Weds morning, and choir on Thursday mornings
- keeping the community learning and taking notice of what is happening around them – perhaps joining our Arts & Crafts Group on Tues mornings or attending a Heritage meeting partly cover this point
- giving – time as a volunteer and sharing skills which our repairers at Repair Café do in abundance.



But the key to all of this is a **volunteer network**, and many of the representatives at the meeting described a similar situation to our own: that their committees are often made up of 70, 80 and even 90 year olds and as a consequence dwindling, and that they lack new blood, younger experience, and the drive to be relevant to their complete community including those under the age of 50 and indeed also 15. As we are sadly finding in Dinedor community activities at our hall are becoming less frequent because we have insufficient volunteers to put them on. The hall is but a building available 7 days a week, but without volunteers it remains empty most of every week. Nationally we are entering a period of growing uncertainty - across all age groups and family profiles – when the aims in the HC Talk Community initiative may become far more critical to many more of us. The village hall, therefore, I would suggest, is a community asset we do not want to lose. Instead, it should evolve to be relevant and a place of importance to everyone in the community irrespective of age. However, to achieve this we do need younger volunteers to put their stamp on the hall and set its agenda into the 2030's.

Could you possibly be one of those volunteers?

Call Helen on **07765 373986** or Allan on **07721 377245** for further information.

DVHMC Vacancies

Social Media Administrator

Secretary – w/e 01/08/2026

Treasurer – w/e 01/08/2026

SOUTH HERFORD REPAIR CAFÉ

Repair Cafés come in many shapes and sizes, and in Herefordshire one of the most unusual must be Hereford City Repair Café which meets amongst the pews and below the organ and fine stained-glass windows of Holy Trinity Church in Whitecross Road on the last Saturday of each month.

We work closely with Hereford City as well as the other five Repair Cafés in the county – all members now of The Arches – The Association of Repair Cafés in Herefordshire.

South Hereford will next meet again on **18th April**, and then **16th May**, and at our April session we do hope to run another "Dr Bike" Cycle Clinic.

If you do occasionally take to two wheels do look out for our advertising within the next few days.



THE ROTHERWAS BOMB

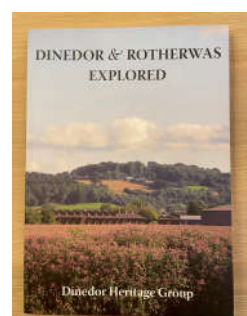
On the back page in this edition we have printed an article that appeared in a recent edition of the 'In Our Age - Herefordshire Lore: Living History magazine.'

Malcolm Louch has obtained permission from In Our Age to publish this in our newsletter. Both the article and the photos are credited to Mick Price.

Professor Mick Price wrote a chapter in our book, 'Dinedor and Rotherwas Explored' titled a brief history of Dinedor School.

A few copies are still available to purchase.

Please call **Chris Over** on **07443 221846**.



Rural peace interrupted by Rotherwas bomb

Mick Price, Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta, Canada, remembers his childhood in Dinedor.

The world was a very different place in the 1940s. I was born in January 1944, at Dinedor Court, my family's farm, just a few miles south-east of Hereford. The birth was attended by a midwife, Nurse Miles, who came by, in uniform, on her bicycle to visit me (and all the other children that she had delivered in the area) at regular intervals for many years.

Soon after I was born, towards the end of May, a 2000 lb bomb exploded in the filling factory at Rotherwas, less than a mile from our farm. It had been recently filled and apparently overheated during storage. The explosion blew out some of our windows, and frightened people at the factory so much that many of them ran pell-mell through fields and hedges (according to my father) shouting to everyone to get out because the whole of Herefordshire would blow up. I think my family just watched them go by and then got on with feeding the cattle. Our main concern was who would pay for the broken windows.

Of course, I remember nothing of those events. My earliest memories are of a great snowfall, which actually occurred in mid-January 1947, putting me a few days past my third birthday. I recall clearly that we were snowed in. A driveway runs from the farm to the Holme Lacy Road (it is about half a kilometre long – though no-one would have known what a kilometre was in those days), and it needed to be cleared to give us access to the world, and for the older

children to walk to Dinedor School. Luckily, we were a big family, so our only limitation was finding enough shovels. I don't know how long it took, but the snow had drifted to way over everyone's heads in places. My cousin John and I thought it was great fun, the others probably less so.

During the war everyone was issued with a gas mask, ours were kept in the cellar, and the only time they were

ever used was when we children would take them and run around wearing them and trying to frighten each other. All children also received a weekly bottle of orange juice which we loved, and a spoonful of cod liver oil which we didn't. I have recently discovered that the orange juice came from Mazoe, in Southern Rhodesia, a place I came to know well twenty years later when I was studying Agriculture at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The College farm was at Mazoe, and we went there most Saturdays for some practical agricultural experience.

