

**Welford and Weston Local History Society**  
[www.welfordandweston.org.uk](http://www.welfordandweston.org.uk)

**Newsletter 50 – Updated January 4<sup>th</sup> 2019**

*Welcome to this our 50th Newsletter. First of all, a quick word about our meeting at the end of September. A full house heard a great talk about church bells and bell ringing from Chris Pickford. This was followed by an amazing video produced by Miss Joyce Skinner in 1980 of the two additional bells being installed in the tower of St Peter's church. Chris Pickford has spent the past six years revising the Pevsner architectural guide to Warwickshire, in the Buildings of England Series. The Society bought a copy of this detailed book for the local archive and this is available to all members. There were several campanologists amongst the fourteen visitors who came to the meeting. Four of these visitors decided to join the Society taking our membership to 108.*

*The second meeting of our new season, originally scheduled for Friday, 30th November, unfortunately had to be postponed. The new date for this talk “Training for war: World War 2 airfields in the Stratford area” is Friday 22nd February 2019. Our speaker is Peter Howarth.*

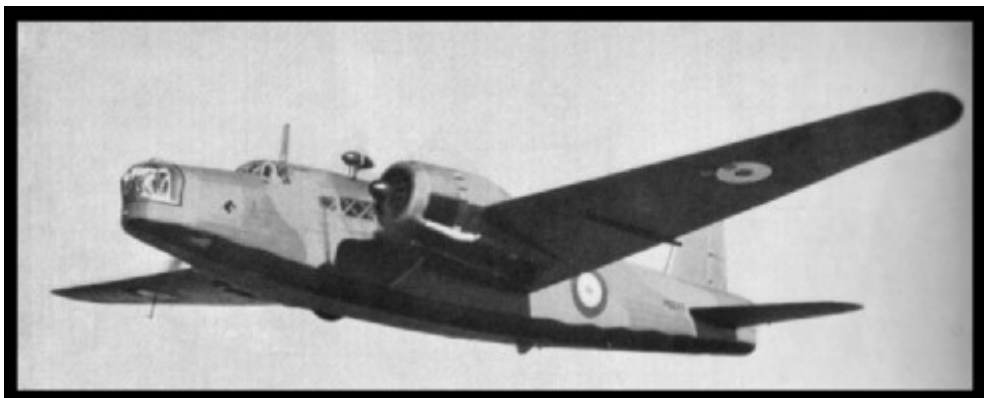
*A quick look at the local map reveals eight RAF WW2 airfields within a 10 mile radius of Stratford. A few of our residents may remember these airfields being used in anger while far fewer will have witnessed their construction. They are visible on maps but are frequently hidden from the road. We pass them regularly without realising they are there and with little idea of the key roles these airfields played for the Allies in WW2.*



**Wellesbourne Airfield during World War 2**

*Some airfields have maintained flying functions since the war, while others became business parks or storage facilities. A few reverted to agricultural use and some have proved ripe sites for housing developments, so the visual evidence of their presence is rapidly disappearing.*

*Significantly, April 1st last year saw the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Royal Air Force. It thus seemed an appropriate time for our local history society to highlight the importance of these airfields before they disappear from sight for ever. To this end we have invited Peter Howarth, who is a Director of the Airfield Research Group as well as having a day job as Head of Design for Cranfield Aerospace Solutions, to talk to our Society on February 22nd this year. He plans to explain why there are so many airfields in our area, how they were designed and constructed and what their roles were in the War effort.*



**A Wellington Bomber**

*There was a large international dimension to the young men and women who trained and worked here and our speaker will illustrate some of the key military actions with which our local airfields were involved and the costs in human lives. We believe this talk will provide a fascinating insight into an important and fairly recent aspect of our local history that had consequences for us all. It will be given in Welford and Weston Memorial Hall at 7.30 on February 22nd. Non Society members are most welcome at the modest fee of £3.*

*Kind regards,*

*Mike (Kearsey)*

*Mike Banning-Lover 750480, Jennifer Sewell 750747, Sue Hook 751400,*

*Mike Kearsey 751383, Brad Plimmer 750716, John Read 750022*