

The Welford and Weston Local History Society

(www.welfordandweston.org.uk)

Newsletter 102 – January 2nd, 2026

Squadron Leader Kenneth Price DFC

Friday January 30th 2026 at 7:30 pm

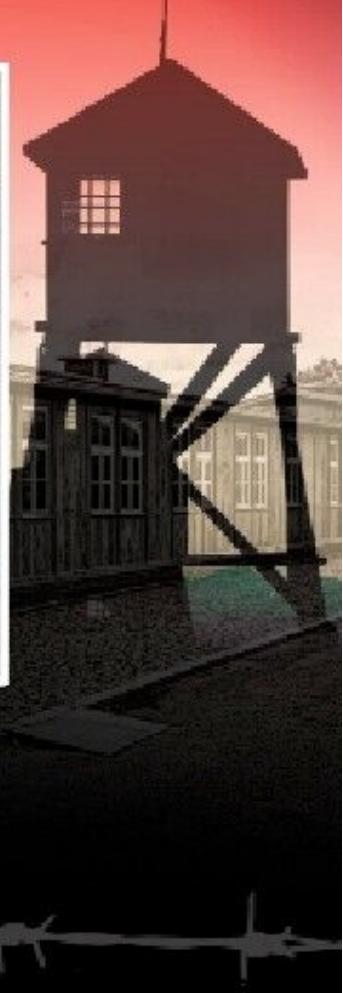
Our January talk is a sequel to one we enjoyed in September 2023 about “The Great Escape”. Our speaker for this talk is Alistair Price who lives in Henley in Arden. His talk is about his father, Squadron Leader Kenneth Price DFC, who was born in Coventry and joined the RAF in 1938. Kenneth was in Bomber Command and completed 58 trips before being shot down in July 1943. The life expectancy of bomber aircrew was five such trips, so he was very lucky. He was in the Pathfinders, who laid flares on the target prior to the main bombing mission. After being shot down, he was rescued by the Dutch resistance, but was betrayed to the Gestapo. He was beaten by them, but survived and finished up in Stalag Luft 111 for nearly two years. He took part in The Great Escape, a feat which was immortalised in the film of the same name in 1963. He was number 182 to come out of the Tunnel named Harry. He survived the war, but died quite young in 1980, due to a great extent to the privations of being a POW.

This talk follows a visit by Alistair to the Camp near Sagan in Poland in March 2019 to commemorate the Great Escape in March 1944. His talk will tell us about life in the camp and how the prisoners occupied themselves. Alistair will show us a video from the visit, showing the camp as it is now, and his presentation shows the layout of North Compound and the location of the 4 tunnels. It shows artefacts from 1942 found at the site and the tunnel “Harry” in detail. Alistair will give us an overview of the Great Escape plan and the long march from end of January to beginning of May 1945. Finally he will show another short video of the 75th Anniversary of the Great Escape followed by pictures of two iconic planes of WW2 – the Lancaster & the Mosquito. The presentation will last for around 45 minutes, after which there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Alistair has lived in Henley in Arden for 45 years. Now retired, he is fully occupied in and around Henley. He has been a member of Henley Court Leet for 30 years and was the most recent past High Bailiff of the town. He is chairman and speaker secretary of the Probus Group in the town.

KENNETH GEORGE PRICE

DFC AND BAR



**: A TRIBUTE TO HIS REMARKABLE LIFE AND HIS PART
IN THE GREAT ESCAPE FROM STALAG LUFT 111 IN 1944**

ALISTAIR PRICE

This talk will be available to people attending in person in the village Memorial Hall. Entrance is £5, or take out / renew your membership prior to the talk by following this link <https://www.welfordandweston.org.uk/Membership/>

Doors open at 19:10 and the talk itself will start at 19:30. We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be another great talk.

Karen Dickinson and the team, 2nd January 2026