

Welford and Weston Local History Society
www.welfordandweston.org.uk

Newsletter 07 - August 2013

Thank you for joining (or renewing your membership of) the Local History Society. We're pleased to have you as members and look forward to welcoming you to our meetings. Our bimonthly series of talks starts again next month, on Friday 27th September, at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, when **Alan Heath** will talk on the subject **Marie Corelli - her time in Stratford**. Here is a brief synopsis of the talk.

It's hard to believe now that Marie Corelli was in her day, as famous as Queen Victoria, and an author who outsold ALL her contemporaries. Countless thousands of her books were read by everyone from shop girls to the aristocracy. She was accepted as the Queen's favourite writer, the first copy of a new novel being taken directly to the Queen!

So how can a person SO famous around the world become almost forgotten? I say almost because there is now a growing force to relight the 'Corelli Flame', especially in her adopted and beloved Stratford-upon-Avon.



Tonight we will talk about Marie's time in Stratford, how she both endeared herself to the locals and managed to upset (quite spectacularly) some very powerful local dignitaries'. How she and her friend and life partner Bertha Vyver, the Victorian 'little and large' illuminated a sleepy old market town attracting hundreds of people everyday. They came to catch a glimpse of these two celebrities riding in a chaise being pulled by a pair of Shetland ponies, or enjoying a gondola ride on the Avon, and accepting the love and admiration of an adoring public.