

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

Newsletter 49 – August 21st 2018

Thank you for joining (or re-joining) the Local History Society. Our membership as we move into the 2018/2019 season now stands at 102, which is very encouraging. This level of interest should ensure that we are able to have an exciting and varied programme going forward.

Back on Tuesday, the 5th June, which seems a long time ago now, we had our visit to historic Leicester. The venue was very interesting and the guide in the morning, Peter Liddle, was excellent. In the end we sold 34 tickets for this outing. Thanks to Sue and Brad for arranging this visit. The latest Issue of Welford Matters carried an article on the Leicester visit.

We're currently looking at where we could visit in June 2019. If you have been on an interesting visit or know of any good places to visit, please let one of the Committee know.

*The first meeting of our new season will be on Friday, 28th September at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Hall, when the subject is **The Bells of St. Peter, Welford**. Our speaker on this occasion is Chris Pickford.*



The Bells of St Peter's Church Welford in a broader context

Let Steeple Bells be Swungen

This talk will explore the history of the bells of St Peter's Church, Welford, and the firms that made them, after a general introduction covering the origins of bells, the manufacturing processes, the history of the bellfounding industry, the uses of bells and the culture and traditions of the art of ringing. There will be plenty of examples from the local area and the talk will end with a historically unique video from 1980 showing the augmentation of the bells at Welford from 6 bells to 8 bells, and the first ringing of the 8 bells by the local band in 1980.

Giving a presentation with help from the Welford ringers will be Chris Pickford, a local bell ringer for over 50 years who is also an archivist, historian and author.

Chris grew up at Shelfield, near Aston Cantlow, and began exploring bells and belfries soon after he learned to ring in 1966. He is currently on the management board of the John Taylor Bellfoundry Museum and Archives at Loughborough and also Bells Adviser to the National Trust. He is a past master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the ringing society established in 1637, and he was formerly the County Archivist in Bedfordshire. He is the author of ten books including one on the bells of Coventry Cathedral and the recent revision of the Pevsner architectural guide to Warwickshire in the Buildings of England series.

Our thanks and grateful acknowledgement are also due to Joyce Skinner, a respected local photographer and film producer, for making the 1980 video of the bells at St Peter's available and having the foresight to have recorded this part of Welford's history.

I do hope you can make this, the first meeting of our 2018-2019 season.

Kind regards,

Brad

*Mike Banning-Lover 750480, Christine Harby 01926 490782, Sue Hook 751400,
Mike Kearsey 751383, Brad Plimmer 750716, John Read 750022*