

## LAUNCH OF BOOK ON RAF GREAT SAMPFORD

A new book about *RAF Great Sampford* has been written by Radwinter Local History Recorder, Michael Southgate. Launched in September 2016 following a brief Radwinter Society AGM, the book went on sale.

Belying its name, Great Sampford Airfield was mostly in Radwinter, placed as it was in the fields of Great Brockholds. Its runways are wholly in Radwinter and its perimeter track is 95 per cent so with the remainder in Great Sampford.

The Headquarters of RAF Great Sampford was in Wrights Yard, Wimbish where the mess site was located, well away from attacks on the field. Dormitory accommodation was in Wimbish, Great Sampford and distant parts of Radwinter for the same reason.

Despite its popular reputation as a secondary landing strip for the nearby station of Debden, Great Sampford airfield was far more important than that. The book and presentation tells the story of the Airfield and its people, covering construction, and its subsequent use.

For most of its life RAF Great Sampford was an RAF site in its own right playing a major role in the Second World War. It was variously an independently operating field, the headquarters of an important Eagle squadron, a major training centre for airfield defence, a glider landing practice ground for the Second Front and the headquarters of the RAF Police controlling the orderly demobilisation of RAF personnel when the War was ended.

In the days following the presentation the book will be sold in Radwinter Post Office, in Saffron Walden at the Tourist Information Centre, Market Square; Trade-in-Post, 7 Central Arcade; Harts Books in King Street; and direct from the author, Michael Southgate at [radwinter.recorder@hotmail.com](mailto:radwinter.recorder@hotmail.com)

Because of its strong Wimbish connections, the book is on sale, with a donation to Wimbish Church, from 5 October 2016 from *The White Hart* in Wimbish by kind permission of the landlords, Mr and Mrs Leigh & Phil Field.