

CAMELOT AREA Newsletter



February 2024

Charity Reg. No. 1038544

Who's Who in Camelot

Officers

Chairman	Vacant	To contact any of the Committee Members go to the contacts page of the website, and send a message
Vice Chair:	Stella Fairbairn	
Hon. Treasurer:	Peter Kennedy	
Hon. Secretary:	Catriona Cole	

Committee Members

Membership Sec.	Caroline Reeves
Speaker Secretary	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Jill Halford
Publicity	Roger Weldhen
Beacon Admin	Robert Reeves
Website Assistant	Peter Townley

Website u3asites.org.uk/camelot-area

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The copy date for all articles to be included in the March /April 2024 issue is 20th February 2024

Cover Picture : Sheds – Barbara Voules Digital Photography

Notes from the Vice Chair

Happy New Year to all and hope that you had a very healthy and happy Christmas.

At the last committee meeting we noticed that not many people were using Beacon. If you've tried, hopefully you are managing to access and use it successfully. I am attending an online training session in January, one of many available, but if you are experiencing any problems, please contact Robert (Beacon administrator), details on Committee members page.

I have also realised that my email and contact number was missing from the 'Who's Who In Camelot' – same page. Apologies, if you wish to contact me, if not through Beacon, my details should now be in this Newsletter issue.

It will be good to return to our various activities again. After taking down the Christmas decorations, it always feels a little flat, I'm sure our weekly classes and groups will inspire us again. A much appreciated thanks to all our group leaders, our lives would be a lot duller without you.

Enjoy, and all good wishes for 2024.

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair.



Snow drops: Anne Wood

From the Editor

Thank you to everyone who has sent me contributions for this Newsletter. The January copy date comes upon us so quickly after Christmas and New Year (not to mention birthdays), that it is hard to remember to send contributions, so extra thanks for those that do.

The next Newsletter will be the March/ April Joint Issue and the copy date will be later than usual in February to bridge the gap. The copy date is the 20 February. Please send me your contributions. It is so interesting to read about what the groups are doing, and for those groups that would welcome new members a very good way to advertise this.

This month you can read about what the Art Group are getting up to, in 2024; what books the book group read over Christmas; another spine chilling piece of writing from the Writing for Pleasure Group; and news from Digital Photography who brighten up the Newsletter with photographs, along with the Artwork from Tuesday Art.

The dates for Cinema in Caryford have also been corrected in this issue
Good Wishes for 2024



Sybil Critchley - Landscape water colour - Tuesday Art

Monthly Meeting Tea Rota 2024

The Tea and Coffee for the Monthly Meetings will be organised by the nominated Group below. The nominated Group for that month will liaise with the group from the month before to bring the box of tea coffee etc. Please also bring fresh milk, teas and biscuits if necessary.

The Group should arrive early enough to set out the cups before the meeting and stay to serve the teas and to make sure the washing up has been done afterwards and the kitchen left clean.

With meetings only eight times a year and currently twenty nine Groups, each Group will be asked to do this only once every three years or so.

2024

January	Reading	Gill Bagnall
February	Writing for Pleasure	Helen Tracy
March	Scrabble	Karrie Barron
April	Friday Walking	John Stalley
May	Nature Walks	Joan Williams

Displays At Monthly Meetings

The Group Leaders are invited to use the Tea Rota as a guide to also mount a small display or information about what happens in their Group.

Camelot Monthly Meetings

At Caryford Hall

Maggs Lane, Ansford, Castle Cary

Friday 26th January 2024 at 2.30pm

Falling with Style – Lottie Dale

Falling with Style – Lottie Dale



Lottie's dad was a Spitfire, Hurricane and Mustang pilot in WW2 who passed his love of flying over to Lottie. Unable to learn to fly due to the costs involved, she took the next best route and learned how to fall out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft.

Friday 23 February 2024 at 2.30pm

16th Century Kitchen Maid – Kay Wych



Kay has worked in Glastonbury Abbey as a costume guide for almost 15 years. She will explain to you how she came into this role and developed her character as a 16th century Kitchen Maid.

Friday 22 March 2024 at 2.30pm

Magnificent Women and Flying Machines - Sally Smith

"Destination Utah" (The USAAF in a Typical English Village)



At our monthly meeting in November Brian Fernley, a volunteer with the South West Airfields Heritage Trust, came to give us a very informative talk about Upottery Airfield in Devon, where during the second World War around 1500 American servicemen took up residence in a quiet English village.

The objective of the South West Airfields Heritage Trust is to educate people about aviation history in the South West of England, and in particular those events that happened during the second world war, so that today's generations understand what took place, and how those events have shaped the society we live in today

Upottery (Smeathorpe) near Honiton, selected for use by the American Airforce under the "Bolero" scheme was the last of three wartime airfields to be built on the Blackdown Hills (utilising hard core from the Exeter Blitz) and on the 25th & 26th April 1944, the USAAF 439th Troop Carrier Group arrived in preparation for the invasion of Normandy on D Day.



Upottery was the departure field for the well known men of 'Easy Company', 2nd battalion the 506th PIR, who were famously featured in Stephen Spielberg's TV series.

The talk featured the history of these airfields and we heard recordings of memories from people who lived in the village at the time,

Memories of Residents Passes for locals, as all roads into and through the area had picket posts or Sentry Boxes guarding the site:

Reminiscences of a Christmas Party given for local school children:

Boxing matches on the base, and fraternising with local girls at the pub.

For those who are interested there is lots of information on the Southwest Airfields Heritage Trust website. They also they have heritage centres at Dunkeswell and Smeatharpe, which are open to the public from Easter until the end of October.



The audience listening to the reminiscences of a Christmas Party given for local school children

Book Group

Over Christmas the book group departed from the norm and set a choice of three short books to read, with the idea that members could read one, two or indeed all of them, depending on time and inclination. The request was to read Christmas themed stories, this was actually quite difficult to fulfil, without falling back on old classics, detective stories or chick lit. (All of which have their place).

The resulting books were as follows,

The Inn at the Edge of the World by Alice Thomas Ellis. This book is set on a remote Scottish Island, in a small failing hotel. The owner, in a last-ditch attempt to stave off failure put an advertisement, stating "Dreading Christmas- then get away from it all in a small hotel at the edge of the world..." in The Spectator, Private Eye and The Lady. The result being a very disparate group of people congregating there for a few days. This was an enjoyable book, with a dark sinister background of Celtic myth.

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman. This is quite a different book. Its New Years Eve and House Tricks (how's tricks) Estate Agents are showing people around an upmarket apartment, when an incompetent bank robber rushes in and politely takes everybody hostage. It is a confusing book, told from various people's perspectives, and jumping about a bit in time. As it says "This is a story about a bank robbery, an apartment viewing, and a hostage drama. But even more it is a story about idiots. But perhaps not even that. ... Perhaps this is a story about a bridge." Whilst not laugh out loud funny, those who read through the confusion really enjoyed it.

Crampton Hodnet by Barbara Pym. The leafy streets and Victorian Gothic houses of North Oxford provide placid homes for lecturers and genteel lodgings for young curates. In this milieu Barbara Pym depicts with wit and irony, the stirrings of suburban emotions which might turn into passion. As Philip Larkin said "She has a unique eye for the small poignancies and comedies of everyday life"

Jill Halford

Art Tuesday

The u3a Tuesday Art group recommenced on the 8th January after the festive break and we have lots of exciting plans for the coming year.

We are planning a visit from a water colourist, who can give us advice and help with technique.

This will be followed by a visit from an oil painter, who will give us a demonstration and master class on the techniques she uses.

There will be two workshops on the art of scraperboard, and an opportunity to go on an away day trip, for sketching or painting still life, which will be a break from the Hall.

We will have a display of our art at the u3a Open Day in June where you can come along and admire the work of our talented members.

Dayella Stickland



Dayella Stickland – Pastel – Tuesday Art

Digital Photography

Happy New Year to all members

We, at the Digital Photography Group, are gearing ourselves up with lots of good intentions to take photographs in 2024, using the new skills we have studied during the past year. Let's hope these New Year's Resolutions last longer than usual.

Here are a selection of photographs from our meeting in December, which do show that ideas passed on during our meetings do not fall on stony ground. The topics were "Folds" and "Contrasts", while "Sheds" was our theme from our Facebook page.

Thank you to all those who have shared their photographs for other u3a members to see.

There is still space in the Digital Photography Group if any new member would like to join. Come for a taster session to Galhampton Village Hall on the Second Monday of the month at 10:30am.

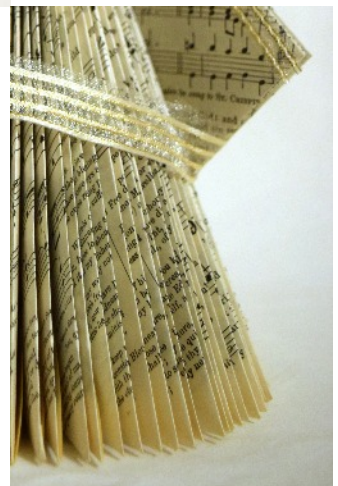
We take photographs using cameras, phones and ipads, - no one has suggested using a drone yet. Everyone is welcome.

Anne Wood



Contrasts: Left: Sandie Doherty

Right: Richard Needle



Folds:

Top Left: Mike Anthony

Top Right: Ann Wood

Centre: Robert Reeves

Bottom Right: Richard Needle

Writing for Pleasure

The Light House by Helen Tracy

The lighthouse beam reflected on the beads of water on Jack's yellow oilskin.

"Lucky we're wearing our harnesses, Jack." Rob had to shout above the noise.

"Where did this storm come from – wasn't forecast, was it?"

Jack was struggling. "Never mind where it came from – when will it stop?"

The waves crashed over the side of the small boat, saturating the two men.

Fear took hold of Jack and paralysed him when the lighthouse light went out.

It was only for a second as it blinked, but it felt much longer to Jack, inexperienced at sailing as he was.

As they both were!

This was meant to be an evening of fishing from Weymouth harbour.

The light blinked on again and brought movement into Jack's arms. The boat was pitching and rolling, fighting bravely against the wall of water which towered higher than either man had ever imagined possible at sea.

"We're fast taking on water," yelled Rob "we're in real trouble here, mate – what do we do first?"

"I guess we start baling." And, truth to tell, Jack really was guessing. He had no idea.

And so, the two men did some basic baling before the next wave hit.

Then, the lighthouse stopped blinking altogether: Jack was terrified now, Rob not much less scared than his friend.

At precisely the same moment, the two men heard what sounded like a boat engine, coming towards them. Relief swamped them more than the waves.

In what seemed like seconds, a lifeboat came alongside, lighting up the area, showing the rescuers just how much danger the two men had been in – water taken on, close to the rocks – sails gone.

Once inside the lifeboat, wearing borrowed sweaters and drinking welcome tea, Jack asked one of the crew, "How did you know where we were? We didn't have our phones with us."

"Well," started the Lifeboat skipper, "That's the strange part of it – we had a call from the Portland Lighthouse keeper telling us you were in trouble, gave us your position..."

"Why's that strange?" interrupted Rob, " We saw the light flashing when we were out there fighting the waves..."

"That's what's even stranger." replied the skipper. "That lighthouse hasn't been manned for fifty years, and what's more, there are no lights up there."



Shed: Denise Bailey Digital Photography

Cinema in Caryford

Caryford Community Hall , Maggs Lane

Doors open 7.00pm Film starts 7.30pm All tickets £6.00. Available from the Market House Mon – Fri 9.30 – 12.30; Sat 10 – 12.

NB The dates in last months Newsletter were incorrect

Wednesday 24th January Oppenheimer (15)

Based on the 2005 biography American Prometheus Christopher Nolan's eagerly awaited feature is the story of J. Robert Oppenheimer, "the father

of the atomic bomb", an enigmatic man who must risk destroying the world in order to save it.

Wednesday 28th February A Haunting in Venice (12A)

In post-World War II Venice, Hercule Poirot (Branagh), now retired and living in self-imposed exile, reluctantly attends a séance. But when one of the guests is murdered, the former detective must put his little grey

cells to work one more time to uncover the killer.

An enjoyable bit of hokum on a dark evening.

Wednesday 27th March The Great Escaper (12A)

In 2014, near-nonagenarian Bernie Jordan (Michael Caine) is sad to miss out on an official group outing to the D-Day anniversary in France. Encouraged by wife Rene

(Glenda Jackson), he sneaks out from his care home and goes on one last big adventure to cross the Channel, while reminiscing about his wartime experiences.

Glenda Jackson's last film.

Good Tradesman Guide

Home Improvements		
Carpet Cleaning	Orchid Carpet Cleaning Ltd Richard Payne	Tel: 01963 371284 Mob: 07599 789725
Roofer / Carpenter	Dave Whitehead	Mob: 07932 058681
General Builder	Andy Baker	Mob: 07510943009
Painter & Decorator	Adrian Richardson	Mob: 07815 618465
Painter & Decorator	Jonathan Ackland	Mob: 07759 882591 Tel: 01963-351316
Vehicle Servicing & Repairs		
Car Body Maintenance	SMB Body Repairs Shaun Browncey	Tel: 01935 840301 Mob: 07813 399564
Car Repairs	Bayford Motors	Tel: 01963 33746
Plumbing & Heating		
Heating Engineer (Gas Safe Reg'd)	Perkins Plumbing & Heating Andrew Perkins	Mob: 07815 515671
Heating Engineer (Gas Safe Reg'd)	Warm Welcome Heating Services Roger Welton	Tel: 01963 440341
Plumbing & Heating Engineer		
Plumbing & Heating Engineer	Kevan Davis Plumbing & Heating Kevan Davis	Mob: 07976 741029
Gas Fitter (Gas Safe Reg'd)	Jan Schimmel	Mob: 07956542303
Electrical & Electronic		
Computers – Technology & Software	Nigel Smith	Tel: 01963 220993
General Services		
Domestic Appliances,	Domestec (washing machines and dish washers)	Tel: 01963 220366
Domestic Appliance Servicing & Repairs	PRM Domestic	Tel: 01963 34260 Mob: 07977 802756
Chimney Sweep	Tom Sweep	Mob: 07340743366

All of the above businesses have been recommended by individual Camelot Area U3A members based on their own experience. Each of the businesses listed above have given their permission for their details to be included - last checked in January 2020.
Disclaimer: Inclusion does not constitute endorsement by Camelot Area U3A. No liability is accepted by the Camelot Area u3a trustees

Dates for your Diary 2024

- Wed 24th Jan Cinema in Caryford 7:30pm: Oppenheimer 15
- Fri 26th Jan Monthly Meeting 2:30pm – Falling with Style
- Wed 28th Feb Cinema in Caryford 7:30pm: A Haunting in Venice 12A
- Fri 23 Feb Monthly Meeting 2:30pm – 16th Century Kitchen Maid
- Wed 27th March Cinema in Caryford 7:30pm: The Great Escaper 12A
- Fri 22 March Monthly Meeting 2:30pm – Magnificent Women and Flying Machines



Jacinta Queiros. – Pastel – Tuesday Art.

Newsletter Distribution

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