

# **CAMELOT AREA Newsletter**



**March – April 2024**

**Charity Reg. No. 1038544**

# Who's Who in Camelot

## Officers

Chairman	Vacant	<b>To contact any of the Committee Members go to the contacts page of the website, and send a message</b>
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](http://u3asites.org.uk/camelot-area)

# Contents

Who's Who in Camelot.....	2
Notes from the Vice Chair.....	4
From the Editor.....	5
Monthly Meeting Tea Rota 2024.....	6
Camelot Monthly Meetings.....	7
Falling with Style.....	8
Beacon Management - Progress Report.....	10
Art Monday.....	11
Groups and Group Leaders.....	12
Travel Group News.....	14
Jazz Appreciation Group.....	16
Scrabble News.....	16
Thursday Poetry.....	17
Digital Photograph.....	18
Nature Walks.....	20
Cinema in Caryford.....	22
Good Tradesman Guide.....	23
Dates for your Diary 2024.....	24

**The copy date for all articles to be included in the May 2024 issue is 10th April 2024**

*Cover Photo: Karrie Barron . Hellebore – Kilver Gardens Nature Walk*

# Notes from the Vice Chair

Thankfully Spring is now well and truly upon us. I'm sure the walking groups will be spotting bulbs and spring plants and enjoying time in the fresh air. We all hope Joan Williams is continuing to recover and will be out walking with the nature group again very soon.

You will be pleased to know that at our last committee meeting, it was decided that there will be no increase for the u3a yearly fees. You will be able to renew your membership at the same rate as last year. Our Open Day at Caryford Hall, on Thursday 20th June is one way to do this.

We also have a new committee member. A big welcome to Gill Bagnall, who has volunteered her services for the position of Speaker Secretary. Gill has found a very varied and interesting list of speakers for us to look forward to over the coming year.

Raffles, at the monthly meetings have resumed, courtesy of Sylvia Mottram. All monies raised will go to a selected charity, presently it is the Air Ambulance. Alternative charities will be chosen after a run of a few sessions and if you have any donations that could be used as prizes, please pass on to Sylvia.

We have recently held a group leader's forum in the Shambles and thank you to all who attended. I can now put a few more faces to names and it was lovely to meet you all in person. Thank you also to Robert Reeves, who gave a presentation to show how Beacon could be used by group leaders.

During the meeting, we discussed the possibility of new activities. One suggestion was an easy walking group of about one to three miles? If anyone is interested in starting this or any new class, please get in touch.

Finally, our hardworking editor reminded us that it is her final year on the committee. If being the new Newsletter Editor appeals, please contact Jill Halford for details. Personally I feel that the Newsletter is essential for keeping us abreast of current Camelot u3a news and is a

way for us all to share our very varied activities, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you are interested.

Until the next newsletter,

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair.

## **From the Editor**

Its so lovely to see the nights drawing out and with the time change at the end of the month, the hope of long light evenings ahead. We have a packed few months ahead, with the Nature Walks enjoying the changing seasons and three trips planned by the Travel Group. If you would like to find out more about the Travel Group Contact: Anne Wood [woodofcastleary@gmail.com](mailto:woodofcastleary@gmail.com)

It was lovely to receive news from the groups and thank you to those that shared their stories. It was also good to hear from the Jazz group and the Thursday Poetry Group, recently taken on by Ray Leary. Both Groups would welcome new members.

As Stella says in her notes opposite, I will have to come off the committee in September this year having completed 5 years. I will also have edited the Newsletter for more than 5 years. If you are interested in trying your hand at editing the newsletter, bringing your own ideas and coming on the u3a committee, get in touch with Stella or with me and we can talk you through what's involved.

I have had a great time editing the Newsletter, its a fun job with a great sense of satisfaction as I send each issue off to the printer.

Jill Halford

# 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

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 22 March 2024 at 2.30pm**

## **Magnificent Women and Flying Machines – Sally Smith**



Sally's talk gives an entertaining insight into the lives of these amazing women. The talk offers fascinating insights into the characters and lifestyles of these wonderful women and also offers fascinating glimpses into how society has changed, right up to Britain's first ever woman into space and how living in a small space capsule with a group of Russian men was thought to be quite acceptable!

**Friday 26th April 2024 at 2.30pm**

## **Museum of Somerset – Susie Simmons**



Susie lives in Castle Cary, and is responsible for the day to day management of the Museum of Somerset, Somerset Rural Life Museum, Somerset Brick and Tile Museum and Avalon Archaeology.

**Friday 31st May at 2.30pm**

## **Yuri Gagarin and the Chief Designer – Terry Ransome**

The background story.

# Falling with Style

Falling with Style – Lottie Dale



We gathered together for the January monthly meeting to hear Lottie Dale give a humorous, and in my case, a slightly scary (I am not good with heights) talk given by Lottie Dale on her experiences of parachuting, freefall and air stunts, whilst working and bringing up a family.

Lottie told us that her father was a Spitfire, Hurricane and Mustang pilot in World War Two and she was bought up on tales of his exploits, for example how he used to fly in low over his mother's house in his Spitfire and drop his washing for her to do, picking it up by meeting his brother in the pub.

She was not able to afford flying lessons so as the next best thing she tried out a fixed line jump with a parachute at the age of 31. From never being good at sports, she had found her skill and jumped regularly after that.

She did her second freefall jump inadvertently on her 12th jump when she had trouble with her parachute. Undeterred, she persevered and over the next 17 years completed more than 1200 jumps.

She started doing more complicated jumps, jumping with other people and linking up in freefall. She was part of the record for the first female linking of 20 sky divers, progressing to linking up with 60 divers from four planes. She was also doing stunts such as wing walking.

She was part of the Brittany Ferries Air Display Team and the Daily Express Flying Crusaders (affectionately known as the Tumbling Tarts!) – including demos onto Normandy Beaches, Biggin Hill Air Show, Paris

Air Show and even Wembley Stadium, which looked very small from the air.

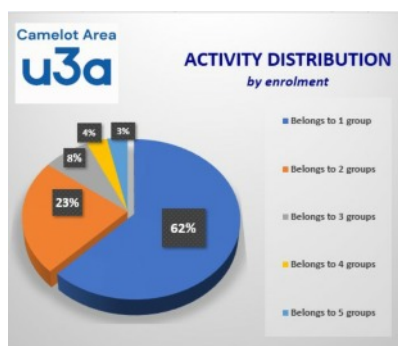
She formed many long term friendships through her sky diving, and met many people, teaching and supporting personalities such as Annika Rice, Lewis Collins from The Professionals and Gary Newman. She does not currently sky dive, but skydiving lives on in her youngest son, who did his first jump under the care of a past team mate.

We all enjoyed her tales.



# Beacon Management – Progress Report

Camelot has now been using Beacon for six months. Our financial records and members personal details are now held on a secure, on-line system. Managing these two tasks has become more simplified whilst providing faster access to greater range of information. The majority of group leaders have engaged with Beacon to manage their interest group data and populate the Camelot calendar of meetings, both of which can be accessed via either our website, or the members portal. For extra security, all of this very important information is backed up daily in two separate locations.



Beacon also provides us with a swift and simple way of viewing the health of our organisation. For example, we now know that out of a total of 268 registered members, 208 (78%) have enrolled in at least one activity group. The five most popular activity groups being: Nature Walks, Wednesday Walking, Friday Walking, Wine Appreciation and Monday Art.

This does not mean that the remaining members are not actively involved as the Travel Group trips and monthly meetings don't require members to enrol.

If you haven't already registered on the members portal you can access it via a link on the Beacon page of our website. The benefit of registering provides the ability to review and update your own personal record, request a replacement membership card, view additional interest group information and download a calendar of meetings and events, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Robert Reeves

Camelot Area u3a Beacon Administrator

# Art Monday

Images from Art Monday 2024 calendar





# Travel Group News.

## **Trip to Kew Gardens Thursday 11th April- £25/£35**

### **Now fully booked**

Thank you to all who have booked seats on this trip to Kew Gardens and a special thank you to those who have paid and returned their forms early.

Deadline for payments ....Monday 1st April

## **Trip to Mapperton House and West Bay Wednesday 8th May - £29**

### **Now fully booked**

The deadline for payments is Monday 29th April.

Payments by BACS have gone well with everybody also filling in a response form. Thank you.

As both these trips are fully booked, I would appreciate it if anyone who finds they are unable to take up their seats, contact me as soon as they can, as I have a waiting list from which to reallocate their seats. A full refund will be given.

## **Details of the Trip to Exeter via the Exeter Canal , on Friday 14th June will be sent out soon.**

If you would like to find out more about the Travel Group Contact:

Anne Wood

## **Mapperton House and West Bay - cost £29**

Leaving at 9:00 am from the Fire Station Car Park in Castle Cary, we travel to Mapperton House, one of Dorset's hidden Gems, voted the Nation's finest Manor House by "Country Life". It belongs to the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, but currently their son and his wife live there. Dating from the 16th century this Jacobean manor has over 52 rooms,

and we shall see some of these beautifully decorated areas on our guided tour. I am told there will be some ordinary seats available for tired limbs enroute. The house and gardens have been used for several film sets, including Emma, The History of Tom Jones and Far From The Madding Crowd.

The House overlooks large Italianate Gardens, orangery, fountains and statues as well as herbaceous borders, topiary and grottoes. There are also informal lower gardens with colourful shrubs and rare trees. There is a licensed cafe on site for refreshments.

After our visit we will go on to West Bay and enjoy a short visit for some sea air, arriving back in Castle Cary at about 6:00pm.

Anne Wood

**Response Slip: Wednesday 8th May – Mapperton house and West Bay**

Name .....

Mobile Number .....

Please reserve me .....places at £29

Total Enclosed ... .....cash or cheques payable to Camelot Area U3a

or I have paid ... .....by BACS directly into the Travel Group Account

Camelot Area U3a Travel Group      Sort code 20-99-40      Account  
30257877

It is vital you add your Name and Name of Trip as reference  
Please do not pay by BACS without reserving your seat FIRST (phone or email)

# **Jazz Appreciation Group**

As a newish u3a group, we have had only a few meetings so far. We have listened to jazz ranging from 1910 to the present day. The recordings have been on vinyl, CD, You Tube, Spotify, the list goes on. At each meeting, every member chooses three jazz performances with which they would like to familiarise the others. Figures as diverse as Stan Getz, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, John Coltrane, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Humphrey Lyttelton, and King Hokum and their performances have been introduced to the rest of the group. Any newcomers would be welcomed. No prior knowledge or expertise is required. We meet in the afternoons, every second Tuesday of the month.

Contact Neil Houghton

## **Scrabble News**

The next meetings of the Scrabble Group is on Thursday 28th March, at 2pm in the Market House, Castle Cary. Tea and biscuits (or cake if we are lucky!) are provided. We have room for a few more members – experts or novices. Perhaps just visit to see how things go?

It is helpful if you let Karrie or Anne know that you intend to come.

# Thursday Poetry

In January we were pleased to be back in our usual home in the George in Castle Cary. We crossed over the road for a session in The White Hart when the Christmas parties were in full flow – where we were made just as welcome – but it was good to be back in 'our' room.

Two new members have joined the group and seem to fit right in. We now seem to have established a method of choosing a monthly theme that is interpreted in many ways; we have worked our way through the elements and battled with definitions of 'Character', next we will deal with 'Conflict'. Despite this latest choice we are a happy gathering [I don't know the term for a group of poetry readers – Poetics?] and this particular theme was drawn from our discussion of the month's choices of verse. These discussions are always wide ranging and recently we have been inspired to find ways to make politicians accountable, bring an end to war and last year how to fund the NHS and BBC. William Butler Yeats and Noel Coward have much to answer for.

We have talked about having separate meetings to invite local poets to discuss their work or to offer workshops, and perhaps enlarging such events and inviting other U3A members to come along. How this could be achieved and made to work is still under discussion, and if you are interested and have any ideas please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ray Leary

Thursday Poetry meets in the morning every second Thursday in the month.

Contact Ray Leary [mclachian3@mac.com](mailto:mclachian3@mac.com)

# Digital Photograph

Thank you to Robert , Eric and Co. who set up the meeting on 12th February and to Nicky who brought the Tea Things.

A video on the very important topic of "Light" was shown as well as the Group's photographs reflecting the themes for the month.

"Webs". seemed straight forward., but the weather was against us..

"Change". could be interpreted in different ways, and "Something in the shape of something else" really tested "the little grey cells". But a corkscrew willow branch, beeswax made into candles, and bark of a tree to form an elephants eye, all fitted the bill!

Some examples are shown with thanks to those who submitted them.

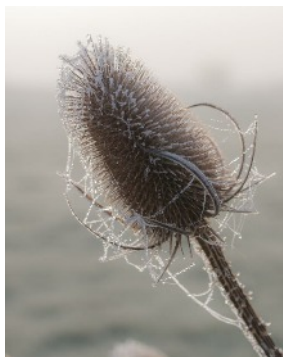
The next meeting at 10:30am at Galhampton Village Hall is on Monday 10th March. Newcomers are welcome.

The focus of the meeting will be on taking Portraits, so please bring cameras, phones, iPads or whatever you use to take digital photographs. Eric will bring some props.

If we have time we will show photos on the month's themes of Forks, Holidays and Personal Choice, an open topic or if we have no time the photos can be shown later.

Anne Wood

*Photos below Webs Denise Bailey*





Photos:left to right

Top : Vicky Taylor – Elephants Eye

Michael Anthony – Hieronymus Bush

Below: Anne Wood. – Beeswax in the shape of something else

Sue Kennedy – Change

# Nature Walks

In mid February a visit to a local garden of renown replaced our usual Spring walk, following poor conditions underfoot as a result of heavy rain. The group enjoyed an afternoon at Kilver Court. The gardens feature a number of Spring flowers including snowdrops, early daffodils and hellebores in a beautiful setting.

The centrepiece is a large rockery garden set amongst waterfalls. A stream leads into a large mill pond, a walk around which revealed a stumpy, jelly fungus, mosses and polypody ferns growing high in the trees.

A number of members stayed to enjoy refreshments and catch up with friends in the garden cafe.

The Nature Walks group meets seasonally. We follow an easy and short trail to highlight aspects of nature according to the season. It is hoped that the next walk will incorporate bluebells as Spring turns to Summer.

Ron Cossins

Many thanks to Ron who kindly stepped in to lead the first Nature walk of the year as Joan, who usually organises the walks, has been unwell. Joan joined us on the walk and took some of the photos of our lovely afternoon in the garden. – Vicky Taylor



Photos: Joan Williams and Vicky Taylor



# 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.

### **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.

### **Wednesday 24th April Wonka (PG)**

Wonka (Timothée Chalamet) comes to prewar Paris as a young man after a life on the ocean wave, determined to make his fortune with the chocolate recipes invented by his mum

(Sally Hawkins). His new ideas make him enemies, notably Bleacher (Tom Davis) and Mrs Scrubbit (Olivia Colman), but he wins out with the help of new friends. With Hugh Grant as the original Oompa-Loompa.

# Good Tradesman Guide

<b>Home Improvements</b>		
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
<b>Vehicle Servicing &amp; Repairs</b>		
Car Body Maintenance	SMB Body Repairs Shaun Browncey	Tel: 01935 840301 Mob: 07813 399564
Car Repairs	Bayford Motors	Tel: 01963 33746
<b>Plumbing &amp; Heating</b>		
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
<b>Electrical &amp; Electronic</b>		
Computers – Technology & Software	Nigel Smith	Tel: 01963 220993
<b>General Services</b>		
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

- Fri 22 March      Monthly Meeting 2:30pm – Magnificent Women and Flying Machines
- Wed 27th Mar     Cinema in Caryford 7:30pm: The Great Escaper 12A
- Thurs 11th April   Travel – Trip to Kew Gardens
- Wed 24<sup>th</sup> April    Cinema in Caryford 7:30pm: Wonka PG
- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> April      Monthly Meeting 2.30pm : Museum of Somerset
- Wed 8th May        Travel – Trip to Mapperton House and West Bay
- Fri 31st May        Monthly Meeting 2.30pm Yuri Gagarin and the Chief Designer
- Fri 14th June        Travel – Trip to Exeter via the Exeter Canal



*Kilver Gardens Vicky Packer*

## **Newsletter Distribution**

Patsy Diamond & Hilary Dunford