

CAMELOT AREA Newsletter



May 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	Gill Bagnall
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 June 2024 issue is 10th May 2024

Cover Photo: Jill Halford Rhododendrons

Notes from the Vice Chair

It is good to see that everything is growing so well in the garden despite some horrendous downpours. Hopefully everyone's flood defences are holding – sympathies to anyone who has had flooding in the last few weeks; having experienced the turmoil of a flood, our thoughts are with you.

Any downpours do not appear to have hampered the building works at Caryford Hall and thankfully groups have been able to continue uninterrupted. 'Breakthrough' is imminent and the completion date of May is still on target.

There is still a vacancy for the newsletter editor so please feel free to have a friendly chat about what is involved – you have not missed your chance yet!

Other news includes an update about our new website as the present one will be eventually replaced. This will not be happening immediately so we will be able to use the current u3a site for a while longer yet. We are currently in a queue for training and establishing the new look site. Alan Gibbons and Peter Townley are on the case.

Alan has been our web editor for over seven years now so many thanks to Alan for all your hard work and expertise. Alan is currently being shadowed by Peter and we look forward to his input with the new website. Highly relieved that you both will not be asking me for any help or advice. Known for only sending emails, possibly with attachments, I would be more of a hindrance than a help. Extremely grateful for your efforts.

Finally, Open Day is approaching fast, so please make sure you are available to attend on Thursday 20th June. Look forward to seeing you there.

Enjoy the lighter evenings and hope to see many of you at the next monthly meeting.

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair.

Camelot u3a Open Day

At Caryford Community Hall, Maggs Lane

Thursday 20th June 2-4 pm

From the Editor

We were very sorry to hear about the death of Margaret Dickinson, three times chairman of Camelot U3A, and more about her contribution to the community can be found on page 9.

In spite of the very wet and windy spring, the groups have been doing their best to keep active, The Kew Garden visit was very successful and you will find information and forms for the Exeter Canal Trip in the newsletter. The walkers have been walking in the rain and mud, and I am sure the gardeners have been dashing out between showers, to tend to their gardens.

The Tuesday Art Group have been learning the art of scraperboard and painting Still Life, while the Digital Photography Groups have been stretching their imagination to fulfil their briefs.

You may have passed by when the Recorder Group has been playing in the Market House. There is an article on what they get up to here. And there is a taster from the Writing for Pleasure Group, more in the June issue.

I hope to see you all at the Open Day in June.

Jill Halford Editor

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

April	Friday Walking	John Stalley
May	Nature Walks	Joan Williams
September	Travel Group	Anne Wood
October	Art Monday	Sylvia Mottram
November	History	Bruce Bowers

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 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

Yuri Gagarin was the first human to travel into space and orbit the earth. But there is a lot more to be told. So much of his life story and his tragic and mysterious death were kept secret by the Soviets until 2000. Behind the Soviet Space programme was a determined engineer known only as the Chief Designer. His story is equally moving.

Friday 27th September at 2.30pm

Pirates the origin and truth – Richard Hutley

Like swashbuckling hero's and villains of Hollywood or just ruthless criminals and murderers

Newsletter Editor Post Vacancy

If you are interested in having a little project that gives immense satisfaction, the Newsletter Editor may be the role for you.

I have been Newsletter Editor for over five years and I now think that it would be a good time to hand it over to a new person, who will probably have their own ideas on how to go forward with it.

You do need to be comfortable on the computer, but the program we use to create the newsletter is not difficult, and I am here to help in the early days.

I have really enjoyed myself in this role and have met lots of people that I didn't know before and found out a lot about the workings of the u3a.

If you are interested in talking about the role I will be at the Open Day, or you could contact me by email and arrange a chat.

Jill Halford

Thank you to Anne Wood

A huge thank you to Anne for arranging our trip to Kew Gardens. Everything was so beautifully organised from the executive coach to the weather! And everything in between. On behalf of all of us who enjoyed the day – Thank you Anne for all your hard work – it was a day to remember for all of us.

Helen Tracy

Margaret Dickinson

19 January 1938 – 30 March 2024

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Margaret Dickinson, three times chairman of Camelot u3a.

Margaret was born in Brighton. She and her husband Pat had four children, lots of grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Pat was a Classics teacher and his job meant that they travelled widely before settling in Castle Cary in 1980, having lived in Dumfriesshire, where Pat taught at a school in Moniaive, and a three-year spell in New Zealand.

In Somerset Margaret quickly became part of the community; Castle Cary was closest to her heart. She worked as receptionist at the local dental practice where, it is said, she had all the dentists firmly under control! She also became much involved in the U3A, serving on the committee, running the Travel Group with another from 1998 to 2016, playing Mahjong and, especially, Bridge, at which she was the doyenne. As leader of the group, she ran what was known as "the Minnows' Table", at which she trained new members before deciding when they were ready to be let loose among the bigger fish in the group. She and another member patiently taught me Bridge when I came to Cary before introducing me to the group and, thanks to them, I am still playing.

Margaret felt strongly about what she called "the community spirit" of the U3A. On one occasion when a member of the Lunch Bunch Group unexpectedly failed to attend a lunch, sensing that something was amiss, Margaret arranged for a check to be made on the missing member who, in fact, had fallen down the stairs but was reluctant to seek medical help. Margaret arrived, deployed her managerial skills and persuaded the injured member to visit the doctor!

I shall miss Margaret's merry chuckle when she made her Bridge contract but I expect she will now be organizing celestial Bridge!

Brian Hunter

U3a Travel Group Trip

Friday 14th June

Exmouth to Exeter on The Exeter Canal.

Cost £28.

Leaving at 9:00 promptly from Castle Cary Car Park (Millbrook Gardens) we travel to Exmouth where our Stuart Line Boat will take us along the Exeter Canal to Exeter.

Cruising up the River Exe, the Turf Locks form the entrance to the Exeter Canal. Built in 1566, The six mile canal is the oldest working canal in Europe. Further along the canal the Princess Wear Swing Bridge ceremoniously opens to allow passage through.

There is an open air deck and covered heated saloons, from which to view the scenery with accompanying commentary. Facilities include a fully licensed bar which also sells soft drinks, hot drinks and snacks.

Cash is required.

The trip lasts just over two hours, so we arrive at the Exeter Quay in time for lunch. There are plenty of eateries on the Quay and a short walk (about five minutes), via Southernhay, leads to the Princess Hay Shopping Centre. The Bus/Coach Station, where we will be picked up is then three minutes walk away via Bude Street.

We arrive home about 6 .00 pm.

Please bring mobile phones, in case of any problems.

Google Maps may help with finding the way easily to the Bus/Coach Station in Exeter.

Anne Wood

Response Slip

Friday 14th June Exmouth to Exeter on the Canal. 9:00am

Name

Mobile Number

Please reserve me ... places at £28 each

Total enclosed ...

cash or cheques payable to Camelot Area U3a

or paid .by BACS directly into the Travel Group Account

Name of Account: Camelot Area U3a Travel Group

Sort code: 20-99-40

Account number: 30257877

It is vital to add your Name and Name of trip as reference

Please do not pay by BACS without reserving your seat first (phone or email)

Returns to reach me by Monday 9th June

Bridge Group

The Wednesday Bridge Group meets from 2–4.30 pm each week at Hadspen Village Hall, except during August.

We should welcome new members to our friendly group, whatever your level of expertise. If you are interested in learning Bridge, or would like to revive dormant skills, we shall be offering a training/refresher course during August this year. This will run on Wednesdays from 7 to 28 August 2024 in Castle Cary at a group member's home, if demand exists.

If you would like to take part, please contact the Bridge Group Leader, Kate Mair, on 01963–351544 or kateandbillmair@hotmail.com



Sunset in pastel by Di Stickland Tuesday Art

Wednesday Walking Group

The Wednesday Walking Group would like to report that in the last few weeks their walks have been very wet, windy and muddy. We have been making the best of it, but even by keeping to the small roads and tracks, with all the local flooding after the rain, we have had to paddle or teeter on the muddy verges.

The situation has been so bad that some members have only joined us for our jolly lunches after the walk.

We are hoping for the better weather in the coming weeks.

Wednesday Walking enjoying a wet walk on Ham Hill.

(We did manage an hour in the rain before we gave up.)



Tuesday Art

Recently, the Tuesday Art Class have been trying their hand at painting Still Life



Tuesday Art cont.

Tuesday Art have also held a workshop on the art of using scraperboard.



Julie Pettinger

Dayella Stickland



John Bradley

Jen Cole



Digital Photography

Following a comment that "flower photographs were lovely with a blurred background" a trusty member found a very useful video, which was shown at our meeting. The video explained simply how to achieve this background blur effect and the science behind it. We were also treated to some beautiful photographs which exemplified the final result.

The Groups topics for the month were Drinking, Fruit and Hinged. Some would have had photos of birds at their water dishes drinking, but the weather has been so horrible that no birds obliged. However, the story of the lost banana intrigued us all, as well as the "unhinged" husband! In the event many other ideas for photographs were employed, such as Fruits of my labours and Fruits de Mer, A few of the pictures are shown are included below.

After a session on Portraits, using natural light, we were shown some of the portrait photographs taken, many of which were very flattering and all better than the ones in our passports!

We had two new members this time and there is room for a few others. Just come to the next meeting on Monday 13th May at 10:30 am in Galhampton Village Hall to observe before you join us more permanently.

Let me know you are coming and I can greet you.....

Anne Wood

Drinking::

Left: Anne Wood

Right: Sue Kennedy





Left: Fruit .Eric Rental

Right: Fruits of my Labours Nicki Bolton



Left: Fruits de mere. Chris May

Bottom Left: Hinged Fiona de Fonblanc

Bottom Right: Hinged Linda Stally



Recorder Group

Recorders at the Market House.

Feedback from passers by includes comments such as "odd sounds," "some sort of music," and "lovely music," all of them true at times.

Hopefully the first refers only to our attempts at a new and challenging piece, when into the comfort and familiarity of two sharps appears a third . There's a quick flurry of orange fingering charts and, having established which fingers cover which holes, off we go until a couple of bars of tricky, syncopated rhythm loom.

This is supposed to be 16th century music not 20th century blues-style! But with music there's nothing new under the sun .

Then there's a change of time from four to three beats in a bar accompanied by mutters of " oops ,missed that " .

After another run-through it's certainly time for a tea-break followed by something gentle like a minuet or accompanying one of us, who has a fine voice , in a folksong.

Homework is practising that challenging new piece and after two or three weeks it's sounding promising. It's a delight when we re-visit it ,maybe months or even a year later , and find it's no longer such a challenge and a measure of our progress.

Nine of us enjoy playing all kinds of music from 15th to 20th centuries. It's a time to explore and learn about composers and their music and to accept the challenges while enjoying the company of like-minded people.

If you'd like to join the group contact me and come along to a meeting but sorry, no beginners.

Gill Bagnall

Writing for Pleasure

Some very short writing exercises, from the Writing For Pleasure Group

The Unimaginable Delights of Foreign Travel

Travel today is amazing to behold. In a matter of hours, one can safely and relatively cheaply, traverse continents, savour the wonders of our world and experience the delights of foreign cultures. Something that'd be unimaginable to our forefathers; who except for the intrepid, might never venture beyond our borders.

Youth Today – Old Heads Young Shoulders

It is said that wisdom and experience come with age, yet the youth of today can gain knowledge and accomplishment once exclusively available to the rich and privileged older generation. Technology has provided opportunity, but also applied pressure in the expectation to achieve, conform and comply. Progress at a price?



Sunset in acrylic by Julie Pettinger Tuesday Art

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 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.

22nd May One Life

26th June The Holdovers

24th July Wicked Little Letters

If you would like to know what is on in advance at Caryford Hall, they have a very attractive and informative website.

You will easily be able to find it by copying and pasting the following web address into your browser.

<https://caryfordhall.co.uk/events/>

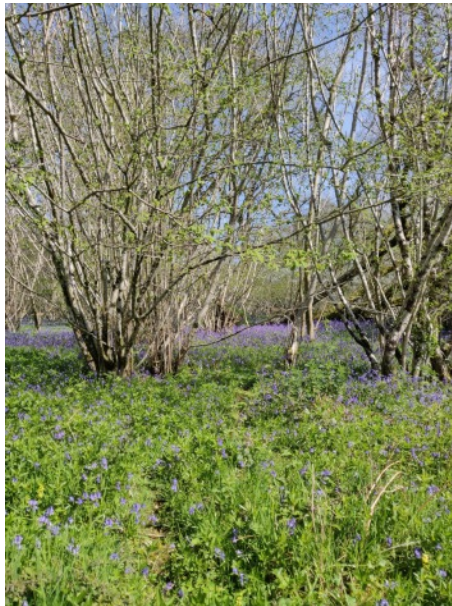
Good Tradesman Guide

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

- Fri 26th 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
- Thurs 20th June u3a open Day Caryford Hall 2-4pm



Woodland Bluebells - Jill Halford

Newsletter Distribution

Patsy Diamond & Hilary Dunford