

# CAMELOT AREA Newsletter



**June 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	Gill Bagnall
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)

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

*Cover Photo: Tulips at Kew on the Travel Group visit. By Linda Stalley*

# Notes from the Vice Chair

Open day is fast approaching and hopefully many of you can attend. The event will be held at Caryford Hall on Thursday 20th June, from 2 to 4 pm. It is a good opportunity to meet group leaders and find out what goes on in our many activities and clubs. You may well be tempted to take up new interests and meet regularly with yet another group of friendly people. If you are interested in becoming a group leader or wish to form a new group for an interest not already provided for, please come and chat to us.

Membership has remained at the same cost as last year – £17 for full membership and £7 for Associates. If you could tick the Gift Aid box when applying, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please take time to read in this newsletter about the new way you can renew your Camelot u3a membership. If you can't make it to the Open Day, it is now possible to pay directly through your bank and not have to complete an application form if your details have not changed. This saves the u3a money plus additional paperwork, which would be good for the hardworking u3a volunteers. The 2024–25 enrolment form is available on our Camelot u3a website under 'Announcement' with links to enrolment instructions.

Did you know that you can receive your newsletter by email? It would ensure that you always receive your copy regularly and would not have to wait for a group meeting, the post or hand delivery to receive it. If you do decide to opt for reading your newsletter by email, you need to contact Robert Reeves to inform him of your choice. You can do this either through Beacon or his email, his email address is on the 'Whose Who' page.

A big thanks to Gill Bagnall for rescuing May's Monthly meeting. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the talk about the Somerset Museum had to be cancelled. The meeting still went ahead with a fascinating talk on Jack the Ripper by Mike Crew, who Gill luckily managed to book at short notice. Fingers crossed for the next speaker who will be talking to us about Yuri Gagarin.

Hope to see you at the Open Day and the next monthly meeting,

# **Camelot u3a Open Day**

***At Caryford Community Hall, Maggs Lane***

***Thursday 20th June 2-4 pm***

## **From the Editor**

Spring is finally definitely here, despite the weather, and I hope you enjoy all the pictures of spring flowers in this Newsletter from The Nature Walks, the Travel Group and Digital Photography.

Don't miss also the intriguing story from the Writing for Pleasure Group.

Our Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Beacon Administrator have been working hard to update the membership renewal process, so do read the guidance notes, which makes it very easy to renew for those that use online banking. We have included a paper membership renewal form with this Newsletter, in case you prefer to renew by paper.

Open Day is coming up on the 20th June. This is always a good occasion to meet people, chat and have a look at the Groups and see if you would like to join another Group for the next u3a year.

The Newsletter is now having a summer break, and the next Newsletter will be the September Newsletter available at the end of August. This will be published in black and white and will contain the AGM papers.

Have a wonderful summer.

# 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

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 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. But what is the truth about Piracy, over the last 1000 years, the origins of such as we understand it and its relevance today

**Friday 25th October at 2.30pm**

Rick Potter is an honours graduate in music.

He became interested in non-western music and instruments about twenty years ago . Since then he has acquired nearly 100 stringed instruments, playing as many as he can in concerts and folk sessions.

# Membership Renewal Guide for 2024–2025

We now provide a simpler process for renewal.

Please do not complete the enclosed form until you have read this.

Unless your personal circumstances have changed in the last twelve months you are not required to complete a new membership application form. If you are renewing your membership without any changes, you only need to provide our Membership Secretary with your membership number or your full name, together with the membership fee or your payment reference (if paying by bank transfer).

If any of your personal details have changed such as address or telephone number, or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income for Gift Aid; you will be required to complete the enclosed membership application form. Forms are also available from the Announcements page of our website:

- A printable application form which you can complete and post to the membership secretary.
- An electronic form which can be downloaded, completed on a PC or a compatible device.

Your membership fee can be paid by bank transfer (preferred method of payment):

Payee name: Camelot Area u3a

Account No: 70218219

Sort code: 20-99-40

Payment reference: "2024 Renewal" plus your membership number – the number issued in 2023

If you unable to pay by bank transfer, we will still accept payment: –

" By cash, in person

" By cheque made payable to 'Camelot Area u3a'

Our 2024–25 membership fee remains at £17 per individual for full membership (1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025) or £7 if you qualify for an Associate Membership (if your primary membership is with another u3a organisation – proof of membership will be required).

Unused membership forms can be returned to your group leader or the membership secretary

## **Travel Group. Trip to Exeter via the Exeter Canal. 14th June**

This trip is now full.

Anyone who has reserved a seat and finds they no longer can go, please let me know so that I can offer the place to others on the waiting list. The deadline for payment is Sunday 9th June but payment beforehand is appreciated. Thank you

If new members wish to be enrolled in the Travel Group please come to see me at the Open and Enrolment Day on 20th June, or if you are unable to attend, send me your name via email.

Anne Wood



Wednesday Walking having a rare good weather walk at Cadbury Castle. Photo Stephen Tomlin

# ***Travel Group***

## ***Trip To Kew Gardens - 11th April***

With the added benefit from The Newt, a full coach left for London on what promised to be a miraculously non-rainy day. After a speedy journey the sun came out as we arrived at Elizabeth Gate, Kew and we were able to enjoy the Gardens without our raincoats.

Many members made a stop at The Orangery Cafe before setting out to view the glasshouses filled with all sorts of exotic plants in flower, in particular the carnivorous plants with their deceptively fragile blooms enticing unsuspecting insects in through the open windows. The blossom in the gardens (and along the roads to them) was glorious, mostly cherry, but other flowering trees also. A splendid sight.

Some took the tour on the Little Train which ventured to the far flung areas of the gardens, while others headed for the Treetop Walk to view the gardens from above. Most however, just strolled where their fancy took them, maybe to a restaurant or the Japanese Pagoda or along the well signed Blossom Avenues to the Temperate House, admiring the colourful tulips and shrubs along the way.

After a final trip to the cafe and shop we made our way back to the coach, and home, having had a tiring (how many steps did we walk?) and enjoyable day.

Anne Wood



Photos of Kew:

Left: Japanese Garden at Sue Keene

Opposite Top to bottom and left to right:

Anne Wood, Linda Stalley

Anne Wood, Margaret Harding

Linda Stalley, Margaret Harding





## Recorder Lessons

The Recorder Advisor of the National u3a, Val McCarroll, has sent Gill Bagnall, who is the Group Leader for the Camelot Recorder Group, the following information.

If you are interested in these lessons, please contact Val McCarroll.

Contact information below.

*"I am offering 5 free recorder lessons to beginners, the new to playing either Treble, Tenor, Bass or Descant. Even the more competent player is welcome!*

*As your Recorder Adviser, I am aware that many people join to play recorder have not been playing for several years, if any, and I am here to help you get started or develop your ability with the recorder. I want to assist your group leaders with their aims to have everybody included in making music together.*

*I am offering five individual recorder sessions on Skype to individual members of any u3a, to help you enjoy making music with your instrument.*

*I will accommodate your day/time needs as best I can and the lessons will be an hour per session.*

*Here is how to contact me. Send me an email to recorderadviseru3a@hotmail.com and I will get back to you and have a conversation with you before your lesson, to ascertain your needs and targets.*

*I teach on Skype and will send you the link to your lesson beforehand.*

*I am here to support your playing and develop your playing skills.*

*Absolute beginners welcome!*

*I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Val McCarroll*

*Recorder Adviser u3a UK"*

# Digital Photography

Alongside our monthly meetings we run a Facebook page, where we can add and see each other's photographs in a closed group. There are nominated topics, two per month, as a focus for us to upload suitable pictures taken recently or from our archives.

This month "Blossom" and "White" were the themes, with many members managing to combine both topics in one photograph. The blossom everywhere has been splendid this year, seen in woods, gardens, by traffic lights and by the wayside! A Ferris wheel, a car and timely woodland flowers all provided us with white photographs, some examples are given below.

If you are interested in joining the Digital Photography Group, please come to see our display on Open Day and chat to one of us at the stand.

Anne Wood

Photos: Sandie Doherty, Anne Wood, Denise Bailey, Fiona de Fonblanque



# Art Monday

We had a lovely Pastels workshop recently, and although some of the group only use watercolours, everyone found it very interesting and great fun. Soon we are having another workshop, this time on watercolour.

We are getting near the end of our year and during this time we have covered so many different subjects. We are all working hard now to prepare for our Open Day.



Pastel by Anton Kok

Pastel by Angel Hurrell





Top: Water colour by Glenda Colquhoun



Right: Watercolour by Joy Payne



Above: Watercolour by Janet Banks

Bottom: Watercolour by Chris Fairbairn



# Nature Walks

## *Sparkford Woods 24/04/24*

Our nature walk this year, for bluebells, was once more to Sparkford Woods, two weeks earlier than last year. After so much rain this Spring the weather was dry but cloudy, which enhanced the blue of the bluebells, which were stunning. This is a lovely wood with numerous easy paths to meander around.

As well as bluebells we spotted lots of other flowers including: stitchwort, white dead nettle, herb Robert, masses of the beautiful celandines, wood anemone. Buttercups, pink campion, cranesbill, and yellow archangel.

We heard lots of different birds singing, including the chiff chaff and woodpecker tapping away. Now I am back walking I am hoping to arrange more walks in the weeks to come, weather permitting of course!

Joan Williams



Group Photo by Denise Bailey

Other Photos by Joan Williams



# Writing for Pleasure

*For this month's writing we were required to use the sentence: 'I'd passed the building many times, not knowing, of course, that one day life would take me here in such an unexpected way' somewhere in the piece, which should be of no more than 700 words. We should include, if possible, dialogue, zeugma, dysphemism, polysyndeton, asyndeton and/or synaesthesia. I always have to look these things up, and then forget to include them, so good luck in finding them if you know what they are... Colin Bowen*

## **Ours... by Colin Bowen**

I'd passed the building many times, not knowing, of course, that one day life would take me here in such an unexpected way. A humble dwelling – a two-up, two-down cottage, but with a good-sized porch at the front door. That's what caught my attention – the porch. It was such a heavy downpour, and so unexpected. When I'd left home only twenty minutes earlier there hadn't been a cloud in the quiet blue sky. I hadn't worn my cape, hadn't thought to check my phone for a forecast. So I was totally inadequately clad for the rain, and the only shelter in sight was this porch. I stepped off the path and sheltered under the thatched roof, pushing wet hair out of my eyes. Gosh, I looked a state! My distorted but clearly bedraggled reflection stared back at me from the bullseye window in the front door. I thought I really ought to explain what I was doing there, so I knocked at the door, using the heavy iron knocker, shaped like one of those old-fashioned beehives. No reply. Now I did look at my phone, to see how long the rain should last, but there's literally no signal down there at the edge of the woods so not only could I not find out the forecast, I couldn't even ring dad for a lift. Not that he'd have been too happy about coming out. He'd only just have opened the shop and on a Saturday there'd probably be a queue of blokes wanting all the ironmongery, the screws and nails and glue for their weekend projects.

I'd just have to wait, then. I had a look around. Everything was quite neat, and there was a new sign over the front door, reading 'Ours'. I

supposed it was like 'Chez Nous', but with fewer letters, so would cost less, in our shop anyway. I leant on the door to look through the little window but it obviously wasn't properly closed. I found myself standing in the entrance, staring into the curious room. Well, the contents were curious. There was one large, solid chair, another slightly smaller, a third one of a more normal size. And I suppose more surprisingly there were three bowls of breakfast cereal on the table. One was of Honey Nut Loops, which I love, and I must admit I tasted a couple. Honestly, only one or two. And I didn't even touch the chair, so that goes to show you can't believe everything you read.

Now I know what you're thinking: she had no business in there; why didn't she just leave, or wait in the porch until the rain stopped? You're right, of course, and hindsight is a wonderful thing. Of course I should have realised that the occupants wouldn't be out for long, that they might be upset that I'd wandered into their house and nosed around. But I was very curious about them. Also I really needed the toilet, which is why I went upstairs to find it. And do you know, there wasn't a toilet! Looking back, I suppose now that was why they'd gone out to the woods. Again, I really must put the record straight: I didn't break anything! I sometimes think that rather than history being written by the victors, sometimes these stories as told by alleged victims seem to get more of a hold in the public imagination.

Anyway, here I am, upstairs in the house of complete strangers when in they come through the front door. I could hear muffled conversation, one of the voices quite agitated. I thought, there's nothing for it, I'll have to tell them I'm here and apologise. God, how embarrassing! So I start to go down the stairs when I see them. And they're BEARS! No, honestly, REAL BEARS! I mean they're wild animals, although I must admit they looked as scared as I was. I didn't hang about though. I probably did mutter a few words of apology – I honestly can't remember – but basically I legged it. I suppose the rain had stopped by then; I didn't notice, but I remember my hair was quite dry by the time I reached Grandma's.

# 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 22nd May: One Life 12A**

In 1938, on the eve of World War 2, Nicholas Winton, an ordinary stockbroker, became a hero when he coordinated the transport of hundreds of children to safety as the war began. One Life becomes

a half-memory piece as the older Winton (Anthony Hopkins) comes to terms with what he did in his youth and a war movie as the younger Winton (Johnny Flynn) races to save more lives. With Helena Bonham Carter as Winton's mother.

### **Wednesday 26th June: The Holdovers 15**

With no family and nowhere to go over the Christmas holidays in 1970, unpopular classics teacher Paul Hunham (Paul Giamatti) is stuck at school to supervise Angus, a bright teenager whose bad behaviour always threatens

to get him expelled. Joining Paul and Angus is head cook Mary (Oscar-winner Da'Vine Joy Randolph) – an African American woman whose own son was recently lost in Vietnam. These three shipwrecked people form an unlikely Christmas family, in two very snowy weeks.

### **Wednesday 24th July: Wicked Little Letters. 15**

A 1920s English seaside town is the setting for a dark, absurd scandal in this riotous mystery comedy. Based on a stranger-than-fiction true story, it follows two neighbours. When Edith and other residents start to receive abusive letters full of

unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. However, as the town's women, led by Police Officer Gladys Moss (Anjana Vasan), begin to investigate the crime themselves, they suspect that something is amiss and Rose might not be the culprit after all.

# 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
<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 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
- Wed 26th June      Cinema in Caryford: The Holdovers
- Wed 24th July      Cinema in Caryford: Wicked Little Letters
- Fri 27th Sept       AGM Camelot Area u3a 2.00pm
- Fri 27th Sept       Monthly Meeting 2.30pm: Pirates the origin and truth



Photo Kew Gardens by Margaret Harding

## Newsletter Distribution

Patsy Diamond & Hilary Dunford