



October 2024

Charity Reg No. 1038544



**CAMELOT AREA
Newsletter**

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
November 2024 issue is 10th October 2024**

Cover Photo: by John Stalley

Website <https://camelot-area.u3asite.uk>

Web Editor: Alan Gibbons

Notes from the Vice Chair

The first year as Vice Chair has flown by. It has been a steep but enjoyable learning curve and I must thank Robert Reeves, your previous chairman, for his help to enable your u3a to still function! His behind the scenes advice has allowed me to become accustomed to how our u3a operates-still learning but getting there.

One of the most impressive discoveries has been to witness the efforts made by your committee and group leaders. They continue to amaze so thank you everyone for another year of happy memories and events.

Thanks also needs to go to two committee members who are stepping down from their current positions. Jill Halford has been a wonderful newsletter editor over the past five years, thank you for all your hard work. Luckily, Sandie Docherty had volunteered to take over these duties-welcome Sandie.

Roger Weldhen, as Publicity Officer has promoted our u3a brilliantly and has steered our committee many a time. You will both be greatly missed.

Presently we will be looking for a new Publicity Officer, so if anyone is interested, please do get in touch.

During 2023/24, we have been privy to many enjoyable and diverse monthly talks arranged by Gill Bagnall, our new Speaker Secretary. Constantly researching for inspiring and interesting speakers, Gill was a lucky find for our u3a.

We have convened for two coffee mornings, one for new members and another for group leaders. We were represented at Caryford Hall Extension Opening Day and of course, assembled for our u3a Open Day.

The new system for enabling us to renew online has been very popular, thanks to Caroline Reeves, our Membership Secretary, for its smooth introduction.

Financially we are in a healthy condition and we have all benefited from our membership fees remaining the same for this year.

We have a new Camelot u3a website to look forward to. Alan Gibbons and Peter Townley have, and are, working hard on achieving its 'new look'. Many thanks to you both.

Finally if you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for new activities, please do get in touch. Feedback has been appreciated regarding our Open Day and changes are planned for the next event. It is your u3a to enjoy and participate in, so please continue to meet friends, make new ones and surprise yourself with your new found talents.

Stella Fairbairn

Notes from the Editor

I am delighted to take on the roll of Editor and will do my best to keep up the very good work by Jill, that has gone before me. My husband Geoff and I moved to Castle Cary just over a year ago having lived in the South of France for twenty years. We had intended to spend two years doing up and turning a very "moche" villa into a bed and breakfast but somehow we were enjoying ourselves too much, so stayed. Everything has its time and we decided to move back to the UK.

I don't think we could have found a better place to live, than Castle Cary. It seems that I am not the only person to think so. I quote "The Somerset town of Castle Cary has been named as the best place to live in the UK. Muddy Stilettos' in-the-know county editors and readers have given their insider knowledge of the villages, towns and cities across the UK – and the Somerset town topped the rankings." I can only agree but it is the people that live here that we have found so friendly and welcoming.

I am looking forward to being involved within the u3a and all its members and hope with the help of the group leaders, to bring news of interesting events that have already happened and are planned for the future.

Sandie Docherty



Camelot Monthly Meetings

Caryford Community Hall
Maggs Lane Ansford BA77JJ

Friday 27th September at 2.30 p.m.

Name of speaker Richard Hutley

PIRATES The Origins & Truth

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 to today



Friday 25th October at 2.30pm

Name of speaker Rick Potter

Strings around the world

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.



Friday 29th November 2024 at 2.30pm

Name of speaker Kenneth Fowler

Race To Scotland

The Story Of Sailing a "Bath Tub sized" dinghy from Lands End to John O Groats. Full of lots of on board video footage, photos and unusual happenings, this is a story of human endeavour and the ups and downs of an epic adventure.



Friday 28th February 2025 at 2.30 p.m

Name of speakers Brian and Jacqueline Sutton

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times - the Charles Dickens story.

Brief resume of talk: The life of the great author and social campaigner; his books and stories; his wisdom, characters and humour, his controversial love life including 'The Invisible Woman'.

Brian and Jacqueline have been married for 25 years.

Both are retired, Brian having worked as a Property Manager and Theatre Manager, Jacqueline as an English teacher.



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 four Groups, each Group will be asked to do this only once every three years or so.

2024

October	Art Monday	Sylvia Mottram
November	History	Bruce Bower

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.

u3a Enrolment and Open Day

This year our Enrolment & Open Day fell on a very hot and sunny Thursday afternoon in June. The event was extremely well supported by our group leaders who were on hand to register members into their individual interest groups and to answer any questions about their groups from both new and prospective members.



Along with small table top displays, a number of larger displays were distributed around the room. These included Art, Photography, Travel and Walking. Along with

information about registering for the Beacon Members Portal, there was also an opportunity to talk to our Web editor and see how our 'new look' website is developing.

As membership renewals no longer require completion of a new membership form, the renewal process was much slicker and many members renewed on-line before the day. However, the membership desk was still available for new members who wished to join and for existing members that prefer to renew in person.



On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank everyone involved in the setting up and running of this year's Enrolment & Open Day.

Robert Reeves

Travel Group. Trip to Mapperton House and West Bay 8th May

Gosh..Fog! But the weather forecasters said it would clear... and it did!



The coach journey to Mapperton gave us the opportunity to see the Dorset Countryside at it's very best, rolling hills and green fields. An unexpected road diversion was a surprise gift as we had to travel through little thatched villages with lovely gardens and with clinging wisteria in full bloom. At the roadside and in woodlands, the bluebells formed a wonderful carpet of colour.



We were greeted at **Mapperton House** not by The Earl and Countess of Sandwich but by their cheerful representative who organised us into three groups to see the Jacobean House and the Exhibition of letters. While waiting for our

guide, we could stroll the beautiful Italianate Gardens or visit the Coach house for coffee, cake or more! The House tour lasted 45 minutes and we able to view the rooms, richly decorated and furnished as well as hear the stories attached to the paintings on display. Needless to say, they included loyalty and disloyalty, mistresses and money. (Cont)



On to West Bay... with the tide in. We were able to walk along the new(ish) pier or take tea in one of the many cafes although sadly the Railway Carriage cafe was closed. Only the intrepid walked along the beach, used for filming "Broadchurch", or across the front up to Eype! A quick visit but time enough to find a treasure, or two, in the Old Customs House- a fascinating collection of Bygones on every floor.

Anne Wood.

Photos Anne Wood and Ian Middleton.

Monday Art

We start back on the 16th September after our summer break and I am happy that everyone is coming back for another year. We also have 3 more people of which two are complete beginners. The art for the 2025 calendar is almost ready for the printers so we will have them nice and early. We have a workshop with the talented Kate Lynch in November and another in the New Year and



Watercolour by Sue Bamping

lots of subjects to paint in any medium of choice. Some of us have been painting during the summer break and I have included a few for this issue.

Sylvia Mottram.

Monday Art



Watercolour by Julien Cox



Pastel by Pauline Farror



Watercolour by Laurence Lawrence



Watercolour by Angela Hurrell

Walking

The Friday Walking Group which meets on the first and third Friday of the month has this year visited Stourhead, Avalon marshes Centre, Moorhayes farm, Brean Down, Oakhill, Shepton Montague, Langport, Yarlington, and Limmington.

The walks have been between 4 and 5 miles, easy walking, and the next walk is on September 20.

Here are some photos from the walks.

John Stalley



Photo by John Stalley

Photo by John Stalley



Photo by Robert Reeves



Digital Photography News

Those in the Digital Photography Group never have a break from our cameras, phones or iPads, we are always ready incase that wonderful shot comes along.

We are however, not meeting in September, instead we are taking photos of Markets, wherever we can find them. The results will be shown in our meeting on Monday 14th November along with the topics nominated for the month which will be "Sunlight" "Arches" and "Something Green"



Photo by D. Bailey

In August our topics were "Hats" "Railings" and "Vertical" and as usual produced a variety of interesting shots, some are included below.



Photo by Barbara Voules

During the meeting we also had a chance to discuss what the group should include in forthcoming meetings, the topics for the next Open Day Exhibition, and the forthcoming Exhibition in Wincanton Library in October/November.



Facebook topics for September are Shoes and then Vegetables.

Photo by Sandie Docherty

New members are welcome to our meetings in Galhampton Village Hall at 10:30am on the second Monday of the month.

A lift can sometimes be provided.

Anne Wood

Digital Photography



Photo by Anne Wood



Photo by Richard Needle



Photo by David

Nature Walks

Apologies for not arranging any walks since Spring, partly due to the inclement weather and also being unable to drive due to having both cataracts done, hopefully now they are done and all being well, Vicky and I can arrange more walks, one to the levels and an Autumn one.

Joan Williams



Please find three photographs from previous walks



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 25 Sept. *Dune: Part One* (2021) (12A)

As a prelude to showing the recently released *Dune: Part Two* in November, in September we are showing *Part One*, released in 2021, which won six Academy Awards. Set the distant future, the plot revolves around Leto Atreides, ruler of the planet Caladan, who is assigned as the fiefholder of Arrakis, a harsh desert planet and the sole source of "spice", a valuable substance.



Wednesday 23 October *Back to Black* (2024) (15)

The film tells the story of the life and music of Amy Winehouse, through the journey of adolescence to adulthood and the creation of one of the best-selling albums of our time. Painting a vivid, vibrant picture of the Camden streets she called home and capturing the struggles of global fame, *Back to Black* honours Amy's artistry, wit, and honesty, as well as trying to understand her demons.



Wednesday 27 November *Dune: Part Two* (2024) (12A)

This big-screen epic continues the adaptation of Frank Herbert's acclaimed bestseller *Dune* exploring the mythic journey of Paul Atreides as he unites with Chani and the Fremen while on a path of revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family. Facing a choice between the love of his life and the fate of the Known Universe, he endeavours to prevent a terrible future only he can foresee



Good Tradesman Guide

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Orchid Carpet Cleaning

Richard Payne

Tel: 01963 371284

Mob: 07599 789725

Roofer / Carpenter

Dave Whitehead

Mob: 07932 058681

General Builder

Andy Baker

Mob: 07510 943009

Painter / Decorator

Adrian Richardson

Mob: 07815 618465

Jonathan Ackland

Mob: 07759 882591

Tel: 01963 351316.

Roger Welton

Tel: 01963 440341

Plumbing and Heating Engineer Gas Safe Reg'd

Perkins Plumbing & Heating

Andrew Perkins

Mob: 07815 515671

Warm Welcome Heating Services Gas Safe Reg'd

Roger Welton

Tel: 01963 440341

Plumbing & Heating

Kevan Davis

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Domestec

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Tel: 01963 220366

Servicing & Repairs Servicing and Repairs

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Tom Sweep

Mob: 07340 743366

Vehicles

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Shaun Browncay

Tel: 01935 840301

Car Repairs.

Bayford Motors

Tel: 01963 33746

We have space in the Good Tradesman Guide if
you know someone you would like to recommend
for their
Products and Services.

Dates for your Diary 2024

- Wed 25 Sept Cinema in Caryford: **Dune: Part One** (2021) (12A)
- Fri 27th Sept **AGM** Camelot Area u3a 2.00pm Caryford Hall
- Fri 27th Sept Monthly Meeting: 2.30pm: **Pirates** the origin and truth
- Wed 23 Oct Cinema in Caryford: **Back to Black** (2024) (15)
- Fri 25th Oct Monthly Meeting: **Strings around the world**
Rick Potter
- Wed 27 Nov Cinema in Caryford: **Dune: Part Two** (2024) (12A)
- Fri 29th Nov Monthly Meeting: **Race to Scotland:**
Kenneth Fowler
- Fri 31st Jan Monthly Meeting: **Poetry and Science.**
Dr C Southgate
- Fri 28 Feb Monthly Meeting: Brian and Jacqueline Sutton
(**TWOgether talks**) (**Dickens it was the best**)

Newsletter Distribution

Patsy Diamond & Hilary Dunford