

December/January 2025

Charity Reg No. 1038544



CAMELOT AREA Newsletter

*The Camelot area Committee send their best wishes for a Happy Christmas
and a healthy New Year to all members*



Who's Who in Camelot

Officers

Chairman: **Vacant**

Vice Chair: Stella Fairbairn

Hon. Treasurer: Peter Kennedy

Hon. Secretary: Catriona Cole

*To contact any of the
Committee Members
go to the contacts page
of the website,
and send a message*

Committee Members

Membership Secretary

Caroline Reeves

Speaker Secretary

Gill Bagnall

Newsletter Editor

Sandie Docherty

Publicity

Vacant

Beacon Admin

Robert Reeves

Website Assistant

Peter Townley

Groups Co-Ordinator

Vacant

Non Committee Members

Website Editor

Alan Gibbons

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

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**The copy date for all articles to be included in the
February 2025 issue is 10th January 2025**

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Website www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk

Web Editor: Alan Gibbons

Notes from the Vice Chair

We have been treated to some excellent monthly talks recently. October's talk - Rick Potter's 'Strings Across the World' was fascinating. He showed many instruments that our members had never seen or heard played before. It is a very pleasant way to spend a Friday afternoon, learning something new and chatting to friendly people. We take a break in December but return in January with Dr Christopher Southgate – 'Poetry and Science'. If you have not been before, please join us. Free to all members with tea, coffee and biscuits provided, non-members only £2.00. Detailed information is on the website, simply click on the title of the meeting and instantly see if a particular talk would be of interest to you.

Regarding our website, your committee met for an additional meeting to consider any changes or additions that would benefit us all. We are all very impressed with our new site and grateful to Alan Gibbons for the incredible amount of time that he has spent in enabling it to be 'up and running'. Peter Townley will be joint administrator and can be contacted to update information too. Many thanks to you both. Have a browse and let us know what you think. Please note that our website address has changed, you will not be redirected after the first week of January 2025! It is now: www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk

Hopefully you have all been able to view the e-version of our new style Newsletter. Many have commented on how they like receiving each edition in this way. The three-month trial will end with this issue so if you wish to save your u3a postage, the legs of our stalwart deliverers and ensure you do not miss out on any events, please contact Caroline Reeves, our membership secretary on carolineofcc@gmail.com This will ensure you keep on viewing online. You can also contact her through the our u3a website.

Finally, as this is the last newsletter of 2024, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the committee and myself to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. Hopefully your groups will be celebrating on the last meeting of the year, if not, why not suggest it? Surely a festive drink and nibbles is a necessary perk of the season.

Whatever your beliefs, let us all celebrate our time together with friends and family over the holidays and look forward to an exciting 2025. Enjoy!

Best Wishes

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair.

Notes from the Editor

We have almost reached the end of another year with the festive seasons just around the corner. For most people this is a time of family, fun and plenty of things to look forward to. Castle Cary and the surrounding villages have a plethora of events planned for our enjoyment, all are hoping that they will have a good response and turn out from the local population. We really do live in an area that makes a huge effort to offer us everything from coffee and cake, Carol Services, to making willow wreaths for our front doors. These events give everyone an opportunity to meet up with other members and friends and perhaps more importantly to make new friends.

Our next issue is February and I look forward to receiving, news, photos and anything of interest, you think our members would like.

Apple Day at the Market Hall

Sunday 27 October, an annual market pertaining to anything and everything to do with "Apples" was held at the Castle Cary Market hall. Starting with young cider trees, moving on to Apple fritters, Cider and Cider vinegar. The local butcher put on hot food and while you were waiting at the end of a long line, there was warming mulled cider to help the time pass pleasantly.



Camelot Monthly Meetings

**Caryford Community Hall
Maggs Lane Ansford BA77JJ**

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 31st January 2025 at 2.30pm

Name of speaker Dr C Southgate

Poetry and Science

Synopsis:

Here Christopher examines points of commonality between poetry and science, by giving illustrations of each one. To do it, he uses poets such as Gerard Manley Hopkins and R.S. Thomas, plus some of his own work (which in turn draws on his first career as a research biochemist).

Your Speaker - Christopher Southgate:

Christopher trained as a research biochemist at Cambridge University and in the U.S. He has subsequently been both a University Chaplain and part-time hospital lay chaplain specialising in mental health chaplaincy. He is author of eight poetry collections. Christopher currently works at the University of Exeter, where he recently finished a project on the science of the origin of life.



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.

2024/2025

November	History	Bruce Bower
January	Literature	Sue Kewish
February	Recorder	Gill Bagnall
March	Garden Group	Caroline Reeves

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.

Up and Coming

Thursday 12th December from 5.30pm

Castle Cary Town Centre

- Late Night Shopping
- Visit from Father Christmas
- Street Entertainment for all ages
- Festive Food & Drink

Saturday 7th December

Market House

10.00 Lovington School coffee morning

Saturday 14th December

Market House

09.30 Coffee Morning and simple Christmas makes and promotion of local wellbeing groups

Friday 20th December

Methodist Church

1930 - 2130 Castle Cary Choir Christmas Concert

Saturday 21st December

Market House

19.30 Churches together Crib/Carol Service

Methodist Church

1930 - 2130 Castle Cary Choir Christmas Concert

4th Saturday of the month

Repair Cafe Methodist Church

Group Leaders Variety is the spice of life!

Members would enjoy reading and seeing photos of your activities. If you or a nominated member of your group would like to send me some information or photos, please do. Thank you.



Travel Group Christmas Quiz

The following photos were taken during the Travel Group Trips in 2023 and 2024.

A prize awaits for the first name drawn from those who send me a correct list of the venues matched with the number of the photograph.

Answers please before 10th January. The winner's name and correct answers will be printed in the next newsletter.

Responses to...

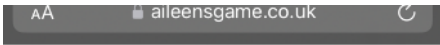
Mrs Anne Wood,

go to the contacts page of the website, if you wish to send Anne send a message



Games. Puzzles and Talks

When you find yourself at a loose end and are looking for something to occupy yourself and tax your mind, why not take a look at the u3a's national website and head down to the puzzles & games section where you'll find new logic puzzles, mathematical and word games each month.



Aileen's Game

C	R	A	T	E	5
R	O	D	E	Q	4
U	C	D	O	U	0
D	K	B	R	A	3
E	S	T	D	G	3
5	5	3	0	4	32

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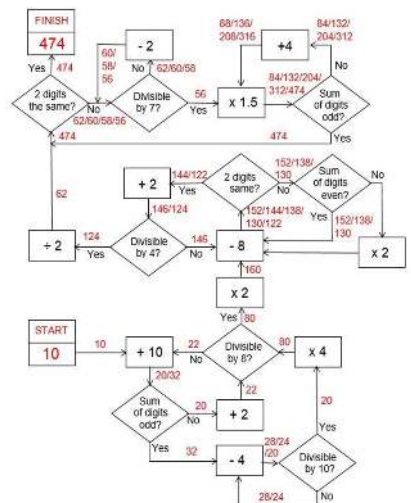
look at the u3a's national website and head down to the puzzles & games section where you'll find new logic puzzles, mathematical and word games each month.

If you've never looked at the range of competitions, free talks, games and puzzles on the u3a's national website before, you can find a link on the '**About Us**' page of our new look website.

Robert Reeves

OCTOBER '24 LOGIC Solutions

In the following numeric maze, go to the 'START' box and proceed through the maze, following instructions as provided, until you get to the 'FINISH' box. What number did you finish with?



Rick Potter Strings around the world



This month's speaker was Rick Potter talking about his 100 plus stringed instruments acquired over a period of 20 years.

His father built guitars and at twelve years old, he picked one up and learnt to play, this led to on to a university masters degree in music. He

is still playing guitar regularly in a band and always takes one or some of his collection to each gig.

Rick talked about the history of music starting with the first evidence of a man with musical bow which was found on a cave wall in France 11,000 years ago. In 2500 BC came the first real evidence of a small 5 string harp. Persia became the centre for stringed instrument, some believe it was due to the "Silk Run" that the popularity of the Lyre spread worldwide. Southern Italy was the home of the Mandolin but it was not until the 14th century that the guitar was first made. Still a popular instrument but there have not been any new guitar heroes for decades. An interesting meeting with knowledgeable and interested members asking several questions afterwards.



Monday Art

We have had another great month painting many different subjects. Now we are really looking forward to Kate Lynch returning and doing a workshop using charcoal.

Due to a technical problem, we are unable to show as many paintings as we would liked to have done this month.

Tony Cole watercolour



Sylvia Mottram

Digital Photography News

In September we had a little break from the norm and did not have a meeting in Galhampton Village Hall but instead, decided to take photographs of "Markets" anywhere. As some members were away on holiday, the result was an interesting mixture of venues, products and wonderful local markets, as well as those taken in France and Madeira... The Facebook topics of Clouds and Animals proved very popular.



Photo by Anne Woods

Our October meeting in was put in jeopardy by a plan to cut down or prune large trees in Galhampton with a necessity for the electricity to be cut off in the village. Despite the availability of a generator (possibly noisy - we are a very quiet group!) it was decided to change the venue for the meeting to Caryford Hall, as they had vacant slot at our usual time. Many folk enjoyed being back in Castle Cary but our present time slot is not

available after next month, maybe a change of day and time could be

considered for next Year!

A few photographs from the October meeting are included which relate to the topics of "Sunlight, Arches and Something Green"

We are a happy, tolerant and enthusiastic band of photographers if you would like to join us.

Please let me know if you would like to join the group and do come along to one of our meetings on the second Monday of the month,

9th December at **10:30am** in **Galhampton**

Village Hall. It may be possible to arrange a lift – just contact me.

Anne Wood - *go to the contacts page of the website, if you wish to send Anne a message*



Photo by Robert Reeves



Photo by David Hadden



Photo by Sue Kennedy



Photo by Denise Bailey



Photo by Chris May



Photo by Barbara Boules



Photo by
Colin
Constable



Photo by Michael Antony



Photo by Sue Kennedy

Short Walks

Eleven of us met in Castle Cary on Friday 8th November for the first of our short walks. We had booked a table at The George so we first called there to submit our lunch orders before embarking on a slow climb up Lodge Hill. Unfortunately the cloud stubbornly remained low, so we weren't able to appreciate the distant views, but it was still pleasant to look down on the site of the old castle and the town below.



Then it was downhill or flat all the way, even the cows were remarkably quiet and unperturbed by our presence. Having covered about 3.3 miles, we repaired to the George where we were joined for lunch by other former walkers. A successful first venture will be followed, we hope, by another on 13th December. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us.



Susan Keen.

[Photos from the Friday Walking Group](#)



Digital Photography Exhibition

The exhibition of pictures from Camelot U3a Digital Photography Group held in Shepton Mallet Library last week, was a great success. Visitors to the Library were able to view the photographs at ease, as they returned or chose books. The theme of The Natural World fitted in well with the topics focused in the library itself.

Eric Rental and Denise Bailey worked hard to display the photos when the exhibition started on 4th November. "The Natural World" yielded many interesting pictures animals, even wild boars! flowers (gorgeous orchids) unusual plants and vegetables as well as stunning landscapes and sunsets.

After a week, as only half the submitted photographs had been shown, it was decided to change the display. The Library was happy with this idea so a brand new set of photographs remained on show for another week, on the same theme and equally captivating.

The exhibition closed on Monday 21st November.

Attached are some of the photographs of the displays taken by Denise Bailey. **Anne Wood**



Monday

Art (am Weekly)
Sylvia Mottram

Digital Photography (am 2nd Monday)
Anne Wood

History (pm 1st Monday of Month)
Bruce Bower

Literature (pm last Monday of Month)
Sue Kewish

Recorder (pm weekly)
Gill Bagnall

Garden Group (pm 3rd Monday)
Caroline Reeves

Tuesday

Art (am Weekly)
Dayella Stickland

Advanced French (alternate Tuesday pm)
Susan Keen

Mah Jong. (pm 2nd and 4th Tuesday)
Marion G Pace

Play Reading (pm 2nd Tuesday)
Chris Martin

Listening to Jazz (pm 2nd Tuesday)
Neil Houghton

Wednesday

Wednesday Walking (am alt Weeks)
Janet Ansell

Wednesday Poetry (am last Wednesday)
Jane Crozier

To check for spaces and other group details, contact the group leader by going to the groups page of the website, select your group from the list, then click on Group email: to send your message

Bridge. (pm Weekly)

Kate Mair

Wine Appreciation (Evenings 3rd Wednesday)

Alan & Alison Gibbons

Thursday

Book Group (pm 1st Thursday)

Jill Halford

Looking at Art (pm 2nd Thursday)

Jenny and Colin Bowen

Writing for Fun (9am 1st Thursday Monthly)

Helen Tracy

Thursday Poetry (am 2nd Thursday)

Ray Leary

Scrabble (pm 4th Thursday)

Karrie Barron

Reading (am 2nd Thursday)

Gill Bagnall

Friday

Friday Walking (am 1st & 3rd Friday)

John Stalley

Short Walks

Susan Keen

Non-Specific

Natures Walks Seasonal

Joan Williams (Group leader)

Vicky Taylor (Deputy leader)

Travel

Anne Wood

To check for spaces and other group details, contact the group leader by going to the groups page of the website, select your group from the list, then click on Group email: to send your message

Good Tradesman Guide

Home Improvements

Carpet Cleaning

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

Plasterers

Colin John Caren

Mob: 07749890798

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

Mob: 07976 741029

Electrical & Electronic

Computers - Technology and Software

Nigel Smith

Tel: 01963 220993

General Services

Domestic Appliances

Domestec

Washing machines /Dishwashers.

Tel: 01963 220366

Servicing & Repairs Servicing and Repairs

PRM Domestic

Mob: 07977 802756

Chimney Sweep

Tom Sweep

Mob: 07340 743366

Vehicles

Car Body Maintenance

SMB Body Repairs

Shaun Browncey

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.

To recommend a service, go to the contacts page of the website, and send your recommendation to the newsletter editor

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 29th Nov Monthly Meeting: **Race to Scotland:**
Kenneth Fowler
- Fri 31st Jan Monthly Meeting: **Poetry and Science.**
Dr C Southgate
- Fri 14 Feb **Group Leaders** Coffee Morning Market House
- Fri 28 Feb Monthly Meeting: Brian and Jacqueline Sutton
(**TWO**gether talks) (**Dickens it was the best**)

Newsletter Distribution

Patsy Diamond & Hilary Dunford