



**March/April 2025**  
**Charity Reg No. 1038544**



**CAMELOT AREA**  
**Newsletter**

# Who's Who in Camelot

## Officers

Chairman:	<b>Vacant</b>	<i>To contact any of the Committee Members go to the contacts page of the website, and send a message</i>
Vice Chair:	Stella Fairbairn	
Hon. Treasurer:	Peter Kennedy	
Hon. Secretary:	Catriona Cole	

## Committee Members

Membership Secretary	Caroline Reeves
Speaker Secretary	Gill Bagnall
Newsletter Editor	Sandie Docherty
Publicity	<b>Vacant</b>
Beacon Admin	Robert Reeves
Website Assistant	Peter Townley
Groups Co-Ordinator	<b>Vacant</b>

## Non Committee Members

Website Editor	Alan Gibbons
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**Website:** <https://camelot-area.u3asite.uk>

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**The copy date for all articles to be included in the  
May issue is 05 April 2025**

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**Website** [www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk](http://www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk)

**Web Editor:** Alan Gibbons

## Notes from the Vice Chair

Spring is definitely showing signs of a welcomed return and the longer days are much appreciated by all. In particular, the walking and gardening clubs will be able to spend extended time in their much loved activities.

The committee held a meeting recently to review our membership fees, a yearly task. The result, after a discussion with our hard working treasurer, Peter Kennedy, was the one you will be hoping to hear. For the third year running, we will be able to keep our yearly fees at £17. Associate fees also remain the same at £7. One good piece of news amongst rising prices and inflation!

As this edition of our newsletter covers March and April, please note our monthly talks for both months.

We will be welcoming Richard Chatham on Friday March 28th, to tell us all about Concorde - a beautiful plane that I'm sure we all remember, although the iconic design was thought controversial in the plane's early infancy. We follow Richard's talk with Mud2Fire on April 25th.

A local potter, Douglas Phillips will be explaining about how he digs his own clay to create wood-fired, beautiful stoneware pottery. Please come along and join us for a free afternoon of entertainment and as always, refreshments are included.

A big thank you must go to Robert Reeves, who I consult on endless occasions, for enabling Google Workspace to be available to your trustees. It is a system that allows us to store all u3a information in one place that we can all easily access. Very helpful for many u3a tasks.

A u3a member said to me the other day about how hard the committee work 'behind the scenes', and how the group leaders continue to arrange and provide enjoyable sessions for us all. We are very lucky indeed to have such people at Camelot Area u3a, please know you are very much appreciated.

So, as the Hot Cross buns and Easter Egg season approaches, enjoy the extended days and hopefully, warmer days.

Regards,

**Stella Fairbairn** – Vice Chair.

## Notes from the Editor

This issue is March and April so your next newsletter will be in May. Please send me your news and information as you get it, rather than having to send it all to me on the copy date of **May 05** which is earlier than usual.

I have started a new content which is "**local interest**" so if you have a story which you think our members would like to hear about, please get in touch.

We are starting with the concern of losing "**The George**" at the end of the year while the Newt take on its huge refurbishment. Locals will know Pip and her team who have worked incredibly hard and given us their upmost, ensuring that the community was listened to and provided for. Pip is now the the landlady of "The White Hart" In her words "my priority will always be the people, a trait I have taken with me throughout my career." **Please see page 13**

January's monthly meeting speaker was Dr Christopher Southgate talking about Poetry and Science, two subjects I had not seen put together before. Christopher trained as a research biochemist, was a University Chaplain and is an author of eight poetry collections. His easy voice and measured demeanour immediately pulled us into these diverse catagories, which you would think to be, polar opposite.

He explained how the scientific view, an exactness of observation, has been used poetically by different poets such as Gerald Manley Hopkins and R S Thomas to illustrate the best of both genres. "Science can offer poetry "a corrective to a sentimental view of nature" Poetry demonstrates "A willingness to look into unexpected places." How science is pre occupied with reproducible discoveries in comparison to poetry offering a one off glimpse of anything.

He read to us a selection of poems including "Reweaving the rainbow" by John Keats who wanted to rebuff Richard Dawkins eloquent scientific explanation.

An enjoyable meeting followed by some very interesting questions from our knowledgeable members.

**Sandie Docherty**

## Camelot Monthly Meetings

**Caryford Community Hall  
Maggs Lane Ansford BA77JJ**

**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.



**Friday 28th March 2025 at 2.30 p.m**

### **Name of Speaker Richard Chatham**

Concorde, the Amazing Icon of Supersonic Passenger Flight

Concorde has been a passion of mine since July 1969 when Brian Trubshaw and Andre Turcat provided my wife and I with a personal flypast the night before we were married. Since that date I have met many of the team that designed, built and maintained her, the Captain and crew who flew her and even some of the celebrities who were regular passengers.

I share 50 + years of interest in the life of the White Swan as she was initially called by the staff, and the Rocket as she became to those who kept her in the air until 2003.

Also, on-board video footage of my flight to New York and many of the not so well known "bits and pieces".



**Friday 25th April 2025 at 2.30 p.m**

**Name of Speaker Douglas Phillips**



'A Potter's Adventure in Mexico'

I'm Douglas Phillips and I have been a potter for over 50 years having set up my first pottery workshop in 1968 in Devon on the edge of the Blackdown Hills. My way of working, using my own dug materials and firing kilns with wood, has taken me around the world and this is an account of one of those adventures.

**Monthly Meeting Tea Rota 2025**

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.

**2025**

February	Recorder	Gill Bagnall
March	Garden Group	Caroline Reeves
April	Art	Dayella Stickland
May	Advanced French	Susan Keen

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.

## 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 26 Feb. [Paddington goes to Peru \(2024\) \(family\)](#)**

Paddington Bear has been living with the Brown family in London for many years now, but he still feels the tug of his Peruvian roots. Hearing that his Aunt Lucy, now living in the Home for Retired Bears, has been missing him terribly, Paddington and the Browns set off to Darkest Peru, only to discover on arrival that Aunt Lucy has disappeared. So off they go into the Amazon to find her, accompanied by a boat captain, Hunter Cabot (Antonio Banderas) and his daughter Gina. What could possibly go wrong?

WHY BOOK THIS FILM? Who doesn't love Paddington?

#### **Wednesday 26 March. [Gladiator \(2024\) \(R\)](#)**

After his North African home is conquered by the tyrannical twin emperors who now lead Rome, Lucius (Paul Mescal) is forced to enter the Colosseum as a gladiator under the control of Macrinus (Denzel Washington). He must look to his past to find strength to return the glory of Rome to its people.

WHY BOOK THIS FILM? At 86, Ridley Scott probably doesn't have many more. epics in him!

#### **Wednesday 23 April. [Conclave \(2024\) \(12a\)](#)**

Based on Robert Harris's best-selling novel about a papal election. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake - secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church.

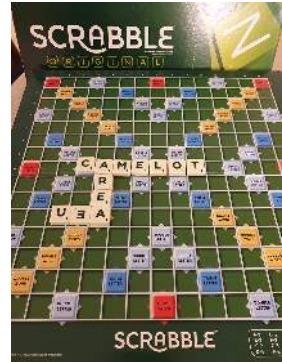
WHY BOOK THIS FILM? It's a gripping drama.

## U3a Scrabble News

The Scrabble Group are meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February and on every fourth Thursday of the month, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> May, in The Market House, Castle Cary at 2pm. We generally run three or four tables, each with a maximum 4 players. We usually manage two full games with a tea break after the first game.

We welcome new players who want to learn or just "play the game" you do not have to be an expert.

Join us and have a go – just turn up or contact Anne Wood or Karrie Baron for more information.



**Anne Wood**

## Writing for Fun Group



Our group this month has a challenge - to write a story with the following at its heart:-

A young woman is given a birthday gift by her fiancé. She unwraps it in anticipation.... Only to discover that it is a travel iron. She double checks the box in case ..... but no, it IS a travel iron!

So - why did he give her such an unromantic gift.

What was her reaction?

How did the story end?

Don't miss the next magazine for the results.

**Helen Tracy**

## Digital Photography News

The topics for this month's meeting were Wreaths, Leading Lines and White on White.

Over Christmas there were plenty of wreaths to spot, the difficulty lay in having to choose only one to submit to the group.

Leading lines is always a good topic and lends itself to many interpretations, it was actually the theme for the u3a EYE competition recently and one of our members had her photograph chosen from hundreds of entries to be one of only fifteen to be published online. Leading lines can be seen in any photograph where your eye is drawn into the picture along a path, river or track for example, although a row of flowers, stones or people may also be appropriate.

White on White did engender much discussion before hand. This helped with ideas for creating a suitable shot. Some folk decided to set up their own photos using various lighting techniques while others benefited from The Newts all white Christmas Display.

Our next meeting (second Monday of the month ) will be in Galhampton Village Hall at 10:30am. Please contact me if you would like to attend.

**Anne Wood.**



Photo Joan Williams



Photo Denise Bailey



Photo Michael Antony



Photo Anne Woods



Photo Robert Reeves



Photo Vicky Taylor



## **Coffee Morning at Galhampton Village Hall 5<sup>th</sup> April**

The U3a Digital Photography Group have an exhibition of Photographs to accompany this coffee morning. There will be information about the U3a available and members of the Photography Group present to help with any of your queries.

If you would like to visit between 10am and 12noon you will be welcome and there will be cake and coffee !!

**Anne Wood**

## Up and Coming

04.03.25 10-12 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Morning,  
Sparkford Parish Hall in aid of St Magdalens  
Church

### Coffee Mornings at the Market Hall at 10am

Sat 15.03.25 Coffee Morning in aid of Cary Comedians  
Sat 22.03.25 Coffee Morning and book sale in aid of the  
Library  
Sat 29.03.25 Coffee Morning in aid of Cricket Club Youth  
Sat 08.03.25 Coffee Morning and Tool Sale  
Sat 12.04.25 Coffee Morning in aid of the Museum  
Sat 19.04.05 Coffee morning in aid of the Cygnet Majorettes  
Sat 26.04.25 Coffee Morning in aid of Cary in Bloom  
Allotments Association at the coffee morning

### Markets

Every Tuesday Early to midday Town market  
Sat 01.03.25 Vintage Market with Carnival Club coffee  
Sat 06.04.25 Vintage market with coffee by the Scouts

Sat 12.04.25. **Concert** St Andrews Church given by Castle  
Cary Choir and Wincanton Silver Band at 7.30pm which celebrates the  
60th anniversary of the choir. Tickets £10 in advance from Bailey Hill  
Bookshop and the Market House Information Centre, or £12 on the  
door.

### Tuesday Art

The u3a Tuesday art group meet on every Tuesday  
from 10.15 - 12.15. We are a group of fun people  
with a love for art but not professionals. Why not  
join us for a cup of tea and a dabble with your  
paint brush. For more info contact Di

**Dayella Stickland**



## *Local Interest*

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Miranda, aka, Pip. In December I took on the lease for the White Hart, and became a landlady for the first time.

Since then I have been embarking on an incredible journey, firstly learning the logistics of being a landlady and secondly ensuring that everything I do with the pub is for the best of the community in Castle Cary, to ensure longevity and consistency for our wonderful town.

I fear I know more than anyone, the concerns people have regarding the White Hart and the barriers that I have to overcome, but with your support I intend to make a community space, for everyone to enjoy, that encompasses what an incredible place Castle Cary is. My focus is simply providing for the people, progressing through the barrage of change in the town, and coming out of the other side with a pub the town is proud of and wants to support and protect.


If you have popped in to see us, you would have seen the beginning of redecoration; the creation of a home from home with soft furnishing, lighter accent colours and a touch of love. We have begun our monthly pub quizzes which will take place on the last Sunday of each month, we know how much Cary likes a quiz, and we don't want that to be lost amongst the other changes. And we have also given immense thought towards the products we are selling, increasing quality but maintaining our price points. Our biggest ideas will understandably take time, our ambitions for the outside areas and reopening of the kitchen will begin in the summer and we want to ensure we are delivering what you deserve so keep checking in on us, as we embark on this incredible journey.

I am incredibly grateful to have been given this opportunity and with my wonderful family and team in tow, we will create a community pub, that embodies everything it means to be in the heart of Somerset, with every roll of our "R's" and with ever sip of cider this pub will be filled with love and happiness for many years to come

*Pip*

## Getting to Know Your Reds

### Tilt, Swirl & Sniff!!



The Wine Appreciation Group have been looking in detail at some of the wonderful red wines available from all over the globe. The colour spectrum of red wine has to do with the dominating fruit characteristics. The tears, or legs (how the wine moves in the glass) is an indication of the viscosity and higher alcohol level. The colour of the wine is an indication of the grape variety and age of the wine. Wines with red fruit flavours tend to have a lighter body, whereas wines with black fruit flavours usually have a fuller body and taste according to where and how the wine is produced. Lighter wines tend to have more acidity, lower alcohol, less tannin and are less sweet. Whereas bolder wines are less acidic, have higher tannins and alcohol level and are usually sweeter and fruitier. The hue of black wine grapes comes from anthocyanins, (pigments found in the skin of the grapes). These compounds not only lend the wine its colour but also contribute to its antioxidant properties and potential health benefits. The variety and characteristics of a grape influences the wines that vary in intensity, ranging from garnet to almost black. Black wines are usually full-bodied, smooth and velvety with tannins that give a strong mouthfeel. Tenturier (word meaning "dye" in French) refers to grapes, known for their unique characteristic of having red pulp as well as red skins, producing a deep tint to red wine. Black wines can offer aromas and flavours of blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, plum, and black cherry, and are often accompanied by hints of dark chocolate and a light smokiness. The ideal temperature for a light-bodied chillable red is around 12 °-13° and for a full-bodied red the ideal temperature is around 18° -20°. The alcohol levels of a medium-bodied red can be between 11.5%-13.5% ABV and for a full-bodied red it can be between 13.5%-15% or even 16% ABV. It is all down to a matter of taste.

## Puzzles and Logic

While you are inside avoiding the weather with a glass of wine or a cup of something, Have a go at cracking these puzzles. The results will be in the May issue of the newsletter.

### JANUARY '25 LOGIC Puzzles

In EQUATE + Puzzles, each row, column & diagonal is a mathematical expression or equation. Use the numbers 1 to 9 to satisfy each equation and each number can be used only once. The numbers provided in each puzzle are to get you started and depend on the puzzle's level of difficulty (i.e., +3 = least and +0 = most). Find the remaining numbers that satisfy all the resulting equations. Note: multiplication (x) & division (/) are performed before addition (+) and subtraction (-).

EQUATE+3

	-	8	+		=	8
+		+	-		+	
	+		-	5	=	2
-		/	+	-	=	3
2	-		+		=	3
=	=	=	=	=	=	=
8		6		8		19

EQUATE+2

1	+		/		=	3
x	+	-	+		=	0
/	+	+	+		=	3
	+	-	7	=	=	=
=	=	=	=	=	=	=
2		5		15		17

EQUATE+1

	+		/		=	7
/	+	-	x		=	19
1	+	x	-		=	25
-	x	+	+	-	=	=
=	=	=	=	=	=	=
-4		7		17		15

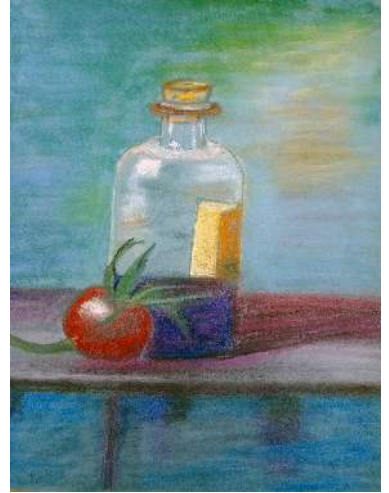
EQUATE+0

	x		x		=	30
x	+	+	x		=	10
x	x	+	+	+	=	=
	-	+	+	+	=	=
=	=	=	=	=	=	=
27		15		31		10

## Monday Art

We are already five weeks into our 2025 term and we are all enjoying ourselves. A few couldn't manage to come when we had the floods but fingers crossed that's all behind us. Our new member has settled in immediately and we are looking forward to meeting another new member next Monday. Here is a sample of what we have been painting. Very soon we are having another workshop which is very different and exciting.

**Sylvia Mottram**



Jesse Govinden

Janet Banks



Stella Fairburn





Nigel Watts

Angela Hurrall



Photo Anne Woods



Chris Fairburn

Neil Houghton



## Friday walking Group

The Friday Walking Group has managed three walks this year despite the inclement weather. We walk at Stourhead, South Cadbury and Castle Cary. Our next walk is on February 21.

**John Stalley**



## Nature Walks

I have been running the nature walks since 2010, firstly with my late husband and the last 8 years on my own with help over the last couple of years, from Vicky who does the paperwork for me. Unfortunately I have been unable to lead any walks for a while now partly due to my health, and also the atrocious weather.

I have informed the members of the group and am pleased to say that Ron Cousins has agreed to take over. I will continue working with him for the time being and hope the weather soon improves.

## Joan Williams



## 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 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.**

Please e-mail [smutzdoc@gmail.com](mailto:smutzdoc@gmail.com)

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 2025

### Monthly Meetings

- Fri 28 Feb **Brian and Jacqueline Sutton**  
(TWOgether talks) **(Dickens it was the best)**
- Fri 28 Mar **Richard Chatham**  
Concorde, the Amazing Icon of Supersonic Passenger Flight
- Fri 25 Apr **Douglas Phillips**  
'A Potter's Adventure in Mexico'

### Cinema

- Wed 26 Feb. **Paddington goes to Peru (2024) (family)**
- Wed 26 Mar **Gladiator (2024) (R)**
- Wed 23 Apr. **Conclave (2024) (12a)**
- Sat 05 April 10am **Digital Photo Exhibition**  
to accompany Coffee Morning at Galhampton Village Hall.
- Sat 12.Apr **Concert** St Andrews Church

Full information within the newsletter

## Newsletter Distribution

Patsy Diamond & Hilary Dunford