



May 2025

Charity Reg No. 1038544



CAMELOT AREA
Newsletter

Who's Who in Camelot

Officers

Chairman

Vacant

Vice Chairman

Stella Fairbairn
07847 897796

vicechair@camelotareau3a.org

Hon.Treasurer

Peter Kennedy
07788 827847

treasurer@camelotareau3a.org

Hon.Secretary

Catriona Cole
01963 351916

secretary@camelotareau3a.org

Members

Membership Secretary

Caroline Reeves
01963 351269

membership.sec@camelotareau3a.org

Speaker Secretary

Gill Bagnall
01963 350629

speaker.sec@camelotareau3a.org

Newsletter Editor

Sandie Docherty
07860 742742

newsletter@camelotareau3a.org

Publicity

Stella Fairbairn
07847 897796

publicity@camelotareau3a.org

Beacon Administrator

Robert Reeves
01963 351269

beacon@camelotareau3a.org

Web Administrators

Alan Gibbons
Peter Townley

webmaster1@camelotareau3a.org
webmaster2@camelotareau3a.org

Contents

Who's Who in Camelot	02
Notes from the Vice Chair	04
Volunteers in our community	05
A Potters adventure in Mexico	06
Cary in Bloom	06
Digital photography	07
Short Walks	07
Camelot monthly meetings	08
Monthly meeting tea rota	09
Cinema	09/10
Up and coming	11
Essay competition	12
Listening to Jazz	12
Membership Renewal	13
Writing for Fun	14
Monday Art	15
March monthly meeting	16
Nature Walks	17
Digital Photography	18/19
Groups	20/21
Good Tradesman Guide	22/23
Dates for your Diary	24

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

Cover drawing Chris Fairburn

Website www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk

Web Editor: Alan Gibbons webmaster1@camelotareau3a.org

Notes from the Vice Chair

Lots to say this month, especially as our last newsletter was a double issue. Firstly, I must say, with relief and gratitude, that our vacancy for the minutes secretary has now been filled. Peter Townley, who is also the web editor along with Alan Gibbons, has stepped forward and is doing a sterling job of condensing our wittering at committee meetings. Thank you, Peter.

Other news from the committee includes our policy reviews and annual return have been completed. For anyone that needs to view the updated policies they are on the website, thank you Alan and Robert for assisting with this. I can't imagine why you would want to, but we all have our odd little idiosyncrasies!

Regarding the newsletter, you may have noticed Robert sending you an email informing you that you will be receiving this edition by email this month. If you prefer to receive your newsletter this way, please let us know and we will adjust our records accordingly. If you have any problems in receiving your newsletter, either it is late getting to you, or you do not receive one at all, again get in touch with me and I will try to sort it. The delivery team are a very hard-working team of volunteers and do their very best each month to make sure your issue gets to you on time.

You might also have noticed that the committee have changed their email addresses on the contact page, this is so we conform with general data protection and our individual details are not shown. You can still contact us just as easily using the new email addresses.

Have many of you had a go at the puzzles that are now included in the newsletter? I was very keen to have a go and was quickly baffled at how hard they were. I then read the instructions and realised you could only use certain numbers. That will teach me, I hope no one else made my rash mistake. I think they are a wonderful inclusion, thank you Sandie.

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair.

Volunteers in our community

On Friday 7th of February, Trina, your u3a secretary and I were invited to represent our Camelot Area u3a in the assembly rooms at the Market Place. The



event was to celebrate volunteers in our community and was organised by Cary Town Council.



We represented you by a display like the one exhibited at the opening of the new extension at Caryford Hall a while ago, where every group was shown by a selection of artefacts particular to your activity. The display was much admired by all with comments such as, 'We can't believe how many groups you have,' and 'you do all this?' We felt very proud of our

organisation and our group leaders.

The Lord Lieutenant, Mr Mohammed Sadiq chatted to all the groups individually and in his speech admitted he thought there would only be a few volunteer



groups in Cary. He said it was overwhelming and heartwarming to see so many people caring for their community. On behalf of the King, who



he said has a massive interest in communities working together, he thanked us for the work that we do. Long may it continue and a massive thank you to you all.

Stella Fairbairn

A Potter's Adventure in Mexico

Our upcoming talk, 'A Potter's Adventure in Mexico', looks highly interesting. A very talented potter, who has been throwing beautiful pots for over 50 years. If anyone is fascinated by this country and its artistic heritage, then you may be interested in the upcoming Mid Somerset Arts Society talk on Tuesday 17th of June. The lecture is about the Bonampak Murals created by the Mayan civilisation of Mexico (650-850 AD). Starting at 11.00am, at Caryford Hall, members free, visitors £8. Please visit their website theartssocietymidsomerset.org.uk for more information.

A great big thank you to everyone who has donated raffle prizes to Sylvia Mottram for the air ambulance raffle at our monthly talks. An incredibly generous response from many and if you still are considering a declutter, please do not let us stop you, we have storage...

Finally, please put our Open Day date in your diary – Thursday 19th June, 2-4pm. You can still renew your membership on the day at Caryford Hall in person, but if you wish, you can easily renew online. There are easy to follow instructions on the website. As this is now possible, you may think there is no need to attend our Open Day, but we would still love to see you. We are hoping to make the afternoon more of a showcase of our many activities, we will be including free refreshments this year and hopefully you will join us for a good chat with a cuppa and a biscuit. Posters will be up soon.

Regards as always.

Stella Fairbairn

Cary in Bloom

How can you get involved?

- Plant up baskets, boxes & tubs to add colour to our streets
 - Embrace composting, garden waste & recycling
 - Volunteer to help with the working group

**For more details contact Penny Steiner on
penny@castle Cary.net**

Digital Photography Update

On Saturday 5th April Galhampton Village Hall had a coffee morning at which the Photography Group were invited to put on a display of some of their photographs. The Theme of "Natural World" was decided on, and indeed pictures from around the world on that topic with exhibited.



The display was greatly admired by about 50 folk, who attended the coffee morning. Some were interested in the u3a also, so we put out a selection of leaflets, books and magazines showing the wider offerings of the u3a. Those who had helped set up the display, remained to answer any questions about the U3a and the Digital photography Group.



Many thanks to all the helpers and those from the Group who came to see the photos for themselves. We all enjoyed the coffee and cake too!

Anne Wood

Short Walks

Having cancelled our January walk due to adverse weather conditions, we were relieved to catch one of the rare dry mornings for our Valentine's Day walk. We enjoyed all the snowdrops and catkins en route from the Camelot Inn in South Cadbury to the delightful little church in Compton Pouncefoot with its unusual commemorative window.



Sue Keen

Camelot Monthly Meetings

**Caryford Community Hall
Maggs Lane Ansford BA77JJ**

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.

Friday 30th May 2025 at 2.30 p.m

Name of Speaker Stephen Powles

The Countryside detective



Formerly a vet, Stephen changed career to pursue a lifelong passion for wildlife, wildlife photography, filming and conservation. Stephen's material has made a number of TV appearances, featured in the national press and won major awards. His photography concentrates on interesting and challenging wildlife subjects, many of which are in and close to home.

Country walks can be greatly enhanced if one has a knowledge of the signs left by animals and where to look for them. This talk will illustrate numerous examples, some common and some more unusual and some that you are likely to pass by without ever having given them much thought. The use of fieldcraft, camera traps and CCTV monitoring will also be explored.



A selection of Stephen's beautiful "wildlife" cards will be available after the talk.

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

April	Tuesday 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 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.

Wednesday 28 May. [Maria \(2024\) \(12\)](#)

Starring Angelina Jolie Paris, September 1977. Riddled with depression and sadness, legendary opera diva Maria Callas now leads a reclusive life away from the public eye. Despite her failing voice, the famed American-Greek soprano still harbours hopes of making a grand comeback. But Maria has already caught the unwanted attention of persistent paparazzi eager to witness her downfall. As vivid flashbacks reveal moments from her glamorous yet tumultuous career, a tragic narrative unfolds over the last seven days of the influential singer's life - a story filled with dreams, hardship, passion, and disappointment.

WHY BOOK THIS FILM? For Angelina Jolie's imperious performance.

Wednesday 25 June. [A Complete Unknown \(2025\) \(15\)](#)

New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in the true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history.

WHY BOOK THIS FILM? For Chalamet's impressive performance.

Wednesday 23 July. [Bridget Jones mad about the boy \(2025\) \(15\)](#) Starring [Renee Zellweger](#)

Bridget Jones navigates life as a widow and single mum with the help of her family, friends, and former lover, Daniel (Hugh Grant). Back to work and on the apps, she's pursued by a younger man (Leo Woodall) and maybe - just maybe - her son's science teacher (Chiwetel Ejiofor).

WHY BOOK THIS FILM? We all need some sheer entertainment right now.

Up and Coming

Coffee Mornings at the Market Hall at 10am

Sat 26.04.25	In aid of Cary in in Bloom
Sat 26.04.25	In aid of the Allotments Association
Sat 10.05.25	Coffee Morning and Plant sale
Sat 17.05.05	In aid of the Christian Aid
Sat 24.05.25	In aid of Saturday stitch
Sat 31.05.25	In aid of Eat Cary

Markets

Every Tuesday	08.30 to midday Town market
Sat 03.05.25	Vintage Market, coffee from Memory Cafe

Regular events

1st & 3rd Weds	10.00. Memory Cafe Catherines Close centre
2nd & 4th Weds	14.30. Sing for fun The Market Hall
Every Friday	15.00. Talking cafe The Market Hall
Every Tuesday	13.45 Up-reading Classes. The Market Hall

Events

Sun 11.05.25	14.30 Somerset Day Celebrations The Market Hall
Fri 25.04.25	14.30 Camelot Monthly meeting Caryford Hall A Potters adventures in Mexico
Fri 30.05.25	14.30 Camelot Monthly meeting Caryford Hall The Countryside Detective
Wed 28 May	19.30 Film Caryford Hall Maria (Callas)

Results of Mar/Apr Puzzle

There were 4 puzzles to do.

No 1 solution was Equate **+3** No 2 solution was Equate **+2**
No 3 solution was Equate **+1** No 4 solution was Equate **+0**

No Puzzle this month but hope to have room next month

The Third Age Trust Essay Competition 2025

Submit an essay (max 1,000 words) championing a person, policy, invention or idea that has positively shaped society.

Who Can Enter?

All u3a members, including those in Interest Groups Online. You must be a member by 1 March 2025 and stay a member until winners are announced in June 2025.

All the information required is on the [u3a website](http://www.u3a.org.uk), search **Essay Competition 2025. www.u3a.org.uk**

Key Details:

- Free entry (one essay per person)
- Deadline: Submit by 12 noon, Friday 9 May 2025
- First prize - £100 Lifestyle shopping voucher donated by the creators of Friends Extra.
- Two runners-up - prize books donated by Bloomsbury.

Listening to jazz



Although the group is relatively small, we have listened to some interesting and very diverse jazz. Each month, we have chosen a couple of decades for each member to choose three pieces that appeal to them. So far we have chosen from pre 1920, 30s and 40s, 50s and 60s, 70s and 80s, and 90s to present day.

Now, we have moved on to each person choosing three pieces by the same artist. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month, so please don't hesitate to call me to find out more, if you wish, on 07799545278.

Neil Houghton

Membership Renewal Guide for 2025-2026

NO CHANGE IN PERSONAL DETAILS

Unless your personal circumstances have changed in the last twelve months you are not required to complete a new membership form. You only need to provide the Membership Secretary with your membership number or your full name, together with the membership fee or your payment reference if paying by bank transfer.

CHANGE TO PERSONAL DETAILS

If any of your personal details have changed such as home address, email address or telephone number, or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income for Gift Aid you will be required to complete a new membership application form. Two optional forms are available from the

Join Us page of our website:

- **A printable application form** which you can print, complete and post to our membership secretary.
- **A paperless application form** which can be downloaded, completed on a PC or a compatible device, then emailed as an attachment to our membership secretary membership.sec@camelotareau3a.org

To complete the process, 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

Please use as your payment reference: **"25Renewal"** plus **your membership number** - the number issued to you in 2024

If you are unable to pay by bank transfer, we still accept payment in cash, in person, or by cheque made payable to 'Camelot Area u3a'

Our 2025-2026 membership fee remains at £17 per individual for full membership (1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026) or £7 if you qualify for an Associate Membership.

When applying for an Associate Membership, your primary membership must be with another u3a (proof of membership will be required).

Writing for Fun Group



Aprils challenge was: Spend five minutes phrases/sentences stuffed full of alliterations. Choose two and build a story around them using as much or little if the original sentence as you wish.

The Soft Sand Was Like Sugar And She Took Off Her Shoes

Carol loved the seaside. As a child, she spent her school holidays with her grandmother in her cottage, very close to the sea. Open bedroom window brought in the gentle shushing of waves breaking over the pebbles as she fell asleep.

Now it was her cottage, inherited from her grandmother and she spent as much time as possible enjoying it inside and out – mostly out.

Her early morning walk took her along the edge of the sea and her game was to keep her feet dry, dancing aside from the incoming waves.

The soft, soft sand, white like sugar, was warm and tempting. She took off her shoes and instantly she felt about 10 years old; back in those holidays when she carried her sandals in her bucket after paddling in the rock pools or at the very edge of the sea.

Happy days.

Sunny days.

Fishing with her grandfather, catching supper, stopping on the catch.

Helen Tracy

The challenge printed in the last issue was writing a story around a travel iron being bought as a gift to a young woman from her fiancé. Alison Gibbons story was chosen but unfortunately it was too long for me to publish this month

The Writing for fun group is held at 9am on the first Thursday of the month.

The Editor

Monday Art

We recently arranged for another workshop at our Monday Art Group . This time we learned the art of Scraper board. Almost everyone managed to come and it was one of the best workshops we have had. There is always something new and exciting to learn.

Sylvia Mottram



March's monthly meeting

March's monthly meeting speaker was Richard Chatham, who shared with us his obsession of, and devotion to, the beautiful Concorde.

Professing from a child a yearning to fly, whilst dangerously near the edge of a cliff, he fulfilled this early ambition by becoming a glider pilot in his spare time. Originally a farmer, then an entrepreneur, he eventually became involved with building a golf course. Although his professions were varied he never wavered from a lifetime commitment and total love for this iconic plane.



His long suffering and delightful wife has learnt to live with their house being home to

hundreds of pieces of Concorde memorabilia. Ranging from cutlery, glassware, books, photographs and models to even a pair of original Concorde seats in their living room.

Richard's fascinating talk explained how the designers and engineers were able to build a plane capable of flying twice the speed of sound; the opposition of the Americans and even how a 200 year old loom was used to weave the fibre glass cloth needed for the iconic cone.

Described on Antiques Roadshow as a 'Concorde Nut', he shared with us his deep involvement and lifetime friendship with pilots, engineers and Concorde staff. Easy to see why, he was an articulate, humorous and interesting man, no wonder the meeting was well attended.

Stella Fairbairn



Many years ago, I was lucky enough to fly in Concorde on Red Nose Day.

Our pilot spoke to Capital Radio as we were the highest "thing" in the air. If you look carefully, you can see the pilot is wearing a red nose.

Nature Walks

On Thursday 20th of March nine members met for a foray into Ham Wall. We were expecting to see a myriad of wetland birdlife and we were not disappointed. Signs of an early Spring were everywhere if you looked for them. An RSPB reserve of renown, Ham Wall was created from carefully managed reed beds to maintain a variety of habitats.



A leisurely visit of about two hours took us to a number of hides overlooking open water. We saw sixteen bird species.

Marsh harriers were spotted in the reed beds and amongst the less common waterfowl were shoveler ducks, gadwall and and wigeon from well sited hides where our patience was rewarded by a close encounter with a great egret which flew in and stayed for us to enjoy a good look.

Peacock and brimstone butterflies were sunning themselves on the boardwalk. A mature pussy willow bore many catkins and a gorse bush was in full bloom with its typical coconut scent.

An enjoyable time was had by all and we look forward to a return visit to the levels later in the

Ron Cossins



Digital Photography News

Tea and Cake, Tranquillity, and Frosty were the topics which tested our ingenuity this month. We were able to make a special visit to partake in



Colin Constable



Sue Kennedy.

Tea and Cake and tranquillity could be found in the garden, park or anywhere with water. but frosty?..... Last month there was none to be seen until one evening the temperature dropped below zero and bingo. We could find frost on leaves or on windscreens. The most fascinating photos

were those taken close up on glass where the stresses and strains of the glass itself or of the ice formations showed through.

We are preparing for the summer exhibition in the Market House Assembly Room (top Floor) to accompany Cary in Bloom- hopefully a colourful selection.

In contrast the theme for the U3a Open and Enrolment Day is to be Monochrome as well as Man Made and a personal choice is also included. This

should make a varied collection to view.

The Digital Photography Group meets on the Second Monday of the Month In Galhampton Village Hall at 10:30am. Come along if you would like to find out more!

Anne Wood



Celcelia Dargie.



Richard Needle



Jenny Short



Joan Williams

Sandie Docherty



Fiona de Fonblanc



Roxanne Vigneault.

Joan Williams

The committee would like to thank Joan Williams for all her hard work with the Nature Walk group. Joan has always shown total commitment to the group alongside Vicky but has now decided it is time to step down as group leader. Ron Cossins has kindly offered to continue the group, enabling Nature Walks to continue.

Ron has nothing but praise for Joan in helping him transition to group leader, sharing records that she has painstakingly kept over the years. As a group they regularly enjoy spotting birds, plants and fungi that they would not recognise without Joan's great knowledge of the countryside. She has given a great amount of happiness to many. Thank you Joan.

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

Ron Cossins (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

Rofer / 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.

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

Domestic

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 newsletter@camelotareau3a.org

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 25 Apr

Douglas Phillips

[A Potter's Adventure in Mexico](#)

Fri 30 May

Stephen Powles

[The Countryside detective](#)

Cinema

Weds 28 May.

Maria (2024) (12)

Starring Angelina Jolie

Weds 25 June

A Complete Unknown (2025) (15)

starring Timothée Chalamet

Weds 23 July

Bridget Jones mad about the boy (2025

(15) Starring Renee Zellwegger

Full information within the newsletter

Event

Sun 11 May

Somerset Day Celebrations

The Market Hall 14.30

Newsletter Distribution

Patsy Diamond & Hilary Dunford