



June 2025

Charity Reg No. 1038544



CAMELOT AREA
Newsletter

Who's Who in Camelot

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September issue is **10 August 2025****

Cover photo Jenny Short

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Notes from the Vice Chair

Open Day on Thursday 19th June is approaching fast and we do hope to see you there. Caryford Hall doors open at 2 until 4pm, ready to greet you with a free cuppa and biscuit. Renewal with Caroline, our membership secretary will be available on the day, helpful if you find online application difficult to access. Please do tick the Gift Aid box if you are able, as this really does make a difference - thank you.

Our committee would like to take this opportunity to advertise a vacancy for the Camelot Area u3a trustees. Sadly Caroline Reeves will be stepping down from the role as membership secretary at the next AGM in September. Having filled this position for many years, we are grateful for all her hard work and superb organisation. Caroline would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be interested in being our next membership secretary and could fill you in with details of what is required. Please contact us if you would like to join a very friendly committee and would like to help with the smooth running and continuation of your u3a. We would love to meet you.

As we near our summer break, this will be the last newsletter until September. No issues are printed in July or August as group leaders take a well earned rest. Monthly talks will also take a break for June, July and August, resuming on Friday September 26th with, 'The Miracle Flower - From Flanders to the Tower', presented by Jeremy Prescott. We would be extremely grateful if you could attend on this date as it is also our annual general meeting. We would be starting at 2pm, before our talk but it is not a lengthy process. We managed to complete the meeting in record time last year, in only 14 minutes, we are aiming to duplicate. Unfortunately it is a legal requirement for us to hold this meeting and we need a certain number of members to attend for it to go ahead. Last year we were down on numbers and ended up ringing members who lived nearby to rush over so we could proceed! This year we are hoping that we do not have to resort to such tactics again so your attendance would be very well received.

Finally I think that all remains is for myself and the committee to wish you a very happy, healthy and sunny summer break. Thanks to all our

group leaders that have arranged our sessions, entertained us throughout the year and given us, yet again, enjoyable and unforgettable experiences. The friendship and laughter is much appreciated.

Until September,

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair.

April's Monthly Meeting

April's monthly meeting was with Douglas Phillips, a potter for over sixty years, who is renowned for designing wood burning, high firing pottery kilns. Based on over forty years experience, he has designed a labour and wood efficient kiln that produces as low a thermal mass as possible.

Douglas who was educated in Taunton, took a two year pottery course in Harrow and a further course in France before teaching in a style that attracted many foreign students. One of these students invited him to their home in Mexico and he took us on an entertaining journey to Chiapas, the home town of Deborah and Edwardo Taviera.

The local pottery was lead glazed and also suffered with 30% shrinkage when fired traditionally. Deborah wanted Douglas to build them a kiln which would stop the lead glaze being used and to improve the shrinkage. His first problem was finding clay to work with as it belonged to the land and no one would sell it to him. Finally he sourced his clay after meeting several different potters, experiencing their styles and skills on the way.

Douglas made them their Roman kiln and so doing, achieved exactly what they wanted.

Douglas and his current kiln called Dora, can be found at

Ridge Pottery
Queen Camel
Somerset
Ba22 7NF
01935 850 753

The Editor

Camelot Monthly Meetings

**Caryford Community Hall
Maggs Lane Ansford BA77JJ**

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.

Friday September 26th with, 'The Miracle Flower - From Flanders to the Tower', presented by Jeremy Prescott.

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

September	Mah Jong	Marion G Pace
October	Play Reading	Chris Martin

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.

Looking at Art

Looking at Art meets every 2nd Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in the Market House, Castle Cary.

We are in our 5th year of meetings.

Each month a member of the group will investigate and talk about a subject to do with art; possibly the life and work of a famous artist, who may be world-renowned or even a local personality.



This year we have had a diversity of subjects presented:

Looting in the Art World, Gustav Klimt, Tamara de Lempicka, The Sistine Chapel, and most recently Masayo gave a fascinating talk on the Japanese concept of Wabi Sabi.



Members' talks always provoke interesting discussion, and we find we are better equipped to appreciate art in galleries from Hauser and Wirth to The Louvre and beyond.

beyond.

If you have any questions you can contact **Jenny and Colin Bowen** via our Groups page of our website or email: enquiries@camelotareau3a.org

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 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 House at 10am

Sat 31.05.25	Coffee morning In aid of Eat Cary
Sat 14.06.25	Coffee morning in aid of Castle Cary Choir
Sat 21.06.25	Coffee morning in aid of Cary History Society
Sat 28.06.25	Coffee morning in aid of the Twinning Association
Sat 12.07.25	Coffee morning in aid Cary's Christmas
Sat 19.07.25	Coffee morning in aid of Cary Comedians
Sat 09.08.25	Coffee morning in aid of Carybrook
Sat 16.08.25	Coffee morning in aid of Allotment Association

Markets

Every Tuesday	08.30 to midday Castle Cary Town market
Sat 07.06.25	Vintage Market, coffee by Cary Cares
Sat 05.07.25	Vintage Market, coffee by Cats
Sat 02.08.25	Vintage Market, coffee in aid of the Pavilion Project

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
Last Thursday of the month	19.30 Market House Acoustic evening all ages welcome

Other local events

Fri 30.05.25	14.30 Camelot Monthly meeting Caryford Hall The Countryside Detective
Tues 24.06.25	u3a June Travel Group trip to Dunster with WS Railway.
Tues 01.07.25	Cary in Bloom
Sat. 26.07.25	Table Top Sale Market Hall iao Parkinsons UK
Sat 02.08.25	Cayford Hall Gardening Association Annual Show

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).

Jane Crozier.

Sadly the Wednesday Poetry group are saying goodbye to Jane Crozier as their group leader, who is stepping down from the role. Luckily, Jane is remaining as a member, much to the relief of the group.

The committee and the Poetry group would like to thank Jane for all her hard work and dedication in the last few years. Hazel Hudson has offered to act as the group contact and we look forward to seeing her and other poetry members at our Open Day. Thank you Jane and thank you Hazel. Poetry is even better shared with friends, long may your group continue to enjoy together.

Nature Walks

A local secret that must remain a secret, Sparkford Wood comprises ancient woodland now in the care of the Woodland Trust. As an SSSI, the trust wish to discourage over visitation. Already there are signs of use by families with children and dog walkers. Although access has been permitted to local people, this is not formally acknowledged and the situation may be reviewed to protect wildlife.

On Wednesday 23rd of April, nine group members gathered primarily to view bluebells at their best. But there is more to a mature woodland than bluebells.



Fourteen examples of early Summer flowers were spotted together with different lichen, ferns and fungi. An unusual ladybird was seen and wild bees proliferated. A cacophony of birdsong accompanied us on our walk. Amongst birds recognised by their song were blackcap, woodpecker, robin, wren, chiffchaff, pheasant and wood pigeon.

During the Summer we expect to hold a number of wildlife walking events to highlight nature. All will be weather dependent, as are we.

Towards the end of May, we are being a rare chance to see and learn about rewinding in action. **Heal Rewinding Project** is proving successful in encouraging nature in their reserve. Already there is evidence of beavers, otters and pine martens making an appearance. A dedicated volunteer will take us on our nature walk. A rare opportunity and its here on our doorstep. Fine weather will dictate the date of our visit. **Ron Cossins**

Digital Photography Group.

With three new exciting topics, the Photography Group set out to take interesting pictures to meet the themes: "Doors," " Looking Up" and " Monochrome".

A selection of photos are shown .

At our next meeting in May, we are going to Pitcombe Rock Falconry to take photographs of the Birds of Prey that are in it's care. The birds



David Hadden

may be set out in the open on stands for easy close up shots, or set to fly so that we can tackle the more tricky case of capturing a moving subject. No doubt the results will be variable! and we can look forward to seeing the pictures at our meeting in June.

June also brings the Open and Enrolment Day at Caryford Hall.

We have collected a new collection of Photos on the themes, "Man-made", "Monochrome" and a personal choice. (a single photography could encompass all three!!) which will be on displayed at the meeting.



Anne Wood



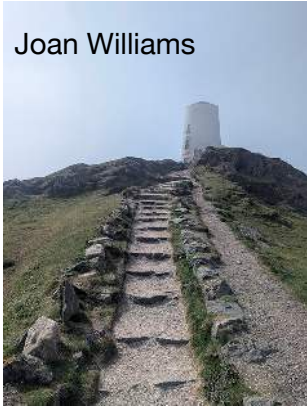
Vicky Packer

If you are interested in joining the Digital Photography Group please visit the groups page of our website or email:-
enquiries@camelotareau3a.org

Anne Wood



Denise Bailey



Joan Williams



Chris May

Richard Needle



Nicki Bolton

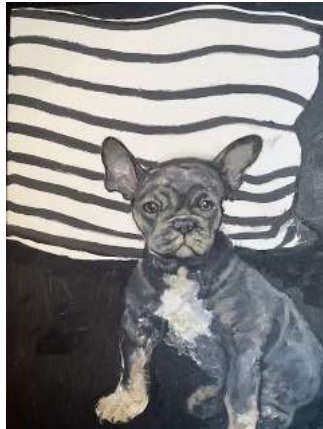
Ron Cousins



Monday Art

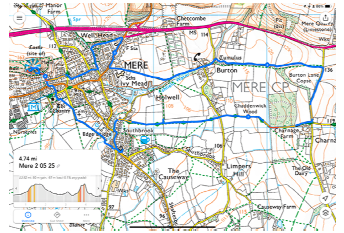
We have painted so many different subjects in the last few weeks. Some of us are using pastels and the results have been amazing. Here are a few photos of what we have achieved. The plan is to paint Bluebell woods next for anyone who wants to try otherwise we choose our own subject, it's all about enjoying what you do and having a good time.

Sylvia Mottram



Friday Walking

On May 2 the Friday Walking Group completed a 4.71 mile walk led by Sue Keen starting and finishing at the Walnut tree, Mere. The weather was beautiful and the route included an interesting walk through Mere and stunning views from Castle Hill. We stayed for lunch at the Walnut tree, the food was very good.



Writing for Fun

It was Moira's birthday; and she unwrapped her gift from Doug; a travelling iron. She turned it around and around in the hope it was something else disguised – but no, that's what it was.

"What's this?" she queried, still holding the iron, noticing the paper used on the ill wrapped box was Christmas gift wrap.

"I thought you'd find it useful for our next hill walking holiday," he beamed, some B&B places don't have irons. From behind his back, he produced A GUIDE TO MUNRO BAGGING FOR HILL WALKERS. Moira felt the irresistible urge to slap his face. No way would she be spending time on holiday struggling to iron t-shirts. Hill walking holidays were something he had stubbornly insisted on doing, despite her repeated suggestions that it would be nice to do something different, something cultured, something luxurious, that didn't require backpacks, waterproofs and midge repellent. He had always cited lack of funds as his excuse for doing nothing; going nowhere.

Moira had never been one for great expectations. Having been married to Doug for many years, she had long since given up on thoughts of romantic gestures or thoughtful deeds. They had been childhood sweethearts, and she had fallen in love with his film star good looks and unassuming manner. He had been blissfully unaware of the rivalry among Moira and her schoolgirl friends in gaining his attention. At the tender age of twenty-two, they married and worked hard to save for their first home before the arrival of their two daughters. For Moira, life slipped into a regular pattern, the focus on home and family.

Later that morning, she sat in the kitchen of her modest semi drinking coffee as she chatted with her sister Angela, never a fan of her brother-in-law, who waited patiently for Moira to reveal the details of Doug's latest gift faux pas, knowing his track record of thoughtlessness.

"So, what else has wonder man got planned for your birthday? I hope he has got something special organised, as its your sixtieth."

Moira began her usual retort of excuses for Doug's lack of thought in the gift giving department, with an unconvincing shrug as though to say she wasn't bothered that her hints on how lovely a trip to Paris would be, as

she had always wanted to visit the Louvre and Montmartre, had fallen on deaf ears, or that her casual comments on how a visit to the upcoming Hay Literary Festival would be a wonderful, cultural experience, that had also been ignored.

"Hmm, well there's nothing of literary culture about Doug is there," Angela scoffed. "I remember when we were at school and learning about the facts of life, him saying he'd thought that pubic hair was a friend of Brer Rabbit. "The extent of his knowledge of literary characters ended with Enid Blyton's Noddy and Big Ears." Both women laughed at the memory, then Moira heaved a sigh.

"It's just Doug, and there's no changing him. I watched as friend's boyfriends presented them with beautiful bouquets of flowers and exquisite boxes of chocolates on occasions like Valentine's Day, whereas if I was lucky, Doug would bring a bunch of elastic band bound daffodils wrapped in a brown paper bag, and a box of Maltesers. For birthdays, Christmas or an anniversary, other women's partners give things like jewellery, handbags, quality perfume, but not Doug."

"Yes, ever practical, or just plain tight! There was the time he gave you the long-handled loppers that he wanted for Christmas."

"And my hint of always wanting a bottle of Channel No. 5 when it was my fortieth ended up with me getting that awful smelling, cheap stuff that brought me out in a rash."

"Well, it's about time you made a stand, especially now that we've had the inheritance from mum and dad, and you don't have to worry about spending from the joint money pot so, let's make a plan and for starters you and I can book tickets for the Hay Festival, and whether our husbands condescend to come along or not, for our next adventure, maybe a trip to Paris, or Barcelona, or both!"

For a brief moment, Moira felt hesitation of what Doug would think, what he would say. But then came a powerful sense of its now or never; she had waited long enough. Doug could either like it or lump it, and with an air of defiance, she shoved the travelling iron back in its box.

Alison

6th May Travel Group Trip to Dyrham Park and Bradford on Avon

The gardeners amongst us were hoping for rain but the majority of the Travel Group were delighted that the forecast, although starting cold, was for a full day of sunshine.

The coach took an interesting countryside route to Dyrham Park, so we could see the wild flower verges and hedgerow blossom in full bloom. The wisteria clamped to the side of stone cottages was a real picture.

On arrival, The Dyrham Park Staff had the shuttle buses ready to take some folk quickly to the House and Garden, while others decided to stroll down the hillside and appreciate the lovely views in leisure.

The Tulips were in full bloom around the Garden and Courtyard mainly the specially bred white ballerina variety "Dyrham Park" The gardens were splendid having a wild orchard section with many tulips and camassia, as well as the formally planted gardens , waterfall and lake. The tree which caused a lot of interest was, as we found out later, a Manna Ash. The tea room was much appreciated as was the free guided tour of the gardens. The tranquil estate Church decked for VE Day, was also widely visited



Anne Wood

The rooms in the House were decorated in the rather dark Dutch style, as befitted the heritage of the Blathwayt Family who had owned it since the 1600's The collection of Delph pottery and the enormous bed "fit for a king" were also on show. The estate was taken into the care by the National Trust in 1956.

A short stop in Bradford on Avon gave folk an opportunity either to find a tea shop or explore the Canal walkway and Tithe Barn.

The glorious weather allowed us all to see Britain at it's best.!

Anne Wood



Photos by Anne Wood, Joan Williams and David Elson

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)
Hazel Hudson

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

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

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 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 Zellweger

Full information within the newsletter

Tues 1 July **Cary in Bloom**

Sat 2 August **Caryford Hall Gardening Ass. Annual Show**

Tues 24 June **June Travel Group trip to Dunster with
WS Railway.**

Newsletter Distribution

Patsy Diamond & Hilary Dunford