



September 2025

Charity Reg No. 1038544



CAMELOT AREA
Newsletter

Who's Who in Camelot

Officers

Chairman

Vacant

Vice Chairman

Stella Fairbairn

07847 897796

vice.chair@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

Minutes Secretary

Peter Townley

Web Administrators

Alan Gibbons

Peter Townley

webmaster1@camelotareau3a.org

webmaster2@camelotareau3a.org

Contents

Who's Who in Camelot	02
Notes from the Vice Chairman	04
Annual General Meeting Notice	05/11
Annual General Meeting 23/24	12/13
Accounts	14/15
Monthly Meetings	16
Summer Event Photos	17
Caryford Cinema	18
Monday Art	19
Writing for Fun	20/21
Wednesday Walking Group	22
Nature Walks	23
Travel Group	24
Digital Photography Group	25
Up and Coming	26
Nomination Form	27

**The copy date for all articles to be included in the
October issue is **14 September 2025****

Cover Picture Oil by Sco Rakinson

Website www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk

Web Editor: Alan Gibbons webmaster1@camelotareau3a.org

Notes from the Vice Chair

Hopefully all of us have enjoyed our summer break, who needed to go abroad this year? It will surely go down as being one of the best on record for consistent sunshine, delightful temperatures and the most productive period for gardening. The slugs were not missed.

Looking ahead to our Annual General Meeting on Friday September 26th, we commence the meeting at 2pm following on with our resumed monthly talks, this month's being 'From Flanders to the Tower', starting at 2.30pm. We would like to warmly welcome you to the AGM before the talk, it will not take long but is a legal requirement for your u3a to function. Last year we completed the meeting in record time and we are aiming for a repeated performance.

The committee is sadly saying farewell to Caroline Reeves as membership secretary; an extremely knowledgeable, hardworking committee member who has been greatly appreciated. Thank you, Caroline, for all your work over the last few years.

This now leaves the following committee positions vacant – Membership secretary, Publicity Officer and of course, the Chair. Think of the power, think of the fun you can have, think of getting in touch to find out more? We would love to hear from you. Seriously though, your u3a only continues through the work of the committee, I think they are a lovely group of people and any of us would be more than happy to fill you in with any queries you have about these positions. Handily enough, there is a nomination form in this newsletter, what are you waiting for? Hope you get in touch.

Finally, it will be wonderful to return to all our various groups and activities, lots to catch up on and new adventures to begin. Enjoy.

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair.

Camelot Area u3a Notice Of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Camelot Area u3a will be held in Caryford Hall, Ansford, Castle Cary on Friday 26th September 2025 at 2pm to conduct the following business:

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Minutes.** To receive and approve the minutes of the AGM held on Friday 27th September 2024.
- 3. Matters arising from the minutes**
- 4. Chairman's summary report 2024/2025** full report in October Newsletter.
- 5. Treasurer's report** and adoption of examined accounts for the year ended 2024/2025.
- 6. Election** of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and members of the Committee.

The following are standing for election

Stella Fairbairn	–	Committee Officer	–	Vice Chair
Peter Kennedy		Committee Officer	–	Hon. Treasurer
Catriona Cole		Committee Officer	–	Hon. Secretary
Robert Reeves		Committee	–	Beacon Administrator
Sandie Docherty		Committee	–	Newsletter Editor
Peter Townley		Committee	–	Website Editor & Minutes
Gill Bagnall		Committee	–	Speaker Secretary
Alan Gibbons		Committee	–	Website Editor

The following posts are vacant

Chair

Publicity

Membership Secretary

If you wish to apply for any of the above positions, please submit a completed Committee Nomination Form to arrive no later than Friday 19th September 2025.

Completed forms to be sent to the Vice Chair, Camelot Area u3a as shown of the form header.

7. Appointment of the Hon. Examiner for 2025/2026

8. Any other business.

Please find the nomination form on page: 27

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 23/24 Camelot Area u3a

(charity reg no 1038544) held at Caryford Community Hall, Maggs Lane, Ansford, Castle Cary. BA7 7JJ on Friday 27th September 2024.

Present: Stella Fairburn (Vice Chair, Peter Kennedy (Treasurer), Catriona Cole (Secretary), Caroline Reeves (Membership Secretary), Robert Reeves (BeaconAdministrator), Gill Bagnall (Speaker Secretary), Sandie Docherty (Newsletter Editor), plus 28 members.

The Meeting commenced at 14.16.

1. Apologies for absence – Peter Townley, Tela and John Bradley, Marion Pace, Catherine Mair, Margaret Hood, Tessa Gayford, Jill Halford, John Stalley.

2. Minutes of AGM held on 29th September 2023 – the minutes were received and approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM held on 29th September 2023 – there were no matters arising.

4. Vice Chairman's Report –

Stella welcomed those present to the 2024AGM and confirmed her report will be in the October 2024 Newsletter. The first year as Vice Chair has flown by and it has been a steep, but enjoyable, learning curve with thanks to Robert Reeves, our previous Chairman, for his help to enable the u3a to carry on and function. His behind the scenes advise has allowed me to become accustomed to how the u3a operates and although I am still learning I feel I am starting to get there.

One of the most impressive discoveries during this year has been to witness the efforts made by your committee and group leaders. They continue to amaze so thank you everyone for another year of happy memories and events. It amazes me the effort everyone puts into things.

Thanks also need to go to two committee members who are not here at the moment but are stepping down from their positions. Jill Halford our wonderful Newsletter Editor for the last five years and I would like to thank her for all her hard work. Sandie Docherty has very kindly volunteered to take over these duties so welcome Sandie. Roger Weldhen has stepped down as Publicity Officer and has promoted our u3a brilliantly and has steered our committee many times. They will both be greatly missed.

Presently we shall be looking for a new Publicity Officer so if anyone is interested pleased do get in touch.

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

We have convened two coffee mornings – one for new members and another for group leaders. We were represented at the Caryford Hall Extension Opening Day and assembled for our u3a Open Day in June. The new system to enable us to renew online has been very popular, thanks to Caroline Reeves, our Membership Secretary, for its smooth introduction. Financially we are in a healthy position and we have all benefited from our membership fees remaining the same this year. We have a new u3a Camelot Area Website to look forward to. Alan Gibbons and Peter Townley have and are working hard on its new look. Many thanks to both of them.

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

5. Treasurer's Report –

Report by the Treasurer Peter Kennedy to the Camelot Area u3a AGM on 29th September 2023. Overview of the accounts for 2023/24.

As you can see from the 2023/24 year end accounts issued in the September Newsletter, overall Income and Expenditure across all accounts was fairly well balanced (around £16k) and looking healthy with a small surplus in the Current Account.

As reported to the last AGM, we were running a deficit of £800 to £1000 per year. Since then the increase in the membership subscription from £15 to £17 in the year and the reduction and ongoing review of some costs has brought the accounts into this better position.

Also I am now reasonably confident that the accounts reflect all the financial activity that takes place in Camelot Area u3a. However, I will be checking in with the Group Leaders to ensure I'm not missing anything. The Committee will continue to keep under review the Membership fee and all costs in order to achieve better value for money for the members. The detail of the bank balances in the Barclays accounts at year end are shown in the Newsletter as follows :

Current Account £4208

Deposit Account £6332.

Travel Group Account £263

(which is essentially a carry over balance)

The current account figure of £4208 is normally this healthy at the beginning of the year, due to the influx of members fees, but by the end of May the following year is down to £1000, just before the annual boost of membership fees. Again, in June.

Just a few further points of comment and information –
In overall terms, the membership fee generates 29% of income, group fees 64% and Gift Aid 5%.

As I'm sure you may be aware the Membership Fee income (ie. The £17 you pay each year) goes towards paying for the Newsletter, Monthly meetings, Open Day, u3a membership, Beacon etc.

The Group fees are what are paid by members to the individual Group Leaders to cover the cost of group activities, such as Hall Hire or materials the group may use. The groups are essentially self financing. The Gift Aid income of £739 is paid into the Deposit Account which acts as a Contingency Fund for the Charity. The amount of money in the account corresponds to the level set out in Camelot Area u3a's Reserve Funds Policy of retaining at least 50% of average annual expenditure. The current figure is just over a healthy 50%.

As previously mentioned, the Committee will continue to review the membership fee to ensure we do not generate any excessive surpluses. This is the first year we have had the Beacon system in place to help manage the u3a, for which we are charged by national u3a at £1 per member. This gives us an annual cost of £250 - £260 per annum. From my own experience and comments from colleagues on the Committee and members, the system has been an invaluable tool for us in terms of simplifying and managing the Membership, Finances and general communication within the u3a, so is generally seen as a worthwhile investment.

Additionally the balance of funds that were held in the u3a accounts for group activity at the end of the year stood at £1269. It is intended that these balances will be made visible in Beacon soon in order that Group Leaders have a clear idea of what their individual, Brought forward figures are, alongside their current in year income and expenditure transactions.

Just a few closing comments.

I would like to thank all those members and group leaders who have diligently and promptly given me invoices and cash and cheques that I can bring to account. It's been a pleasure working with you. Also thanks to the Vice Chair and the Committee for the ongoing support and advice they continue to give me.

The accounts were signed off this year by Kevan McHale a u3a member who volunteered his services last year. So I'd also like to thank him for stepping up to help us out.

I think he found the process very straightforward and easy to follow, so if you have good common sense and can spare a few hours each year to help us, it would be good to have another willing volunteer to back us up if needed.

So I commend these accounts to the AGM for acceptance and adoption.

There were no questions or objections and the report was unanimously approved.

6. Election of Officers – it was decided to do this slightly differently so instead of a show of hands it was thought that if there were no objections then the floor was happy to accept the committee as mentioned.

The returning Officers:

Stella as Vice Chair, Peter Kennedy as Treasurer and Catriona Cole as Secretary. There were no objections so they were re-elected unanimously.

Caroline Reeves as Membership Secretary, Peter Townley as Website Editor and Robert Reeves as Beacon Administrator. There were no objections so they were re-elected unanimously.

New committee members:

Gill Bagnall as Speaker Secretary and Sandie Docherty as Newsletter Editor. There were no objections so they were duly elected onto the committee.

7. Proposal – Appointment of the Honorary Auditor of the Accounts – Kevin McHale has indicated he will audit the accounts next year but may not be around so a new auditor needs to be found. If any u3a member knows of someone who may do this job then please let Peter know.

8. Additional Proposals – There were no volunteers to fill in the role of Publicity or Minutes Secretary.

9. A.O.B – There was no Any Other Business.
The meeting closed 14.28.

26th September 2025 at 2pm
u3a AGM

Your u3a AGM meeting is being held at Caryford Hall Ansford at 14hr before the Camelot Monthly Meeting at 14hr 30

We hope you will be able to attend the AGM. It is an important meeting when the audited accounts are presented and subject to a vote, accepted. Your committee members are also elected. Come and meet them

After the AGM, stay for the monthly meeting by Jeremy Prescottt who is going to tell us about the Poppy Flower of Remembrance
Plus
Light Refreshments

Camelot Area u3a accounts for the year ended 30 June 2025

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Current Account</u>
Opening bank balances on 1 July 2024	£10,802.66	£4,207.54
Income		
Membership subscriptions	£4,513.00	£4,513.00
Hall Hire	£4,964.44	£4,964.44
Group Sundries	£2,225.00	£2,225.00
Sundries	£0.00	£0.00
U3A Meetings	£0.00	£0.00
GiftAid reclaimed on mem. subscriptions	£726.75	£0.00
Bank interest	£92.50	£0.00
Travel Group Trip deposits	£2,384.00	£0.00
Charity Account deposits	£0.00	£0.00
Donations	£81.00	£81.00
Grants	£0.00	£0.00
Transfer from Deposit Account	£0.00	£0.00
Totals	£14,986.69	£11,783.44
Expenditure		
Speakers	£780.50	£780.50
Hall Hire	£5,157.14	£5,157.14
Newsletters	£1,565.61	£1,565.61
Publicity	£166.68	£166.68
Postage	£233.75	£233.75
Stationery	£31.78	£31.78
Expenses	£75.24	£65.16
Group Sundries	£2,254.84	£2,254.84
Annual Membership Fee to HQ/Beacon Fee	£1,316.00	£1,316.00
U3A Meetings	£416.32	£416.32
Sundries	£45.04	£45.04
Travel Group Trip expenditure/refunds	£1,902.00	£0.00
Bank transfer of operating funds	£34.00	£0.00
Charity Donation	£0.00	£0.00
Bounced cheques etc.	£0.00	£0.00
Totals	£13,978.90	£12,032.82
Closing bank balances on 30 June 2025	£11,810.45	£3,958.16

Note: The Current Account includes pre paid hall hire costs by various groups totalling: £1,748

Deposit Account	Travel Group Account	Charity Giving Account
£6,332.03	£263.09	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£726.75	£0.00	£0.00
£92.50	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£2,384.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£819.25	£2,384.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£10.08	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£1,902.00	£0.00
£0.00	£34.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£1,946.08	£0.00
£7,151.28	£701.01	£0.00

These accounts will be signed off by the Independent Examiner in August 2025.
The Treasurer will update the members on this at the AGM on the 26th September 2025.

Camelot Monthly Meetings

**Caryford Community Hall
Maggs Lane Ansford BA77JJ**

Friday 26th September 2025 at 2.30 p.m

Name of Speaker Jeremy Prescott



The story of how the Poppy has become the flower and symbol of remembrance. From John McCrae's iconic poem "In Flanders Fields", to America and how Moina Michael gave the poppy the name "The Miracle Flower" and initiated the poppy appeal in support of the sentiment expressed in that poem. The



rich history of the poppy includes Anna Guerin, Major George Howson, the influence of the opium poppy in the recent war in Afghanistan and the uplifting project "Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red" at the Tower of London. The presentation concludes with a look at how remembrance may be conducted in the future. Jeremy Prescott served for 26 years as an Army Officer. After retiring he was a CEO of a charity before developing this project.

Friday 30th October 2025 at 2.30 p.m

Name of Speaker Kyle Gallagher

Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) exist to make the most of the short and precious lives of children living with a life-limiting or life-threatening illness and their whole family. The care offered at each of their three hospices is not simply about medical and nursing care for sick children, but about enriching the lives of children and their families.



Children's Hospice South West was founded in 1991 by Eddie and Jill Farwell after they experienced for themselves the urgent need for hospice care in the South West. With the 3 hospices situated where they are, no family in the South West has further than a 90 minutes drive to reach their local hospice.

More information on all meetings can be found on the website www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk

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.

Summer Event Photos

Gardening Show



Open Day



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 24 Sept [The Penguin Lessons \(2025\) \(PG\)](#)

starring Steve Coogan and Johnathan Pryce.

Disillusioned teacher Tom Michell (Steve Coogan) gets a job teaching English and Rugby in a school for rich kids in Buenos Aires. It's 1976 and Argentina is controlled by a military dictatorship, but Tom is more interested in spending time on the beach than in either his pupils or the political situation. During a weekend trip to Uruguay he rescues an orphaned penguin and smuggles it back into the school, little suspecting that this is the beginning of a personal and political awakening.

Wednesday 22 Oct [The Phoenician Scheme \(2025\) \(PG\)](#)

Starring Benicio Del Toro and Mia Threapleton.

After surviving his sixth plane crash, wealthy magnate Zsa-zsa Korda (Benicio del Toro) appoints his only daughter Liesl (Mia Threapleton) as sole heir to his estate, although as a novice nun her moral principles are in stark contrast to his. As Korda embarks on a new enterprise to take over the economy of Phoenicia, by using exploitative slave labour and manipulating the agricultural market, they soon become the target of scheming tycoons, foreign terrorists and determined assassins.

Wednesday 26 Nov [The Ballad of Wallis Island \(2025\)\(12\)](#)

With Carey Mulligan, Tom Basden, Tim Key Charles (Tim Key), an eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island, dreams of getting his favourite musical duo, Mortimer-McGwyer (Carey Mulligan and Tom Basden), back together. His fantasy quickly turns into reality when the bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show at his home on Wallis Island. Old tensions resurface as Charles tries desperately to salvage his dream gig.

MONDAY ART

Our last meeting on the 16th of June ended with our usual fabulous lunch party, but we haven't stopped since. We all got our art framed or mounted for the Open day on 19th June which was a great opportunity to meet new people and chat with friends. Then on the 1st of July we were involved in the 10 day exhibition for Cary in bloom. This was a great success with an amazing amount of visitors, so many compliments and even some paintings sold. We start back on 8th September and will immediately be working on our entries for the 2026 Calendar.

Sylvia Mottram



Writing For Fun

Our brief for the spontaneous writing task was to write about the 'best sandwich.'



"The Deli on Duke Street claims to serve the best sandwich in Dulwich." Said Dave. "They only use the freshest and finest ingredients served in bread that sentences stuffed full of alliterations. Choose two and build a story around them using as much or little if they bake in ovens behind the counter and cafe. You can smell the quality as soon as

you enter." He continued.

Sheila was sceptic. Her favoured shop for a sandwich was at Sally's Salty Ship shop at the end of the quayside. A challenge was discussed and of which they both agreed. Later, at lunchtime, they lumbered down Lords Lane in the direction of Duke Street. The challenge was to find something wrong with their partners preferred platter. Dave handed his choice to Sheila. Pastrami, pickles and pear in a toasted baguette served with a side salad of select seeds.

"£15." He said, "beautiful don't you think?"

Sheila tentatively tasted the toasted treat.

"Interesting but not to my taste." She answered, as they cleared their plates and left to continue their quest. At Sally's Salty Ship shop, Sheila ordered a seafood and salad sandwich served with fries. All presented in seashell shaped sourdough with a finesse usually only found in a high class Bistro and not some quayside booth. "Too much pomp and pretentiousness", Dave stated.

Sheila responded, "You can't beat a good old cheese sarnie, can you?" As they walked wearily back to work regretting their lunchtime liaison.

Steve Lodge

"Sandwich Spread? Eugh! Can you still buy it?"

"I'm sure you can. And Angel Delight, and Spam."

"There is no end of horrors from our youth that people still eat; that doesn't mean that you have to eat them!"

"I'm not suggesting that we buy any or eat it. It's probably got no end of additives – colour, preservatives – all the stuff you wouldn't allow in the house"

"Well, you too; you're the one with the app on his `phone, checking the barcodes in the supermarket for the nutritional value!"

"Yes, and I agree; I don't want to eat crap, and Sandwich Spread probably fits in that bracket. I'm just saying I used to enjoy it, spread on a bit of toasted white Mother's Pride. Delicious! And that you can

achieve the same effect with 21 st century sensibilities. Bit of home-made sourdough, toasted, a few organic cornichons chopped and mixed with home-made mayonnaise – free-range eggs, obv. fabulous! Who needs the 1960s?"

"Well, each to their own..."

Colin Bowen

"Let's go to Weymouth."

"I know why you want to go there. You want a fresh crab sandwich, don't you?"

My brother knows me and my tastes in food.

"Sun's shining - sea's calm - schools are back - what's not to love?" I asked him.

He agreed. We were soon parked near the harbour and seated nearer to the sea, outside our favourite little cafe where fresh crab sandwiches are pure heaven.

"Here you are," said the cafe owner as she put plates of crab-stuffed sandwiches in front of us.

Oh, the smell! The delight of it. Not being a real foodie, there aren't a lot of meals that I drool over or fantasize about. Eating is to live and all that, but crab sandwiches from Weymouth are at the top of the list.

My brother picks up a soft brown triangle of delight and to my horror he scoffs and scarfs it down in two or three bites while I am still at the stage of holding it gently to feel the soft brown bread with its malty smell; then I check the crab pieces- good, no brown meat or mayo to fill it up. Good crab doesn't need all that - just lemon and pepper - our cafe owner knows that.

I take my first bite, and my brother gets his hand smacked for trying to take my other sandwich as he has finished his.

Helen Tracy

Wednesday Walking Group

We have enjoyed so many walks as a group and our visit to Compton Dundon in July was no exception. After walking the meadows, hills and woods around the village we repaired to the pub for a well earned lunch.

Janet Ansell.

For most of the twenty five years that the Wednesday Walking Group has been in existence, Janet has done a sterling job as



Group Leader. Her positive outlook on life has helped her to continue her role despite a number of recent health issues. Janet has now decided to step down from her role. This could not have been an easy decision. A friend to everyone in the group, she hopes to get back walking with us and will remain a valued member of the group. Her work looking after the administration and efficient running of the group is appreciated by all and we look forward to welcoming her back in the not too distant future.

Nature Walks

Babcary Meadows- Somerset Wildlife Trust. Flowers and Butterflies

On a warm July morning an intrepid band of nature lovers braved the heat to visit the reserve before the annual hay cut later in the month. Meadows like this were a common feature of the Somerset countryside in Summer.

Swathes of purple Knapweed and yellow Ladies Birdstraw combined with colourful grasses. More than fourteen plant species were identified providing an essential food source for caterpillars and nectar for butterflies.



The eight varieties of butterfly spotted include gatekeeper, small blue, small skipper, marbled white and green veined white. Also seen was a five spot burnet- a day flying moth. Damsel flies and a dragon fly patrolled the river bank.

When we return next year expect to see early Spring flowers and orchids.
Photos taken by Joan Williams



Summer Break

I hope everyone had an enjoyable three months and coped well with the heat. Apart from the usual groups events, there was an u3a Open Day, Cary in Bloom and the Caryford Gardening Show which were all very well attended. Unfortunately, there is not enough room in this issue to be able to show you many of the photos. **Some on p17**

Membership

If you have forgotten in all the excitement to renew your membership, this can be completed online via the website or by contacting the membership secretary. membership.sec@camelotareau3a.org
www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk

The Editor

TRAVEL GROUP

Dunster and Steam Railway Trip

Many of us are very fond indeed of the landscape of North Somersetshire –The north west of our county may not be spectacular but it is very charming and a visit to Dunster with a journey on West Somerset Railway steam train is the full nostalgia experience for those of us brought up on the original Rev W Awdry's 'Thomas the Tank Engine' books.

The sky lightened as we pulled into Dunster car park. We crested the hill before descending past the Luttrell Arms, the delightful Yarn Market, several cafes with garden-spaces, plus the lure of the Castle. It did feel like this is a special corner of England. Thus it was that 45 of us so agreeably passed 3 hours there before heading to Dunster station.



Tooting its arrival from Minehead we scrambled aboard and headed through valley and vale, delightful in soft summer sun – here a pasture of cattle, there a freshly mowed meadow, or a copse in full leaf. Viewing also the beautifully kept stations of Duniford,



Stogumber, Crowcombe and their

neighbours offering at times, glimpses of the Bristol Channel.

A great day out – Taylor's charabanc was waiting at Bishops Lydiard to puncture our dreams and speed us home!

Dorian Wood

Digital Photography Group

For our meeting in May, it was decided that we should plan a visit outdoors, at a venue not too far away with a reasonably priced entry! Pitcombe Rock Falconry met the criteria..

Just outside Bruton this sanctuary for Birds of Prey is sited in a new, specially built collection of aviaries around a open quadrangle . The birds are brought out by the specially trained keepers and are allowed to fly from "arm to post" They are viewed from a central covered enclosure.

It was surprisingly difficult to take photos of the birds in flight but easier when they landed close by or remained static at their post. We saw several different birds fly – mainly species of owl . The falcon we also saw fly over the adjacent open fields, as well as in the enclosure, as they need a lot of space and are exceedingly fast - A beautiful sight.

Some of the Photos taken are shown below.

Anne Wood

Vicky Packer



Joan Williams



Richard Needle



Anne Wood



Up and Coming

Coffee Mornings at the Market House at 10am

Sat 13.09.25	10am Coffee morning In aid of Toybox (provisional)
Sat 20.09.25	Coffee morning in aid of Rainbows
Sat 27.09.25	Coffee morning in aid of Macmillan

Markets

Every Tuesday	08.30 to midday Town market
Sat 06.09.25	Vintage Market, coffee by Twinning Association

Regular events

Every Tuesday	13.45 Up-reading Classes. The Market Hall
1st & 3rd Weds	10.00. Memory Cafe The Methodist Church
2nd & 4th Weds	14.30. Sing for fun The Market Hall
Last Weds of the month	19.30 Cinema Caryford Hall
First Thur of the month	10.00 The Market Hall
Last Thur of the month	19.30 Market House Acoustic evening all ages welcome
Fourth Thur monthly	10.00 Live well with pain
Last Fri of the month	14.00 u3a talk Caryford Hall
Every Friday	15.00. Talking cafe The Market Hall

Due to the AGM papers, we have not been able to include the **Groups** or the **Good Tradesmen Guide**. They will be back in the October issue and can be found in the previous issues.

Committee Nomination Form

Please complete and send to: The Vice Chair, Camelot area u3a
vice.chair@camelotarea3a.org

Nominations are required for trustee/committee members to serve for the year 2025/2026

All trustees shall be elected annually at the AGM at which a vote must be taken on this motion and must be carried by not less than two thirds of the members present.

I wish to nominate the person named below for the position indicated
as trustee/committee member of Camelot Area u3a for the year
2025/2026

Position	Print name
Chair
Vice Chair
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
Committee Member

We confirm that the person named above has agreed to be nominated

Proposed by	Print name	Signed
-------------	------------	--------

Seconded by	Print name	Signed
-------------	------------	--------

Nominee	Print name	Signed
---------	------------	--------

The nomination form will also be available on our website, if you have any problems downloading, sending or need an extra paper copy, please contact the Vice Chair.

www.camelot-area.u3asite.uk

Newsletter Distribution

Patsy Diamond

&

Hilary Dunford