



May 2026
Charity Reg No. 1038544



CAMELOT AREA
Newsletter

Who's Who in Camelot

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The copy date for all articles to be included in the

June issue is 14 May 2026

Cover Picture Chris Fairbairn

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Notes from the Vice Chair

Hoping you all had a very happy Easter and enjoyed the holidays with egg hunts, hot cross buns and other indulgences. It was a beautiful, warm Easter, here's looking forward to a summer that resembles a little of last year's, probably too much to hope for but fingers crossed.

At our last committee meeting we reviewed all the necessary documents. These are available to view on our website – camelot-area.site.uk if desired. There was a slight adjustment to our Bye-Laws, (our Camelot Area rules), where the committee felt it was only reasonable to grant free access to the monthly meetings for Associative members, plus ensure they already received a monthly email copy of our newsletter.

Another change to the Bye-Laws is to offer two free 'taster sessions' to prospective members, if wished, before they sign up to an activity. There is no obligation for new members to complete these sessions but it may allow a member to feel comfortable with the content of the group's subject before signing up. Once the two sessions have been completed, and if they wished to become a permanent member of the group, they would pay any additional fees to the group leader, such as hall hire for example. Group leaders would have to be contacted before any 'taster sessions' take place, to ensure that spaces are available.

Thinking of activities, a member asked me if there was anyone out there who would be willing to run a ukulele group? She would love to play with others and develop her playing, so if there are any budding ukulele players out there, wanting to start such an activity, please do get in touch.

Another suggestion was if someone would like to organise a 'games' group. At present, we have bridge and scrabble groups, but we do not have a mixed game activity group with, for example - Boggle, draughts, chess, dominoes, Rummikub, Ming, Articulate, backgammon, plus any other card games that exist – the list is endless. If you would like to start such a group, that would surely be well attended and appreciated, please contact us.

One last item to mention is our Open Day on Thursday, 18th of June 2-4pm. Please save the date. You may want to arrange those 'taster sessions' or offer a new group to our members – an excellent way to advertise our varied activities.

Until June's newsletter,

Stella Fairbairn – Vice Chair.

Travel Group News

If you have not yet enrolled with the Travel Group, it is not too late for this year. I have a few places left on the trip in May to Forde Abbey and Ilminster. Plus there is another trip planned for later on in the year.

It is important that you register your interest with me before sending off any forms or paying by BACS, there may not be any place for you on the coach!

Please contact me on woodofcastlecary@gmail.com if interested. Afterwards, reply using the printed form as it is your "Ticket" to travel. Looking forward to seeing you.

Anne Wood

07817646565

TRAVEL GROUP TRIP

Tuesday 26th May 2026

Ilminster and Forde Abbey

Cost £25

£ 10 for "Historic House" Members

Leaving at 9:15am we travel to Ilminster for a coffee stop and short look around.

The Craft Centre is also a cafe. Afterwards

we go on to Forde Abbey. Set in 30 acres of award winning gardens, this wonderful historic house, once home to Cistercian monks is now the home of the Kennard family who inherited it in 2009. The Abbey is



so well preserved that the house and gardens are frequently used as a film location eg Far from the Madding Crowd"

Our ticket includes a non guided visit to the House and gardens. We may arrive before 12 noon, when the house opens, but the gardens and Cafe will already be available.

The house closes at 3:30pm but the Cafe and Plant Nursery on site, stay open until 5pm The cafe serves cake and hot drinks all day but lunches are only served between 12 and 2:30pm- no booking is required. We will leave at about 4:45pm to arrive home around 6pm Please bring your Historic House Membership cards with you as well as your mobile phones.

Response Slip Tuesday 26th May 9:15am

Name.....
.

Mobile Number.....

Please reserve.....places at £ 25 each

.....places at £10 each (HH members)

Total enclosed.....cash or cheques made payable to
Camelot Area U3A

or I have paidby **BACS** directly into the Travel Group
account

Camelot Area u3a Travel Group

Sort 20-99-40 Account 30257877

Please check availability of the coach seats with me, before you pay.

Returns to me by **Monday 18th May**

at Mrs Anne Wood, Candle Cottage, Knights Yard, High Street, Castle
Cary BA7 7AW

Please note **"no children, no dogs"** (however small) .

Camelot Monthly Meetings

Caryford Community Hall

Friday 24th April 2026 at 2.30 p.m

Name of Speaker **David Hindley**

Thomas Russell: The man who helped secure the great poet's literary legacy.

Thomas Russell (born in 1570) came to Somerset when his widowed mother married Henry Berkeley of Bruton Abbey. His education was at the local grammar school, which is now known as King's Bruton.

He became a trusted friend of William Shakespeare and eventually an overseer of the poet's will.

This is the story of how a wealthy country gentleman became part of the great Shakespeare narrative.



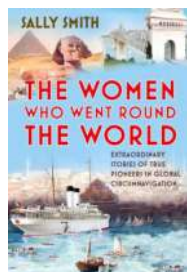
Friday 29th May 2026 at 2.30 p.m

Name of Speaker **Sally Smith**

The Women who went round the world

Sally talks about the extraordinary journeys of the women featured in her latest book, *The Women Who Went Round the World* – the women who were the very first to achieve a full circumnavigation by sea, land and finally by air. Her talk gives a fascinating glimpse into not just the personal lives and journeys of these groundbreaking women, but also offers a fascinating glimpse into society at very different times in history.

Sally Smith is a journalist and writer who has worked as a foreign correspondent for the Daily Mail and for BBC News. She was named Business Writer of the Year, has a Churchill Fellowship and is an established author with books published by Pelham Books, Rigby Books and The History Press.



Monthly Meeting Tea Rota 2026

The Tea and Coffee for the Monthly Meetings will be organised by the nominated Group below. It would be appreciated if the nominated group for that month could provide two to three group members to serve refreshments. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be brought to the meeting so only milk will need to be purchased. 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.

April	Wine Appreciation	Alan & Alison Gibbons
May	Book Group	Jill Halford
June	Looking at Art	Jenny & Colin Bowen

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.

The March raffle raised £45 for the Air Ambulance Service

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 22 April *The Choral* (2025)(12A)

Set in Ramsden, Yorkshire, 1916. The chorus master and most of the men of the ambitious local Choral Society have volunteered for the front, so under the direction of the demanding, driven Dr. Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes), the Choral recruits a crop of teenage boys and girls. Together they discover the joys of singing and the urgency



of desire as the new boys come to terms with their imminent conscription into the army.

Wednesday 27 May *H is for Hawk* (2025)(12A)

Starring Claire Foy and Brendon Gleeson.

Based on the memoir by Helen Macdonald, *H is for Hawk* follows Helen (Foy), who, after the sudden death of her father (Gleeson), loses herself in the memories of their time birding and exploring the natural world together. She navigates her profound loss by training a wild goshawk named Mabel. As she teaches Mabel to hunt and fly free, Helen discovers how deeply she has neglected her own emotions and life. What begins as an act of endurance transforms into an intimate journey of resilience and healing.



WHY BOOK THIS FILM? For Claire Foy's powerful performance

Wednesday 24 June *Rental Family* (2025)(PG 13)

Starring Brendon Fraser. It is set in modern-day Tokyo. *Rental Family* follows an American actor (Brendan Fraser) who struggles to find purpose until he lands an unusual gig: working for a Japanese "rental family" agency, playing stand-in roles for strangers. As he immerses himself in his clients' worlds, he begins to form genuine bonds that blur the lines between performance and reality. Confronting the moral complexities of his work, he rediscovers purpose, belonging, and the quiet beauty of human connection.



WHY BOOK THIS FILM? We all need a feel-good film

Members Groups

Monday

Art (am Weekly)

Sylvia Mottram 07831 419729 mottramsylvania@gmail.com

Digital Photography (am 2nd Monday)

Anne Wood woodofcastlecary@gmail.com

History (pm 1st Monday of Month)

Bruce Bower 01747 840335 bowersxb@btinternet.com

Literature (pm last Monday of Month)

Sue Kewish 01749830665 suekewish2@gmail.com

Recorder (pm weekly)

Gill Bagnall 01963 350629 gbbagnall@googlemail.com

Garden Group (pm 3rd Monday)

Caroline Reeves 01963 351269 carolineofcc@gmail.com

Tuesday

Art (am Weekly)

Dayella Stickland 07866 173511

dayella_ruetsche@hotmail.com

Advanced French (alternate Tuesday pm)

Susan Keen 01963 33444 keensue5@gmail.com

Mah Jong (pm 2nd and 4th Tuesday)

Marion G Pace 01963 548217 mazpace@gmail.com

Play Reading (pm 2nd Tuesday)

Chris Martin 01963 350891. treborlodge@btinternet.com

Listening to Jazz (pm 2nd Tuesday)

Neil Houghton 07799 545278 houghtonneil@yahoo.co.uk

Wednesday

Wednesday Walking (am alt Weeks)

Ron Cossins 01963 350946 randb7968@gmail.com

Wednesday Poetry (am last Wednesday)

Hazel Hudson 01963 31663 hazel.e.hudson@gmail.com
07394636663

Bridge (pm Weekly)

Brian Hunter
01963 359000 brianhunter1960@icloud.com

Wine Appreciation (Evenings 3rd Wednesday)

Alan & Alison Gibbons 07377 813087
al.gibbons@gmail.com

Thursday

Book Group (pm 1st Thursday)
Jill Halford 07834 722128 jill@jset.net

Looking at Art (pm 2nd Thursday)
Jenny and Colin Bowen dogberry10@yahoo.co.uk
01963 240282

Writing for Fun (9am 1st Thursday Monthly)
Helen Tracy 01935 420948 helentracy@hotmail.com

Thursday Poetry (am 2nd Thursday)
Ray Leary 01963 350980. mclachlan3@mac.com

Scrabble (pm 4th Thursday)
Karrie Barron 07837 759995 karriewbarron@gmail.com

Reading (am 2nd Thursday)
Gill Bagnall 01963 350629 gbbagnall@googlemail.com

Friday

Friday Walking (am 1st & 3rd Friday)
John Stalley 01749 860426 stalley.john@yahoo.com

Short Walks
Susan Keen 01963 33444 keensue5@gmail.com

Non-Specific

Step into Nature. Seasonal
Ron Cossins 01963 350946 randb7968@gmail.com

Travel
Anne Wood woodofcastleary@gmail.com



Open to All

For Cary in Bloom 2026, we want to paint
the town Yellow and are inviting all
creatives to participate in an

Open Art Exhibition

Monday 29 June until Sunday 12 July

Sunflowers and Other Golden Blooms

The whole town and area will join in the Sunflower theme
and there will be a trail around the town.

To Exhibit at the Sunflower Art Exhibition
Complete the entry form available from the Market House

Or

Contact Poppy Body on 07887 936 145

Or

Judi Morison 07989 986 190

Any sales from the exhibition will be referred directly to the artist.



Monday Art

The past four weeks, we have painted watercolour scenes, had another go at Scraper board and one of the most challenging subjects, portraiture. Here is a small selection of our work

Sylvia Mottram



Wednesday Walking Group

As the weather showed some improvement after continual rain, the group gathered on a sunny and dry morning in March to start the walk in Limington near Ilchester. Suitably equipped for plenty of mud and having chosen their lunch orders from the menu at the Lamb and Lark, they set off on a four and a half miles walk along generally level farm tracks and bridleways returning ready for refreshment.

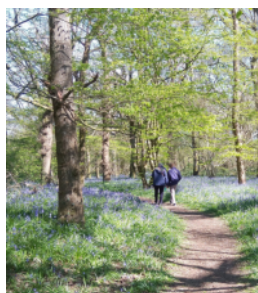


Two weeks later, on the warmest day of the year (so far), after a walk in brilliant sunshine along lanes through the pretty villages of Stowell and Horsington, our group returned to the White Horse Ale House at South Cheriton to find the pub had no power. Al fresco dining was obligatory and enjoyed by all.



Ron Cossins

Step into Nature



Covering some 27 acres, Sparkford Wood is now owned by the Woodland Trust. Bluebells generally flower from late March to early May and provide a valuable source of nectar for pollinating insects before the tree canopy closes over. For centuries individual flower types have had their own connotation and symbolism known as the language of flowers, particularly popular in Victorian times. Bluebell woods are associated

with fairy enchantment.

The woodland, on our visit, was full of bird song and amongst species recorded were great tit, wren, chiffchaff, blue tit, robin, dunnock and nuthatch. Tree



creepers were searching for insects. Early butterflies seen were fritillary, brimstone, peacock, orange tip, speckled brown and small white. A bee fly hovered and a bumble bee had no problem searching for nectar.



Ron Cossins

Digital Photography News

Our meeting in April in Galhampton Village Hall, was a little different as two members of the group agreed to share their expertise. Eric set up his portraiture studio in one corner of the Hall and Jenny set up three other "studios" around the room for taking low light photographs.

After a short introduction explaining the issues of light, shadows and silhouette, we divided ourselves into four groups and set about visiting all four stations in turn to take our photographs, listening all the while to the advice of the experts!!

We all tried to concentrate and use our cameras in a way that for many of us, was outside our comfort zone. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable meeting, learnt a lot and went home quietly tired. Thank you to Jenny and Eric who hopefully, will organise future photographic sessions.

The over-riding notion that most of us went home with was...get to know your own camera and try to read the manual even if it is on line.

Photographs from this session may appear in the next newsletter if they come up to standard!

Contact Anne Wood if you would like to join this group.

Anne Wood

woodofcastlecary@gmail.com

Tuesday Art



Dayella Ruetsche

Up and Coming

Coffee Mornings at the Market House at 10am

Sat 02.05.26	Vintage Market
Sat 09.05.26	Gardening Association
Sat 16.05.26	Christian Aid
Sat 23.05.26	Saturday Stitch
Sat 30.05.26	Eat Cary

Special Events Caryford Hall

<https://caryfordhall.co.uk/events/>

26.04.26 Last Wednesday's Work Shirt (an original comedy by Pea Bien Theatre) Tickets: Adults £14 / under 16's £6, not suitable for children under 14.

Doors 19:00 for 19:30 Performance. Tickets: Adults £14 / under 16's £6 prices + booking fee

02.05.26 The Lost Trades A folk/Americana trio, based in the West Country with a cool Laurel Canyon vibe.

Doors 19:00 for 19:30 performance. Advance tickets £12

17.05.26 DAVE SAUNDERS & HARRY SKINNER with Special Guest Ray Drury. An acoustic band. Advance tickets £10 or £12 on door

Doors 15:30 for 16:00 performance

20.05.26. re" The Emotional Power of Plants" – A Talk by Saskia Marjoram (Owner and Founder of Saskia's Flower Essences)

Doors 19:00 for 19:30 start. Advance tickets £8 or £10 on door

31.05.26 THE SECRET GARDENS OF SOUTH CARY, SOMERSET BA7

13:00 – 18:00

Tickets £10 from www.caryfordhall.co.uk or All Saints Church on the day.

Following the success of our previous open garden events in Castle Cary, this year we are revealing the secret gardens of South Cary. Collect a route map from All Saints Church and explore in your own time. Stalls selling plants along the way and teas served at the church.

Last Weds of the month 19.30 Cinema Caryford Hall

Last Fri of the month. 14.30 u3a talk Caryford Hall

Special Events

28th - 30th Royal Bath & West Show. A celebration of rural life and a Great British day out for the whole family.

30 May Monster Country Festival Yeovil Show Ground

Markets

Every Tuesday	08.30 to midday Castle Cary Town market
Every Friday	08:30 - 13.00 Shepton Mallet Market Place
Last Sunday	08:30 Shepton Mallet Town Market
Tues, Thurs & Sat	09:00 - 15:00 Yeovil Lower Middle Street
4th Saturday	09:00 - 15:00 Yeovil Farmers Market

Regular events

Every Tuesday	13.45 Deaf Plus, Lip reading
1st & 3rd Weds	10.00. Memory Cafe Methodist Church
2nd & 4th Weds	14.30. Singing for fun The Market House
Every Thursday	10.45 - 11.45 Nat West Van Market House
Last Thur of the month	19.30 Market House Acoustic evening all ages welcome
Fourth Sat monthly	10.00 Repair Cafe (part of Eat Cary)
Fourth Thur monthly	10.00 Live well with pain. Catherine Close Community Hall
Every Friday	15.00. Talking cafe The Market House

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

Matt O'shea

Mob: 07368 874603

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

Kevin Davis

Mob: 07976 741029

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Computers - Technology and Software

Nigel Smith

Tel: 01963 220993

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