

The Exploring Literature Group – a talk by David Sumner

2nd June 2021 (u3a Day)

The Exploring Literature Group started in May 2009 to look at some serious texts as a group. Since then they've looked at more than 50 books written during many different centuries, and from all round the world. The group studied one book for almost a year, others for a lot less time. Their books are chosen by consensus if possible, from suggestions made by members in the group. The person who suggests the chosen book then does the initial research and leads the discussions.

During group meetings, members read excerpts aloud to help everyone focus and pay close attention to detail. David explained that some of the books studied had been oral recitations to begin with, only having been written down sometimes centuries later.

The group was meeting twice a month before Covid in the Old Bank Bookshop in Wigtown, but when they moved to meeting online they decided to meet weekly, every Monday at 10am. As a result of moving online, some new people were able to join in, but others were unable to stay involved.

This year's Readathon that the group has done for our U3ADay was inspired by one that a member of the group organised a few years back which also raised money for charity. This year's Readathon was a huge success and raised over £50 for Cancer Research UK.