

Reynoldston Reading Group

Our latest read was 'The Enemy We Killed, My Friend' an autobiography by Captain David Jones. As a 17 year old cadet he was aboard the Quebec City, a cargo merchant vessel sailing in the South Atlantic in September 1942 when it was attacked and sunk by a German U Boat. The survivors were overwhelmed by the humanitarian action that followed. The submarine surfaced and it's Captain instructed his men to assist the survivors who were shown charts to enable them to set course for the west coast of Africa.

After two weeks in the lifeboat they reached Liberia; local natives met them and provided food and shelter in their village. Eventually the survivors were rescued and returned to Britain.

The first part of the book is a story of endurance and adventure; the second records David Jones' further extraordinary experiences during the following war years. Later, in peacetime he enjoyed a distinguished maritime career. In retirement David Jones pursued a research project to trace the Captain of the U boat that had sunk the Quebec City ; his investigation resulted in an intriguing ,far reaching and still ongoing story.

Currently, David Jones lives in Southgate and the Reading Group members had the great pleasure last month of not only reading his life story but having him as a guest at our discussion meeting to personalise his experiences. An unique event for us.

The Reading Group holds a few copies of the book if anyone wishes to borrow one. Also, Captain Jones will be making a slide presentation of his experiences, at the Rhossili Village Hall on Wednesday, 21st November.

This month's book is 'Pure' by Andrew Miller. Set in Paris in 1785 a young engineer is hired to oversee the cleansing of an overfilled cemetery.