

Southport U3A Russian Language & Culture: Summer Study **Day 2021**

Our Russian Language and Culture Group has kept going throughout the pandemic, improving our language skills and expanding our knowledge of Russia, its history and culture. The more we look into this fascinating, multi-faceted country, the more we realise how ignorant we have been about it and what an infinity of knowledge and understanding there is still to uncover.

We have been continuing our sessions on Zoom since the first lockdown and this year have enjoyed `easy-read` versions in Russian of `Anna Karenina` and `A Hero of Our Time`. We will be embarking on `Taras Bulba` next term. Our cultural sessions have included topics on history, geography, literature, politics, dance, art and architecture as well as personal stories.

Our annual Summer Study Day this year reached as far as St Petersburg and as near as Formby. The first half was a Zoom meeting with our delightful colleague from the Media University of St Petersburg with whom we have already enjoyed a number of sessions. With endless patience and good humour and in English which our collective knowledge of Russian could never hope to match, she has helped us with our grammar and literature queries and has given us insights into current events.

In the afternoon, we met for lunch at The Sparrowhawk – our first in-person get-together for sixteen months and a very uplifting experience. There was much to catch up on and an eager determination to carry on, which we will enthusiastically be doing in September.

May Hamilton