

Love Reading

Your reading newsletter from Inspire

At Inspire, like you, we're passionate about books, and we're always looking for new ways to connect with readers and share our love of reading. This newsletter will feature reading recommendations, news and events especially for our book-lovers - including our fabulous community of book groups - with the chance to share your own recommendations and tips with others.

In this edition, we tell you more about a great event taking place this month, when three major names from the [Killer Women](#) collective of female crime writers join us live at [Mansfield Central Library](#) for an [afternoon of brilliant book chat](#).



Reading Resolutions

Did you make any reading resolutions for 2017? We asked members of the Inspire team what they're planning to get stuck into this year. Inspired? Just click on the book jacket image to track the books down from our library catalogue.





Plus, members of the Inspire team share their reading resolutions for 2017, and we unveil our new [Reading Recommendations](#) web page. There's also a round-up of the latest book award news and a call out for book groups to share their experiences with us.

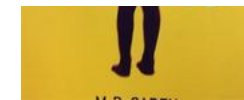
Happy reading!

Reading Recommendations

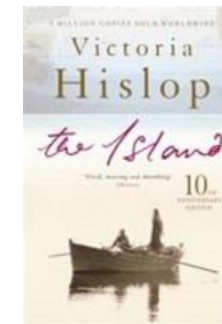
We now have a new page on the Inspire website featuring some great [Reading Recommendations](#).



As well as recommendations by category you can browse a new



Ayesha: I'm going to read *The Girl With All the Gifts* by M.R. Carey. It sounds like a fantastic story line, has recently been made into a film, and I feel guilty about how long I've had my copy waiting!



Carol: I'm going to read Victoria Hislop's historical novel set in Crete, *The Island*. A lot of friends have read it and recommended it to me.

selection of hardback fiction titles in our monthly [Your Next Good Read](#). We'll continue to add to the page, so do check back to see what's new – why not let us know which category you would like us to recommend next?

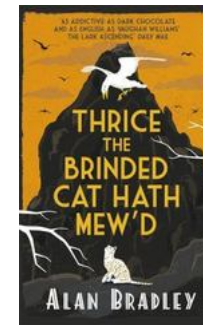
You can also find a range of book suggestions on our [Pinterest board](#). Organised by themes, you're sure to find something that will take your fancy. Simply find the book in our library catalogue by clicking on its cover image.

Over to you . . .

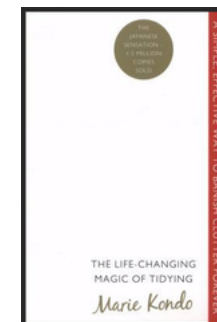
We're also keen to hear **your** book recommendations. What were your great reads of 2016? Is there a title which stands out? What book do you think that everyone should read, and why? Tweet us your suggestion @nottslibraries #greatbook, or email us on reading@inspireculture.org.uk

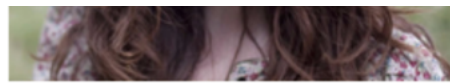
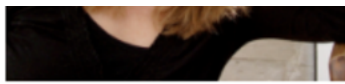
Email us

Events for book lovers



Ann: Next on my reading list is *Thrice the Brinded Cat Hath Mew'd* by Alan Bradley, the latest in the Flavia de Luce mystery series. The previous books were amusing, intriguing and original, so I'm really looking forward to this one.





Killer Women

Mansfield Central Library

Saturday 25 February, 2pm

£4

Booking essential

Adults (Over 18s)

There's still time to book your tickets to join the [Killer Women](#) collective live at the library - including the author behind *Broadchurch: The Novel*.

Killer Women is an exciting group of authors who are taking the crime fiction scene by storm. [Book your tickets](#) and join us when they head to Mansfield Central Library to discuss whether the female really is deadlier than the male in contemporary crime fiction.

[Helen Smith](#), [Erin Kelly](#) and [Melanie McGrath](#) discuss the issues and inspirations behind their novels and answer your questions about their writing lives. Expect murder, mayhem and hot debate from a trio of writing talents.

Get your friends together and join us! And if you're in a book group, why not take the opportunity to make this a special group outing? We'd love to see you there!

Book tickets online

Claire: *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying*: A simple, effective way to banish clutter forever by Marie Kondo. I've had so many recommendations from unlikely places that I'm intrigued.

Get in touch. Spread the word.

If you have any ideas for features or other content you would like to see in this newsletter, or ideas for reading events, please email us using the button below. We will read all correspondence and look forward to hearing your great ideas.

And if you like this, don't forget to share with your book loving friends (see icons at the bottom of this

Plus . . .

The crime fiction focus continues with some free, weekday author talks coming up over the next couple of months in our smaller libraries, including:

Cath Staincliffe, the author of the Scott & Bailey books (based on the ITV series) visits Sutton-in-Ashfield Library on 7 March. Find out more [here](#).

Crime writer **Helen Cadbury** appears at Bingham Library on 14 March (places limited - book at the library). Details [here](#).

Kate Ellis, author of the Wesley Paterson and DI Joe Plantegenet, series will be visiting Hucknall library on 16 March. Details [here](#).

Author and crime fiction reviewer **Sarah Ward** at Kirkby-in-Ashfield Library on 31 March (places limited - book at the library). Details [here](#).

Best-selling author of *While My Eyes Were Closed* **Linda Green** will be at Newark Library on 30 March (booking essential). Details [here](#).

And look out for news of some very exciting events coming up in our April - June season including a special Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction Evening at Worksop Library in May and the launch of a new series of Book Club Live events at West Bridgford Library in June.

email).

Calling all book groups: Tell us about yourselves!

Reading groups are in abundance across Nottinghamshire - Inspire itself supports around 200!

If you're in a reading group we'd love to hear how it works. Perhaps you're an existing group of friends, or maybe you only came to know each other through the group. Do you take it in turns to choose a book? Do you have a zero tolerance policy on turning up without having read every page?

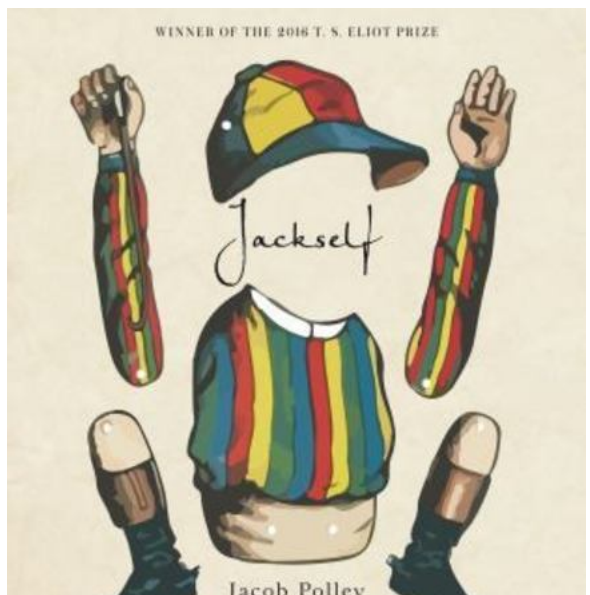
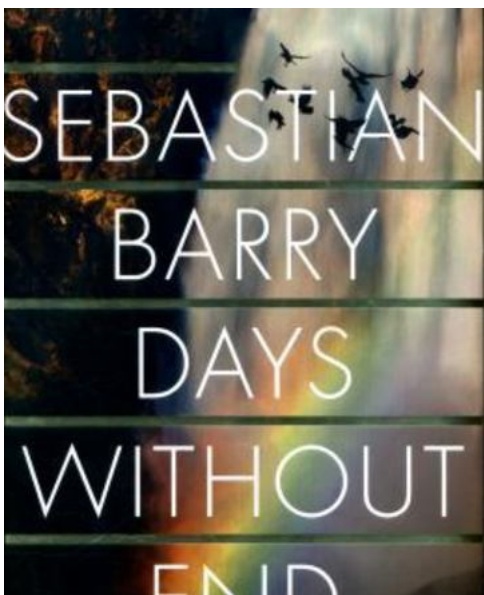
Do you set aside the first hour to talk about the book before opening the wine, or do you get to the book talk

Follow us on social media, look out for the launch of our new programmes in March, or check the next edition of this newsletter in April for full details. You read it here first!



Photo of Cath Staincliffe © Paul Herrmann

PS. Book groups might also like [*The Brilliant Woman's Guide to a Very Modern Book Club*](#), which was specially created to mark the 2015 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction #ThisBookClub initiative.



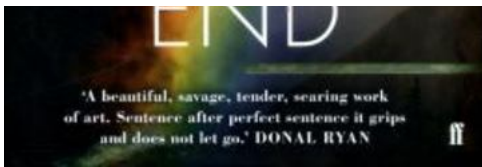
after socialising? Do you structure the conversation in any way, or just dive straight in?

However it works, we'd love to hear about it! Email us about your group, and we'll try and feature as many as we can in forthcoming issues. Make sure you include your contact details as we will also be inviting some readers to get involved in other ways.

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Book Prize News

Costa Book Awards

Sebastian Barry won this year's overall [Costa Book Award](#), for his novel [Days Without End](#), described by the judges as "A beautiful, poetic book – heart-wrenching and hopeful in equal measure."

Barry's novel was also our audience's tip for the top when we held our very own [Costa Book Awards event](#) last month at West Bridgford Library - proof that our community of book lovers know their stuff! It was also our choice of read for the BBC Radio Nottingham Book Club in January, which Inspire jointly supports alongside Nottingham City Libraries.

Inspire's Fiona Littlewood, our resident radio reviewer, told us:

"The language and tone of the book reminded me of the 1970s film Little Big Man. This isn't your average cowboys and Indians tale and some of the descriptions of life aren't for the faint hearted! However, a thoroughly enjoyable read despite the stark reminder of what some children are forced to endure."

T.S. Eliot Prize

Contemporary poetry's most respected award, the T.S. Eliot Prize, went to Jacob Polley for his collection Jackself. Chair of the judges, Ruth Padel, said Jackself is "a firework of a book; inventive, exciting and outstanding in its imaginative range and depth of feeling".



Dagger in the Library

The Crime Writers Association's Dagger in the Library is one of the most prestigious crime writing awards in the UK, awarded to an author whose work library users particularly admire. It's voted for and judged by library staff and previous winners have included Lindsay Davis, Stephen Booth, Peter Robinson and Elly Griffiths. This year we asked library visitors who they would like to nominate, and have had a huge range of suggestions, including J.D. Robb, David Mark, Steven Dunne and Susan Hill.

From January until the final winner is announced in June, the Reading Agency's Reading Groups for Everyone and the CWA Dagger Reads website will be hosting reading group material for

novels by the longlisted and shortlisted authors so there is still opportunity to take part in the promotion.

You are receiving this newsletter as you expressed an interest in hearing more about reading when you signed up to Inspire emails. We hope you enjoyed it.



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