

SI Newcastle – upon – Tyne

Record of 100 Books Read for 100 years of SI Celebrations

SUMMARY

- 100 books read from March 2020 to September 2020
- 46% (?) by women authors
- Approx 46% of the books read were thrillers written by various crime writers.
- The most popular crime writer was James Patterson 9%, followed by our local writer, Ann Cleeves 4%, and Lee Child; another writer of local interest is L.J.Ross (No. 64).
- The rest of the list includes an interesting and diverse range of genre such as :

those based on the lives of women and girls some of which are heart rending and not easy to read e.g. Elene Ferrante No 4, India Millar No 46, Michaela McCollom No 51 and Elaine Roberts No 55.

historical novels eg Philippa Gregory No 97, Geraldine Brooks No 20 and E.W.Powell No 54

mammoth reads eg Twentieth Century Trilogies by Ken Follett Nos 57 and 65, Melvyn Bragg No 52

non-fictional eg Monty Don No 28, Tim Parks No 56, Richard Galliene and Robert Louis Stevenson No 10

humorous eg Adam Kay's secret hospital diaries Nos 77 and 79; Boris Johnson No 19, and even a Spanish comic book no 18

light-hearted summer reads and escapism eg Rosy Walsh No 74, Alice Ross Nos 60, 61, 62 and 69 as well as the popular and liked author Maeve Binchy No 89

real life stories eg Larry Levin No 7, Eliska Tanzer No 15, Guinevere Glasford No 32 and Nan Shepherd No 72

- If you are looking for something new to read go through the list and I'm sure you'll find something of interest now we are in a second lock down.

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No	Date started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
1	19.03.2020	26.03.2020	Wild Fire	Ann Cleeves	The last of the Shetland series. Great crime writer although I thought it was a bit lengthy. Enjoyed the read and it kept the suspense going – couldn't guess who the murderer was!	Pam
2	24.03.2020		The Moth Catcher	Ann Cleeves	Another good Vera detective tale with guesses as to where in Northumberland it takes place.	Christine (Lu)
3		March 2020	The Body : a guide for occupants	Bill Bryson	A brilliant book about how our bodies work, develop, fight infection etc. but written in a clear and humorous way. Really recommend it.	Chris (J)
4		March 2020	My Brilliant Friend	Elene Ferrante	This book is the first part of the “Neopolitan Novels” quartet of books. It tells the story of the ups and downs of the life of two girls in a poor quarter of Naples beginning in the 1950's. It's totally absorbing and you just have to read it to find out what happens next.	Lis
5		March 2020	Judge and Jury	James Patterson and Andrew Gross	James Patterson spins a heart pounding legal thriller. Despite her attempts to get dismissed Andie DeGrasse, a reluctant juror, ends up on a landmark trial against notorious Mafia Don Dominic Cavello, aka The Electrician. He is linked to hundreds of unspeakable crimes but Senior FBI agent Nick Pellisante has been tracking him for years and conviction is a sure thing. As the jury makes its decision the Electrician makes a devastating move and the hunt for Cavello gets personal. Andie and Pellisante join forces determined to exact justice – at any cost!	Kath
6		March 2020	Memory Man	David Baldacci	The first of the Amos Decker thrillers. A thrilling novel where Amos Decker races to hunt down the killer of his family. Overwhelmed with grief he loses his job as a detective. However someone confesses to the murders and as he comes to terms with the news a tragedy hits the local school – 14 teenagers are gunned down. Evidence suggests a link between all murders and Amos helps the police to find the killer.	Kath

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7	28.03.2020	08.04.2020	Oogy	Larry Levin	A true and heart-warming tale of the relationship of an American family with its rescue dog, Oogy. Despite being maltreated as a puppy (used as bait in dog fighting and lost his left ear and jaw) and having to undergo some major ops, Oogy (derived from ugly!) was a special dog – he had a loving, devoted and passive personality. If you like dogs you'll enjoy the book although some of the American style of writing is different.	Pam
8		April 2020	Depraved Heart	Patricia Cornwell	It was a bit slow for the first half then it got a bit more exciting. Not my best read.	Cris (Y)
9		April 2020	The Visitor	Lee Child	A Jack Reacher thriller. Sergeant Amy Callan and Lieutenant Caroline Cooke were army high flyers and were both acquainted with Jack Reacher. They were forced to resign from the service. Both found dead in their own homes, naked in a bath of paint, and thought to be a victim of an army man. A loner, smart guy with a score to settle, a ruthless vigilante – a man just like Jack Reacher. Fast paced. Impossible to put down.	Kath
10		April 2020	The Diary of Samuel Pepys	Richard Galliene and Robert Louis Stevenson	Samuel Pepys kept his diary from 1660 until 1669. I had forgotten he was writing at the time of the Great Plague of London so a bit ill-timed but good to know 350 years later we're all behaving the same way! Although instead of the daily 5.00 pm press conference led by various politicians they had a town crier giving the plague news every day.	Cris (Y)
11		April 2020	Belgravia	Julian Fellows	I just finished before the ITV Sunday night series came on. Not as good as some Julian Fellows books but still light and enjoyable.	Christine (Lu)
12		April 2020	Run for Your Life	James Patterson	A heart racing New York thriller. A cold hearted and cunning man called "the Teacher" is devising a meticulous plan to teach New York a lesson it won't forget. Intent on exacting revenge and causing mass hysteria, he embarks on the worst killing spree the city has ever seen. Detective Michael Barrett of the NYPD is led	Kath

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					on a terrifying chase by the Teacher that brings danger perilously close to home.	
13		15.04.2020	The Testaments	Margaret Attwood	Follow up to the TV series, The Handmaid's Tale. The dystopian USA Gilead is still there but things are breaking down. The story focuses on three very different characters. I won't spoil it for you but one is Aunt Lydia. I think I will need something a bit light and easy next!	Chris (J)
14	10.04.2020	18.04.2020	Liar	Mel Sherratt	Another crime novel which I enjoyed. It was intriguing and had lots of suspense right from the start. It was also interesting as there were two story lines running parallel throughout the book but came together at the end. A good read.	Pam
15		April 2020	The Girl from Nowhere	Eliska Tanzer	An incredible true story. Set in Slovakia and England, bad language, but in context. It is up to date and deals with a lot of current issues.	Cris (Y)
16		April 2020	Worst Case	James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge	The son of one of New York's wealthiest families is snatched off the streets but the kidnapper doesn't demand money. Detective Michael Bennett leads the investigation. As another student disappears, one powerful family after another uses their power and connections to turn up the heat on the mayor and press to stop this killer which results in the FBI being involved much to the annoyance of Bennett. The murderer changes his routine which could have devastating consequences for the city.	Kath
17		April 2020	The Dangerous Kind	Deborah O'Connor	Another crime novel but quite different from the other one. Themes very appropriate for Soroptimists – domestic abuse and grooming of young girls and boys as well as murder but not as expected.	Pam
18		April 2020	The Man in his Pyjamas		A comic strip book (in Spanish). Full of colloquial words which was a challenge.	Catherine
19		April 2020	72 Virgins	Boris Johnson	This caught my eye at Barter Books and I didn't know what to expect but it is a very funny "spoof" on PC behaviour and pokes	Christine (Lu)

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					fun at all sorts of events when an Islamic group attempts to storm Westminster Hall during a state visit by the President of USA.	
20		April 2020	A Year of Wonder	Geraldine Brooks	A fictional story of village life in Eyam, Derbyshire, during the plague, in 1666.	Catherine
21		April 2020	The Midnight Line	Lee Child	The new Jack Reacher thriller. Jack Reacher is having a bad day..... Reacher sees a West Point class ring in a pawn shop window. It's tiny – it's a women's graduation present to herself so why would she give it up? Reacher was a West Pointer too and knows what she went through to get it. All he wants is to find the woman. He'll have to go through bikers, cops, crooks and low life muscle. If she's OK he'll walk away. If she's not he'll stop at nothing.	Kath
22		April 2020	Decline and Fall	John Crace	Crace writes a satirical political column in The Guardian. This book is a collection of those life-giving articles to either explain the political apocalypse he feels we've been in for some time or just make you laugh about our leaders and would be leaders. Very funny however there is always a serious undertone.	Chris (J)
23		April 2020	The Black Echo	Michael Connelly	A gripping action packed thriller. The first case for LAPD detective Harry Bosch who is a loner and nighthawk. One Sunday he gets a call out to go to a body found in a drainage tunnel. At first sight it looks like a regular drug overdose but Bosch is not convinced when a new puncture wound is discovered. Harry Bosch also recognises the victim as Billy Meadows a fellow "tunnel rat" in Vietnam running against the VC and the fear they called the Black Echo. Bosch believes he let Billy down once before and is now determined to bring the killer to justice.	Kath
24		April 2020	Original Sin	P D James	My favourite detective author as she uses such wonderful prose and descriptive language. Story based on the fortunes of a post-war publishing house in London with a great mix of characters and a surprise ending.	Christine (Lu)

25		April 2020	The Five People you meet in Heaven	Mitch Albom	Very thought provoking – the people who have most influenced your life that you would not necessarily automatically think of. Who would your 5 be I wonder?	Chris (J)
No	Date Started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
26		April 2020	The Black Ice	Michael Connelly	Another Harry Bosch novel. A body is found in an hotel room which appears to be a missing LAPD narcotics detective, apparently gone bad. Rumours were that he was selling a new drug called Black Ice which had infiltrated into Los Angeles from the Mexican cartel. The LAPD are quick to declare it is a suicide but Bosch is not so sure due to some unexplained details from the crime scene. Bosch starts his own investigation which leads him across the borders and leads him into a dangerous world of shifting identities, police politics and deadly corruption.	Kath
27		April 2020	Escape from Sierra Leone	Phil Ashby	Written by a UN peacemaker	Catherine
28		April 2020	Down to Earth	Monty Don	Well I had to have one good gardening book! This is full of his usual tips and has a useful month by month calendar of what to do in the garden.	Christine (Lu)
29		May 2020	London Bridges	James Patterson	Alex Cross is on vacation when he gets the call. A town in Nevada has been annihilated and the Russian super criminal known as the Wolf is claiming responsibility. Major cities around the world are threatened with total destruction and the thought of such a dark genius at work makes Alex's blood run cold. Cross is catapulted into an international chase of astonishing danger. Full of high action and enthralling intrigue. The Clock is ticking. London's burning. An unforgettable thriller that will grip readers from cover to cover.	Kath
30		May 2020	Mudlarking	Lara Maillem	A mudlark is someone who scavenges for usable debris in the mud of a river or harbour. In this book Maiklem is the mudlark and the river is the River Thames. As someone who grew up alongside the Thames and loves digging and exploring this was an absolute winner for me. Maiklem has been mudlarking for 15 years and has found a huge range of objects from Neolithicflints	Chris (J)

					to Roman hairpins, Medieval buckles to Tudor buttons, Georgian clay pipes to Victorian toys gich all tell the story of London and its lost ways of life. A word of caution – if you're in London you need a licence to mudlark and an escort because it can be very dangerous!	
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31		May 2020	Four Blind Mice	James Patterson	Alex Cross is planning to retire from the Washington Police Force as he has met a woman and is talking about the future. Then John Sampson shows up at the house, desperate for Alex's help. Three young military wives have been brutally killed and Sampson's friend, a master sergeant at the army base stands accused. Alex and Sampson uncover evidence of a series of suspicious murder convictions and are determined to infiltrate the closed world of the military. But what is the army trying to hide?	Kath
32		May 2020	The Year without Summer	Guinevere Glasfurd	A true and fun story (not at all fun really) of the eruption in 1815 of Mount Tambora in Indonesia which resulted in across the world 1816 being the year without summer. It's told through the eyes of six very different people in different parts of the world. Nature did globalisation before we did.	Chris (J)
33		May 2020	The Hidden Man	Charles Cumming	Mark and Benjamin Keen have not seen their father, Christopher, for more than 20 years. Christopher re-appears, hoping for reconciliation and as he begins to shed light on his life in the secret service he is murdered in cold blood. Was his death connected to his M16 past? What were his links to Moscow, Afghanistan and the Russian mafia in London? To discover the truth and avenge their father's death the brothers are drawn into the legacy of his life as a spy. Cumming's is "The master of the modern spy thriller."	Kath
34		May 2020	Harbour Street	Ann Cleeves	This is one for fans of the TV series "Vera". All the usual ingredients – a killing, a witness and a secret with lots of references to life and places in the North East. In this book the victim is found on the Metro by Jessie, the young daughter of Vera's sidekick Detective Joe Ashworth. If you like "Vera" you'll definitely like this.	Chris (J)

35		May 2020	These Hidden Things	Heather Gudenkauf	Imprisoned for a heinous crime when she was just a teenager, Allison Glenn is now free. Desperate for a second chance, Allison is determined to make contact with her sister. But Brynn is trapped in her own world of regret and torment. Their legacy of secrets is focused on one little boy. If the truth is revealed, the consequences will be unimaginable for the adoptive mother, the girl who tried to protect him and the two sisters who hold the key to all that is hidden. "Beautifully written, compassionately told, relentlessly suspenseful."	Kath
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
36		May 2020	Red Sky at Noon	Simon Sebag Montefiore	An intense historical tale on the Russian side of the battles around Stalingrad in 1942 – the tale jumps around a bit and has war scenes that are very descriptive. I'm enjoying this challenge! – good reading.	Christine (Lu)
37		May 2020	The Spirit of the Dragon Queen	William Andrews	This book is set mainly in South Korea. It gave a great insight to WW2 when the Japanese lost their hold on Korea after 35 years of occupation. The story follows a young Korean girl's trials and tribulations of growing up in South Korea from 1930's to the present day. I thoroughly enjoyed it. The book is part of a trilogy.	Cris (Y)
38		May 2020	Shadows into Sunlight (1991)	Elizabeth Webster	This book is about a young woman who gave up her education to care for her mother, a demanding woman, and finds herself lost in bereavement requiring professional help. She met a war photographer who suffered post traumatic stress, and goes with him to Tunisia to Lake Ichkuel where they study the wildlife in an attempt to save the lake.	Catherine
39		May 2020	Dolphin Sunrise (1992)	Elizabeth Webster NOTE : The theme of both these books seems to be	A boy orphaned in a London flat fire, is taken to Cornwall as a part of his rehabilitation, Physiotherapy was arranged at a surf school. He gets to swim with a Dolphin, makes friends with the physio and his girlfriend who is a conservation researcher, and an old Captain who summers in the village. His Social Worker finds he has family in California and he goes to stay with his Aunt, it doesn't work out, so goes to Mexico where the physio	Catherine

				bereavement and wildlife conservation, Elizabeth Webster has used actual research in both of these stories.	therapist's girl friend is working on the whale watching. He gets to see the whales and decides to study marine biology.	
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40		May 2020	Cat and Mouse	James Patterson	Just as Alex Cross is beginning to feel that life is good as he comes out of the depression he's been in since the death of his wife, he is called to Union Station train terminal – a man is on the loose firing at random into the swarming crowds of travellers. Psychopath Gary Soneji seems determined to go down in a blaze of glory and he wants Alex Cross to be there. Will this be the final showdown?	Kath
41		May 2020	The Family Upstairs	Lisa Jewell	This book begins with a young woman, Libby, who works as a kitchen designer, inheriting a large house in London's fashionable Chelsea. The story focuses on the history of the house from the late 1980's and the weird cult living in it whilst Libby tries to find out more about her inheritance. At first I didn't think I was going to enjoy the book but it was full of intrigue and twists that I soon became hooked and found it difficult to put down! I should have realised there was more to the book than a simple crime novel when the cover made reference to "One house, two families and three bodies"; in fact there were two more murders but nobody was convicted of any of them!	Pam
42		21.05.2020	The Casual Vacancy	JK Rowling	JK Rowling's first novel for adults. The small town of Pagford appears idyllic with its cobbled market square and ancient abbey however behind its pretty façade is a town at war. Rich at war with the poor, teenagers at war with their parents, wives at war with their husbands, teacher at war with their pupils....Pagford is not what it seems. When Barry Fairbrother, dies in his early forties, the town is in shock. His empty seat on the Parish	Kath

					Council soon becomes the catalyst for the greatest war the town has ever experienced. Who will triumph in the election fraught with passion, duplicity and unexpected revelations?	
43		24.05.2020	The Lioness of Morocco	Julia Drosten and Christiane Galvani	Set in 1800's London and Morocco. Follows the life of a woman who travels to Morocco with her husband as she wants adventure in her life. She is not disappointed and is very comfortable with this lifestyle of living in Morocco, unlike her husband. It gives a great insight into several cultures in this time period. It is a really good read and I enjoyed it very much.	Chris (J)
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
44		27.05.2020	Dead Man's Footsteps	Peter James	A detective novel with a difference. It spans from 2001 to 2007. You have to keep your wits about you as it jumps about a bit but it is a real page turner.	Patricia
45		31.05.20	Past Tense	Lee Child	Two young Canadians are stranded in a lonely motel in the middle of nowhere. Before long they're trapped in an ominous game of life and death. Jack Reacher, on a trip across America, sees a sign to the town where his father was born. But when he arrives he is told no one named Reacher ever lived there. Now he wonders who's lying? As the tension ratchets up and these two stories begin to entwine, the stakes have never been higher for Reacher.	Kath
46		02.06.20	The Song of the Wild Geese	India Millar	Story of a young Japanese girl sold to an "Auntie" to train as a Maiko then a Geisha. Set in 1800 in Edo, Japan, and Virginia, USA. A good insight into the culture of Geisha and plantation owners and slaves in Virginia. Some graphic sex scenes and ill treatment of slaves.	Cris (Y)
47		05.06.20	Postcard Killers	James Patterson and Liza Marklund	New York detective Jacob Kanon's daughter and fiance are murdered while on holiday in Rome. Kanon connects their murders to a series of murders of young couples across Europe and ends up in Sweden where he teams up with Swedish journalist Dessie Larsson who has received a postcard from the killers. A pacey exciting book!	Chris (J)
48		07.06.20			Alexandra Moreland, a successful architect, has never believed her son Matthew, who was kidnapped 2 years ago, is dead. Now	Kath

			I'll Walk Alone	Mary Higgins Clark	on what would have been his 5 th birthday photos appear which seem to show she kidnapped her own son. As her bank accounts are drained and her reputation is threatened Alexandra suspects someone is using her credit cards to steal her identity. Hounded by the press, under police investigation and attacked by both her angry ex-husband and a vindictive business rival Alexandra attempts to find out who is behind this cruel hoax. Little does she realise that with every step she takes toward discovering the truth, she is putting herself and those she loves most, in mortal danger.	
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
49		05.06.20	Hunting Evil	Chris Carter	A great psychological thriller which is gripping right from the start. Although both the detective, Robert Hunter, and the mass murderer, Lucien Folter, were best friends at college and had brilliant minds they became enemies. It was a fight of war trying to outdo each other – a bit gruesome in parts but sorry when the book came to an end!	Pam
50		28.06.20	Heartbreak Hotel	Deborah Moggach	Author of The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. Set in Wales, definitely exotic but an interesting selection of hotel guests makes for an amusing summer read.	Patricia
51		29.06.20	You'll Never see Daylight again	Michaela McCollum	An autobiography. Michaela was just a regular girl, spending the summer working at a bar in Ibiza, until she was approached by a man who asked her if she'd like to make some quick, easy money and her decision would change her life forever. Set mainly in a Peruvian Prison, this is a real eye opener and keeps you hooked.	Cris (Y)
52		03.07.20	Remember Me	Melvyn Bragg	This is a lengthy book (550 pages and small print) that is all about a couple who meet in student days at Oxford in the early 1960's. The story takes them to rural France, London and (as is usual with Melvyn Bragg) Cumbria. It recounts a tortuous and intense loving relationship over quite a long period. He becomes well known as a writer and then film director while she is an artist and a poet. It's a somewhat bohemian life but very believable if you have lived through those free thinking 1960's!	Christine (Lu)

53		03.07.20	The Spy and the Traitor	Ben MacIntyre	I didn't think I could cope with this but Geoff persuaded me that it was readable and it turned out to be a riveting true story of espionage involving MI5, MI6 and the Russian KGB agent Colonel Oleg Gordievsky. I can see why it was in the best seller list for a long time. As the narrative progresses so it gains tension and the section dealing with his actual defection and the journey out of Russia is a real page turner. Ben MacIntyre has added up to date notes in 2019 about the main players in this story and the effect that their actions have had on the Western world, the break up of Communist Russia and the East/West relationship. Well worth a read.	Christine (Lu)
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
54		03.07.20	The Monastery Murders	E.M.Powell	Historical thriller in the Stanton and Barling series (Book 2).A series of gruesome murders set in a monastery in Tudor times. I enjoyed it but at times felt it was a little too gruesome. I was probably a bit unfair but couldn't help compare it to C.J.Sansome's Shardlake series of books which I absolutely love and cannot praise highly enough.	Margaret
55		03.07.20	The Foyles Bookshop Girls	Elaine Roberts	A heart-warming story set in World War One about three girls working in Foyles Bookshop. It gives insight into the struggles of the women who have to wait at home. An interesting read.	Margaret
56		05.07.20	Italian Ways – on and off the rails from Milan to Palermo	Tim Parks	It's a fascinating account of his journey on Italian railways. It includes lively descriptions of the railways as well as the people he encounters. It's both amusing and informative.	Lis
57		05.07.20	Winter of the World	Ken Follett	Part 2 of Ken Follett's "Twentieth Century Trilogy". The book follows the lives of families in the UK, Russia, USA and Germany before, during and after WW2.Brilliant plotting and an amazing amount of detailed research. I learned a lot from this book. Very highly recommended.	Margaret
58		06.07.20			This was about a mother and daughter in a singing competition on the TV, who are kidnapped, with the journey to save them	Kath

			Shatter the Bones	Stuart Macbride	taken from the police perspective. It had a few twists throughout it.	
59		06.07.20	The Bone Field	Simon Kernick	This starts with the remains of a young woman being found in an English field 26 years after she went missing backpacking in Thailand. Within hours the boyfriend who reported her missing is dead. So begins a hunt to solve her murder that will take DI Ray Mason and DI Tina Bond to a dark and terrifying world of corruption and deadly secrets where murder is common place and nothing and nobody is safe.	Kath
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
60		08.07.20	The Cotswolds Cookery Club	Alice Ross	This book combines three heart-warming and humorous books into one. We follow the lives of the members of the Cotswold Cookery Club. Wonderful escapism and I also learned a few cookery tips	Margaret
61		08.07.20	Party at the Cosy Castle on the Loch	Alice Ross	Another heart-warming funny romantic short story set in the Scottish Highlands. This is Book 5 in the Cosy Castle series. Perfect light reading which allows you to escape into another world for a couple of hours.	Margaret
62		08.07.20	The Little Village on the Hill (Book 1 : New Beginnings)	Alice Ross	The first in a new series by this author, but we have the usual perceptive, humorous outlook on life with a few twists and turns. Pure escapism and you are left waiting for the next instalment	Margaret
63		08.07.20	Five Days to Die	Katia Lief	This book is about a psychopath serial killer who kidnaps Emily, mother of three from New York, with her son. Her family, police and Dr Geary, a seasoned FBI agent who is recently retired, have only 5 days to find and rescue her.	Kath
64		13.07.20	The Shrine	L.J Ross	As usual, the author has set this crime thriller in another of the North East's favourite landmarks. We have DCI Ryan and his team investigating a mysterious theft from Durham Cathedral and murder in a nearby village. Yet another page turner from LJ	Margaret

					Ross. The story progresses at quite a pace. As in all her books there are references to previous stories, but if this is the first of the author's read, the story stands alone and will make you want to read the others.	
65		13.07.20	Edge of Eternity	Ken Follett	The final part of the Twentieth Century Trilogy spanning the 1950s to the 1990s and it does not disappoint. Again it follows the lives of families in the UK, Russia, USA and Germany. Although I have lived through many of the events in the book, I learned a lot and gained a different perspective on events. Absolutely brilliant book which gives a great insight into international politics in the second half of the twentieth century, but at the same time is grounded in the lives of everyday people and the impact of events on them.	Margaret
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
66		14.07.20	The Plague	Albert Camus	Set in a town called Oran which I think is supposedly in Algeria just after WW2. The townspeople are in the grip of a deadly plague, which spread from rats and now condemns its human victims to a swift and horrifying death. Forced into quarantine in the sweltering heat, each person responds in their own way to the lethal disease: some resign themselves to fate, some seek blame and revenge, and a few like the unheroic Dr Rieux, join forces to defy the terror. Written just after the Nazi occupation of France, The Plague is a taut, visceral depiction of resistance against a seemingly uncontrollable evil. Not a light hearted read but very worth reading.	Chris (J)
67		14.07.20	The Hiding Place	David Bell	Janet Manning, has been haunted by her brother's death since she last saw him in a park as a child. It is now 25 years later and a detective and a reporter are asking questions, raising suspicions. But, if the man jailed for murder is innocent, who killed Justin?	Catherine
68		14.07.20	I Own You	Dawn McConnell	This is an up to date life story of a very young child being sexually abused and how her life continued until she finally stood up for herself. Not an easy read by any means.	Kath
69		22.07.20		Alice Ross	Book 2: Love is in the Air - second in Alice's new series of books and it does not disappoint. Another heart-warming romance but	Margaret

			The Little Village on the Hill.		even funnier than the first. Pure escapism with a feel good factor! Great book with which to curl up on a grey afternoon.	
70		22.07.20	Bedlam	L.J.Ross	The Third book in LJ Ross's new series about Alexander Gregory, a psychologist and criminal profiler. Set in the USA, Gregory goes undercover to help prevent a murder. Another page turner from this prolific author. I really enjoyed this book and felt it was the best in the Gregory series, so far.	Margaret
71		25.07.20	The Night Fire	Michael Connelly	Described by the Evening Standard as being "a humdinger of a thriller" however I didn't find it to be like other crime novels I've read during this period – disappointing. There were 3 crimes: a judge murdered in a city park, a homeless person burned alive, and an unsolved homicide from years ago. I felt it was too descriptive of police procedures and terminology. Possibly would also have been more interesting if I knew LA. Although the book was 500 pages long it didn't become a thriller for me until at least three quarters of the way through the book. Other more exciting reads.	Pam
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
72		22.07.20	The Living Mountain	Nan Shepherd	It's a beautifully written description of her explorations in the Cairngorm Mountains and her meditations whilst walking. It's totally captivating. It was written during WWII but not published until 1977.	Lis
73		26.07.20	The Island of Sea Women	Lisa See	Set on an Island in South Korea, Jeju. It is the story of female friendship and family secrets on a small Korean island. It has quite a few historical facts, it goes between 1930's up to 2008. The women are incredible sea divers and are very strong and a close knit community. There is a good insight into the hardship of the islanders during the occupation by the Japanese and Americans. The women are called Haenyeo and are famous throughout the world. I enjoyed this book which was very educational for me.	Cris (Y)
74		28.07.20	The Man who didn't Call	Rose Walsh	A lovely book which plays with your emotions throughout. A lovely summer read - you really don't know how it will turn out.	Patricia

75		04.08.20	Sorrows and Smiles	Dee Williams	Two teenage girls who are best of friends growing up in the sixties. One of the girls, Pam, has married but her grandmother has a secret she needs to tell Pam. Gives a good insight into the 1960's homes, work and fashion. Very quick easy read.	Cris (Y)
76		05.08.20	The Last of the Moon Girls	Barbara Dewis	Eight years ago Lizzie Moon left Moon Girl Farm but when her beloved grandmother Althea dies she must return and face the tragedy of the unsolved murders of two young girls. Although Lizzie wants to sell the farm and return to New York she discovers Althea's journal and resolves to clear her name concerning the deaths of the 2 girls.	Hilary
77		05.08.20	This is Going to Hurt	Adam Kay	Secret diaries of a junior doctor. Scribbled in secret after endless days, sleepless nights and missed weekends Adam Kay provides a no-holds-barred account of his time on the NHS front line. Hilarious, horrifying and heart breaking, this diary is everything you wanted to know – and more than a few things you didn't – about life on and off hospital ward.	Hilary
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of Book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
78		05.07.20	Across the Winding River	Aimie K Runyan	A woman unlocks the mystery of her father's wartime past in a moving novel about secrets, sacrifice and the power of love	Hilary
79		05.08.20	"Twas the Nightshift before Christmas	Adam Kay	Festive hospital diaries from the author of million-copy hit "This is going to Hurt". This is a love letter to all those who spend their festive season on the front line, removing babies and baubles from the various places they get stuck, at the most wonderful time of the year.	Hilary
80		05.08.20	So Lucky	Dawn O'Porter	The bold, brilliant Sunday Times bestseller you need to read this year. Fearless, frank and for anyone who has doubted themselves. Reviewers describe it as "A total joy" and "Unputdownable".	Hilary

81		10.08.20	The Last 10 Seconds	Simon Kernick	<p>A brutal serial killer, known as the Night Creeper, is arrested on the streets of north London after a two year reign of terror. An undercover cop has infiltrated one of the country's most notorious criminal gangs in a desperate bid to bring its members to justice.</p> <p>DI Tina Boyd has discovered that the Night Creeper's murders are part of a much larger criminal conspiracy and she has come into contact with some very dangerous people who want to silence her – permanently.</p> <p>The last 10 seconds: a man, a woman and a sadistic killer. As they race towards a terrifying confrontation only one thing is certain; they're all going to have to fight very hard just to stay alive.</p>	Kath
82		20.08.20	Days without Number	Robert Goddard	<p>Michael Paleologus, retired archaeologist and supposed descendant of the last Emperors of Byzantium, lives alone in a remote and rambling house in Cornwall. His son, Nicolas, is summoned to resolve a dispute which threatens to set his brothers and sisters against their aged irascible father when he refuses an extremely generous offer for his house but refuses to sell without any reason. An unusual mystery novel that I would recommend.</p>	Chris (J)
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
83		20.08.20	Night Unseen	Robert Goddard	<p>It is a hot summer's day in the tourist village of Avebury. A man sits outside the Red Lion pub, waiting. He sees a woman with three children, two of them running ahead while their sister dawdles behind. Suddenly a running man comes out of nowhere, grabs the child and carries her away as a van speeds into view and screeches to a halt. The man throws the child into the back of the van, jumps in and the van roars away. Lots of twists and turns and surprises.</p>	Chris (J)
84		25.08.20	Full Force and Effect	Tom Clancy	<p>Jack Ryan Jr is in Ho Chi Minh City when a hit leaves him with a corpse, no documents and only a bloodily scribbled note as a clue to what happened. It sends him on the trail of a shadowy security firm with links to North Korea. The rogue state has</p>	Kath

					found a way to finally make its nuclear ambitions a reality, no matter the cost to the world. But President Jack Ryan will not permit so North Korea has plans which will silence the US leader for good. On the global stage, Jack Ryan Jr and Sr race against time to halt a madman from acquiring the world's deadliest weapon.	
85		25.08.20	A Colder War	Charles Cumming	Thomas Kell is a disgraced agent who longs to come in from the cold. When MI6's top spy in Turkey is killed in a mysterious plane crash, his chance arrives ... for Kell is the only man Service Chief Amelia Levene can trust to investigate the accident. In Istanbul, Kell soon discovers that there is a traitor inside Western Intelligence. Then he meets Rachel, the dead spy's daughter, and the stakes grow higher still. Kell tracks the mole but a betrayal close to home transforms the operation into something more personal. Soon Kell will stop at nothing to see it through.	Kath
86		28.08.20	Entry Island	Peter May	Detective Sime Mackenzie is sent from Montreal to investigate a murder on the remote Entry Island, 850 miles from the Canadian mainland. When he meets the prime suspect, the victim's wife, he is convinced that he knows her even though they have never met. Although it seems a straightforward case he feels she didn't commit the murder and the story becomes focused on Sime's dreams of a distant Scottish past in another century. As well as the crime aspect of the novel it has an interesting historical context and the tale takes quite a different direction with an unexpected ending.	Pam
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
87		29.08.20	One Night in Winter	Simon Sebag Montefiore	This is the third in his Moscow trilogy and covers the period immediately following 1945 when Stalin was in power. It is the tale of the political high ranking families who were closest to Stalin and describes the way in which everyone lived in fear of their own and family's lives. A good read and it's not essential to have read the previous 2 books in the set.	Christine (Lu)
88		29.08.20	A Fool's Alphabet	Sebastian Faulks	This is a love story that begins during the War in 1944 in Italy where a British soldier meets an Italian girl when convalescing from war injuries. The book is set out in chapters that date in	Christine (Lu)

					random years through this soldier's life. It sounds as if it might be disjointed but in fact it is quite easy to follow his travels and thoughts.	
89		29.08.20	Firefly Summer	Maeve Binchy	I thought that I had read all of Maeve Binchy's books but came across this one which is, as usual, a wonderful relaxing read about life in the Irish countryside. A wealthy Irish American returns to invest in the area where his family came from and brings his two children with him. There are lovely passages where the two American children integrate with the local children and there are wonderful descriptions of life at that time in the 1960's.	Christine (Lu)
90		03.09.20	Those who Leave and Those who Stay	Elena Ferrante	This is the third novel in the Neapolitan Novels by Elena Ferrante. In this novel the lives of the two protagonists diverges further. Although both have dubious relationships with the men in their lives. Their fortunes ebb and flow. The writing is compelling and you really want to know what will happen next.	Lis
91		04.09.20	The Mayon Secrets	Clive Cussler	Treasure hunting husband and wife team, Sami and Remi Fargo, make a remarkable discovery in Central America, a bot containing a well preserved Mayon book which is much larger than any previously found by archaeologists. The book contains astonishing information about the Mayons and their cities and the secrets are so powerful that some people will do anything to possess them. Before the adventure is over, men and women will die for the riches contained in the ancient book and may even threaten the lives of the Fargos. A thrilling, high paced and wildly imaginative novel.	Kath
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
92		04.09.20	The Associate	John Grisham	Kyle McAvoy is one of the outstanding legal students of his generation but he has a secret which threatens to destroy his career and possibly his entire life. That secret falls into the hands of the wrong people. The only way to protect it is to play into their hands by becoming an associate at the largest law firm in the world. For most ambitious young layers this would be a	Kath

					dream come true but for Kyle, as well as practising law, he has to lie, steal and take part in a scheme which could send him to prison or even get himself killed. Difficult to put down!	
93		05.09.20	In the Shadows of the Workhouse	Jennifer Worth	A sequel to Call the Midwife. Stories of Jane the Care Assistant, Joe the soldier and the trial of Sister Monica Joan.	Catherine
94		05.09.20	The Keepsake	Tess Gerritson	This novel is part of the Rizzoli and Isles series. A murder mystery with Bog ladies and mummification corpses.	Catherine
95		11.09.20	Westwind	Ian Rankin	After his friend suspects something strange going on at the satellite facility where they both work – and then goes missing – Martin Hepton doesn't believe the official line of "long term sick leave". Refusing to stop asking questions, he leaves his old life behind, aware that someone is shadowing his every move. But why? Twists and turns right up to the end.	Chris (J)
96		11.09.20	Tidelands	Philippa Gregory	This is the first of several planned standalone books in a new series about the lives of ordinary women as opposed her books on the stories of women born into privileged and powerful positions. This first book is set in 1648 and covers the imprisonment of King Charles I and the increasing power of Cromwell and the New Order. It is set in a rural village in Sussex just outside Chichester and has vivid descriptions of family life at that time. I am looking forward to the second book in the series which will continue the family saga. The reports say it is due out in 2020 and is entitled "Dark Tides".	Christine (Lu)
No	Date started	Date finished	Title of book	Author	Brief description and comment	Member
97		17.02.20	The Kingmaker's Daughter	Philippa Gregory	Full of court intrigue, revenge and superstition during Edward IV reign. It follows the life of Anne and her path to the throne. If you like historical novels this one set in 15th century is a really good read.	Patricia
98		17.02.20			No 7 Ocean Drive was the setting for a series of depraved killings in the small seaside town of Bridgehampton that have	Kath

			Murder House	James Patterson and David Ellis	never been solved. Neglected, empty and rumoured to be cursed, it's known as the Murder House, and locals keep their distance. A couple are found dead in the abandoned Murder House. Detective Jenna Murphy becomes involved in a case that seems open and shut, but soon reveals more secrets than she could possibly imagine.	
99		19.09.20	Hidden Depths	Ann Cleeves	On a hot summer night on the Northumberland coast, Julie Armstrong arrives home to find her son strangled, laid out in a bath of water and covered with wild flowers. The stylised murder intrigues DI Vera Stanhope, and then another body is discovered in a rock pool, the corpse again strewn with flowers. Vera must work quickly to find a killer who is making art out of death. As the local residents are forced to share their deepest, darkest secrets, the killer watches, waits and plans to prepare another beautiful watery grave.... Not a gripping thriller with lots of suspense. Its interest lies in the fact it is set in Northumberland and is televised.	Pam
100		25.09.20	Invisible	James Patterson and David Ellis	My nightmare: it's the same every time. I'm trapped in my bedroom with a blazing inferno around me. It started 8 months ago, when my sister was killed in a house fire. Her death, like many others across the US over the past year, was written off as an accident, but I know it was murder. They are too similar to be coincidental. One of the worst serial killers of all time is being ignored so it's up to me to stop him.	Kath