

LifeLong Readers 2009 – Dates and Titles

Friday 9th January
Atonement – Ian McEwan

Friday 6th February
A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian -
Lewycka, Marina, 1946

Friday 6th March
The Appeal – John Grisham

Friday 3rd April
The Boleyn Inheritance – Gregory, Phillipa

Friday 1st May
The Jane Austen Book Club – Fowler, Karen
Joy

Friday 5th June
The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini.

Friday 3rd July
Partners in Crime – Agatha Christie

Friday 7th August

When the Singing Stops – Di Morrissey

Friday 4th September

Climbing the Mango Trees – Madhur Jeffrey
(Biography)

Friday 2nd October

Big Bad Wolf – James Patterson

Friday 6th November

Five Quarters of the Orange – Joanne Harris

Friday 4th December

Christmas Letters – Debbie Macomber

LifeLong Readers – Description

Friday 9th January Atonement – Ian McEwan

On the hottest day of the summer of 1935, the thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis sees her sister Cecilia strip off her clothes and plunge into the fountain in the garden of their country house. Watching her is Robbie Turner, her childhood friend who, like Cecilia, has recently come down from Cambridge. By the end of that day the lives of all three will have been changed forever. Short-listed for the 2001 Booker Prize.

Friday 6th February A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian - Lewycka, Marina, 1946

For years, Nadezhda and Vera, two Ukrainian sisters, raised in England by their refugee parents, have had as little as possible to do with each other. But now they find they'd better learn how to get along, because since their mother's death their aging father has been sliding into his second childhood, and an alarming new woman has just entered his life. Valentina a bosomy young synthetic blonde from the Ukraine seems to think their father is much richer than he is, and she is keen that he leaves this world with as little money as possible. If Nadezhda and Vera don't stop her, no one will. As Hurricane Valentina turns the family house upside down, old secrets come falling out, including the most deeply buried about why Nadezhda and Vera are so different. In the meantime, oblivious to it all, their father carries on with the great work of his dotage, a grand history of the tractor.

Friday 6th March The Appeal – John Grisham

In a crowded courtroom in Mississippi, a jury returns a shocking verdict against a chemical company accused of dumping toxic waste into a small town's water supply, causing the worst 'cancer cluster' in history. The company appeals to the Mississippi Supreme Court, whose nine justices will one day either approve the verdict or reverse it. Who are the nine? How will they vote? The Appeal is a

powerful, timely, and shocking story of political and legal intrigue, a story that will leave readers unable to think about the electoral process or judicial system in quite the same way ever again.

Friday 3rd April The Boleyn Inheritance –
Gregory, Phillipa

The year is 1539 and the court of Henry VIII is increasingly fearful at the moods of the ageing sick king. With only a baby in the cradle for an heir, Henry has to take another wife and the dangerous prize of the crown of England is won by Anne of Cleves. She has her own good reasons for agreeing to marry a man old enough to be her father, in a country where, to her, both language and habits are foreign. But she senses a trap closing around her. Catherine is confident that she can follow in the steps of her cousin Anne Boleyn to dazzle her way to the throne but her kinswoman Jane Boleyn, haunted by the past, knows that Anne's path led to Tower Green and to an adulterer's death.

Friday 1st May The Jane Austen Book Club – Fowler,
Karen Joy

In California's Sacramento Valley, six people meet once a month to discuss Jane Austen's novels. They are ordinary people, neither happy or unhappy, but all wounded in different ways, all mixed up about their lives and their relationships. Over six months of meetings, marriages are tested, affairs begin, unsuitable arrangements become suitable and, under the guiding eye of Jane Austen, some of them even fall in love.

Friday 5th June The Kite Runner – Khaled
Hosseini.

Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the approval of his father and resolves to win the local kite-fighting tournament, to prove that he has the makings of a man. His loyal friend Hassan promises to help him, for he always helps Amir. But this is 1970s Afghanistan and Hassan is merely a low-caste servant who is jeered at in

the street, although Amir still feels jealous of his natural courage and the place he holds in his father's heart. But neither of the boys could foresee what would happen to Hassan on the afternoon of the tournament, which was to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return, to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption.

Friday 3rd July Partners in Crime – Agatha Christie

Tommy and Tuppence Beresford were restless for adventure, so when they were asked to take over Blunt's International Detective Agency, they leapt at the chance. After their triumphant recovery of a pink pearl, intriguing cases kept on coming their way: a stabbing on Sunningdale golf course; cryptic messages in the personal columns of the newspapers; and even a box of poisoned chocolates.

Friday 7th August When the Singing Stops – Di Morrissey

A young Australian woman journeys to Guyana to visit her brother and rebuild her life. She finds that greed and corruption are destroying the unique beauty and culture of the country.

Friday 4th September Climbing the Mango Trees – Madhur Jeffrey (Biography)

The bestselling memoir of a household name - popular food writer, presenter and champion of the UK's favourite food. Already an accomplished food writer and actress, adored the world over, Madhur Jaffrey can also tell a story beautifully - especially when it is the account of her own childhood in India. This enchanting memoir of an exuberant young girl, growing up in an age and society that has now disappeared, is made all the more evocative by Madhur's passion for food. The tastes, the smells, the colours - these food memories form and shape her reminiscences. Madhur's touching and extraordinary transporting the reader to another time and continent.

Fans of Madhur Jaffrey the world over will be captivated by this beautiful evocation of a childhood in India.

Friday 2nd October Big Bad Wolf – James Patterson

Alex Cross's first case since joining the FBI has his new colleagues perplexed. Across the country, men and women are kidnapped in broad daylight and then disappear completely. These people are not being taken for ransom, Alex realizes - they are being bought and sold. And it seems the Wolf is the master criminal behind this terrible trade and is bringing a new reign of terror to organized crime. Even as he admires the FBI's vast resources, Alex grows impatient with the Bureau's clumsiness and caution when it is time to move. A lone wolf himself, he has to go out on his own in order to track his new prey and try to rescue some of the victims while they are still alive

Friday 6th November Five Quarters of the Orange –
Joanne Harris

Beyond the main streets of Les Laveuses runs the Loire, hiding a deadly undertow beneath its surface. This is where Framboise, a secretive widow, plies her culinary trade at the creperie - and lets her memory play strange games

Friday 4th December Christmas Letters – Debbie
Macomber

Katherine O'Connor often spends her days at a cosy cafe on Blossom Street in Seattle, where she writes Christmas letters for other people. She's good at making their everyday lives sound more interesting. More humorous. More dramatic. For Dr. Wynn Jeffries, who also frequents the cafe, Christmas means lies and deception. A renowned psychologist, he tells parents to 'bury Santa under the sleigh.' But Katherine feels that his philosophy is one big mistake.