

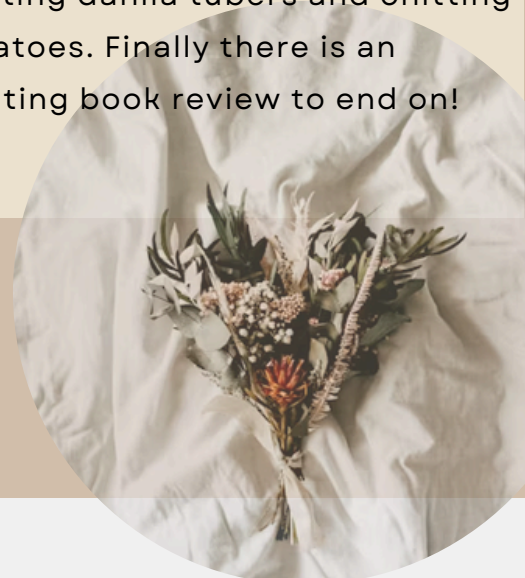


Hello and welcome to *our February newsletter*

February is here and thought to be a transitional month from winter to spring! As the month unfolds we may start to see hints of spring as we move through the final weeks of winter.

We're excited to share some upcoming events to keep us and our Little Natters busy in half term, seasonal gardening tips and more to keep you inspired and informed as well as things to do in Lincoln this month.

Some of our seasonal tips will be looking at pruning Jasmine, top-dressing pot grown shrubs, starting dahlia tubers and chitting potatoes. Finally there is an exciting book review to end on!



Seasonal Events

Valentine's Day Thinking of ideas for that special evening, well here's a few to get you thinking.

Wine tasting can be a fun and romantic activity to do together. Steep Hill Wines do a wine tasting or there is always inspiration on red letter days or virgin experiences for other venues to travel to.

A dance class to get that adrenalin pumping can ignite a spark and some fun as a nice change. Try Ceroc Lincoln it's a very friendly venue.

A quiet intimate afternoon tea or cooking class are some events to think about planning to surprise your partners.

Don't forget some self-care tips for loving yourself too this Valentine's Day whether you are single or in a relationship we all deserve some pampering. Take stock of what you have and be grateful and content with your world. Going through your wardrobes and perhaps have a restyle or declutter. Think about your bodies and make an effort to stay hydrated with plenty of water and try some new exercise classes. Maybe even change up your routine and stimulate that brain by changing or altering a few things in your surroundings. Going for regular walks or decorating some rooms at home can help with giving you a new focus.

Make yourself and your health a priority. You know you're worth it.

Half Term If you fancy a trip on the train out of Lincoln for a change of scenery, the Imagine Children's Festival for ages 0-11 at the Southbank Centre will be taking the aargh out of half term, 8-18 Feb!!

Highlights include a Julia Donaldson session with puppets and songs plus theatre, dance, music and poetry.

Canary Wharfs ice rink is available until the 25th February (4yrs and up) Each session is 50 minutes and skate aids are available.

If you are a Lord of the Rings fan you can take part in a Lord of the Rings Quest in Bury St Edmunds!

It is suitable for children aged 3+ years. It's held at West Stow Anglo-saxon village and to save Middle Earth and explore Tolkiens world it has two parts each lasting 45 minutes!! You can visit the Hobbit Hole and Mirkwood, where huge spiders await you!!!!!!!

Gardening tips for February

Prune Jasmine Winter-flowering jasmine can be pruned when the flowers have finished completely. Prune any dead or damaged wood. Tie stems that need tidying and shorten side growths which will encourage new shoots for flowering next winter.

Summer-flowering jasmines can also be pruned but this involves taking out an entire main stem or two right to the ground. Pruning the side growth on a summer jasmine will produce spindly leafy growth which is no good to anyone!!

Top-dress potted shrubs Shrubs that have been in pots for several years would benefit from having the top layer of soil removed and fresh compost that contains slow release fertiliser added. This will feed the plant over several months.

Start Dahlia Tubers To produce shoots that make good cuttings now is the time to start up your stored tubers. The tubers can be placed individually or several can be put into large trays on TOP of the compost. Place the tray/pot in good light and spray every now and then with water to encourage the buds to grow.

Your guide to potatoes!

If you haven't already got round to it, now is the time to start 'chitting' your potatoes. So what is 'chitting'?

Chitting is the process of starting the sprouting process on your seed potatoes. It encourages shoots to form before planting, which will lead to a larger crop of potatoes. It is super easy to do:

Preparing Seed Potatoes

- 1.Chitting: Start by encouraging the seed potatoes to sprout. Place them in a cool, light area, with the "rose end" (the end with the most eyes) facing upwards. Use egg boxes or trays to keep them stable. Chitting usually takes 4-6 weeks.
- 2.Sprout Length: Aim for sturdy sprouts about 2-3 cm long before planting.

When looking at **which seed potato** to choose, it can be a bit of a minefield, so here's a really easy guide:

There are three main types of seed potatoes:

- 1.First Earlies: Quick-growing potatoes ready for harvest in around 10 weeks. Ideal for new potatoes. Popular varieties include Arran Pilot and Rocket.
- 2.Second Earlies: Slightly longer to grow, taking about 13 weeks. These are perfect for salads. Common varieties are Charlotte and Kestrel.
- 3.Maincrop: These take around 20 weeks and are suitable for storing. Varieties include King Edward and Maris Piper.



Things to do in Lincolnshire this month...

Experience the beauty of spring at **Doddington** with a breathtaking display of bulbs that begin in early February. Delight in snowdrops, winter aconites, Cyclamen coum, and Crocus tommasinianus as the season awakens.

The display continues through March and early April with a vibrant array of Lent lilies, wood anemones, dog's tooth violets, and Doddington's extraordinary collection of heritage daffodils, including rare Edwardian varieties. Snake's head fritillaries add the final flourish to this spectacular pageant, which lasts until May.

The Spring Bulb Pageant at Doddington was initiated in the 1950s by Claire's grandparents, Ralph and Antonia Jarvis. The tradition has been lovingly carried on by Claire's father, Antony Jarvis, and her late mother, Victoria. Over the past 25 years, Antony has planted or relocated an estimated 150,000 bulbs.

"Highly recommended. The serenity here is unparalleled, and the bursts of colour in the sunshine are truly uplifting."

– Sarah Moody, visited February 2023

Dates: February 5, 2025 - April 5, 2025

DayTimes

Wednesday - Sunday 10-4pm

or more information go to www.visitlincoln.com



This February, **Lincoln Lights** will illuminate the city with a captivating free display of enchanting light installations.

Open to all, this vibrant event showcases stunning works by artists from the UK and beyond, beautifully set against the backdrop of Lincoln's historic landmarks, from the Castle to Cornhill.

Discover the city as you've never seen it before—stroll through its historic streets, reimagine familiar spaces, and immerse yourself in a dazzling celebration of colour, creativity, and wonder.

Debuting in 2025, Lincoln Lights offers an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages. Don't miss the chance to see the city in an entirely new light!

Dates: February 20, 2025 - February 21, 2025

DayTimes

Thursday 17:30 - 21:00

Friday 17:30 - 21:00



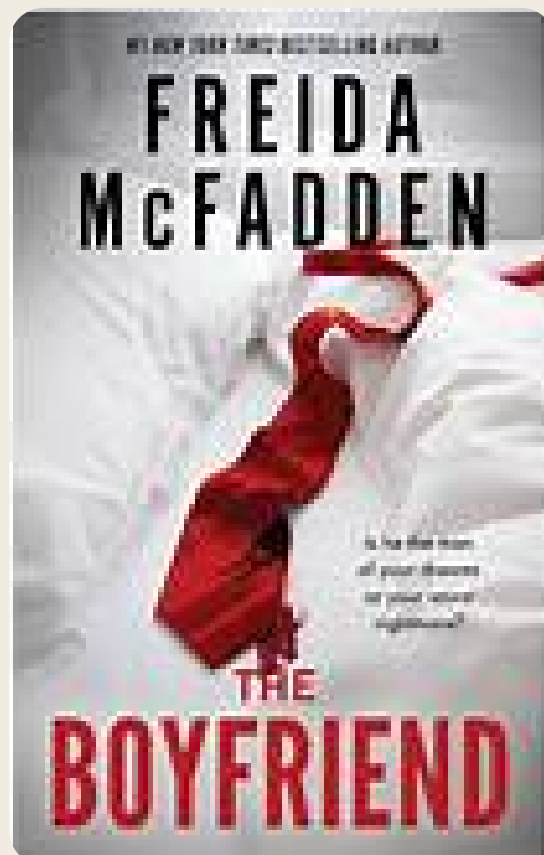
Our February read...

I have read a few of **Freida Mc Fadden** books such as the 'Tik Tok sensation', 'The Housemaid' and 'The Inmate' and her latest book will not disappoint. '**The Boyfriend**' is a psychological thriller that makes you question every smile, text, and latte date you've ever had with a significant other!

This book is like a bad Tinder date: it starts off charming, takes a weird turn, and ends with you questioning all your life choices—but in the best way possible. As with Freida's other books, I always think I have the plot sussed out but then the story takes a dramatic twist and completely throws me!

The story hooks you immediately with its relatable protagonist and her seemingly perfect boyfriend. "He's too good to be true," you think. And guess what? You're right!

The writing is sharp, the pace electric and the humour sprinkled throughout keeps it from feeling too heavy—Think murder mystery meets awkward family dinner. If you're a fan of jaw-dropping revelations and characters that make you yell, "WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!" at 2 a.m., this book is for you.



The plot is easy to follow, and like her other books, they are written so you really get to know the characters. I absolutely love that all my questions get answered by the end of her books.

Another great read for those thriller fans among us. Definitely 5 stars from me.

Contact Details:

Natalie Johnson

Natalie Garlick

www.thenatters.co.uk

hello@thenatters.co.uk

