

CITYLINK

(THE CITY OF CHICHESTER twinned SINCE 1959 with THE CITY OF CHARTRES)

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

Chichester's French Twinning Association

www.friendsofchartres.org.uk

June 2014

[Re-numbered from the Millenium] ISSUE: 57

CELEBRATING OUR 55 YEARS OF TWINNING

The 2014 Exchange went to Chartres



FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

It has been a very interesting and busy time since our last edition of Citylink, including our European Quiz Evening, Annual Exchange (thanks to Julia) and visit to Southwick Park and the Schools Art Competition (thanks to Margaret).

Since my first exchange visit to Chartres in 1991 I have, on subsequent visits, experienced many 'incidents', 'happenings', and 'comments'. I can recall on one occasion leaving Le Havre for Chartres and then noticing two elderly members running behind the coach, waving and shouting (of course this sort of thing wouldn't happen now!) On another visit, as we passed through the French countryside I remember hearing the question "Are those cows with horns, bulls?"

Would this year be an exception? Of course not. We managed to get lost on arrival in Chartres. (*May I add, not due to any fault of our Woods' coach driver, who was excellent.*) After travelling down streets which seemed to be getting narrower and narrower, we eventually stopped, called for help and were rescued and escorted by car to our pick-up point, much to the relief of our waiting hosts.

Our time in Chartres included a visit to the early 20th Century school museum complete with rows of wooden desks, ink wells and a teacher, Madame Soulier, with a very long and menacing-looking cane. I enjoyed very much using the old-fashioned pen and ink, but it took quite a while to remove ink stains from fingers. Unfortunately I can still remember all of this from my own early school days.

On the 11th June, we had an enjoyable and informative visit to Southwick Park, quite a coup considering it was so close to the 70th anniversary D-Day events with visitors to the Map Room from all over the world, including General Eisenhower's grandson, David. Well done Margaret for this booking. My personal link with Southwick Park (HMS Dryad) goes back to 1959, but that story, and my link with Lord Nelson, will have to wait for another day.

The Fifth Schools Art Competition was very successful and included for the first time a 'Private Viewing' evening at Pallant House Gallery, to which all of our members were invited.

During the first week in July and as part of the Festival of Chichester, we have again joined Friends of Ravenna and Friends of Valetta to present an exhibition entitled 'Art & Architecture' which I hope you will be able to visit in the Old Courtroom, plus a celebration evening in the Assembly Room with Roger Redfarn in conversation with Sarah Badel, Susan Jameson & James Bolan on "The Art of Acting".

Looking forward, to our future events, we have a Garden Party in August with thanks to Paul & Wendy Devonshire and on 23rd September a lecture by Douglas Skeggs on 'Monet and the Impressionists' in the Mitre Theatre at the University of Chichester. Please support these events - see page 3 for more details.

RAY BROWN
CHAIRMAN



PRESIDENT

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester
Councillor John Hughes

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN	Ray Brown.....	783776
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Julia Sander.....	527435
HON SECRETARY	Margaret Brown.....	783776
HON TREASURER	John Wilton	788833
Sandy Barnett.....	527278	Penelope Johnstone... 771881
Anne-Louise Briggs....	784346	Emma Heaver..... 778568
Paul Devonshire.....	641457	David Nason..... 573716

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

Martyn Bell.....839704

(Co-opted)

Tony Harrison (<i>Chichester Lions Club</i>).....	532893
Julie Schofield (<i>Cathedral/DEEC link</i>).....	784244

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

(July 2014 - June 2015)

CLlr Rob Campling.....	532910	CLlr Anne Scicluna.....	789065
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WESTBOURNE HOUSE CHOIR

Concert Tour to Paris & Chartres - April 2014



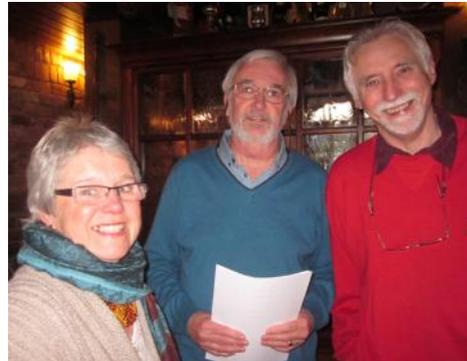
The Chapel Choir of Westbourne House School has recently returned from a successful concert tour to Paris and Chartres. The choir, consisting of 43 boys and girls aged 10 - 13, sang to large and appreciative audiences at the Eglise Madeleine and Chartres Cathedral. Conducted by the school's Director of Music, Alexander Dichmont, and accompanied by organist Richard Allum, the choir presented a programme of Lenten music. It is the fourth time the choir has been on tour to Paris and sung at these venues, and it is very special for the choir to foster this link between Chichester and its twin city Chartres.

Although given very short notice, both Claire Crézé and Yves Bastide were able to meet the choir after their performance in Chartres Cathedral and Yves was able to take the photo, shown on the right, which records Westbourne House choir performing inside Chartres Cathedral.

EUROPEAN QUIZ NIGHT

10th April 2014

Approximately 30 members from the Friends of Chartres Ravenna and Valletta organisations participated in a 'Euro Quiz Night' at The Bell Inn, Broyle Rd Chichester, which included an 'in the basket' meal. The Event was organised by Clare Apel



and was certainly more interesting than the Eurovision Song Contest to follow in May. The six teams of four to six persons tried hard to answer a host of varied and difficult questions set by Quiz Master, Stuart.



The '*French Maquisards*' team (*above*) comprising Jan & Julia Sander, Martyn Bell and John Wilton narrowly won the competition. It was notable that all teams did fairly well on tourism and cultural topics but failed miserably on E.U related matters! Participants were not allowed to use mobile phones.

The winning team members each received a bottle of the very rare and highly regarded 'Rosé de Chartres' from the small vineyard alongside the River Eure in the very centre of the City .

MARTYN BELL



FRIENDS OF CHARTRES**Lecture by Douglas Skeggs****'Monet & the Impressionists'**

The Mitre Theatre, University of Chichester

Tuesday September 23rd - 7.30 pm

Monet was the driving force of Impressionism. Ambitious, determined and stubborn, he was gifted with an astonishing technical ability and a precision of observation that few artists have rivalled. Ignoring the conventions of the past he worked directly from nature, recording only what his eyes could see. He produced images of such delicacy and beauty that it is easy to forget that they are also the substance of one of the greatest revolutions in the visual arts.



Douglas Skeggs read Fine Art at Magdalene College Cambridge and has been a lecturer on paintings since 1980. In that time he has given over 4000 lectures to universities, colleges and art societies. He has written and presented various TV documentaries, notably the Omnibus programme on 'Whistler' and the exhibition video on 'William Morris.' Three one-man exhibitions of his paintings have been held in England and Switzerland. His book on Monet, 'River of Light', has sold 30,000 copies in England, America and France.

£8.50 (members) - £9.50 non-members
(to include refreshments)

Please complete the flyer and return to Julia Sander
to be received by Friday 12th September 2014

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES**Programme of Events
2014**

- July** **FESTIVAL OF CHICHESTER**
(with Friends of Ravenna & Friends of Valetta)
- 5th - 11th** **'Art & Architecture' Exhibition & Event**
The Old Courtroom, City Council, North St, Chichester:
- 7th** **'IN PRAISE OF THE THEATRE'**
(Monday) **7.30pm** Assembly Room, City Council, North St
Actors Sarah Badel, James Bolam and Susan Jameson in conversation with Roger Redfarn will be discussing the art of acting and their careers with readings to celebrate Chichester's friendship with Chartres, Ravenna & Valetta.
(with Friends of Ravenna & Friends of Valetta)
- [All details have already been emailed to our members]
- August 17th** **FÊTE CHAMPÊTRE - at Sidlesham**
(Sunday) **2.00 pm** Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Chartres
(See information 'advert' below)
- September 23rd** **'MONET & THE IMPRESSIONISTS'**
(Tuesday) Lecture by Douglas Skeggs (See details left column)
7.30pm The Mitre Theatre, Chichester Campus University of Chichester,
- (Details of these events tba)
- October** **Film Event**
- Nov / December** **Christmas Cheese & Wine Soirée**
- February 2015** **Annual Dinner**
- March 2015** **Annual General Meeting**
- EXCHANGE DATES FOR 2015**
- April 30th - May 4th** **Exchange to visit Chichester**
(Thursday - Monday)

Friends of Chartres - Fête Champêtre**Sunday August 17th 2014 - 2.00 pm**

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Chartres
(which took place on 18th August 1944)

there will be a *fête champêtre* from 2 pm on Sunday 17th August in the
gardens of

Wendy and Paul Devonshire at Lane End Cottage, Sidlesham.

Chartres was a logistics centre for the German Army and became an important transportation nexus for the US forces. Following the breakout from the Normandy landings, there was a relatively rapid advance towards Paris. After reconnaissance missions in the region by the 3rd Cavalry Group and units of the 1139 Engineer Combat Group, and after heavy fighting in and around the city, Chartres was liberated on 18th August 1944 by the U.S. 5th Infantry and the 7th Armoured Divisions of the 3rd US Army commanded by General George S. Patton.

Bring your own picnic, wine and chairs, though tea, coffee and Paul's homebrew beer will be available.

Please let the Devonshires know of your intention to attend
so that precise directions and parking arrangements can be provided.

Tel: 01243 641457, e-mail: pauldevonshire@hotmail.com

THE EXCHANGE 1st - 5th May 2014

The 2014 Exchange visit to Chartres was certainly one to remember for many reasons, not least because it marked the 55th Anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Agreement between the cities of Chichester and Chartres. Those responsible in Chartres had gone out of their way to make it a memorable occasion and we certainly did our bit by helping to involve a great number of Cicestrians in this special weekend.



So, we left Chichester's Northgate Car Park *VERY* early on the Thursday morning with dull skies and wet weather heading to Portsmouth International Ferry Port where we met up with a second Woods Coach also heading towards the celebrations in Chartres. In fact the passengers in this second coach were actually part of the celebrations, ie the University of Chichester Symphony Orchestra, who were to give two performances in Chartres. The University's Lecturer and Head of Orchestra, Crispin Ward, assisted by Simon Growcott, had been working with Chartres' Conservatoire de Musique and Dance through Claire Crézé - and a nudge or two from yours truly - to fulfil their ambition of performing within Chartres.

After a non-eventful journey across the Channel and through the French countryside we eventually arrived at our destination in Chartres where our hosts had gathered to greet us in familiar style - with lots of hugs and kisses - before being whisked off to our French 'homes'.

Next day began with a visit to The Museum of Schooling, complete with an old fashioned schoolroom and a lesson in writing for those 'willing' to take part (and woe betide those who wouldn't!) Then after lunch we headed towards Paris by coach and saw not just the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Moulin Rouge, but also other well-known landmarks of France, from several Loire Valley Chateaux to Mont-St Michel and other distinctive regions. All were there in 'France Miniature' - a 5 hectare Park which housed 1/30 scale models. Thus we saw all of France in one day!

Following dinner with hosts (or with the Deputy Mayor at the Hôtel de Ville for the Officials) the first Concert by Chichester University Sinfonia took place in the Salon Marceau of Chartres' Hôtel de Ville. Their programme of popular British, French and Austrian classical music, with Director Adam Hoskins, was well received and certainly highlighted their professionalism.

Saturday morning allowed some free time with hosts and the two Twinning Committees held their regular meeting in a much less 'regular' place. Shown in the programme as *porch roof of 'pétanque' field - Base de loisirs de Luisant* - this conjured up all sorts of scenarios. As the pictures show, it was held outdoors on a somewhat 'fresh' day - but as needs must our congratulations go to Claire and her team for ensuring the meeting took place - even though it was not in the Twinning Office as they had originally planned.

Once the barbecue was lit and other members congregated in readiness for the picnic and Pétanque Competition, so the clouds disappeared and the warmth of the sun's rays brought forth a convivial atmosphere - which might have been enhanced by the accompanying wine and food. I lost track of who was winning (and also who was in which team) but François Remey and his helpers had it all tied up as we discovered later that evening when we celebrated the:

55^{ème} Anniversaire du jumelage
CHARTRES - CHICHESTER
Samedi 3 mai 2014 - à 19h30

Dîner de gala
Salon Marceau de l'Hôtel de Ville de Chartres





We were pleased that the musicians of Chichester University were invited to join us for this celebration meal - having 'sang for their supper' on Friday, they certainly earned it - and they would quite literally do so again the next day. What a feast was in store with: *Soupe Champenoise et ses amuse-bouche; Pâté de Chartres au foie gras confiture d'oignons au cassis; Filet mignon de porc fondant et sa crème au cidre; Ecrasée de pommes de terre à l'huile de noisettes, Poêlée de pleurotes et champignons de Paris; Assiette de brie aux noix et Tome de Beauce accompagnée de sa salade; L'Arlequin; Café, thé, tisane.*



With Champagne, Wine, and good company it certainly was a night to remember - especially with the *Muppet Show* entertainment. Congratulations to François Remey and his team of entertainers. There were the inevitable - very short?! - speeches and exchanges of gifts and the evening ended with green chocolate frogs as souvenirs.



Thank goodness we had time to rest the next day (programmed in as Free Time with hosts!) - before the second Concert by the University Orchestra at 6.00pm. Held in Séminaire des Barbelés - Le Coudray, the choir of the Conservatoire de Chartres joined our musicians to perform the piano Concerto in D minor (K.466) W.A Mozart and Fauré's Requiem. Magnificent.

Having just completed their annual Charity Cycle Ride to Chartres, members of Chichester Harbour Rotary Club including their President, Stephanie Crowther, were able to attend this concert and also the Official Civic Reception. This was held in the Salon Montescot of the Hôtel de Ville and naturally involved lots of speeches and Official Civic Gift Exchanges.



It was a great boost to our twinning to have so many Cicestrians involved in this very special weekend - a 'mini-invasion' of approximately 150 people. We were delighted that the Mayor and Mayoress (John & Cherry Hughes) had been able to join us on their first trip to Chartres together with eight former Mayors of Chichester - who were therefore previous Presidents of our Association. These were: retired City Councillors, Ray Brown, Jim Payne and John Wilton and currently serving Councillors; Clare Apel, Rob Campling, Tony French, Anne Scicluna and Michael Woolley.



From us all we thank you for your good humour, providing us with such special memories, wonderful hospitality and friendship - and we look forward to our next Exchange in Chichester in 2015.

MARGARET BROWN



VISIT TO SOUTHWICK PARK

11th June 2014



A gracious mansion in rolling parkland tucked behind the escarpment rising sharply above Portsmouth Harbour seems an unlikely location for the nerve centre of Operation Overlord. It was here

however that Eisenhower had his headquarters in the days leading up to D-Day. The General was accommodated in a heavily camouflaged caravan in the grounds rather than in the house itself, which would have been far too dangerous. It was in the house that the chiefs of the armed forces, Admiral Ramsay, Air Commodore Leigh Mallory and General Montgomery met for briefings.



Southwick Park still serves as a military and naval base, and is now home to the Royal Military Police after their departure from the Roussillon Barracks in Chichester. The elegant house is surrounded by a collection of utilitarian military buildings, the exception being the lovely RMP chapel which we were to visit in the afternoon.

It was a privilege to visit the base so close to the 70th anniversary of D-Day. After coffee in the officers' bar we were shown into the famous Map Room dominated by a huge wooden map of the English Channel, used to plot the course of the invasion. To our surprise we



learned that the map had been created not by an expert map maker, but by Chad Valley toys and brought to Southwick Park in pieces. It was reassembled there by a dockyard carpenter who, for security reasons, was 'incarcerated' afterwards for the duration of the invasion.

Today the map records the situation on D-Day at H-Hour (7.35 am), the hour set for the official start of the invasion. In fact paratroopers had dropped from gliders several hours earlier to take control of the all-important Pegasus Bridge. Under the map, weather charts from the days preceding D-Day showed the progress of the storm which delayed the invasion, originally planned for June 5, for 24 hours.

We were told how, in the teeth of strong opposition, the dour Scottish meteorologist James Stagg had contended that the invasion should be postponed on account of the weather. For those of us who had already seen the play 'Pressure' at the Minerva Theatre, this was a familiar story. Conditions in early June 1944 were ideal: a combination of long days and a low tide in the early morning, which the troops needed to disembark safely. If the invasion had not taken place on June 6, the conditions would not have been favourable again until June 19, when the worst summer storm on record occurred. If it had been postponed again, who knows when it might have taken place.

We heard of the measures taken to keep the invasion secret: a cloak and dagger story with agents and double agents spreading false information, Monty's double appearing in Gibraltar and a battle force of cardboard tanks being assembled in Kent to give the impression that Calais was about to be invaded. Such secrecy hardly seems possible in these days of electronic surveillance.

The visit to the Map Room brought home the immense debt of gratitude we owe to Eisenhower's skilled leadership, James Stagg's tenaciousness, and the courage of those who set out in the fragile landing craft to land on the Normandy beaches. Had the invasion been postponed until 1945, a very different situation would have prevailed, with the possibility of Russian forces penetrating as far as the Channel coast. This would have had far-reaching consequences for modern-day Europe.

After the inspirational visit to the Map Room there was time for a short visit to the RMP Museum before a traditional lunch in the Officers' Mess.

JULIA SANDER

RMP MUSEUM & CHICHESTER . . .

Given that the museum's previous 'home' was within the Keep at Chichester's Rousillon Barracks it was expected that the artefacts displayed would reflect this connection. It was a real pleasure to record a moment of nostalgia when long-time member Jim Payne



posed for the camera in front of the Charter which reads:

"At a meeting of the Council of the City of Chichester on the 3rd day of January 1996 it was unanimously resolved that the Honorary Freedom of the City of Chichester granted in January 1981 to the Corps of Royal Military Police is extant and bestowed on the Royal Military Police being the new title of the unit in the Adjutant General's Corps on the 5th April 1992."

on its incorporation in the Adjutant General Corps on the 5th April 1992. Given under the Common Seal of the order of the Council at a meeting held on the 3rd day of January 1996 in the presence of

*James Payne, Mayor
Edward Saunders, Town Clerk*



Eddie Saunders and former Councillors Ray Brown and John Wilton, who were party to this signing, had also joined us on this visit.

MAB

SCHOOLS ARTS COMPETITION 2014: 'A Tale of Twinned Cities':

Chapter 4 - Mixed Media : Illuminated Texts Ancient & Modern

A 'PRIVATE VIEW' and the 'AWARDS CEREMONY' - 5th & 21st June 2014



A new venture resulted in a special invitation being sent to all our members to attend a Private View of the Exhibition of schools' entries to this year's competition. This took place in The Studio at

Pallant House Gallery on Thursday 5th June 6.00 - 7.30pm and proved to be a great success. An electronic browser within the room displayed a slideshow of all the entries which had been received from thirteen local schools and four class entries from Chartres' l'école du Grand Jardin.



At least one entry from each school was selected to form the Studio Exhibition which was organised by Natalie Franklin, implemented by community artist Mandy Saw, and admired by more than 50 attendees. In addition to the Mayor & Mayoress (Cllr John Hughes and his wife Cherry) and our members, these included current and future sponsors, all three Directors of Pallant House Gallery, as well as teachers and Headteachers. All were asked to write their thoughts in the book which had been provided and these proved to be interesting and helpful.

Special guests of honour at the Awards Ceremony in Pallant House Gallery on 21st June were the Mayor & Mayoress of Chichester and the High Sheriff of West Sussex, Jonathan Lucas who, as requested, wore his court dress 'uniform' as a treat for the children, whilst



Patrick Geroudet, Deputy Mayor of Chartres and Claire Crézé, Chairman of Chartres' Twinning had travelled from France to help our Mayor present the awards.

The Executive Director of Pallant House Gallery, Marc Steene, welcomed all those present and paid a special thanks to the sponsors and councils who had provided grants. Friends of Chartres' Chairman, Ray Brown, then gave a brief history of the

background to the competition, which is now celebrating its 5th anniversary, and the on-going partnership with the Gallery. Natalie Franklin, Learning Programme Manager, explained how the subject had been chosen for this year's competition and as Lin Chaplin gave the judges' feedback, Marc and Ray presented each school (in alphabetical order) with their framed certificate.



Patrick Geroudet was given the Winner's Trophy for him to present to Class CM2 of l'école du Grand Jardin and also certificates for the other classes which had entered into the competition. Headteacher Mme Bonnin was thanked for her encouragement and support and

Patrick responded with praise for all the work entered into this year's competition. He confirmed his continued support and looked forward to the Musée des Beaux Art and Pallant House Gallery forming a working link in the future.

Claire Crézé presented the French 'Coup de Cœur' Trophy to Lavant Primary School for their 'illuminated' floor lamps showing clear links between the 2 cities and history of their own school.



As Marc announced the prize-winners in reverse order, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor jointly presented The March School with a 'Commended' certificate and Lavant House School a 'Highly Commended' certificate plus a 2-hour workshop at PHG. Finally Funtington Primary School was announced the 'Winner' and, in



addition to the Trophy and certificate, there was a 3-hour workshop for 16 pupils in Pallant House Gallery.

In summing up, the Chairman thanked PHG staff and also Rob Campling who took photos of the event. He also announced that once again all of the work would be taken to Chartres for Exhibition in the Mairie during September/October. A Reception was then held in the Garden Gallery to which everyone was invited.

MARGARET BROWN



LE PETIT CERCLE FRANÇAIS (Afternoons)

These are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at various homes of our members. We concentrate on conversation and might include a crossword puzzle or translation for homework. It is very informal and relaxed. The standard is variable and the more able help the less able. We start at 2.30pm and have tea between 4 and 4.30pm. Do contact any one of us to have a chat if you are interested. Spring venues are as follows:

SEPTEMBER

11th WENDY & PAUL DEVONSHIRE
in Sidlesham.....641457

OCTOBER

9th DAPHNE BOWLING
in Sidlesham.....641660

NOVEMBER

13th DIANE CURRIE
in Chichester.....789663

DECEMBER

11th MARGARET BROWN
in Chichester.....783776

Will you please confirm your attendance in advance to enable the host to provide sufficient cups for tea.

WENDY DEVONSHIRE : (01243) 641457

LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS AVANCÉ ('Twilight' meetings)

Up-to-date information from:

HENRIETTA NAPIER: (01243) 528238

MORNING LANGUAGE CIRCLE

We have been informed that this will be taking a 'rest' for the time being.:

FRENCH LANGUAGE CLASSES/COURSES

For other opportunities to learn French, at all levels, locally please go to:

Aspire Sussex Ltd (formerly WSCC Adult Ed. & Learning)
www.aspiresussex.org.uk - Tel: (01243) 850744

Chichester College (Westgate Fields, Chichester)
www.chichester.ac.uk - Tel: (01243) 786321
(course enquiry: info@chichester.ac.uk)

CHICHESTER WINS FIRST PRIZE
in Chartres' 2014 Photographic Competition



Mayor, John Hughes & Deputy Mayor, Patrick Geroudet assist Claire Crézé in presenting the Robert Laillet Prize to the Chichester Winner.

Two years ago the subject of this biennial photographic competition organised by the Association "Amis des Jumelages de Chartres" was 'Nature in the City' and we were delighted that Chichester took second prize with Anne Scicluna's photo of a 'Swarm of bees on a park bench' in New Park. This was used as the inspiration for this year's subject "**Unusual in the City**", which even Anne thought was extremely difficult. So, receiving the news that Chichester had won **FIRST PRIZE** in this year's competition brought much jubilation - even more so when learning that this was my photo! (shown right)

The judges select 19 entries to form the Exhibition and this year these were 12 from Ravenna (including **2nd & 3rd prize-winners**), 2 from St Prest (Eure-et-Loir), 1 each from Lujan (Argentina), Speyer (Germany), Sakurai (Japan) and 2 from Chichester. Ray's photo (left) taken at the Canal Basin was their other selection from Chichester's entries.



Thanks go to our other entrants, Anne Scicluna and John Field, and we hope that in two year's time we will have more entrants and also be able to retain Chichester's success

MARGARET BROWN

EDITORIAL

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition and also to Paul Devonshire and Clare Apel whose articles are now ready for the next edition. If you have anything which you think might interest our members, then please do contact me by phone, email or snail mail - details are given below - and the next deadline for me to receive copy is 30th August.

Let's hope this glorious weather continues through the summer and especially for our August Garden Party at the Devonshires. This will be a lovely re-union and I look forward to seeing you there and also at our future autumn events.