



The great, the good, and *The Bookseller* assembled on 3rd July in Kensington Palace Gardens for the annual HarperCollins author party. Determined the night wouldn't turn into a wake for outgoing c.e.o. Victoria Barnsley, liberal amounts of champagne were swilled and many a pork pie eaten. Throw in some models moonlighting as waiters, and it was certainly a night to remember.



From left Little, Brown c.e.o. Ursula Mackenzie, m.d. of Little, Brown and Abacus Richard Beswick, and Virago publisher Lennie Goodings celebrate the imprints' joint 40th birthday. Beswick joked that Abacus had "arrived at midlife without a crisis", while Goodings recalled the cleaning rota at Virago's original Soho offices. A long way from the glitzy environs of LSO St Luke's...

» HEALTHY BIG MAC

Gardening leave is for relaxing and, well, gardening isn't it? For mere mortals yes, but not for former Collins man Iain MacGregor. After HC closed the imprint, MacGregor got on his bike to train for this week's Tour de France Etape, a race for amateurs through Stage 20 of this year's Tour: a mere 130km through the Alps, finishing with a 6,500m climb to the top of Mount Semnoz.

MacGregor isn't doing it for the laughs—he's raising funds for Leukaemia Research. Those wanting to give a bob or two can go to www.justgiving.com/iain-macgregor. The regime has its ups and downs, says MacGregor: "I am now two stone lighter, but get drunk very easily."

» A FABULOUS PARTY

Jennifer Saunders proved an Ab Fab host at a party to launch her autobiography *Bonkers: My Life with Laughs* (Viking) at Soho's Century Club last week. But what does Jennifer think of her fellow authors? "Oh I like reading biographies... But not celebrity ones, I find them a bit..." she wrinkled her nose, and quickly tailed off following a nudge from her publicist.

The down-to-earth comedian was warmly received by staffers from W H Smith, Sainsbury's, Tesco, indie booksellers and more—Waterstones senior fiction buyer Janine Cook gave Saunders a warm hug at the end of the evening and told her, with a few cocktails of courage, how much she adored the actress.

» LORD AND PROFESSOR

Waterstones' Economists' Bookshop last week hosted the launch of *The Entrepreneurial State*, authored by Professor Mariana Mazzucato of the University of Sussex. The book, debunks the myth of the state as a static bureaucratic organisation only needed to "fix" market failures, instead arguing that a courageous state is needed to drive innovation-led growth.

Lord Adonis, who spoke at the launch to guests including Paul Ekins, Vicky Pryce and Dimitri Zenghelis, praised the work. His speech at the LSE campus store was warmly received—impressive for a man who was a key aide of Tony Blair and is widely regarded as one of the architects behind the controversial tuition fee hike.

» IN VOGUE

The latest *British Vogue*, out this week, contains an interview with Venetia Butterfield, Penguin's publishing director. She appears in "The Way We Wear", which looks at "how stylish ladies choose what to wear".

If she's having lunch with "someone important like Jeremy Paxman", Venetia wants "to look confident but not girly"—attired in "a black Stella trouser suit with a red jumper from Miu Miu". However, she dons "a skirt and shirt in bright colours" if meeting "a female literary agent who is, say, a bit older than me and rather formal". Whoever could she mean?

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THE BOOKSELLER GROUP

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