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FRIENDS OF RAVENNA



**NAPLES 1800: LOVE, WAR, SPYING
AND SKULDUGGERY**

An illustrated story by Alastair Alexander

Wednesday, 22nd September 2021 at 7.30pm

The Assembly Room, Council House

North Street, Chichester

Members £10.00 Non members £12.00

Naples at the end of the 18th century was the fourth most important city in Europe after London, Paris and Vienna. It was not only a centre of culture but its position on the Mediterranean, allied to all the enemies of Republican France, made it a geo-political fulcrum. Yet the extravagances of the Court were described as “wanton amusement ... to gratify the vilest passions”. In his talk Alastair Alexander explores how six people came together in the city at the time and how their relationships and activities in the midst of turmoil affected both the politics of the time and their own lives.

Alastair Alexander was recently elected Vice Chairman of the Friends of Ravenna and is the production editor of Gemelli. His work for an international company took him to Italy frequently in the 70's but it wasn't until recently he decided to learn Italian to catch up with his wife, Libby, who had lived in Rome for some years in the late 60's and early 70's. However, it was a book written at the time and a personal connection which raised his interest in Naples during the turbulent years of the late 18th Century which will be explained during the talk.