

June 2012

## **Arts Council England – Professor Jon Cook Reappointment & Mr Anil Ruia**

Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture, Communication and Creative Industries, has reappointed Professor Jon Cook and Mr Anil Ruia OBE for terms of eighteen months each as members of the Arts Council England National Board. Professor Cook's term will run from 8 September 2012 to 7 March 2014. Mr Ruia's will run from 24 November 2012 to 23 May 2014.

Jon Cook is Chair of Arts Council England East. He is a Professor of Literature and Director of the Centre of Creative and Performing Arts at the University of East Anglia, where he was also Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities between 2004-2010. The focus of his teaching and research is in romantic and modern literature. His publications include *Poetry in Theory* (2004) and a biography, *Hazlitt in Love* (2007). He has recently been a judge on the Caine Prize for African Writing and the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. A member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council Peer Review College, he has played an active role in the foundation and development of Writers Centre Norwich and is a course director on the UEA/Guardian Masterclasses project.

Anil Ruia is a company director who has a strong background in culture and sport in the north west region and also in supporting the region through his business and skills experience. He was formerly Chair of the Commonwealth Film Festival, Director of M2002 Ltd (Commonwealth Games), a board member of the Northwest Cultural Consortium and trustee of the National Museums Liverpool. In the business and skills area, he is a former board member of the Northwest Regional Skills Partnership, a former board member of Northwest Development Agency, past President of Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Vice Chair of Knowledge Capital, Manchester. He currently Chairs the Governing Body of the University of Manchester and is a board member of the Higher Education Funding Council for England. He also served as a magistrate at the Manchester City Magistrates Court for 20 years.

### Notes

1. Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. As the national development agency for the arts, we support a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, and carnival to crafts. Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better.
2. This reappointment has been made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity (if any declared) to be made public. No political activity has been declared by Professor Cook or Mr Ruia.