

## The Director of The Nehru Centre invites you to an evening with Shanta Acharya

**Shanta Acharya DPhil (Oxon)** is the author of ten books, including five volumes of poetry, three books on finance, a critical assessment of the Indian influence on the work of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Her latest publication, *A World Elsewhere*, a novel, will be launched at The Nehru Centre on 18 June 2015.

An internationally published poet, critic, reviewer and scholar, she has twice served on the board of trustees of the Poetry Society in the UK. Her poems figure in major anthologies such as *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia & Beyond* (W.W. Norton), *The Bloodaxe Book of Contemporary Indian Poets*, and *The HarperCollins Book of English Poetry*. Her *New & Selected Poems* is due for publication in 2016.



Born and educated in Cuttack, India, she won a scholarship to Oxford where she was among the first batch of women admitted to Worcester College. After completing her doctoral degree, she was appointed a Visiting Scholar in the Department of English and American Literature and Languages at Harvard University. Since 1985, she has lived and worked in London, initially in the City with investment firms such as Morgan Stanley and Barings, and later at London Business School. [www.shantaacharya.com](http://www.shantaacharya.com)

### Chair: Dr Alastair Niven LVO OBE

**Alastair Niven** graduated from the University of Cambridge, before taking further degrees and teaching at the Universities of Ghana and Leeds. He later held posts at the University of Stirling and at both the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies within the University of London. He is currently a Fellow of Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford.



He was Director General of the Africa Centre in London from 1978 to 1984. For ten years from 1987 he was Director of Literature at the Arts Council of Great Britain, and he then held the same position at the British Council for the following four years. In 2001 he was appointed Principal of Cumberland Lodge, a charitable foundation in Windsor. In addition, he was from 2003 to 2007 President of English PEN. He was Editor of *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature* for thirteen years. He was a Judge of the Booker Prize in 1994 and of the Man Booker Prize in 2014. He has written two books on D. H. Lawrence, two on Indian fiction, and over a hundred articles and essays on aspects of postcolonial literature. He was awarded an OBE in 2001 and in 2013 The Queen personally appointed him a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

Venue: The Nehru Centre, 8 South Audley Street, London W1K 1HF

Date: Thursday, 18 June 2015; Time: 6.00pm for 6.30pm start till 8.30pm