

## British Council time line

◀ **1929** D'Abernon report published; Rex Leeper joins the News Department at the Foreign Office

**1935** 2 July – inaugural meeting of the British Council held at St James's Palace

**1934** June – creation of the Committee of International Understanding and Co-operation announced; November – the British Committee for Relations with Other Countries created

**1938** Representation established in Poland and Egypt; British Council becomes responsible for British presence at Venice Biennale

**1939** Representation established in Italy; Resident Foreigners Committee (Home Division) created

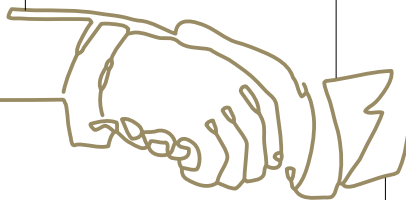
**1940** Royal Charter granted to British Council; British Council begins work in Brazil, Bulgaria, Spain and Iraq, but withdraws from Italy

**1941** British Council coat of arms granted; withdrawal from Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, but beginning of work in Bolivia

**1945** UNESCO founded; British Council begins work in USSR, Czechoslovakia and Hungary

**1947** Pandit Nehru invites British Council to begin work in India

An English class at the British Council Allied Centre, Liverpool



1930

1940

# 50 60



Local government course at the fire station, Southport

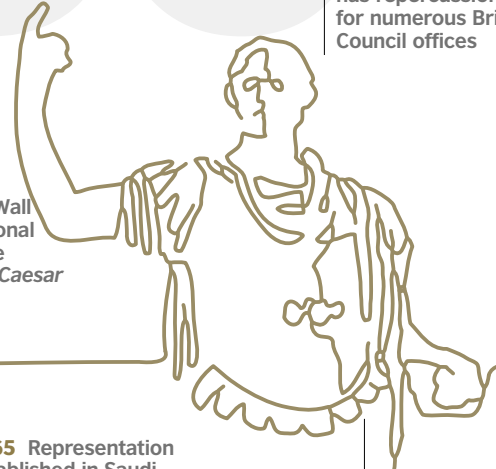
**1950** Defections lead to demands for a withdrawal from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria



**1956** British Council works with refugees fleeing Hungary following Soviet response to nationalist rising; British Council work temporarily affected by Suez Crisis

**1967** Six-Day War has repercussions for numerous British Council offices

**1961** Berlin Wall erected; National Youth Theatre put on *Julius Caesar* in Berlin



**1955** Soviet Relations Committee created

**1952** British Council forced to suspend work in China

**1959** Representation established in Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany; exchanges allow work with Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary

**1965** Representation established in Saudi Arabia; Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Rhodesia causes withdrawal of British Council representative

**1969** Representation established in Cuba and re-established in Iraq

1950

1960

# 70 80



**1973** British Council establishes representation in Korea and the USA through the UK Embassy

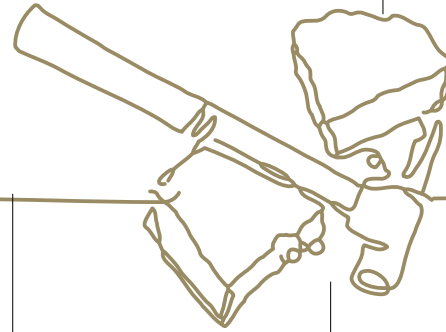
**1977** Visiting Arts established

**1980** Office closed in Afghanistan – work restarted in 2002; Ashington Group work shown in China – the first exhibition from the West since the Cultural Revolution

**1985** European Commission and Commonwealth Heads of Government support provision of assistance to non-violent resistance to apartheid



**1978** John Munby publishes *Communicative Syllabus Design*



**1989** Berlin Wall destroyed

**1974** The 20,000th UN Fellow studies at London Zoo

**1979** Iranian Revolution – British Council staff withdrawn

**1982** Office closed in Argentina – re-opened in 1991

**1987** British Council office in Cape Town relocated to Johannesburg

**1984** New 'spots' logo adopted

**1970**

**1980**

# 1990s



**1990** Know How Fund for Eastern Europe launched in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary; war with Iraq causes withdrawal of staff

**1996** British Council website launched

**2000** Offices reopened in Tehran after 20 years, and in Tripoli after 28 years

**2005** 'Youth activism: making a difference' conference held in Cape Town – significant point in the InterAction programme, supporting emerging African leaders as they face up to the challenges of the 21st century

**1998** Launch of British Council's Virtual Campus website



**1992** Office presence expanded in former Soviet Union; Chancellor's Financial Sector Scheme created in the former Soviet Union

**1999** Office opened in Pristina, Kosovo

**2002** Work with Afghanistan restarted – British Council director posted there in 2004

**2004** 25th anniversary of the founding of the Islamic Republic of Iran; British Council organises first exhibition of British art ever to be seen in the Islamic Republic with the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art; Global Xchange partnership between VSO, Community Service Volunteers and the British Council is established

**1995** Launch of Network English – a CD-ROM-based English language learning tool

## 1990

## 2000