



All Party Writers Group elects new chair

The All Party Writers Group (APWG) is pleased to announce that John Whittingdale MP has been elected as the new Chair of the Group.

The MP for Maldon has taken a keen interest in copyright protection, and supported the Digital Economy Act as it progressed through Parliament because *"We need to send a signal that we take the issue of piracy seriously"*. More recently Whittingdale was re-elected as Chairman of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, a position he has held since 2005.

On his successful election to Chair of the All Party Writers Group he stated: *"The creative industries form a hugely significant part of the UK economy and will have a major role to play in our efforts to establish a more financially stable future. These industries are built around the talent and hard work of creative individuals and I am therefore delighted to be involved with this group at such an important time for creators"*.

To support John Whittingdale in his role Denis MacShane MP remains on the Group as Vice Chair and award winning author, Baroness Ruth Rendell, has taken over the role of Secretary from the new Minister for Culture, Ed Vaizey. Jim Dowd MP takes on the role of Treasurer.

All Party Writers Group Fringe Events at the Party Conferences

Among the new MPs elected to Parliament who have joined the APWG is novelist Louise Bagshawe, MP for Corby and East Northants. We're pleased to announce that Louise will be joining us at the Conservative Party Fringe conference this year on 3rd October 2010 in Birmingham as a panelist on our *'What is the future of the book?'* debate.

The line up for debate, to be chaired by John Whittingdale MP, also includes Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture; publisher Richard Charkin and Google's Sarah Hunter.

APWG will be holding a similar event at this autumn's Labour party conference on 29th September. APWG Vice Chair Denis MacShane will host the Labour debate, alongside author Stella Duffy; Ben Bradshaw MP; publisher Gail Rebeck and Sarah Hunter.

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Notes for Editors

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About All Party Groups

All Party Groups provide an opportunity for Members of Parliament to help keep the Government and Opposition informed of opinion both inside and outside Parliament on policy issues.