

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## Publishing, partying, picking post-holders

AS MOST freelances aren't formally part of an office, they don't have an office Christmas party to go to. However, London freelances are invited to a seasonal London Freelance Branch networking party on **Monday 8 December**. The venue is Swintons pub, 61 Swinton St, London WC1. This is round the corner from the NUJ's HQ in Gray's Inn Road, and a reasonably short walk from King's Cross Tube. The party starts at the usual meeting time of 7pm. Some free drink is laid on (within limits – no free spirits) and all the food is free.

The Branch Annual General Meeting is part of the meeting on

**Monday 12 January 2009**. This is when the Branch elects its office-holders and Branch delegates for the NUJ annual conference later in the year. Any member of the Branch can stand, with nominations open right up until the night. See [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0810ctte.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0810ctte.html) for details of what's involved, as well as Branch initiatives to support those who may be thinking of standing for these elections.

There's a chance we may also have a mystery guest – possibly a celebrity from the world of broadcasting – doing a short talk in the January meeting on issues around journalism and the credit crunch.

This issue went to press on

**5 November**.

The deadline for the January issue is **5 December**.

With the exception of December's party, LFB meetings are 7pm to 9pm at **Friends' House, Euston Road**, which is accessible to people who use wheelchairs.

If you need the Branch to pay for care for a child or dependent so you can attend a meeting, call a Branch officer.

For updates on meetings see the Branch calendar web page [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html)

## Where to get help

THE *FREELANCE* editors are working journalists. Most of the time we're working for clients other than the *Freelance*. So please don't call us about things for which can get better and faster help elsewhere.

If you're waiting for your **Press Card**, ring NUJ head office on **020 7278 7916** and tell the switchboard you want to talk to the **membership department's** dedicated staff member working on Press Cards. They can tell you how long it will take to process your application. Have your membership number ready. For enquiries about membership – if, for example, you've sent in

your **application for membership** and you're still waiting to hear whether it's been approved – call the NUJ head office on the number above and ask to speak to the **membership department** – also the people to go to with enquiries about reduced contributions.

There's a full list of contacts for the NUJ nationally, including its membership department, on [www.nuj.org.uk](http://www.nuj.org.uk) – see the contact page via [www.nuj.notlong.com](http://www.nuj.notlong.com) – note this is a different website to LFB's [www.londonfreelance.org](http://www.londonfreelance.org)

For advice on **other freelance issues**, including copyright, contact

the NUJ Freelance Office on 020 7843 3735 or email [freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk](mailto:freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk) and ask John Toner or Pamela Morton. But don't ring them with general enquiries about membership or Press Cards, either, please.

The editors did wonder how people who don't make these distinctions survive in journalism. Then we took a call from a member with a Press Card inquiry – on a direct line number at a client's office, that is never given out to anyone, ever. With research skills like that, this person may go far, though not perhaps in the intended direction.

## All quiet on the yuletide front?

CHRISTMAS comes but once a year, bringing with it, for freelances at least, too many unpaid days we are forced to take off, with no one around to interview or pitch to. To help you through these potentially unprofitable times, we commend to you Humphrey Evans' invaluable guide to surviving the Christmas season at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/survive.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/survive.html)

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This Christmas season, there are some additional freelance-related things you might like to catch up on while it's all quiet on the work front:

- If you haven't yet sorted out your entry for the NUJ's Freelance Directory, do it in the Yuletide downtime. Go to [www.freelancedirectory.org](http://www.freelancedirectory.org)

## UNCLASSIFIED AD

**FREELANCE UNCLASSIFIEDS** are FREE to members for non-commercial purposes. To non-members and for commercial purposes, £10 for this much text, roughly. Acceptance is at the editors' whim; appearance does not imply endorsement. If you have any comments on an advertiser, tell us. Submit your ads by email to [unclassified@londonfreelance.org](mailto:unclassified@londonfreelance.org)

**DESK AVAILABLE** in bright studio in Clerkenwell sharing with freelance journalists and foreign correspondents. Rent of £183.25pcm includes VAT and covers all bills except phone and broadband. Great space in a building full of small creative companies and journalists. Terrific location near Farringdon and Chancery Lane tubes and Leather Lane market, between the City and the West End. For more information contact Gill Gledhill 02072421655 or email [gill@gghq.co.uk](mailto:gill@gghq.co.uk)

- If you haven't signed up with the Authors Licensing and Copyright Society (ALCS) yet, do it in the quiet period. ALCS distributes to authors who are members the money due to them from library photocopying, etc. If you're already signed up, you have a deadline of **1 January 2009** to send them details of the "journal" articles you wrote between 2005 to the end of 2007. See [www.alcs.co.uk](http://www.alcs.co.uk)
- If you're an illustrator or a photographer, you get to do the same over the quiet period in the summer, instead, with the Design and Artists Copyright Society ([www.dacs.co.uk](http://www.dacs.co.uk))
- The British Library is moving some of its collections out of London ([www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0810bl.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0810bl.html)) so to catch up on those old journals and newspapers go to the British Library's St Pancras and Colindale sites, open daily except Sundays and 25, 26 and 28 December and 1 January, closing early on 31 December.

## Freelance contacts

**NUJ main number** ...020 7278 7916  
All membership and press card inquiries to this number, please!

**Freelance office**.....020 7843 3735  
email .....[freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk](mailto:freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk)  
✉.....308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP

**Legal emergency only:**  
office hours .....0800 587 7528  
at other times .....0800 587 7530

**Freelance Editors**  
Mike Holderness.....  
Matt Salusbury.....  
email: [editor@londonfreelance.org](mailto:editor@londonfreelance.org)  
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Branch contacts: [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb)  
Phone numbers are due to appear again next issue

**FREELANCE**

## Let them work!

Exiled journalists who are asylum seekers can now become full NUJ members but it's still practically impossible for them to get paid work with a media outlet based in the UK, as asylum seekers are denied the right to do paid work. This is a right that some asylum seekers used to have, but which has been taken away from them. The Refugee Council and the Trades Union Congress are asking trade union members to write to their MPs on this issue as part of their Let Them Work campaign. See [www.letthemnotlong.com](http://www.letthemnotlong.com)

## Muso machinations

Photographers covering gigs and music at venues all over the UK are increasingly concerned about so-called "agreements" issued at the moment of entry to a concert. The NUJ is working with several music photographers on a model agreement: more at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0812muso.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0812muso.html)