

FREELANCE CONTACTS

Headland House / freelance office

John Toner / Pamela Morton020 7843 3735
 emailfreelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk
 fax020 7278 1812
 ☒308 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP
 ☎www.nuj.org.uk

Legal emergency only:

England & Wales0800 587 7530
 Scotland0800 085 3425

Dublin office / Liberty Hall

Seamus Dooley +353 087 2236364
 email:seamusd@nuj.ie

London Freelance Branch officers:

Freelance Editors

Mike Holderness, Matt Salusbury
 email:editor@londonfreelance.org

Remaining contacts are in print edition only.

© 2008 authors; moral rights asserted.

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Journalism in a cold climate

WHAT SHOULD the role of journalism be during a global financial crisis and recession? We hope to have a speaker from the world of financial journalism to discuss this at our Branch AGM on **Monday 12 January**. There have been accusations that the media first failed to predict the credit crunch, and then contributed to the crisis with its over-enthusiastic doom-mongering. Is the situation we find ourselves in a bit like journalism in time of war, where we face a clear duty to report the truth, but also pressure not to be seen to "let the side down" by panicking the public into an even worse disaster?

The January AGM is also the time when we elect committee members for the coming year, and elect a Branch delegation to go to the NUJ conference in Southport on **19-22 November 2009**. See below for more details of the committee elections. You can nominate yourself at the 12 January meeting, but you can contact a member of the committee before then if you are interested in standing (see contacts at left).

How to help yourself in difficult times, and how journalists can help each other through mutual aid in a recession, are the topics for the Branch meeting on **Monday 9**

February. Award winning broadcaster, radio presenter, journalist and scriptwriter Andrew Collins will speak on how to make the most of yourself and your work during tough financial times. We will also have Chris Wheal, of NUJ Extra, the union's charity for journalists in need, which celebrates its centenary in 2010. Chris will cover the work of this fund, what it can do for journalists in financial trouble (and what it can't do), and ways in which the Branch can support the work of NUJ Extra.

- To make sure you get email alerts of meetings and the electronic *Freelance* – just one message a month – visit www.londonfreelance.org/linkup

This issue went to press on **10 December**. Deadline for the online-only February issue: **call us**.

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

In these difficult times...

WE DON'T YET know how the "credit crunch" is affecting freelancers. On past form, the *Freelance* expects managements to make dire pronouncements about cutting freelance budgets, or even, like the *Express* papers, eliminating shifts entirely. Then the editors remember they have to produce a paper. Staff vacancies likely haven't been filled. The amount of work for freelancers to do may even go up.

One thing you don't have to worry about is keeping up your NUJ subscription. If your

gross taxable income – after deducting business expenses – is less than £10,000 a year, you need pay only £4.17 a month for your NUJ membership.

Only when your taxable income reaches £18,900 a year do you need to pay the full freelance rate of £15.75 a month. In between, it's on a sliding scale.

See www.nujsubs.notlong.com for details. Contact the NUJ's membership department to apply for reduced subs – email sharong@nuj.org.uk

Jobs summit

The NUJ is hosting a Jobs Summit on **Saturday 24 January** for all NUJ members to learn from successes and experiences fighting cuts across the country. It's at the NUJ HQ in Grey's Inn Road, London WC1. For more information see www.nuj.org.uk or email campaigns@nuj.org.uk.

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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

WRITING AND SELLING FEATURES course on idyllic Greek island of Paxos, 4 - 11 May. Trainer Judi Goodwin has run courses for NUJ and IPC Magazines. Morning workshops - relax in afternoon. Telephone 01625 439000 or www.paxoslife.com

THE COMPLETE CREATIVE WRITING course at the Groucho Club offers courses for beginners and advanced students and also in screenwriting. Courses start in mid January. Cost: £265-£285 including VAT for six three-hour sessions. For full details go to www.writingcourses.org.uk or ring Maggie on 0207 683 8141

LFB needs you!

Elections for members of the London Freelance Branch committee happen at our Annual General Meeting on **Monday 12 January**. We still need people to stand for committee posts, see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html for details. The Branch is offering a free one-day course in minute-taking at the National Centre for Voluntary Organisations, for members who are considering standing for Secretary (including as a job share), or who feel they might want to support the Secretary with occasional minute-taking during Branch meetings.

We expect that there will be a free two-day NUJ Training course for freelance activists and officers in early 2009, watch this space for details. For other support available to prospective committee candidates, see the writeup at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0810ctte.html. If you're new to LFB, you may prefer to first get settled and approach the committee about standing for a committee position later.