

## FREELANCE CONTACTS

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## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## Forbidden zones, subbing matters

REPORTING from places where journalists are restricted – or completely banned – is the subject of the Branch meeting on **Monday 11 May**. Our confirmed speaker is writer, documentary film maker, producer and scriptwriter James Brabazon. He has reported from numerous “forbidden zones” around the world that are officially closed to journalists. We also hope to have as a speaker Ramita Naval, who has covered Afghanistan and one of the few able regularly to report to the UK from Iran.

The Branch meeting on **Monday 15 June** is provisionally on sub-editing matters. At a time when the future of the whole profession of sub-editors seems to be in doubt, veteran sub-editor and production journalist Martin Cloake will share with us the benefit of 20 years of experience, as he discusses all things

connected with the world of subbing.

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

This issue went to press in a print version on **14 April**. Deadline for the (online only) June issue: **22 May**.

London Freelance Branch meetings are from 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 this and future meetings see the Branch calendar web page at [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings)

## LETTERS

## Ask for more, now

Amid all the current doom and gloom, it's still possible to get pay rises – even the odd decent one.

Most clients I have asked for a rate rise over the past 12 months have agreed to one, even if it's only been small. Some commissioning editors really do understand that times are tough.

And some, faced with recruitment freezes, are prepared to pay over the odds to secure the services of someone they know can deliver the goods. I know of several instances – usually subject to confidentiality agreements – where this has happened.

On the other hand, I've heard horror stories about people being asked to write for free for publications that fully intend to profit from their work.

We're going to need some money stashed away in case things get worse, so don't be afraid to request a rise – or even payment in the first place. I have never lost work through asking for more.

**Christy Lawrance**

## Photographers' protest

I was very disappointed and angry to read in the latest issue of the *Freelance* (Mar/Apr 08) that you referred to our photographer media event outside New Scotland Yard as being “well over 100 photographers” when it was actually 300-plus that attended (see the *Journalist* report).

Neither of you were at the event, or indeed was anyone from the Freelance Office, so where did you get this figure?

Also, you call it a “mass snap-in”. We don't take “snaps”, we are professionals trying to do our jobs and don't take too kindly to our union journal dismissing our collective actions.

It was an NUJ-organised event, the most successful of its type in my career and it should be applauded and given more than a poorly written picture caption. Please can you correct the online version immediately.

**Jess Hurd** Photographer

- We held space to cover the event, which happened well after our deadline, and inserted the caption on page-proof: [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0903coak.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0903coak.html). At that time we had seen one blog posting with a higher number: there was no time to seek independent confirmation of the number. There was the photo, showing many dozens. Hence the default position for page-proof corrections: make it not false.

## Getting started...

The next outing of the Getting Started as a Freelance course is on **31 July**: see [www.nujtraining.org.uk](http://www.nujtraining.org.uk) for booking information and costs. And on **6 August** tutor Humphrey Evans offers an introduction to sub-editing: you can get a flavour from Humphrey's brand-new website at [www.subeditanything.com](http://www.subeditanything.com)

## 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 [unclassifieds@londonfreelance.org](mailto:unclassifieds@londonfreelance.org)

**JOIN THE Bromley Creative Community** and expose your expertise to new clients who are looking for professional creative, arts and media suppliers in the Bromley area. Membership is open to creative providers within the London Borough of Bromley. More information from the website [www.bromleycreative.org.uk](http://www.bromleycreative.org.uk).

**FRANCE PROFONDE**: simply restored coach house in medieval village near Limoges. The perfect place to write that novel, escape from PRs or forget about commissioners. £200-£500 a week with ten per cent discount for NUJ members. [www.stbenoitdusault.com](http://www.stbenoitdusault.com)

**THE COMPLETE CREATIVE** Writing Course at the Groucho Club offers fiction writing courses for beginners, intermediate and advanced students and also in screenwriting and writing for children. Courses start in May. Cost: £265-£285 including VAT for six three-hour sessions. For full details go to [www.writingcourses.org.uk](http://www.writingcourses.org.uk) or ring Maggie on 0207 683 8141.