

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Why websites? Summer holidays!

YOUR WEB presence is the subject of the LFB meeting on **Monday 13 July**. Our speaker will be Gary Herman, of the NUJ's New Media Industrial Council and designer of several LFB members' websites.

Does every journalist really need a web site these days? If so, what's the best approach to building your own – or paying someone to do it? How can you ensure the content you are showcasing isn't buried under an avalanche of presentational, time-consuming web gimmicks? What about keeping it updated?

We'll look at the pros and cons, and copyright implications, of using free web tools like blogger.com and flickr to showcase your work, and ask: Facebook and Twitter – essen-

tial tools or vast waste of time?

The July meeting will also feature elections for LFB delegates to represent the Branch at the NUJ's conference (Annual Delegate Meeting or ADM) in Southport in November – see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html. The July meeting is also the deadline to submit motions to the Branch for voting on whether to take these to the union's Annual Delegate Meeting. Experts on submitting ADM motions will be on hand to advise.

There is *no* LFB meeting in August: enjoy your summer holidays, or nearest freelance equivalent. Remember that if you get paid time off on the basis of shifts worked, you are actually supposed to take the

time off, because it's good for you.

The topics for LFB meetings in the autumn are yet to be confirmed.

This issue went to press on **25 June**, and *might* not arrive in time for the July LFB meeting. Deadline for the (printed) August/September issue: **21 August**.

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 at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html

Branch contacts: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb
Phone numbers are due to appear again next issue

FREELANCE

From staff to freelance – easing the way

ARE YOU a staff journalist newly or recently made redundant? Have you turned reluctantly to freelancing? The Branch is holding an evening for you to share experiences and learn from them. The event will include short, informal presentations by LFB's Phil Sutcliffe and Humphrey Evans, trainers for over 20 years on NUJ Training's Getting Started as a Freelance course.

Topics will include what help the union can offer "redundos" turning freelance, chasing money, and culture shock – from looking for work to planning lifetime finances. We will

hope to learn from a former staffer made redundant some months ago on how they're making it through, and there will be opportunities for participants to circulate and exchange experiences and ideas. NUJ Freelance Organiser John Toner and subbing expert Martin Cloake (speaker at the June LFB meeting, see page 5) have also been invited to offer advice. (See also www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0905redu.html for links to advice.)

The event is on **Monday 27 July** from 6pm to 8:15pm at NUJ HQ, Headland House, 308-312 Gray's

Inn Rd, London WC1X (King' Cross Tube). Tea and sarnies are on the house. Please spread the word to anyone you meet who's newish to freelancing. Please email the Freelance Office if you are going.

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- There's an extra outing of the related Pitch & Deal course on **Wednesday 23 September** – and the next Getting Started course is on **Friday 31 July**. See www.nujtraining.org.uk

New members meet

THERE'S a meeting for new members of the London Freelance Branch on **Thursday 23 July** at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1 (nearest Tube Holborn) from 5:30 to 7pm. It's a chance to meet other new members, and also to pick the brains of some longer established journo who will be on hand to give advice. For more details, call 07 985 273 405 or email davrotch@yahoo.co.uk.

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For these and more see www.londonfreelance.org/fl

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INVESTIGATIVE journalist with spine and conscience needed, to help establish why transgender as a minority has no voice or power in the 21st century. Contact Bruce Laker c/o Freelance Office, email freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk

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