

New ways to make journalism pay

AT A TIME when the media industry is in meltdown, London Freelance Branch is responding by finding ways in which we as journalists can do something about it. Registration is now open for the LFB's New Ways to Make Journalism Pay conference in January.

This highly practical conference on **Saturday 16 January 2010** will discuss how quality journalism can be saved and will look at viable alternatives for journalists outside the crisis-hit newspaper sector. Meet journalists making a living in local news co-ops, online business papers and services, blogging and niche market magazines. Learn how to set up on your own and where to find new sources of funding plus business advice and training.

Speakers include:

- Press Gazette editor Dominic Ponsford
- blogging supremo Guido Fawkes
- writer and media commentator Granville Williams
- community funding specialist Ian Reeves (also of Press Gazette)
- NUJ general secretary Jeremy Dear
- plus the founders of local print periodicals *Camden New Journal* and *Bath Parent* and online magazines *The Business Pages* and *Indusdelta*.

And we've just had confirmation that Gavin MacFayden, of the Investigations Fund, will also be speaking.

Built into the programme will be "meaningful tea-breaks" where participants can share their own exchange ideas on possible new models for making a living out of the profession, and how these might work. Lunch is included.

Go to www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0911ways.html where there's a link to a registration form to fill in and post with a cheque to register for the conference. It's £10 to NUJ members, £5 to NUJ student members and concessions, and £15 to non-members, cheques payable to "NUJ London Freelance Branch". Places are likely to fill soon, so be quick about it.

The venue is the NUJ HQ at Headland House, Gray's Inn Road, London WC2. Watch this space for updates; further information and registration forms are also available from Pamela Morton in the Freelance Office, email: pamelam@nuj.org.uk

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- Register:
www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0911ways.doc

Elect an editor!

By now you should have got your ballot paper for the election of a new editor of the *Journalist* (www.thejournalist.org.uk) the NUJ's magazine (the one that comes with the print edition *Freelance* mailing). If you haven't, ring NUJ head office. You have to post the ballot in the pre-paid envelope to arrive by 6 November. In view of the current

postal situation, best send it as soon as possible after you've read the candidates' statements.

London Freelance Branch offered all candidates the opportunity to put their statements on the *Freelance* website, so watch www.londonfreelance.org for these going up soon. See www.nuj.org.uk for announce-

ments of *Journalist* editor election hustings.

Recent NUJ elections for Deputy General Secretary and for National Executive Council posts have had shockingly low turnouts – well under 20 per cent, at great expense. We should all make the effort to ensure that as many NUJ members as possible vote this time around.