

## Irish appeal

The NUJ in Ireland is keen to make sure of having up-to-date contact details for all members in the country – especially any who do work for the *Examiner* and *Echo* titles in Cork. Email [info@nuj.ie](mailto:info@nuj.ie) please!



## The Trireme Award

This month's Trireme Award, for terms that are "the worst since I was last chained to the oars", goes to Dorling Kindersley for their offer for re-use of a work done over a decade ago. Just because you've already done the work, it doesn't mean you can't still be exploited through derisory remuneration for the work's re-use. One freelance was offered a staggering six per cent of net price received on all copies of the e-book version of a book they'd previously had published. As the *Freelance Fees Guide* suggests, (see [www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide/PrBooRat.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide/PrBooRat.html)) royalties starting at 40 per cent are typical for electronic book editions of this kind.

Photo courtesy  
Trireme Trust

# The Rate for the Job

THINKING about work for a company you've not dealt with before? Simply look at the Rate for the Job to find out what companies in similar niches have paid. Then aim higher.

We have a thin crop of rates this

time – please submit rates you've recently been paid online, in confidence, at any time, at [www.londonfreelance.org/rates](http://www.londonfreelance.org/rates) and please give not only the basic rate (e.g. for **FBS**, First British Serial rights) but extra payments negotiated for extra uses, like the Web – or for print if it's a Rate for the Online Job. These are shown as (eg) £400 + 100. We now record rates paid in Euro as well.

Rates marked **X** are, in the editor's fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even perhaps the happy ☺.

**Photography:** 10/4/10 Coalition Save the Welfare State day commission to cover event, simply for shooting. Usage fees to be agreed with individual coalition members, mainly unions etc. at standard NUJ rates, £370; *Cumbrian Life* day 8

hours, one feature and 3 fillers, prod/exes 40p per mile £120 **XX**.

**Teaching:** Solent University teaching two-hour seminar £100.

**Words, per 1000:** *Eurostar Magazine* feature £300 **X**; *24 Housing* £276 **X**; *Independent on Sunday* travel piece, no expenses £250 **X**; *Classic Rock* £200 **X**; *D of PC (?)* £10 per photo used + £200; *Songlines* feature £122 **X**; *History Today* £115 **X**; *Coach and Bus Week* one-off article £100 **XXXX**; *Times Literary Supplement* review £100 **XX**; *Hot News* online £100 **X**; *Printmaking Today* feature £76 **X**; *Bookdealer* feature £75 **X**.

**Words, other:** *Evening Standard* live concert review £140 **X**; *The Oldie* kill fee for 600-word book review £50 **X**; *Renaissance Press* political comment, wordage unspecified £50 **X**.

## So how is it for you?

JUST how much freelance work is disappearing? Adam Christie of the NUJ's Freelance Industrial Council is compiling a short report on this phenomenon, as an update to similar reports he has compiled, which have been cited by the NUJ widely in the continuing campaign against cutbacks in the media industry. (See a report of Adam's talk on disappearing work, and responses to it, at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0911adam.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0911adam.html))

The union already has a good idea about how rates are being cut, so we really need to know about what is no longer being commissioned, whether in the media industry or elsewhere.

Sources will remain confidential. Also, if you don't want us to disclose particular titles or outlets, just say so. Knowing which groups are cut-

ting or have cut the most commissioned work is helpful, though.

Below is a good example of the way in which you should submit data on disappearing work for this report, from a real (anonymous) freelance describing their own experiences of work disappearing in the course of one year. If you could name some of the companies you're no longer working with, even better.

- websites closed/not paying: 2
- magazines closed: 2
- newspapers closed: 1
- newspapers who've cut rates: 2
- websites who've cut rates: 1
- magazines who've not raised freelance rates (since 2006): 2
- newspapers/sections/supplements who've commissioned less work from freelancers for cost reasons: 8

- new regular paying clients that I didn't have last tax year: 1
- number of those new clients who've not paid the invoice and for whom I won't work again: 1
- number of new paying clients who've approached me but whose rates are too low for me to work for them: 1
- number of new clients where work will be infrequent or one-off: 2

Please let Adam know about any freelance work that you know has disappeared in the last few months – by **18 July**, in time for the information gathered to be presented to the next NUJ National Executive Council meeting in that month. Send data by email to: [freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk](mailto:freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk) with "Disappearing freelance work" in the subject line.

## Watch for Johnston strikettes

JOHNSTON PRESS had its Annual General Meeting on 30 April enlivened by shareholders – many of them, perhaps by coincidence, journalists – questioning executive pay, staff morale and the pressures on journalists.

Those pressures were illustrated by 70 per cent of Johnston journalists voting for industrial action to combat job losses and increased levels of stress and workload caused by

the introduction of the Atex content management system with inadequate training. Those in Scarborough, Whitby and district were on strike that day.

Then on 15 May the High Court ruled that Johnston in fact employs no journalists. This is not prescience about the effect of management policies, but an outcome of Tory anti-union laws. It obliges the NUJ to re-ballot in each of the subsidiary

companies that formally owns the papers. This could lead to a series of legally separate strikettes in various companyettes.

Watch [www.nuj.org.uk](http://www.nuj.org.uk) for updates. As ever, the chapels would appreciate it if freelancers engaged to work on any strikette days found themselves unavailable. Anyone suffering hardship as a result of being unavailable should contact the chapel.

### TAX from p 1

a singer whose teeth had started whistling, and he'd shortly be going in to bat for an actress who'd had a boob job wholly and exclusively to get more work.

Concluding on a few random queries, he said that Arts Council

grants were taxable "income from work" like any other fee, that keeping receipts (for six years) is a fine idea although in practice HMRC wouldn't investigate you for an undocumented sarnie or book of stamps – and freelancers don't need to have accountants... if they "know

the factors involved".

For more info on these issues see the *Freelance Fees Guide* at [www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide](http://www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide). Contact Eric Longley by sending email to [theabsolutepants@btinternet.com](mailto:theabsolutepants@btinternet.com)

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