

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Paywalls, pick people for posts, party

PAYWALLS: will they work? That's the subject of the London Freelance Branch meeting on **Monday 8 November**. We will look at the implications of recent paywall models at *The Times* and other newspapers, that charge readers to see online content. Could such paywall models save quality journalism? Our speaker will be Dan Sabbagh, founder and publisher of media news website Beehive City, and former media editor of *The Times*.

Exiled journalist and NUJ member Charles Atangana has been invited to the meeting to update us on the campaign to stop his deportation to Cameroon (see below).

This is also the meeting at which the Branch needs to debate policy motions to table at the union's next national Delegate Meeting (conference) in Southport in April 2011. Send motions to be debated at the November LFB meeting, and nomi-

nations for union bodies elected at DM, to Tom Davies, Branch Secretary, by **Friday 5 November**: email tomdaviesnui@hotmail.co.uk – there's a guide to formulating motions and to the bodies at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/adm.html

The LFB gathering on **Monday 13 December** is a seasonal Branch party. The venue is provisionally the fifth floor of the NUJ's national HQ at Headland House, 308-312 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP (nearest Tube King's Cross). See www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html for an update. Our guests include Charles Atangana.

The meeting on **Monday 10 January 2011** is the Branch Annual General Meeting, at which LFB elects its committee for the next year, amends its rules if need be and elects members of its delegation to represent the Branch at April's NUJ Delegate Meeting. See

www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html for what the various committee posts entail.

This issue went to press on **22 October**. Deadline for the December issue is **26 November**

LFB meetings – with the exception of the December Branch party – 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 page www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings

Volunteer minute-takers are needed for the LFB meetings for November and for meetings throughout 2011. For London Photographers' Branch meetings, see www.londonphotographers.org

Hurry, hurry, bargain training

NUJ MEMBERS who are "authors" in the broadest sense can now get £37.50 off an NUJ Training one-day course or £55 off a two-day course, as a result of funding from ALCS (p2). That's for the first 75 authors who apply. See the course calendar at www.nujtraining.org.uk

The Federation of Entertainment Unions, of which the NUJ is a part, has training courses in Manchester, Bristol and Leeds until January. For

just £25 they offer Building your own website, Marketing yourself, Money matters and Networking via the web. There may still be places on FEU's free self-promotion workshop in London on **20 November**: see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1011feu.html

And see the NUJ discounts on Centre for Investigative Journalism computer-assisted reporting courses at www.tcij.org/training

LETTER

Celebrate the Rex victory

I AM surprised the NUJ has not made more capital from your astonishing last-minute intervention with the OFT to save Rex Features from being gobbled by Getty.

I'm pretty certain that was a done deal until the NUJ intervened. You have saved a clutch of jobs enjoyed by people who love working for a close-knit family company... and you have also helped preserve freelance competition and opportunity in the workplace. You did a fantastic job. My part must forever remain dark, but yourself and the NUJ should take the praise; that one action justified my lifetime Union membership.

Next time I'm in London I'll buy

you a pint and bring a box of tissues. Sooo emotional!

Frank Selby, who founded Rex in a garage in 1950 is now 92, almost blind, very frail... he worked for *Picture Post*, then had his camera taken away during the war as an alien. He survived to create Rex. I first met him in 1976... I have never, for one second, regretted that introduction.

I was scolded by Frank, encouraged by Frank, grumped-at by Frank, lunched by Frank, told off by Frank, but he always had one consistent purpose in mind: to convince me to think of my future, to retain copyrights. Frank Selby, at 92, is a very modern man.

Grateful member

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tell us. Submit your ads by email to unclassified@londonfreelance.org

FREELANCE MEDIA GROUP – journalists, writers, editors, artists – meets once a month at the Groucho Club: for details see www.freelancemediagroup.org.uk



Protest pension penury

THE STATE pension is so inadequate that many of the 500 members of the London Freelance Branch aged over 60 can't afford to retire. Only 14 per cent of working journalists are in occupational pension schemes. The need to defend state pensions is greater than ever, said Pat Healy, chair of NUJ Pensioners' Committee and LFB's vice-chair, at LFB's September meeting (above). For a report see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1010sixt.html

Photo: © Matt Salusbury

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

FREELANCE

Charles Atangana updates

CHARLES Atangana, the exiled journalist and NUJ member fighting deportation to Cameroon, had his case adjourned for three months on 7 October. See www.londonfreelance.org/nujlinks.html#Charles for more.

More online:

- **Murky world of e-book contracts** – tell us what's happening
- **Support photographer Daniel Morel** – sued for claiming rights
- **Freelance Council vacancies**
- **NUJ slams phone seizure**
- **O'Hagan suspect's case fails against Sunday World**