

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Choose committee, copyright at Commons?

IF THIS arrives in time, know that the London Freelance Branch gathering on **Monday 13 December** is a seasonal party, with free food and drink laid on. The venue is the fifth floor of the NUJ HQ at Headland House, 308-312 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP, nearest Tube King's Cross. Kick off is (or will have been) at the usual 7pm. The party is hosted jointly with NUJ London Magazine Branch. Our guests include journalist Charles Atananga, fighting deportation to Cameroon.

The London Freelance Branch meeting on **Monday 10 January 2011** is the Branch AGM, in which we elect the Branch committee for the next year, and two auditors to examine the Branch accounts. For details, see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html. We offer support for potential committee members: see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1001jobs.html – and NUJ Training hopes to run a course for freelance activists and reps in 2011.

January's meeting also features elections for members of the Branch delegation to the Union's Delegate Meeting (DM, its conference) on **8-10 April 2011** in sunny Southport, Lancashire. For information on what the Delegate Meeting does, see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0912adm.html

The LFB meeting on **Monday February 14** is provisionally at the House of Commons, on the subject of yet another review of copyright legislation. Or two copyright reviews, as different bits of the state are reviewing this area of the law. There's the "Hargreaves Review" (page 1) and the Select Committee on Culture Media and Sport review of intellectual property law, both of which have implications for "creators" like us.

Watch online for confirmation of the venue and for more details of the meeting, and make sure you get our monthly email by visiting www.londonfreelance.org/linkup

We hope to have a meeting on investigative journalism sometime in early 2011. Watch this space.

This issue went to press on **30 November**. Deadline for the February print edition is **28 January**

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

Volunteer minute-takers are needed for the LFB meeting in January and for meetings throughout 2011. For details of the NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see its own website at londonphotographers.org

Freelance strike – in football

AS WE go to press, Scottish football referees who are members of the Scottish Senior Football Referees' Association are on strike as part of a dispute with the Scottish Football Association over alleged attacks on their integrity.

While this has received much

media attention, few media outlets have noted that the Scottish football referees are in fact freelances.

As such, they do not have to comply with Employment Act regulations on balloting and giving notice of strike action.

Broadcasting skills training body

Skillset estimated that as of November there are 128,000 freelances working in "Creative Media Industries", about one quarter of the creative workforce. Skillset calculates that 34 per cent of the film workforce and 28 per cent of the TV workforce are freelance.

Google News

GOOGLE seems to be making the news as much as, er, distributing it. As the *Freelance* went to press the EU Commission, announced an inquiry into whether it has "abused its dominant position" – whether it has acted as a harmful monopoly.

Back on 16 November its technical people announced a new code "standard" for inclusion in web pages to ensure that "publishers and readers both benefit when journalists get proper credit for their work." But their examples largely deal with *publishers* taking credit.

A week later the French Senate approved a one per cent tax on in-

ternet advertising – source of almost all Google's revenue. As Deutsche Welle notes, the plan "fails to meet its original goal: to tax the French operations of internet giants such as Google... which are located strategically in European countries with low corporate tax rates, such as Ireland and Luxembourg." Instead it would target French advertisers.

Still no news of the Google Books Settlement: pity Judge Chin who must, eventually, rule on it, and see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1002goog.html for a checklist of things to do if you have contributed work to a book.

Euro for youro

THE European Commission has launched a call for investigative journalism projects. These should have a "cross-border" element and scrutinise government policy or the workings of business, or draw attention to social trends or to the "violations of laws". There's a total of Euro 1.1 million in funding for these, funding up to three-quarters of each project. The deadline for submissions is **15 January 2011**. See: www.eu-sleuths.notlong.com

And do let us know how the Euro-bureaucracy and form filling goes if you apply.

More online:

- How to survive Xmas
- Journalists jailed in Turkey, gassed in Greece

Contests without rights grabs

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) – of which the NUJ is a part – now has a set of guidelines for organisers of competitions. These are in response to increasing rights grabs around photographic (and other creative) competitions. Please use and circulate these model terms and condition: see www.efjcompetition.notlong.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 unclassified@londonfreelance.org

WANT TO TRY YOUR HAND at writing fiction? The Complete Creative Writing Course at the Groucho Club offers courses

in creative writing and also in screenwriting and writing for children. Courses start in January. Cost: £295 including VAT for six three-hour sessions. We also offer intermediate and advanced level courses at other venues. For full details go to www.writingcourses.org.uk or ring Maggie on 0207 503 6285.

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

CONTACTS

Freelance office

John Toner / Pamela Morton020 7843 3735
email.....freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk
308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP
Membership via switchboard020 7278 7916

Legal emergency only:

England and Wales0800 587 7530
Scotland0800 085 3425

Freelance Editors

Mike Holderness07 958 706 835
Matt Salusbury.....07 554 236 907
email:.....editor@londonfreelance.org

© 2010 NUJ & authors; moral rights asserted.

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

FREELANCE