

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## Olympic legacy and policing progress

WE HOPE you enjoyed the Christmas break. The Branch committee received numerous testimonials for the December seasonal party, described by one punter as “like a lock-in at (NUJ HQ) Headland House”.

In the event that this arrives in time for the LFB meeting on **Monday 14 February**, this is at Friends’ House as usual and on making a living in the world of new media. Our speaker is Tim Dawson, chair of the NUJ Freelance Industrial Council, and co-founder of the New Model Journalism blog, which “provides reports and analysis of the revolution currently sweeping the media, changing how journalism is paid for and how it is done.” The blog (at <http://newmodeljournalism.com>) arose from LFB’s hugely successful conference on New Ways to Make Journalism Pay last January.

Covering the London 2012 Olympics is the subject of the LFB meeting on **Monday 14 March**. Will freelancers be able to get a piece of the Olympic action, or are the exclusive rights to coverage of the Games all sewn up already? And what about covering the “legacy”

and “regeneration” post-Olympics issues once the Games leave town. Current controversy around bids for the Olympic Stadium suggest the Olympic legacy will remain newsworthy for some time.

Maxine Newlands, who teaches the “Reporting the Olympics” module at the University of East London and is senior lecturer on its journalism course is confirmed as a speaker for this meeting. A new round of Olympics accreditation for journalists apparently opens in March, and seems to include freelancers, so we hope also to have a speaker from the Olympics 2012 press office. (To be confirmed: watch the website.)

Following recent encouraging developments in relations with the police, the LFB meeting on **Monday 11 April** is on policing. LFB is inviting senior police to talk about making further improvements to journalists’ ability to report on the streets. Speaker details will follow.

A debate at the House of Commons is planned for LFB’s gathering on Monday 9 May, with copyright law as the focus. You wait months for a copyright review and then two come

along at once – the “Hargreaves Review” is in progress (see page 3) and the Select Committee on Culture Media and Sport is in the wings, both with implications for “creators” like us. This being parliament, all details are provisional and subject to very, very last-minute changes.

This went to press on 1 February. Deadline for the printed April/May issue is **25 March**

LFB meetings – with the exception of the May House of Commons event – 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 [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings)

Volunteer minute-takers are needed for the LFB meetings throughout 2011. For details of the NUJ London Photographers’ Branch meetings, see its website at [www.londonphotographers.org](http://www.londonphotographers.org)

## FELICITATIONS

## Awards corner

LFB committee member Jake Ecclestone has been awarded a Medal of Gratitude from the European Solidarity Centre in Poland acknowledging his “support for the Polish Solidarity cause for freedom and democracy throughout the 1980s.” A large medal arrived for Jake care of NUJ HQ, together with a letter saying it was “a symbolic expression of Poland’s gratitude to the brave and noble people who supported Poland in its struggle for liberty and solidarity”. A Medal of Gratitude also went to NUJ life member Neal Acherson.

Jake told the *Freelance*, “I was surprised, touched and honoured by the

award. I did very little for (independent Polish trade union) Solidarnosc compared to the other recipients.

“The NUJ certainly did the right thing to offer the London representative (jazz columnist Marek Gardecki) space in its building for an office from which to campaign.

“I think the thing that pleased me most was to be invited to Warsaw in 1990 to speak at the first conference of the newly legalised journalists’ union.”

Meanwhile, NUJ Dublin Freelance Branch member Phil Mac Giolla Bhain “romped home” to win the 2010 Best Scottish Football Blog Award for “Best Scottish football website”.

## UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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HOLIDAY HOME or writing retreat – 10% off rental rates for fellow NUJ members. Lovely holiday home in Charente Maritime, between La Rochelle and Cognac. Sleeps 4-6. Peaceful yet near coast and attractions. Full details and rates at <http://www.holiday-rentals.co.uk/p85782>. Call 07775 891715 or email [lindsey@](mailto:lindsey@)

[impactwriters.co.uk](http://impactwriters.co.uk) for more information.

FLAT(SHARE) WANTED: journalist/editor with 2 cats seeks 1-bed flat/studio/room/flatshare in N London, up to about £750 a month (plus bills). The cats need easy access to a garden, but we’re flexible on pretty much everything else. Matt 07554236907 [mattsal@gn.apc.org](mailto:mattsal@gn.apc.org)

DESKS AVAILABLE in quiet, comfortable, newly refurbished Kentish Town/Tufnell Park office. Three desks, £50 per week each, all inclusive. Spacious office, with meeting room, Wi-Fi and kitchenette. Share with journalist. Near tubes, overground and buses. email [fortesslon-don@hotmail.com](mailto:fortesslon-don@hotmail.com)

## TRAINING

## Free training for members!

NUJ Training is running free-one day workshops on “Social Media for Journalists” at the NUJ HQ at Headland House, London, on Saturday 19 February and Saturday 26 February.

See NUJ Training’s course calendar for how to book and for details of these and other courses at [www.nujtraining.org.uk](http://www.nujtraining.org.uk).

And the Indie Training Fund, Pact and Skillset Freelance Fund are offering a “Reviewing Your Options” workshop for women returning to TV on Tuesday 1 March, also in London. Details are at [www.indietrainingfund.com](http://www.indietrainingfund.com) or via [bookings@indietrainingfund.com](mailto:bookings@indietrainingfund.com)

## CONTACTS

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FREELANCE

Branch contacts: [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb)  
We plan to print full Branch contacts next issue

## Atangana update

Charles Atangana – exiled journalist and NUJ member fighting deportation to Cameroon – had a court appearance on 15 February. This is between the *Freelance* press day and its arrival on your doormat, so see [www.londonfreelance.org](http://www.londonfreelance.org) and [www.nuj.org.uk](http://www.nuj.org.uk) for an update, and for what to tell your MP and the Home Office when you write to them about Charles’ case. Some members at the LFB Christmas party reported writing to Home Office ministers and being fobbed off with replies saying the Data Protection Act prevented them from discussing the details of Charles’ case. Charles is contacting the Home Office giving them permission..