

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## Copyright matters; so does policing

IN THE EVENT that this reaches you before **Monday 11 April**, you'll want to know that the Branch meeting that evening is another look at "new ways to make journalism pay". Our confirmed speakers are Christian Wolmar, a renowned transport specialist who keeps on top of the game via the use of all sorts of new-fangled social media, and Angus Batley a music and cricket writer who decided he'd like a larger portfolio of specialisms in the midst of the recession/internet crisis and made himself into a defence expert, now regularly published in UK national papers.

On **Monday 9 May** we meet at the House of Commons to debate the proposed changes to copyright law: we're expecting the report from the Hargreaves Review (see page 1) on that day, so it'll be topical. Will Professor Hargreaves be recommending the World According to Google? What can the NUJ, directly, and through the Creators' Rights Alliance, do to drive home the message that the answer to Hargreaves'

question, which is how "intellectual property law" can stimulate economic growth, is "pay the people who do the work so we can afford to go on doing good work?"

Then on **Monday 13 June** we plan to meet with representatives of the Metropolitan Police to talk about further improving journalists' ability to report on the streets. Is there a new mood, exemplified by recent willingness to include NUJ reps in officers' briefings before events? Or by this exchange reported by a member covering the 26 March march: Officer: "Get back! Get back!" Photographer: "This is my Press Card." Officer: "Sorry!"

We had hoped to hold this discussion in April, but the relevant people from the Met were a bit busy, having a wedding to attend.

And watch out for details of another high-profile meeting on **Monday 11 July**, provisionally on the reporting of strife in the streets, as we've seen around the southern and eastern edges of the Mediterranean.

If you're not getting email alerts of meetings – we promise, no more than one message a month – go now to [www.londonfreelance.org/linkup](http://www.londonfreelance.org/linkup) to tell us where to find you.

This went to press on 31 March. Deadline for the printed June/July issue is **27 May**.

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 LFB meetings throughout 2011. For details of the NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see its website at [www.londonphotographers.org](http://www.londonphotographers.org)

## FREE MONEY FOR YOU!

## Claim ALCS dosh now!

THOSE OF YOU who are members of the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) – it distributes money to authors for licences for re-uses such as photocopying in university libraries – should recently have received a statement of the latest "distribution" of royalties due to them under this scheme. Photocopying is in decline these days, but a small but increasing proportion of the royalties ALCS distributes is from newer uses like scanning and digitising of content for internal use by "corporates".

Annual payouts via ALCS approaching four figures (after commission) are not unusual for LFB members. At least one music journalist we know of has already received some money via ALCS from

a brand new source – licensing for re-use of articles in UK newspapers in Belgium and Germany. Revenues from re-use of UK newspapers in Denmark will also shortly start coming the way of some ALCS members whose work has been copied or otherwise re-used in Denmark.

New agreements for licensing of works in other countries are expected to follow, so if you're a writer and you haven't already signed up to ALCS, do so now: [www.alcs.co.uk](http://www.alcs.co.uk) has instructions on how to claim for articles you've had published in the last three years and for which you retain rights, and for books. (Photographers can claim for photocopying and other re-uses of their images from [www.dacs.org.uk](http://www.dacs.org.uk))

ALCS executive director Owen

Atkinson tells the *Freelance* that a new, much more detailed database of its members' revenues is being tested now, and that the ALCS "distribution" for members in September 2011 will have much more detail on where the money has come from, in contrast to the currently somewhat confusing statements.

## UNION HOW-TO

## Free training for freelance activists?

The NUJ can put on a free training course for freelance union activists in the autumn, if there's enough interest. To make it happen, contact [DeirdreH@nuj.org.uk](mailto:DeirdreH@nuj.org.uk) and say what areas you would like to be covered. (We were going to do it in May, but not enough people signed up.)

## Support Charles Atangana

Charles Atangana, a Cameroonian journalist and NUJ member fighting deportation, appeared in court on 14 March – but the Home Office didn't show up. So the hearing was adjourned until 31 March, as the *Freelance* went to press. NUJ members were there to support him at the Immigration and Asylum Chamber on London's Rosebery Avenue. Charles is a well-respected journalist, specialising in economics and current affairs. He has lived in the UK since 2004. His journalistic activities forced him to flee Cameroon following harassment, detention by the régime and threats against family members who have to remain in Cameroon. See [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1104atan.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1104atan.html) for updates.

## UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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**WANTED:** experienced journalists for editing roles in established international news agency – sales, client development, story pitching, writer management and editing. Would appeal to long-standing journalists, maybe newly independent,

wanting to join a global team of home-working journalists, writing for serious international publications on specialist issues. Full or part-time. Email [keith@intnews.co.uk](mailto:keith@intnews.co.uk) – or post Alan Osborn, 52 Burlescombe Road, Thorpe Bay, Essex, SS1 3QE, England

**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@impactwriters.co.uk](mailto:lindsey@impactwriters.co.uk)

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FREELANCE

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