

Enfield lock

Journalists at the North London and Herts Newspaper group are as we go to press balloting again over strike action against staff cuts leading to a decline in journalistic standards. Watch www.nuj.org.uk for updates. As ever, the chapels would appreciate it if freelancers engaged to work on any strike days found themselves unavailable. Anyone suffering hardship as a result of being unavailable should contact the chapel.

The Rate for the Job

THIS month's crop of Rates for the Job include a couple of estimates of the royalties an author gets for the sale of each copy of their book – one hardback in print, and one first-run e-book. There's much more detail on the economics of e-books, and the trends in e-book royalties, in a report online at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1106eboo.html

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.

You can submit rates online, in confidence, at any time, at www.londonfreelance.org/rates – 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 ☺ few.

Photography: Four portraits charged per pic (they said "no" to £125 per pic) all rights £400 X; *Jewish Chronicle* photos, all rights, no exes £35 XXX; all photos for gardening book (25 locations across the UK) licence for this title only, additional payment for co-editions, photographer retains all rights, 5 per cent royalty, no expenses £4000 + 500; Company brochure, headshots of 6-8 execs for web use only, non-exclusive £400; Archant (local paper) 3 photos for print, 1 online £190; *Rock Sound* double-page spread/poster £100, full page photo £70, full page (more than one pic) £70, half page £40, quarter page £30 XX.

Shifts: *Heart Matters* (British Heart Foundation/PSP) proofreading from home, terms not revealed on commission – 30 days after publication, £40 late-payment fee was

ignored, £150.

Tip-offs: *Daily Telegraph* tip, contacts, quotes for news page lead £50 + nil extra rights XX.

Words, per 1000: *The Economist* £417 X; *New Internationalist* £230; *Times Higher Education* reporting and features £200 + 0 X; *New Internationalist* online feature £125 XX; *Agreement* 1600-word feature for £200 FBS & SBS £125 + 31.25; *Rock Sound* £70 XXX; *Snack Media* (complained of by Roy Greenslade on his *Guardian* blog) £10 XXXX.

Words, other: HarperCollins royalties for hardback fiction best-seller priced at £18.99, 15 per cent = £2.85 per copy (estimate); royalty for Harvill (Random House imprint) fiction e-book sold via Amazon at £5.84, 25 per cent = £1.34 per copy (estimate); *Daily Telegraph* 550-word interview for inside magazine back page "Flashback" £100 XXXX; *Runners Fitness* 1500 words and photos FBSR + online use, no expenses £200 X; RTE.ie/Aertel (teletext) 90 word soccer report + 300 word web report + phone goals/red cards as they happen, all rights, €42.31 XXX; *Daily Telegraph* 180 word story £35; *Rock Sound* 300-word live review £10 XXX, 100-word review £5 XXXX.



The Trireme

This month's Trireme Award – for conditions "worse than when I was last chained to the oars" – goes to work offered in an ad (now expired) on journalism.co.uk, which offered remuneration low enough to raise the eyebrows of Roy Greenslade in his *Guardian* blog. *Snack Media* offered a tenner for a thousand words, "non-negotiable".

Payback for photographers

THIS YEAR DACS has a share of £4 million of royalties to pay to NUJ members whose work has been reproduced in UK books or magazines or on certain television channels. DACS negotiates these royalties on behalf of photographers and other visual artists. In 2010 DACS paid out a share of £3.8 million to almost 13,000 visual artists.

Last year the average NUJ member claimed £646, compared with the average Payback claim of £295.

The highest payment made to a NUJ member was £6382, the highest payment made to any individual. Every NUJ member who makes a successful Payback claim is guaranteed a minimum of £25.

Payback royalties come from revenue generated through UK collective licensing schemes and include the photocopying of books and magazines by local government departments, universities and other businesses. Collective licensing is

used in situations where it would be difficult or impossible for visual artists to licence their rights on an individual basis, for example when a university wants to photocopy pages from a book or magazine that features their work.

The easiest way to claim is to fill in the form online at www.dacs.org.uk – alternatively request a claim form by post or email. Contact the Payback team on 020 7553 9062 or email payback@dacs.org.uk

Freelance project administrator vacancy

Hoping this arrives in time: the skills development project of the Federation of Entertainment Unions (FEU – NUJ, Equity, Musicians' Union, Writers' Guild) is seeking a part-time project administrator for six months up to 31 March 2012. Apply to info@feutraining.org by 12 June.

Free money for writers

ALCS – the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society – has confirmed that membership is now free to NUJ members, who no longer have to pay the ALCS lifetime fee of £25. ALCS distributes money to text authors for re-uses such as photocopying in university libraries. Annual payouts approaching four figures are not unusual for LFB members who have signed up to ALCS.

For more on how to sign up and claim for your published works, see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1103alcs.html

Google grappled

IN MAY a Belgian court upheld an earlier order that Google must remove links to and extracts from French- and German-language Belgian newspapers from its news websites, on the grounds that the search engine makes money from the practice. Google can appeal.

Meanwhile Reuters reported on 11 May that the company had set aside \$500 million to settle a US Department of Justice probe into its dominance of online advertising. The European Commission has launched a separate investigation into this. Oh, and rivals in South Korea want one.

And two days later French publishers Gallimard, Flammarion and

Albin Michel announced they were suing for €9.8 billion over unauthorised scanning of books.

On 19 May the company insisted that its dropping of a plan to scan newspaper archives was not due to copyright issues: it would focus on helping publishers charge for new online content through its One Pass system.

That's quite separate from its scheme for payments using mobile-phone "virtual wallets", over which PayPal is suing for an undisclosed shakedown over breach of trade secrets. Or from its test service to store copies of music libraries online, over which a lawsuit cannot be far away.