

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Power to the workies, syndicate abroad...

THE LONDON Freelance Branch meeting on Monday 13 June will celebrate the recent victory of Keri Hudson, who with the support of the NUJ won £1024 – the National Minimum Wage for five weeks of unpaid labour as an intern last year: see page 1. We'll have an update on the Cashback for Interns campaign (an LFB initiative), with more NUJ-supported cases bought by interns expected at small claims courts and industrial tribunals shortly.

Our speakers will be Keri Hudson herself; Martin Spence, assistant General Secretary of union BECTU, which first brought cases for back-pay for media interns, LFB's very own Cashback for Interns campaign instigator Fiona O'Cleirigh and incoming NUJ General Secretary Michelle Stanistreet. We may also hear from NUJ Legal Officer Roy Mincoff,

who has been active in Cashback for Interns cases. We're back at the usual Friends' House venue for this and other meetings this year.

Syndicating your work abroad is the theme of the meeting on Monday 11 July. We will have speakers from International Features Agency (IFA) in Amsterdam. Freelance Organiser John Toner will describe some of the issues members face when selling work abroad.

There is no meeting in August.

Policing is the provisional topic of the meeting on Monday 12 September. Partly as a result of years of hard work by the NUJ, and especially its Freelance Office, working journalists on the streets have reported significant improvement in police behaviour towards them. We'll look at the latest developments in police-press relations, and some forthcoming

developments in this area. Speakers will include high-ranking Metropolitan Police people. Watch this space for updates and speaker details.

This issue went to press on 31 May. Deadline for the printed August/September issue is 29 July.

LFB meetings are from 7pm to 9pm at Friends's 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. Volunteer minute-takers are needed for the LFB meetings throughout 2011. For details of the NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see <http://londonphotographers.org>

UNION MATTERS

Meet the new Gen Sec: Deputy Gen Sec vacancy

MICHELLE Stanistreet has been elected unopposed as NUJ General Secretary and will be speaking at the London Freelance meeting on Monday 13 June before formally taking up her post in July.

Her election has created a vacancy for NUJ Deputy General Secretary (DGS). If you have been in the NUJ for five years, have at least three years' experience as an official or lay officer of the Union, and are fully paid up with no subscriptions arrears, you are eligible to stand for election as DGS.

Application forms for prospective candidates – see www.nuj.org.uk for details – need to be returned by Thursday 30 June.

There's already a DGS election hustings planned for Tuesday 19 July in Birmingham, and the web site will list other hustings events.

Read all about the NUJ's 2011 Delegate Meeting

THERE IS now a report of April's 2011 NUJ Delegate Meeting (DM or conference) at www.londonfreelance.org/fi/1105dm.html – where you will find coverage of conference debates and policies adopted.

Issues covered include opposing the deportations of journalists who need asylum, the Cashback for Interns campaign, diversity, reviews of union structure, abolishing the Press Complaints Council, photography in public places, freedom of information, tightening eligibility for the Press Card, freelance rights and numerous other topics.

And, freelancers please note, Jeremy Dear told DM the freelance budget of the *Journalist* has increased.

There's a link there to a full report of the 2011 Freelance Sector Conference, too.

Time to train...



Training alert: NUJ's Training's Pitch and Deal course – now in its tenth year – has moved to a new date – Friday 22 July. As we write, there are still places available in this course on soliciting work gigs from clients and negotiating a higher rate for doing so. Course tutors are LFB's very own Phil Sutcliffe (holding "Always Ask For More" sign) and Humphrey Evans (seated, left, admiring sign). There are numerous NUJ Training courses in London and Cardiff throughout the summer, and with NUJ Scotland Training.

For course details, and for details of how to register, see the NUJ Training website www.nujtraining.org.uk

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WOMEN'S VIEWS ON NEWS (www.womensviewsonnews.org), a non-profit, daily women's news site, seeks a volunteer sub-editor (2 days a week) to sub-edit stories submitted to our newswire blog, which operates to

counter the bias against women in the mainstream press. We are also looking for volunteer journalists to write summaries of news and current affairs stories for a few hours every fortnight. Contact Alison.Clarke@womensviewsonnews.org

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

CONTACTS

Freelance office

John Toner / Pamela Morton 020 7843 3735
Membership via switchboard 020 7278 7916
email freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk
post 308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP

Legal emergency only:

England and Wales 0800 587 7530
Scotland 0800 085 3425

Freelance Editors

Mike Holderness
Matt Salusbury
email: editor@londonfreelance.org
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Branch contacts: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb
Online Freelance contents: www.londonfreelance.org/fi