

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## Whistleblowing, libel and slander

THERE IS no London Freelance Branch meeting in August: the Branch is attempting to take the nearest freelance equivalent of a holiday. Those of you who work regular shifts and received holiday pay, please remember actually to take some time off: see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0711work.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0711work.html) on your possible right to holiday pay.

Whistleblowers, and working with them, is the subject of the LFB meeting on **Monday 12 September**. Our speakers are *Private Eye*'s Andrew Bousfield – co-author of the recent *Eye* whistleblowing special supplement – and Cathy James of Public Concern At Work ([www.pcaw.co.uk](http://www.pcaw.co.uk)).

We expect to cover some of the practical aspects of receiving whis-

tleblowers' material and protection of these sensitive sources. Cathy will discuss the limited protection for whistleblowers in current legislation, and talk about the campaigns to strengthen "public interest disclosure" laws.

The meeting on **Monday 10 October** will probably discuss reform of defamation (libel and slander) law, especially the reform Bill before Parliament (see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1102libe.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1102libe.html)). Details of speakers will follow.

The planned LFB meeting featuring senior representatives of the Metropolitan Police is postponed to some time in late autumn at the earliest, as the Met's remaining cadre were a bit busy as we went to press. Watch this space.

LFB meetings 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.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html)

This issue went to press on 3 August. The deadline for the October issue is **30 September**

Volunteer minute-takers are needed for the LFB meetings throughout 2011 and beyond. For details of the NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see <http://londonphotographers.org>

## LETTERS

## Enfield agreement

I would like to correct a misapprehension that I hope hasn't become widespread. To be clear: the loss of freelance cover has absolutely nothing to do with our agreement (the NUJ) chapel at North London & Herts reached with Tindle (Newspapers) recently. (See [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1107strik.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1107strik.html)) We would never, ever have stood for that.

Tindle cut the freelance cover a few weeks before we resolved the situation. The loss of our freelance cover was gutting for us but we are now hopeful of returning it in full. In recent weeks we have returned freelance subs to our office and our next goal is to return the photographic cover.

**Jonathan Lovett**  
Father of Chapel

## Letter of complaint

I am writing to you, as I'm sure you would expect after publishing a still from my video of the PHNAT (I'm a Photographer Not A Terrorist) event at City Hall in the June/July *Freelance*, despite my two refusals. As I explained the flashmob had some 40 to 50 photographers attending and to take a still from video would be insulting to every photographer

present and also to the branch I represent as secretary and welfare officer, the London Photographers' Branch. I also directed you to the PHNAT website where a gallery of photographs was available.

You used the image, savagely trimmed, online at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1106pnat.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1106pnat.html). On top of that the still taken from my video is a terrible image to use as a still, which does not sit well as a representation of my longstanding work as a video journalist. I have tackled many outlets for unauthorised use of my material, but this behaviour to come from fellow union members is an absolute disgrace.

**Jason N. Parkinson**

NUJ & IFJ Freelance Videojournalist  
● Firstly, we understood Jason's message as a suggestion that we contact a stills photographer. We tried: none got back to us with an explicit licence. And in our judgement as editors the video grab was the best image available – illustrating an issue that stills photographers increasingly face. Secondly, the "savagely cropped" version was due to a website glitch which led the server to dig out a thumbnail, intended to promote the event and London Photographers' Branch on the index page, instead of the real thing. Sorry.

## GS election and hustings

I was disappointed to see that in the June *Freelance* you claimed that our new General Secretary, Sis Michelle Stanistreet, was elected unopposed and that a hustings was being organised in Coventry for the DGS post.

I also applied for the post of General Secretary, but agreed to withdraw my nomination just before Delegate Meeting. This was because Michelle and I largely agree on how we want to take the union forward – as a campaigning and inclusive organisation that continues to punch above its weight.

The NEC recorded a vote of thanks for my selfless actions. Therefore Michelle was only appointed after my name was withdrawn.

**Bro Chris Youett**

● At the due date for the election there were no other candidates. Michelle was therefore elected unopposed. Chris's NUJ Branch organised a DGS hustings, which took place on 19 July. See this page for details of the ballot for the new NUJ Deputy General Secretary.

## Elect DGS!

Full members of the NUJ should receive their ballot papers for the election of a new Deputy General Secretary (DGS) shortly after they're posted on 30 August. The candidates are Barry Fitzpatrick, Helen Gavaghan and Chris Youett. Now's the time to tell the NUJ Membership Department about any change of address – via [membership@nuj.org.uk](mailto:membership@nuj.org.uk) and once you get your ballot papers, they need to be filled in and posted in plenty of time to arrive by **Thursday 13 October**. See [www.nuj.org.uk](http://www.nuj.org.uk) for details of any further DGS election hustings meetings.

## CONTACTS

## Freelance office

John Toner / Pamela Morton ..... 020 7843 3735  
Membership via switchboard ..... 020 7278 7916  
email ..... [freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk](mailto: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 ..... 07 958 706 835  
Matt Salusbury ..... 07 918 108 529  
email: ..... [editor@londonfreelance.org](mailto:editor@londonfreelance.org)

© 2011 NUJ & authors; moral rights asserted.

## 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](mailto:unclassified@londonfreelance.org)

**WOMEN'S VIEWS ON NEWS** ([www.womensviewsonnews.org](http://www.womensviewsonnews.org)), a non-profit, daily women's news site, is looking for a volunteer sub-editor for two days a week to sub-edit stories submitted to our newswire blog, which operates to counter the bias against women in the mainstream press. Contact [Alison.Clarke@womensviewsonnews.org](mailto:Alison.Clarke@womensviewsonnews.org)

**FREELANCE**

Branch contacts: [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb)  
Online Freelance contents: [www.londonfreelance.org/fl](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl)