

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## Celebrate, choose committee, commissioning

WE HOPE this arrives in time to tell you of the London Freelance Branch gathering on **Monday 12 December** – a seasonal Branch party and networking opportunity. Some food and drink is provided. The December get-together will *not* be at the usual meetings venue, but on the top floor of the NUJ headquarters at 308-312 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP: nearest Tube King's Cross or Chancery Lane. Kick-off is at the usual 7pm, and we expect the party to continue until 9.30. It's an event co-hosted with NUJ London Magazine Branch.

The LFB meeting on **Monday 9 January 2012** is back at the usual venue and it's the Branch Annual General Meeting. We'll elect members to the following Branch posts for the next year: chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, negotiations officer, Chapel liaison, membership

and new members' rep, two welfare officers, two equality officers, and at least five members at large (without portfolio). Jobshares are possible for all posts. You can nominate yourself for one of these posts up until the beginning of the AGM: for more on the responsibilities of LFB committee members see [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html)

Pitching and how to pitch proposals to commissioning editors is (provisionally) the subject of the LFB meeting on **Monday 13 February**. We will hear from Mark Wagstaff, art editor of *Mojo*, and are contacting commissioning editors from consumer magazines – possibly a “glossy”. Watch [www.londonfreelance.org](http://www.londonfreelance.org) for more details.

Volunteer minute-takers are still needed for LFB meetings throughout 2012. Please contact a committee member if you are interested.

A guide to submitting motions to Branch meetings is at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/business.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/business.html)

This issue went to press on **22 November**. Deadline for the February issue: **13 January**.

To make sure you get email alerts of meetings and the electronic *Freelance* – just one message a month – visit [www.londonfreelance.org/linkup](http://www.londonfreelance.org/linkup)

LFB meetings (with the exception of the December party) 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)

## How to survive Xmas

'TIS the season of compulsory holidays. But how are forcibly underemployed freelances supposed to survive the Christmas period?

Use the downtime to sign up to the Authors Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS: [www.alcs.co.uk](http://www.alcs.co.uk)) if you haven't already. The ALCS licences – for example – libraries to make photocopies of articles, and the fees from this are distributed to the articles' authors: that's us. Some LFB members earn sums approaching four figures from the annual “distribution” of income from re-uses of our copyright work.

If you're already an ALCS member, now's the time to update your ALCS records of articles you've written recently, via the ALCS website member's area. If you've forgotten your password, ring them on 020 7264

5700 – before they close on 23 December – to be reminded of it.

Photographers can do the same for their photos illustrating books or articles that are likely to be photocopied or otherwise re-used, via the Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS: [www.dacs.org.uk](http://www.dacs.org.uk)).

And while you're at it, does your NUJ Freelance Directory entry need updating? (If you're not on the Freelance Directory, it's free to NUJ members: [www.freelancedirectory.org/register.php](http://www.freelancedirectory.org/register.php)).

The holidays also leave you plenty of time to ensure your tax return is filled in online ([www.hmrc.gov.uk/sa/file-online.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/sa/file-online.htm)) and sent by **31 January** to avoid a fine.

More freelance Xmas survival tips are at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1012xmas.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1012xmas.html)

## New blood!

ELECTIONS to the London Freelance Branch Committee for 2012 take place at the Branch AGM on **9 January** (see above). Full LFB members are encouraged to stand.

If you're hesitating about standing for election, contact a current committee member (see [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html)) for advice on what it entails. Committee members are on hand at December's LFB party to chat about it.

Branch committee members are all working journalists – assisted by John Toner and Pamela Morton, the NUJ's full-time Freelance Organisers.

The Branch offers a free National Centre for Voluntary Organisations course in minute-taking, for members considering standing for Secretary, or supporting the Secretary with occasional minute-taking during Branch meetings.

For other support available to prospective committee candidates, see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1112ctte.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1112ctte.html)

## LETTER

## Sorted

I just wanted to drop you a line of thanks. Assistant Freelance Organiser Pamela Morton recently and very patiently negotiated a settlement with a publisher I was employed by but who was refusing to honour the payments due to me. I just wanted to say thanks for your and her help with everything. I've written to the *Journalist* to highlight how crucial NUJ membership is, especially now. Thanks again!

Rob Kemp

## UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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## CONTACTS

## Freelance office

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## Legal emergency only:

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Scotland ..... 0800 085 3425

## Freelance editors

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Matt Salusbury .....  
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**FREELANCE**

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