

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

# New venue! Pitches, LinkedSpotTube.com

PLEASE NOTE that the London Freelance Branch meetings in **February and March** are *not* in the usual venue, but on the 5th floor of the NUJ HQ at **Headland House, 308 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 8DP**: nearest Tube King's Cross or Chancery Lane. We regret we will have to be out of the building by 9pm sharp, after which many retire to a pub.

If this were to reach you in time, you'd want to know that the LFB meeting on **Monday 13 February** is on pitching articles to commissioning editors. Our speakers are Mark Wagstaff, art editor of music magazine *Mojo*, and Emily Bobrow, arts and books editor of *The Economist* and contributing editor to *Intelligent Life*. There was also a possibility we'd be joined by an editor from *Marie Claire*.

The topic for the meeting on

**Monday 12 March** on social networking tools for journalists. How can you use social networking sites and apps to increase your professional profile, seek out contacts and generate paid-for work? Watch this space for details of our speakers.

April's LFB meeting is on **Monday 16 April** – on the *third* Monday of the month due to Easter Monday falling on the usual second Monday meeting date. And we're back in the usual Friends House venue from April onwards (Euston Road NW1, opposite Euston Station). The subject of the meeting is provisionally travel writing: watch this space for speaker details.

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

This issue went to press on **3 February**. Deadline for the April/May issue: **2 April**

LFB meetings are 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)

And you can now follow the latest developments regarding forthcoming LFB meetings as they happen – click on the Twitter logo near the top right of the [www.londonfreelance.org](http://www.londonfreelance.org) homepage to sign up to the LFB Twitter feed.

## Change in the Branch

The Freelance welcomes new NUJ London Freelance Branch committee members, and members who are returning to their posts or taking up new ones. New faces on the committee are Sonya Thomas, now joint equality officer with Pennie Quinton; Jon Holden as New Members' Rep; Arjum Wajid as job-share training officer with Julio Etchart; and Janet Awe and Rosanne Edelman join the committee as members at large. Ja-

net is administrator for the Branch's new Twitter account (see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1202twit.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1202twit.html)) and Rosanne will be focusing on campaigning around Working Tax Credit and the threatened forthcoming Universal Credit – see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1202tax.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1202tax.html). Padraig Belton takes over as Branch secretary, with Fiona O'Cleirigh as vice-chair. Congratulations to outgoing Sec-

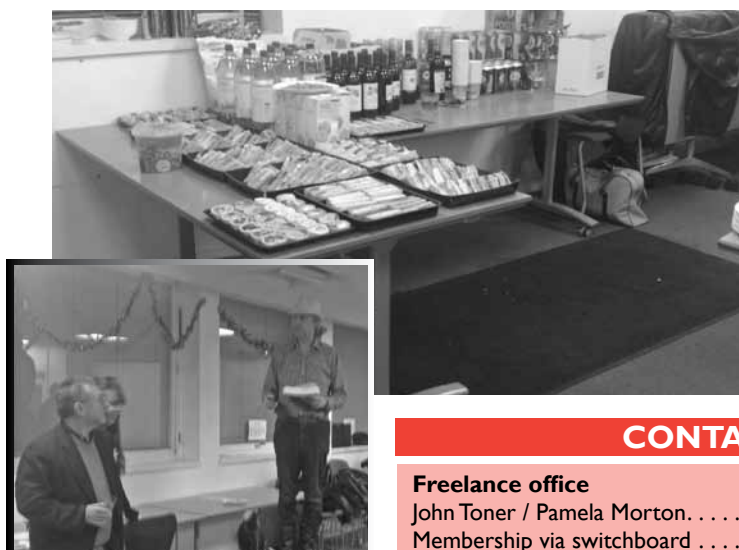
retary Tom Davies on the birth of his daughter: Tom will continue as a member at large on the Branch committee. There is a full list of all the new faces and old hands on the Branch committee – and their email contacts – at [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html)

A guide to LFB and its meetings for new members – produced by new member Jon Holden – will be in the *Freelance* and online soon.

## Party on!

The LFB London Freelance Branch/London Magazine Branch party in December was a success. The food spread (below) was particularly popular, disappearing quicker than usual and prompting one attendee to say there was "not enough food and too much drink," possibly the first such complaint at a journalists' event. LFB chair Dave Rotchelle is shown making his now traditional interruption to announce items of Branch business, under the now traditional Streatham High Street poundshop decorations bedecking the top floor meeting room of the NUJ HQ at Headland House.

Photos © Tony Rizzo



## ELECTIONS

There are vacancies on the NUJ's Freelance Industrial Council – the elected body that helps formulate and carry out the Union's policies. Candidates need to seek nomination from an NUJ Branch in plenty of time for that Branch's nomination papers to arrive by post at the NUJ HQ by **27 February**. There are also vacant seats – representing various geographical areas, industry sectors or demographic groups – on other NUJ Councils. See [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1202fic.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1202fic.html) for more.

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**FREELANCE**

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