

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## It's time for democracy

WE WISH YOU A MERRY festive midwinter end-of-year enforced unemployment thing. Remember that if you get holiday pay on the basis of working regular shifts, you receive it on the understanding that you do actually take some time off.

The LFB meeting on **Monday 14 January** is the Branch's Annual General Meeting, which sees the election of its committee. We'll be back at our usual venue for this – Friends House, opposite Euston Station.

See [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html) for the responsibilities that each of the committee posts coming up for election at the AGM entails. There's more detail for those considering standing for one of these posts at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/112ctte.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/112ctte.html), including support available for those

who put themselves forward. You can declare your candidacy on the night, or contact the Branch Secretary by email: [padraig.belton@gmail.com](mailto:padraig.belton@gmail.com) before then to let them know you want to stand.

The posts up for election are: chair; vice-chair; secretary; treasurer; welfare officers; membership secretary and new members' reps; equality, training, Chapel liaison and negotiations officers; *Freelance* editor and assistant; and members without portfolio. Job-shares are possible.

The meeting also sees the election of two auditors (*not* Committee members) to scrutinise the Branch annual accounts. It is the venue for changes to Branch Standing Orders ([www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/rules.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/rules.html)) – none having been notified, only purely technical changes

to deal with changes to Union rule numbering can now be made.

This issue went to press on **2 December**. The deadline for the (online-only) January issue is **8 January**.

LFB meetings are from 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, see the Branch calendar, [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings)

Volunteer minute-takers are needed for LFB meetings for the rest of 2013. For NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see [londonphotographers.org](http://londonphotographers.org)

## LETTER

## Battle of Alamy

In response to Stefano Cagnoni (letter, October issue) I would like to say that when my talk to LFB on the subject of online distribution was reported in the previous issue of the *Freelance*, too much emphasis was given to my mention of Alamy as one of the outlets for my stock. I have been a contributor to the

environmental picture agency Still Pictures and also to Panos Pictures for much longer than to Alamy. I was introduced to Alamy by a fellow NUJ member and campaigner, and there are many members of our union who contribute to that agency.

Unlike what Stefano suggested in his letter, I think that the rates Alamy negotiates for its contributors are

more or less in line with NUJ guidelines. As one example from a recent sales report: for UK rights for double page editorial use in a textbook I received £125.00; that is 60 per cent of the total rate of £208 they received. The NUJ *Freelance Fees Guide* suggested rate for that use is £200.

In solidarity, **Julio Etchart**

• See the full letter online

## SEASONAL TIPS

## How to survive Xmas

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

You could use the downtime to sign up to the Authors Licensing and Collecting Service (ALCS, [www.alcs.co.uk](http://www.alcs.co.uk)) if you haven't already, that's how. 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.

If you're already an ALCS member, now's the time to update your ALCS records of the articles you've written recently, via the ALCS website member's area, in time for the

distribution in early 2013. If you've forgotten your password, ring them before they close on 22 December to be reminded of it.

Photographers can do the same via the Design and Artists Copyright Society ([www.dacs.org.uk](http://www.dacs.org.uk)). If you've had a book published, now's the time to register it with Public Lending Right (PLR – [www.plr.uk.com](http://www.plr.uk.com)) to ensure you get some pennies each time it's borrowed from a public library. And while you're at it, does your NUJ Freelance Directory entry need updating? It's free to NUJ members: [www.freelancedirectory.org](http://www.freelancedirectory.org)

The holidays are also a time to

ensure your completed online tax is sent off by 31 January to avoid a fine: see page 2. There are also letters you could be writing to your MP about copyright legislation (page 3) during this period of not much work – preferably to put in an envelope ready to post on 6 January when they get back from recess.

Finally, we commend to you Humphrey Evans's guide to Xmas freelance survival at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/survive.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/survive.html)

## Pitch and Deal

The NUJ's Pitch & Deal course for freelancers, on negotiating work and rates, has its next outing on **Friday 18 January**. The price is reduced to £70 for members and £60 for students: to book, email [training@nuj.org.uk](mailto:training@nuj.org.uk)

## Collect your vote!

NUJ members who have joined collecting society ALCS will, some time in December, receive ballots for the election of member directors to serve on its board. Members may be particularly interested to note the candidature of Jenny Vaughan, LFB's current Treasurer, and moderator of the NUJ/Society of Authors NibWeb email network for children's non-fiction authors ([www.nibweb.co.uk](http://www.nibweb.co.uk)).

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**LONDON B&B** Wimbledon / Putney area in photojournalist's home. Details: [www.southfieldsstudio.co.uk](http://www.southfieldsstudio.co.uk) or email [southfields.bed@btconnect.com](mailto:southfields.bed@btconnect.com) or tel: 07836 600 882

FREELANCE

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