

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

After Leveson; then numbers count

IN ADDITION to our regular monthly LFB meetings, there's also a special meeting on "The NUJ after Leveson" – organised by London NUJ Branches – on **Thursday 28 February**.

Speakers include NUJ General Secretary Michelle Stanistreet, who was a key Core Participant witness at the Leveson Inquiry, and Helen Goodman MP, Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport with specific responsibility for media reform. Lively input from the floor is very much encouraged.

All are welcome, and refreshments will be provided.

This meeting is called jointly by the NUJ PR and Communications Branch, NUJ London Freelance Branch and NUJ London Magazine Branch.

Kick-off is at 6:30pm at Headland House, the NUJ HQ, 308/312 Gray's Inn Road, WCI (nearest Tube is King's Cross). Capacity is limited, so

you'll need to register in advance for this event: email freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk.

LFB's next regular monthly meeting is on **Monday 11 March** at our usual Friends House venue (see below for more info).

The topic will be "Numbers count": we will look at how not to be bamboozled by statistics, and how to avoid (inadvertently or otherwise) bamboozling our own audiences with misleading applications of things numerical. We expect to have details of speakers – from the world of science writing and statistics-based journalism – very soon. Watch www.londonfreelance.org/meetings and the LFB Twitter feed (https://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB) for imminent speaker details.

At some point in 2013 we also hope to hold an LFB meeting on a distinct but related subject: data journalism. How can you produce, and get published, stories based on

the mining of raw data in order to uncover possibly newsworthy statistical patterns, exceptional items or other phenomena?

Details of the April meeting will appear online soon: see below.

This issue went to press on **5 February**. Deadline for the (online only) March issue is **28 February**.

LFB meetings are from 7pm to 9pm at **Friends House, Euston Road, NW1**, 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. Volunteer minute-takers are needed for all LFB meetings throughout 2013.

For details of NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see londonphotographers.org

LETTER

ALCS elections

The results of the elections for the board of ALCS (Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society) are in. NUJ member Joan Smith has been re-elected, along with another existing member, Toby Faber. Despite some wonderful support from NUJ members and others, I didn't get one of

the three places. This is just to say thanks for all that support, and that I hope to go on working for authors – especially in my own field of non-fiction for young people – in whatever way I can, both through the NUJ and through the Society of Authors.

Jenny Vaughan LFB Treasurer and moderator of www.londonfreelance.org/NibWeb

GETTING THE FREELANCE

MEMBERS should note that if you respond to messages from the NUJ suggesting you save postage and paper by not getting the printed *Journalist*, you won't get the printed *Freelance* either. It's entirely up to you. If you do take the digital plunge, remember to visit www.londonfreelance.org regularly for the latest news affecting freelances.

We have reports that there has been some kind of foul-up with the last mailing, which meant that some members who are freelance, and should have received the printed December *Freelance*, didn't. We apologise on behalf of whoever caused that. It's all online, including printable PDF versions, at www.londonfreelance.org/fl

BRANCH COMMITTEE

FOLLOWING January's elections, we welcome as new LFB Committee members Emma Boyes, Geraldine Hackett, and Claire Colley, who's also our liaison with the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom.

And we thank those standing down from the committee – Pennie

Quinton, Mark Watts, Sonya Thomas and Janet Awe, who remains LFB Twitter account moderator (twitter.com/NUJ_LFB). John Spencer, becomes Branch Welfare Consultant. A Committee, list, with contacts, is at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html.

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LONDON B&B Wimbledon / Putney area in photojournalist's home. Details: www.southfieldstudio.co.uk or email southfields.bed@btconnect.com



London Freelance Branch chair Dave Rotchelle (left, in apron – he was serving food and drink) and London Magazine chair Alan Gibson (right) interrupt December's combined LFB and London Magazine Branch December seasonal party for "Branch business" announcements. Collaborative LFB / Magazine Branch projects this year include a special meeting on "Leveson" on 28 February – see above.

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