

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Leveson, gardening or the other way round

THE LONDON Freelance Branch meeting on **Monday 13 May** will be **either** on "Leveson: what now?" **or** on gardening journalism.

What does the post-Leveson "Royal Charter" deal debated in the House of Lords on 18 March mean? And what opportunities are there for us to influence the actual form of secondary legislation and the essential detail of the new regulator's codes of practice?

We hope to have a speaker or speakers on the subject from among the movers and shakers in the realms of media or politics, or both.

And can journalists still make a living writing about gardening in this internet age? Our speaker will be possibly a very big name in gardening journalism, or a journalist better known from another field who's recently diversified into writing about gardening. There will be more detail on the "angle" of the discussion when the speakers are confirmed.

The meeting on gardening, whether in May or June, will (provisionally) also be accompanied by a slightly unseasonal LFB seed swap, which may or may not coincide with the end of the Big Freeze prevailing at the time of writing.

Stand by to bring along to the "gardening" meeting any spare seeds you may have to give away to your fellow LFB members – tidily packaged and clearly labelled, please!

The LFB meeting on **Monday 10 June** will be on whichever of the two topics for discussion – Leveson or gardening – has not already happened by then, if you are still following us!

Watch www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and the LFB Twitter feed at http://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB for confirmation of which of the LFB meetings in May and June will be on "Leveson, what now?" and which of the meetings in these months will be on gardening

(or possibly other topics) – and for details of speakers, and whether the seed swap is still on.

This issue went to press on **2 April**. Deadline for the (online only) May edition is **25 April**.

LFB meetings are from 7pm to 9pm at **Friends House, Euston Road, NW1** (opposite Euston Station), 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, contact 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 LFB meetings for the rest of the year. For details of the NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see londonphotographers.org.

FREELANCE

Branch contacts: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb
Online Freelance contents: www.londonfreelance.org/fl

TRAINING

THE Getting Started as a Freelance course returns on **Friday 17 May**, at £60 for members, £100 non-members and only £40 for student members.

The Pitch & Deal course, sharpening freelancers' bargaining skills, is on **Friday 24 May**, at the heftily-

reduced price of £70 for the day to NUJ members, £130 to non-members and £60 to student members. Both courses are at the Headland House NUJ London HQ. To book, email training@nuj.org.uk. Details are at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1302tra.html.

ADVERTISEMENT



Data backup half-price offer

Protecting the contents of your computer is the technology equivalent of home contents insurance, says **BackupBod.com**. They're offering their basic service – unlimited, fully automated backup – at half price to NUJ members, for £1.99 per month.

There's no commitment, contract or minimum duration. The software "makes an exact copy of its files online". When you modify a file, the software will automatically replace the old version in "the cloud". See www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1304back.html for details of their offer, and quote offer code **NUJ1** ("N U J one") when ordering.

THE NUJ PRESENTS: GAME OVER?

HOW CAN journalists make a living from or in the digital games industry? Writing about games, or scriptwriting for games: how does it work? The NUJ presents: Game Over?

This event's on **Thursday 18 April** from 7pm to 9:30pm at the Innovation Warehouse, 1 East Poultry Ave, London EC1A 9PT (tubes Farringdon, Barbican, St Pauls). It's free to NUJ members and £5 to others. You must book to attend, via thenujpresentsgameover.eventbrite.co.uk (with no hyphens). This will

tell you if any places are left after this *Freelance* has reached you by ninth-class post.

Speakers include games writers Rhianna Pratchett, who worked on the recent *Tomb Raider* reboot; Ed Stern of UK games developer Splash Damage; and Andy Walsh, writer of *Prince of Persia* and many other titles.

On writing about games, we have the *Guardian's* Steve Boxer on "How Video Game Journalism Has Changed". See www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1303game.html.

EQUALITY

HOMOPHOBIA, transphobia and the media: from Bermondsey to Lucy Meadows. From coverage of the 1983 Bermondsey by-election to more recent controversial columns by Richard Littlejohn and others, this

NUJ Pride meeting asks if anything has changed in reporting of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans) issues. It's at 6.30pm on **Tuesday 16 April** at Headland House: email lenac@nuj.org.uk to register.

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

FREELANCE UNCLASSIFIEDS are FREE to members for non-commercial purposes. To non-members and for commercial purposes, £10 for this much. 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

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

CONTACTS

Freelance office

John Toner / Pamela Morton. 020 7843 3706
Membership via switchboard 020 7278 7916
email freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk
post 308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP

Legal helpline for NUJ members in emergency only:

England and Wales 0800 587 7530
Scotland 0800 085 3425

Freelance editors

Mike Holderness
Matt Salusbury
email: editor@londonfreelance.org

Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/NUJ_LFB

© 2013 NUJ & authors; moral rights asserted.