

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## Branch democracy and (tbc), NHS, LinkedIn

London Freelance Branch is run by and for working freelances. So the LFB meeting on **Monday 13 January** (back at the usual Friends House venue) will be its AGM, with elections for a new LFB Committee. The posts up for election include chair, vice-chair secretary, welfare officer, treasurer, *Freelance* editor, *Freelance* assistant editor, training officer, equality officer, chapel liaison officer, negotiations officer, membership secretary and members without portfolio.

There's a list of posts to be elected, and details of what each post entails, at [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html). If you are thinking of standing for one of them (job shares are possible, and indeed encouraged,) contact a committee member, see [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html). You can also nominate yourself in person at the January AGM.

The January AGM is also the occasion of elections for two auditors – not committee members – to check the Branch accounts, and the only opportunity to propose changes to the Branch's Standing Orders – its constitution. (See [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/rules.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/rules.html).)

The same evening also sees the election of nine members of the LFB delegation to the next biannual Delegate Meeting (the Union's national conference.). The next is in Eastbourne on 11-13 April 2014.

The meeting on **Monday 10 February** is provisionally on Health service journalism. The **Monday 10 March** meeting is pencilled in as a session on using LinkedIn as a tool for journalism, with speakers provisionally from LinkedIn itself.

Details of both these meetings are to be confirmed.

Watch the LFB website and its Twitter feed ([www.twitter.com/](http://www.twitter.com/)

**NUJ\_LFB**) for confirmation (or not) and for more information.

This issue went to press on **3 December**; the deadline for the January online-only edition is **26 December**.

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 a dependent so you can attend a Branch meeting, call a Branch officer. For updates on meetings see the LFB Branch calendar web page at [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html). Volunteer minute-takers are needed for LFB meetings for the rest of the year. For details of NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see [londonphotographers.org](http://londonphotographers.org).

## TAX WARNING

AWOOGA! Awooga! (please insert the sound of nuclear power station evacuation klaxon). That's the *Freelance* tax return deadline countdown siren sounding.

Yes, you have not much more than a month, between the time you are reading this and **31 January**, to fill in and send your tax return for tax year 2012-2013 – or face hefty fines. It sounds like a long time, but "stuff to do" tends to get in the way.

And getting through to seek the advice of the HMRC tax return helpline will become progressively harder come mid-January as it gets busier.

To plan to file a tax return online for the first time, you'll need to sign up to <https://online.hmrc.gov.uk/home> for a "Government Gateway" user ID, for which they will send you an activation code that takes up to seven working days to come by post.

## LETTER

## Copyright of the Daleks

An ironic addition to your fun "Dalek piece" (see page 5) – intergalactic copyright. One of Beryl Vertue's daughters is married to Stephen Moffat who became writer/producer/showrunner on the BBC's relaunched *Doctor Who*. When they wanted to bring back the Daleks, he found himself having to negotiate his way around his mother-in-law's contract creativity.

Best wishes, Humphrey Evans

## CAMPAIGN

## Freedom for journalists

AT LEAST 59 journalists are in prison in Turkey, most under the anti-terrorism law. The European Federation of Journalists wants you to support an urgent appeal against life sentences given to Turkish journalists Fusun Erdogan, Ziya Ulusoy, Bayram Namaz, and Ibrahim Cicek in November. They were condemned to 3000 years' imprisonment under anti-terrorism laws. They were all accused of membership of a Marx-



ist organisation (MLKP) outlawed by the Turkish government. See [avaaz.org/en/petition/Justice\\_for\\_Journalists\\_in\\_Turkey](http://avaaz.org/en/petition/Justice_for_Journalists_in_Turkey).

Meanwhile in Ukraine, journalists from former Soviet states met in Kiev in November to discuss safety issues and an end to effective legal impunity for those who detain, harm and kill journalists. The banner above says (we hope) something like "International day to end impunity" in the Armenian language.

Photo © Mike Holderness

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cottage, well equipped, recently renovated, sleeps 9. Breathtaking views. Near Macroom and Killarney. Rates €350 June-August, €300 Sept and €250 any other time. Karl (see print), Phil (see print). or [jkhowe@eircom.net](mailto:jkhowe@eircom.net)

**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: (see print edition)

FREELANCE

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