

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Small Claims courts, hols, work for BBC Radio

FINGERS crossed – and barring any more “hitches” with the *Journalist/Freelance* mail-out beyond our control – this newsletter will have reached you in time to remind you of the London Freelance Branch meeting on **Monday 14 July**.

Using the Small Claims track of the Intellectual Property County Court to extract damages from infringers of your copyright is the subject of the July meeting.

Our speakers will be NUJ Freelance Organiser John Toner and Assistant Organiser Pamela Morton. They will share their extensive experiences of supporting NUJ members through the process of using this court and some tales of success.

For background, see photographer John Walmsley's description of how he's had wins in the Intellectual Property courts track, (on page 1). See also www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1403scc.html for Pamela's article on how “Small Claims work.”

The July meeting will also have an update on changes to copyright law in the UK – see page 1 for a summary – from LFB's own copyright expert Mike Holderness. He will also cover as much of the NUJ's campaigning in Westminster, Brussels and Geneva to protect authors' rights and to deal with unfair contracts as time allows.

There is no LFB meeting in August, as LFB will be on the nearest freelance equivalent of a holiday.

Branch meetings resume on **Monday 8 September**, with – provisionally – a meeting on how commissioning for BBC Radio works.

The speaker for the September meeting and details are yet to be confirmed. Watch this space.

And in addition to the regular LFB meetings there will be a day conference on “From Stress to Success” on **Saturday 18 October**. For venue and details see page 4 and watch this space for updates.

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 an LFB meeting, call a Branch officer.

For updates on meetings and for confirmation of the topic and speakers of meetings throughout 2014, see the LFB Branch calendar web page at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and LFB's Twitter feed http://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB.

This issue went to press on **10 June**. Your deadline for the September edition is **9 August**.

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

LETTERS

Do not work for free

Please can you explain the request in the May *Freelance* for free photography? entitled “Appeal for photos”. I'm absolutely appalled by this!

It is an insult to every NUJ photographer. I cannot see how this can be justified at all... A few pages earlier the “Rate for the job” section analyses various rates paid to Freelancers and “While we regret having no budget etc” just doesn't cut it!

The whole principle of the NUJ is to preserve people being paid for their work and expertise... not expecting free writing or photography.

Stephen Wright

● **The editors write:** We do think there is an important difference between publications produced for profit – or even for vanity – and a Branch newsletter for members. Traditionally, some members have chosen to contribute words and pictures to their Branch as acts of solidarity with fellow members. We apologise if our parody of for-profit papers' pitches caused offence.

Perennial complaint

On Page 4 of the May edition of *Freelance*, Matt Salusbury refers to the “biannual” Delegate Meeting at Eastbourne in April.

He means “biennial” – every other year (Newcastle DM 2012, Motion 84). Biannual means twice a year.

It's one of those things you learn on Day One at the *Town Trumpet*, along with things like the difference between “continuous” and “continual.” Does anyone sub-edit the *Freelance*?

We're on sticky ground when we preach standards of excellence if sloppy work characterises our own publications.

Steve Wood
Life Member

● **Matt Salusbury writes:** Oops! I appear to have been inspired by a misprint on a seed packet of what should have been “biennial” plants. I stand corrected. It is indeed a “biennial” Delegate Meeting. The thought of a DM twice a year is truly a disturbing one.

Precarity play –

testimony sought

I am a NUJ member and I seek fellow members' help with a project. I am also an actress and am working on a play about the impact of precarious work and underemployment.

Along with the rest of the team, I would like to organise workshops based on testimonies including our own experiences.

Could any members potentially interested in talking to us about your experiences of working on zero-hour contracts, of insecurity and so on please contact me at a.kandalraft@yahoo.fr

I would be happy to meet you somewhere convenient for you – travel expenses provided – or to have a chat over the phone.

Abla Kandalraft

RIP Janice James

London Freelance Branch recently heard the sad news that journalist Janice James had died, aged 71. Janice joined LFB back in the summer of 1964, and was made an NUJ Life Member in 2007. See the announcement in the *Telegraph*: announcements.telegraph.co.uk/deaths/175658/davis

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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IRISH COUNTRY COTTAGE for rent, 1 hour from Cork: remote, rustic

cottage, well equipped, recently renovated, sleeps 9. Breathtaking views. Near Macroom and Killarney. Rates €350 June-August, €300 Sept and €250 any other time. Contact jkhowe@eircom.net

SPORTS REPORTER or voiceover artist? Portable ISDN broadcast units for hire with carry case, ISDN lead and headphones/mic. Short or long term hire availability. nickr80@hotmail.co.uk.

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