

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

# Can media be representative of the people?

THE PLANNED topic for the London Freelance Branch meeting on **Monday 13 October** is: what can be done about the inadequate (and apparently decreasing) representation of black and ethnic minority people in the media?

Numbers of black and minority ethnic members of the media industry fell by 30.9% between 2006 and 2012, according to training organisation **CreativeSkillSet.org** – this is what prompted comedian and actor Lenny Henry to threaten a BBC licence fee boycott earlier in the year. Professor Kurt Barling also spoke out at the time and is invited as a journalist affected by this imbalance.

The Branch is also inviting a speaker from the Union's Black Members' Council. What can be done about it? Is it more about race, or in the age of jobs gained by interns supported by

Mummy and Daddy is it more about class? Visit the links below for details of our speakers (or a correction of the topic) now – we hope to have full details sorted out by the time this hits your doormat.

The editors do not yet know what's happening on **Monday 10 November**. To be sure of getting email alerts, and optionally to request updates on companies for which you do work, please visit [www.londonfreelance.org/linkup](http://www.londonfreelance.org/linkup)

We are fairly sure, though, that on **Monday 8 December** there will be a seasonal social event. It's quite likely to be at the Union's head office, Headland House.

This issue went to press (finally) on 14 September.

Your deadline for the next print edition is **21 November**.

LFB meetings are from 7pm to 9pm and (except in December) 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](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html) – details of motions for meetings are at the foot of that web page.

See also LFB's Twitter feed, [http://twitter.com/NUJ\\_LFB](http://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB)

For details of NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see the website belonging to that Branch: [www.londonphotographers.org](http://www.londonphotographers.org)

## VALE!

# Branch secretary bids LFB a reluctant farewell

AT THE BEGINNING of this year, I took on the rôle of London Freelance Branch secretary, having a few weeks previously been elected to the branch committee as a member without portfolio. During my brief tenure as secretary, I have handled the administration of the largest branch in the NUJ, and recorded branch activities and decisions with detailed meeting minutes.

Out of personal interest in developing new ways of working within the union, I recently set up an email-based policy forum for LFB, which for the time being is restricted to committee members. In the longer term, we plan to open this forum up to the branch at large, if it so wishes. The aim of the policy forum is to provide LFB members with a space between NUJ-wide Delegate Meet-

ings to draft and refine detailed policy proposals, which could then be put to full branch meetings.

I have very much enjoyed my time as branch secretary, but sadly it must come to a premature end. The reason for my departure is that I have accepted an offer of a job from the University of Cambridge as communications lead for the European Graphene Flagship (<http://graphene-flagship.eu>).

Given that from the start of September I am no longer an exclusively freelance journalist, I cannot remain as an officer of an NUJ freelance branch, or, for that matter, of the union's Freelance Industrial Council, on which I sit as the Equality representative. Having been self-employed for the past 11 years, the prospect of returning to full-time employment in

academia is daunting. Still, I will I'm sure cope with the transition from the real world.

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## Election time

THE WORK OF the Branch Secretary includes writing up and circulating the minutes of meetings, following up on matters arising and liaising with NUJ Head Office, and with the venue management on hiring a space for meetings. See [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html) for more detail. LFB can elect a new Branch secretary at the meeting on **13 October**, and really needs to do so by the Annual General Meeting on 12 January. Jobshares in the Branch Secretary role are encouraged. If you are considering standing for this role, get in touch a member of the Committee: see the list of members at [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html)

## New members meet

There's a meeting for new members of the London Freelance Branch on **Thursday 30 October** at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1 (nearest Tube Holborn) from 6-7pm. It's a chance to meet other new members, and also to pick the brains of some longer established journo who will be on hand to give advice. For more details, email [davrotch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davrotch@yahoo.co.uk)

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**LARGE VILLAGE** farmhouse in rural Teruel. Spain for sale for £44,000. Ideal for writers, painters, walkers and nature lovers. The houses has basic kitchen and bathroom, water and electricity and great potential for development into a large family home (8 plus bedrooms) or small hotel. For details see [www.Teruel-property.com](http://www.Teruel-property.com) or contact Joyce: [joyce@joycebake.com](mailto:joyce@joycebake.com)

**CALLING ALL EX PRESS / PHOTOGRAPHERS** who may still have a 9 x 12V.N. Press Camera and equipment in working condition. As in ex-press photographer I used this camera and would like to use again for old time's sake, possibly with a view to buying. My old VN. lets the light in. Please respond by email, including "Ken Lavery's ad" in the Subject line, via [freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk](mailto:freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk)

**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: email [jkhowe@eircom.net](mailto:jkhowe@eircom.net)

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