

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

LFB needs new blood!

IT'S THAT time of year again, when the NUJ London Freelance Branch committee's posts are up for re-election. These will take place at the LFB AGM on **Monday 12 January**.

The posts up for re-election are Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary (currently vacant: of late Vice-Chair Fiona O'Cleirigh has been filling the secretarial role), Membership Secretary and new members' rep, Welfare officers, Treasurer, Editor and Assistant Editor of the *Freelance* (the last two are paid a fee by the Branch for each issue they produce), Equality officer: Chapel liaison officer: Negotiations officer and members without portfolio – there are currently six of these, and they often take on particular projects as they arise. For the responsibilities of each Committee post, see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html.

The AGM is also when the Branch elects two auditors to scrutinise its annual accounts – these should not be Committee members.

There is support available for those considering standing for an LFB Committee post: contact a cur-

rent Committee member for details in plenty of time for the AGM. The current Committee members' contacts are at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html.

Jobshare Committee posts are encouraged. Committee members are expected to attend at least half of the LFB Committee meetings, which are held monthly on the *third* Monday of the month, the week after the Branch meeting. Committee meetings are at the NUJ's Headland House HQ in Gray's Inn Road, starting at 6.30, and we have to be out of the building by 8.30. The Branch can pay travel expenses for attendance at Committee meetings.

Also, the January AGM is the only opportunity of the year to change the Branch's Standing Orders, its constitution. The current one's at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/rules.html. Proposed amendments to standing orders need to be in to editor@londonfreelance.org by **Friday 2 January 2015**. The Committee is likely to present a proposal to formalise email being sufficient notice of meetings and motions, to

catch up with recent practice with less-frequent mailings.

Some time in early 2015 we hope to have a meeting on getting commissions work for BBC Radio 4, with a speaker from New Broadcasting House itself. See the link below.

This issue went to press on **2 December**. Your deadline for the January 2015 (online-only) edition is **22 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 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 2015, see the LFB Branch calendar web page at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and http://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB

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

FREELANCE

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

REVIEW

Still the Enemy Within

THIRTY YEARS ago, "Thatcher went to war. These are the miners who fought back." This unashamedly partisan film from Bad Bonobo, directed and produced by Owen Gower, relates the story of the 1984/5 miners' strike – as told by the miners, their families and their supporters.

Often, they are filmed speaking from the desolate places where the pits once stood. Along with archive material and some re-enactment, they describe events which still resonate today. There's no attempt at balance. Instead, the film praises the idea of solidarity – with minimal commentary, with no voice-overs, in the director's words: "No experts, like Seamus Milne".

It's a moving reminder of a world destroyed when the Thatcher gov-

ernment decided to take on the trade union movement, and the NUM in particular.

It's almost impossible to conceive now of a single picket, alone in the rain at 5am, turning back a fleet of lorries, or how people were prepared to walk out of their jobs for a cause so risky, because they believed it was the right thing, and to carry on long after defeat looked inevitable.

The film covers the bitterness, the betrayals, the devastating effect on people's lives, the vexed question of the national ballot that never was – and the terrifying use of the police as a near-military force.

It praises the support from ordinary men and women who gave so generously – in very many cases people who themselves had almost

nothing to give. Could the miners have won? The film thinks they might: they were let down by other trade unions and the leaders of the labour movement. If there had been a victory – where would we be now?

One of the miners says he thinks they lost the battle, but not, after all, the war. Let's hope he's right.

London Freelance Branch donated £400 towards the making of *Still The Enemy Within*, and it includes stills taken by NUJ members.

The film's now available for pre-order on DVD via <http://the-enemy-within.org.uk/product/pre-order-the-dvd/>

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New members meet

There's a meeting for new members of the London Freelance Branch on **Thursday 29 January** 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 daverlfb@yahoo.co.uk

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early 70s soul, jazz, blues, folk, ska/reggae, Latin, Samba/bossa, African, Cajun/Zydeco, klezmer. But all popular genres and eras considered. Contact Mike at: info@vinylvanguard.com

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