

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Cop surveillance? Stop it!

OUR STAR speaker at the LFB meeting on **Monday 13 April** is scheduled to be comic and commentator Mark Thomas – one of the six including NUJ member photo-journalists who are bringing a judicial review legal action against the Metropolitan Police targeting for surveillance journalists who cover protest: see page 4 for details of the action and reports of some of the surveillance that led up to it. What are the implications of the police arguing that they need to photograph and make notes on absolutely everybody on any demonstration?

If there is time, there may also be a briefing in the same meeting on how to use the Data Protection Act to obtain from the police any

“intelligence reports” on you that may exist. The *Freelance*’s own Matt Salusbury can be our guide.

Possible topics for the meetings on **Monday 11 May**, **Monday 15 June** and **Monday 13 July** include freedom of expression and promised legislation to curb surveillance of journalists through the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

This year’s meeting in the Houses of Parliament is likely to be in July.

This issue went to press on **25 February**. The deadline for the April online-only edition is **23 March**.

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 www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and LFB’s Twitter feed http://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB.

NOTE that the Branch rules now allow notice of meetings and motions to be sent by email. If you are not getting such notices, go to www.londonfreelance.org/linkup now.

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

SO FAREWELL THEN, CHAIRMAN DAVE...

INCUMBENT LFB Chair Dave Rotchelle announced at the Branch’s AGM in January he would not put himself forward for re-election. Dave has “been sheriff around here quite a while... four terms in fact,” and decided the time was right to hand over the reins.

His time chairing the biggest Branch of the biggest Union of its kind had been, concluded Dave, “long and sometimes difficult but enjoyable.” An “amazing Committee made my life much easier than it would have been,” he added, as had support from NUJ Freelance Assistant Organiser Pamela Morton and NUJ Freelance Organiser John Toner at the Freelance Office.

Dave continues to represent members on his London seat at the NUJ’s Freelance Industrial Council, and as LFB Vice-Chair. Added Dave, “Thank you and goodbye... Every minute of it has been marvellous.”

Fiona O’Cleirigh, LFB Vice-Chair and a member of the Union’s National Executive Council was elected as LFB’s new Chair, promptly taking

We welcome Alistair Dabbs, who stepped up as LFB’s new Branch Secretary. Other new faces on the LFB Committee are Sonya Thomas and Safiullah Tazie (jobsharing as Equality Officer) and Committee members without portfolio Annie Burns and Hina Pandya. We welcome too the Committee’s re-elected members

(see the updated LFB Committee contacts list at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html)

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Freelance Organiser John Toner presents Dave with a gold-effect record-like thing at the February London Freelance meeting; and below, Tom Davies.

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FAREWELL, TOM DAVIES

WE ALSO bid farewell to Tom Davies, former LFB Secretary and NUJ delegate to the Trades Union Congress, who is leaving the Branch after been offered a full-time job at the *Guardian*, where he’s been a casual sub for many years. As he’ll no longer be freelance, Tom will have to switch

to another NUJ branch. We think Tom for all the hard work he’s put in to LFB. Tom is shown here reading a bizarre communication from the London Organising Committee to the Olympic Games to LFB in 2011 (see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1104olym.html.)



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