

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Women, members' views, snooper's charter

WOMEN in journalism is the theme of the London Freelance Branch meeting on **Monday 14 March**. (International Women's Day this year falls on the Tuesday just under a week before the meeting.)

Our speaker is NUJ General Secretary Michelle Stanistreet – the first woman to be elected to the post in the Union's history.

She was previously Mother of Chapel (elected rep for the NUJ at the workplace level) at the *Sunday Express*.

What do our members want? That's the question under discussion at the April LFB meeting (**Monday 11 April**).

This will feature a panel of new members discussing their hopes regarding the Branch and how it can support them (and how they can support it!).

Expect a very interactive discussion on Branch priorities and possible new initiatives.

We haven't done anything like this for a while – the last time LFB had a vaguely similar meeting was a decade ago, and now it's time for an update!

The meeting is an opportunity for members (both new and more long-standing) to input ideas.

LFB's own New Members Officer Elizabeth Ingrams will be among the meeting's facilitators.

Watch this space for more detail on the meeting's format.

The threat to journalists posed by the draft Investigatory Powers Bill is the subject of the LFB meeting on **Monday 9 May**.

The draft Bill's provisions include internet service providers having to keep records of what websites someone has visited, which they must give to the police without a

warrant. Speakers to be confirmed.

Deadline for the March online-only issue: **22 February**.

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

This issue went to press on **3 Feb**

Can members who have difficulty reading the agenda on paper please contact us to get the agenda in electronic form ahead of the meeting.

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LFB XMAS PARTY REPORT

LFB'S SEASONAL end-of-year gathering is shown below in full swing.

LFB Chair Fiona O'Cleirigh (right, her head bedecked with tinsel) was surprised by a Christmas gift (pictured) from the Branch Committee, in recognition of all her hard work over the year. Fi had briefly interrupted the festivities to welcome new members and to make the absolute minimum of Branch announce-

ments – breaking with established tradition by not doing so standing on a chair. We were joined by members from other NUJ Branches including the London Central, London Independent Broadcasting and New Media, London Photographers' and London Magazine Branches.

Our apologies to our members who use wheelchairs who joined us in a smaller gathering in the lobby of the NUJ's Headland House HQ – this was due to the lifts to the fifth floor meeting room being repaired that day, a fact which the powers that be at Headland House apparently neglected to pass on to the

WEWELCOME some new faces to the London Freelance Branch Committee, together with some returning members. The complete Committee list, with contacts, is at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html. New to the Committee this year are Rashmee Roshan Lall, columnist with *Arab Weekly* and *The National*; Zaki Dogliani, reporter on high education policy website Wonkhe; Joe Tucker (Membership Officer along with Elizabeth Ingrams); David Wilkins – currently on an NCTJ course – joins Arjum Wajid as welfare officer; Magda Ibrahim joins Safiullah Tazib as equalities officer; and Nora Mantey and Thibault Raymond Gbei. Pennie Quinton rejoins the Committee as training officer, while NUJ Vice-President Tim Dawson is the Committee's Chapel liaison officer. Former *Journalist* editor Tim Gopsill is our newly elected secretary, together with music journalist and Phil Sutcliffe, tutor on the NUJ's Getting Started as a Freelance course.

New members meet

LFB members new to freelance journalism are invited to meet other people new to the Branch, and members with more experience of freelance journalism, at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY on **Thursday 28 April** from 6pm. These meetings happen there on the last Thursday of every third month. The Branch hopes to resume inviting new members who come to their first Branch meeting to have their photo taken and give a few words about themselves: see them at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/intros.html



LFB's Xmas party

Photo © Matt Salusbury Branch in advance.

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I AM SEEKING to diversify so have stated trading in vinyl records. So, fair prices paid for good condition LP records. In particular, 50s to 90s rock, 60s-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.

FAR EAST I'm a freelance correspondent, 36 years experience in S.E. Asia including BBC work, with a vast network of contacts. I'm Manila-based and available for freelance assignments. Contact Robert at rharland@mozcom.com

GALLOWAY COTTAGE. Wood-burning stove and games room. One mile from Scotland's book town, two minutes walk to good village pub and distillery. Beautiful countryside and unspoiled beaches. woodpeckercottage@btinternet.com woodpecker-cottage.co.uk

CONTACTS

Freelance office

John Toner / Pamela Morton. 020 7843 3706
Membership via switchboard 020 7278 7916
email freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk
post 308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP
Legal helpline for NUJ members in emergency only:
England and Wales 0800 587 7530
Scotland 0800 085 3425

Freelance editors

Mike Holderness
Matt Salusbury
email: editor@londonfreelance.org
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