

# War zone at work

THE NEWSROOM is the war zone for many women journalists, NUJ's General Secretary Michelle Stanistreet told London Freelance Branch at its March meeting, shortly after International Women's Day. It "makes me squirm when I'm introduced as the first woman General Secretary" of the NUJ, said Michelle: "it doesn't sound good" that it took the Union a century to elect its first female Gen. Sec.

She related how "64 per cent of women responding to an International News Safety Institute survey reported that, yes, they had been subjected to harassment while they were reporting from hazardous areas. The majority of culprits were men in their offices, often including their bosses."

Meanwhile, double standards apply to women journalists working in conflict zones. Channel Four News's Lindsay Hilsun responded to safety advice following rapes of women

journalists in Egypt by observing that while male journalists had also been assaulted and killed in Egypt she had not heard any advice to that demographic to stay out of the country.

While an estimated 40 per cent of the journalistic workforce nationally is female, Michelle cited a recent *Guardian* study of bylines across newspapers over a month which found 22 per cent were from journalists with female first names.

On the "double whammy of ageism and sexism" with "older women rare in broadcasting," Michelle said the Union has "done a lot of work on older women in broadcasting" with "great personal settlements" – including back pay – for women who "discover years after joining that they are paid less." At the *Express* newspaper, where Michelle was local workplace-based rep for the NUJ, "we fought for a woman who'd been put in a selection pool for redundancy" when freshly returned to

work from maternity leave. One on occasion a colleague volunteered to take redundancy but the management turned round and said, "no, her" (that is, the woman who'd just returned to work). It ended in a settlement involving a "six-figure sum."

At the other end of the spectrum of age and experience are "more women journalists forced to work for free... on long internships" with "examples particularly in magazines" where they are subject to sexual harassment at a time when they are "very fearful of rocking the boat."

The NUJ compiled a dossier with evidence from staff and freelancers which went to Dinah Rose QC's inquiry into the BBC and Jimmy Savile, giving detail on contemporary "bullying, sexism, harassment". It "had a massive impact" and led to the change in policy the BBC now have in place. There have been cases where abusers have been "stripped of management posts... sidelined on the way to a nice redundancy... this is progress to the way it should be."

Michelle ended by ask women members to email their experiences of harassment and discrimination to her, in confidence: please email [generalsecretary@nuj.org.uk](mailto:generalsecretary@nuj.org.uk).

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● A longer report is online.



NUJ General Secretary Michelle speaking at LFB on women in journalism.

Photo: © Hazel Dunlop

## Branch equality survey

London Freelance Branch Equality Officers Safiullah Tazib and Magda Ibrahim have put together a survey to find out what issues Branch members have with discrimination and equality. They write: "The Branch wants to find out about equality issues affecting freelancers, with the aim of formulating a definition of 'equality', and assisting members to overcome equality challenges. Please share your experiences with us in this short survey – and share your contact details if you are willing to talk further." The survey is linked from [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1604surv.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1604surv.html)

## Tie the Culture Secretary down, please

THERE ARE a range of government policies affecting journalism on the stocks. You have a chance of influencing them. Look up your MP at [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)

First, there's the matter of changes to Freedom of Information law (see page 3). For a petition supporting extending the openness rules to private companies that run public services see [www.bit.ly/public-FoIA](http://www.bit.ly/public-FoIA)

Next, there's the controversial matter of press regulation. Unlike

certain newspaper proprietors, the NUJ supports the recommendation of the Leveson Inquiry for an independent regulator and a "second phase" to determine how widespread press wrongdoing was, who was responsible, and the role of the police and politicians in covering it up. John Whittingdale MP, Culture Secretary as we went to press, wants to bury it. Please ask that Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013, the "engine" for the press regula-

tion proposals, is brought into force: Whittingdale wants to shelve it: see [www.bit.ly/LevesonLetter](http://www.bit.ly/LevesonLetter)

Last but not least, there's the matter of control of the BBC. Whittingdale in March announced plans for a new BBC board – with the great majority of members appointed by government. There's a petition against this at [www.bit.ly/BBCboard](http://www.bit.ly/BBCboard)

● See references and links at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1605peti.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1605peti.html)

LFB meetings

9 May

Opposing the  
Snoopers' Charter

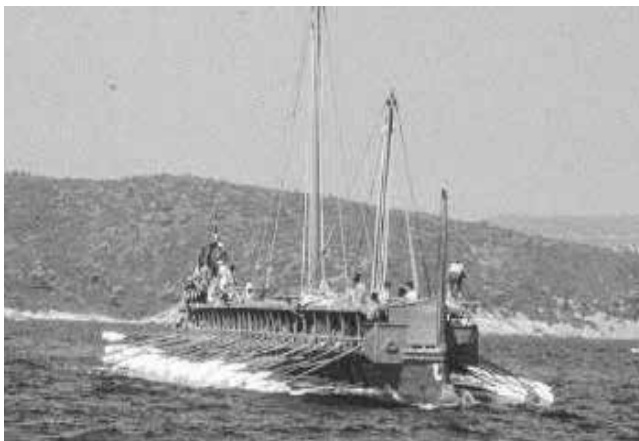
13 June

Journalists labelled  
'domestic extremist'

See back page &  
[www.twitter.com/NUJ\\_LFB](http://www.twitter.com/NUJ_LFB)



And lo! This QR code shall convey your web-enabled smartphone device directly to the Rate for the Job page [www.londonfreelance.org/rates](http://www.londonfreelance.org/rates)



## The Trireme Award

This year's Trireme Award for the "worst terms and conditions since I was last chained to the oars" goes to GB Media, publishers of *Betting Business International*. Its day rate for a shift (doing we know not what) is £65 according to one freelance who submitted it to Rftj (see right.) Assuming that's a shift of seven hours, it's just as well they're based in Bolton, because their hourly rate would be 12p below the current London Living Wage as recommended by the Living Wage Foundation. It's only a pound and a few pence above the Living Wage Foundation's suggested Living Wage rate for the rest of the UK. (This again is working on the assumption of a seven-hour shift, were it a shift for fewer hours then the rate would start to seem more reasonable.)

# The Rate for the Job

THIS MONTH'S bumper crop of Rates for the Job include – in response to our appeal – one individual members' rates that they charge for videography. Keep them coming!

Thinking about work for a company you've not dealt with before? Simply look at the Rate for the Job to find out what companies in similar niches have paid. Then aim higher.

You can submit rates online, in confidence, at any time, at [www.lon-](http://www.londonfreelance.org/rates)

[donfreelance.org/rates](http://donfreelance.org/rates) – please give not only the basic rate (e.g. for FBS, First British Serial rights) but extra payments negotiated for extra uses, like the Web – or for print if it's a Rate for the Online Job.

Rates marked **X** are, in the editor's fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even perhaps the happy ☺ few.

**Photography:** A member's going rates for video – shoot, edit 2-3 minute package (a day's work) £500; news date rate £400 (up from £300); video from archive: one minute for TV and internet £360 (£6 per second per platform, UK only) £360; world licence per second per platform £36, UK only £6; *Daily Mail* Online raw video, £150; 5 exclusive images £150, stills £80 **XX**.

**Shifts:** Marketing agency research and draft "white paper" per day £450; *Financial Times* subbing day, 11am-7pm £155; *The Independent* website news shift £150, day shift £95 **XXX**; *Enfield Gazette* reporting day £110; *Betting Business International* day shift,

unspecified activity £65 **XXXX**.

**Teaching:** Media group, customised training day on specialist journalism skills travel paid £600.

**Translation:** TV France 2000 words (French/English) £570.

**Words, per 1000:** *Serendip* 1000 words print and online US\$500; *High* 50 600 words @ £160 = £267, *The Register* articles £250; *Fair Planet* 1300 words @ £300 = £230; *Vice* online feature, 1800 words @ £180 = £100 **XX**; *Ping Magazine* 1000 words print and online £75 **X**; BBC Learning fictional story non-exclusive £138; *Bella* magazine 800 words @ £80 = £100 **XX**; *New Statesman* (online) writing blog article for *The Staggers* – was £80 in 1990! £75 **XXX**, 1600 words @ £75 = £47 **X**.

**Words, other:** Book for young readers 3000 words, royalty advance £850 **XX**; Private Label International (PR) 100-150 words £300; *Marketing USA* magazine 1600 words US\$500; *Telegraph* comment, 500 words @ £50 = £100, *Telegraph* foreign news piece 900 words £110 **XXX**.

## HuffPo wants more blockheads

THE EDITOR of the *Huffington Post* notoriously thinks journalism is only "authentic" if he doesn't pay the journalist. Stephen Hull, as reported in the *New Statesman*, was asked by BBC Radio 4's *The Media Show* why he doesn't pay his writers. He answered: "If I was paying someone to write something because I want it to get advertising, that's not a real authentic way of presenting copy. When somebody writes something for us, we know it's real, we know they want to write it. It's not been forced or paid for. I think that's something to be proud of."

The *Freelance* recalls the words of dictionaryist Samuel Johnson: no-one "but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money." Hull clearly wants block-

heads, and lots of them, with click-bait headlines.

Blogger Paul Bradshaw (@paul-bradshaw) provided a handy link to all the furious tweets in response. Chuck Wendig was very rude (his text is flagged "not safe for work"). The contents printable in a family newsletter include: "You venomous content-garglers. You thieves, you brigands, you media lampreys... *HuffPo* would have you believe that not paying means that somehow, the integrity of the information remains intact. What it misunderstands is that, if *HuffPo* isn't paying, then who is? Someone is always paying. Or, at the very least, someone is always selling something."

*Private Eye* observed that perhaps

Hull "should read his own content" and helpfully listed some. These included:

- "Parents fear their children will not get a job" by Sir Tony Hawkhead, head of Action for Children;
- "30 truths about doing work experience" by Katrina Vasey, who recalled when "it dawns on you that you have just agreed to work for two weeks... for free";
- and, most appositely: "We need more working-class journalists" by student journalist James Cropper.

Not least of the lessons here is that blatantly pissing off people who write pissed-off comment for a living, when they can, demonstrates a certain lack of managerial nous.

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## Training alert – includes HM Govt © course

THERE MAY still be still be some places free on the Pitch and Deal training course on pitching and negotiating for freelancers on **Friday 6 May 2016**. But hurry, it's imminent! It's at the discount rate of £70 for full NUJ members, £60 for student or unemployed members.

Please note that due to renovations at NUJ HQ it's not at the usual NUJ training venue but at the Marx Memorial Library, 37A Clerkenwell Green, EC1R 0DU. Details: [www.nuj.org.uk/events/2016/05/06/](http://www.nuj.org.uk/events/2016/05/06/).

Other NUJ training events include a two-day course in "Boosting your income with book publishing" on **19-20 May** at the same venue as above, £300 to NUJ members. Details are at [www.nuj.org.uk/events/2016/05/19/](http://www.nuj.org.uk/events/2016/05/19/).

And here's a date for your diary – the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) has a copyright training day on **6 September**. This covers recent developments in copyright, aimed both at copyright beginners and those already in the know seeking an update.

HM Govt's IPO advises "book early to avoid disappointment."

Forces within the NUJ are currently lobbying the organisers for NUJ members to be collectively included in the lower "public sector" rate for this training, so watch this space. See: [www.tinyurl.com/ipo-training](http://www.tinyurl.com/ipo-training).

As ever, the Federation of Entertainment Unions (FEU, which includes the NUJ) has workshops and e-courses free to members. So keep an eye on [www.feutraining.org](http://www.feutraining.org)

# We 'absolutely need journalism on top of it'

WELL OVER a hundred NUJ freelance journalists attended – for free – the Google News Lab training event in March. Many had come from a long way out of London. A training day in Google's tools for journalists was the idea of LFB's own Hina Pandya, who opened the event. She noted that the day had been "a year in the making", with her negotiating with Google on behalf of the NUJ's Freelance Industrial Council.

Our host was Google News Lab's Matt Cooke, formerly a radio freelance. Matt described Google News Lab as developed "specifically for journalists" – who apparently tell Google that what they need most is help with research, reporting, distribution via social media. But "you absolutely need journalism on top of it, otherwise it's just nice visuals."

Google image search's "search tools" include a usage rights filter, but Matt warned that "it's not a silver bullet – still look at that image

and see exactly how it's labelled" regarding usage rights. LFB's Phil Sutcliffe reminded attendees that "labelled for use – that absolutely doesn't mean cleared for use... We absolutely don't want to steal from our colleagues." Contact the owner.

Ob YouTube (a Google product) Matt said: "I appreciate those who think this is just fluff." Many media outlets will now have a YouTube channel with a 30-second video on the front page – we watched the BBC's YouTube channel, noticeably more conversational than their other output. *The Economist's* YouTube videos are just graphics with a voice over, while Irish broadcaster RTE specialises in 30-second videos that are just five subtitled photos. Short YouTube videos are a way to "advertise your long form."

YouTube have a license to distribute these, but it's the YouTube user who owns the content. You see a lot of "scraping" in which people

have just filmed a YouTube video on a screen and claimed it as theirs. While "no tool will stop that," Amnesty International now have a site that helps journalists authenticate "user-generated" videos.

Also worthy of investigation are Google public data explorer – it collates all the statistics from various (named) sources – and Google My Maps (for which you'll need a Google account). This allows you to add your own editorial to a map and import spreadsheets and photos into it. You can use Google Maps in your journalism if you attribute it as "map data Copyright Google".

At Google's request there was no photography anywhere else in the building, so you'll have to take my word for it that there was a "Google toilets" sign.

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• The longer version of this online has links to videos of the day. (You'll need your membership number.)

## Salon in Salford

Following the very successful Freelance Salon event in London – see the January *Freelance* at [www.londonfreelance.org/fi/1512salo.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fi/1512salo.html) – the concept is going on tour. Put the date in your diary if you're in the North of England: **Wednesday 18 May**, at the Friends' Meeting House in Manchester from 6pm to 9pm. For details of speakers please revisit [www.londonfreelance.org/fi/1603salo.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fi/1603salo.html)

# Savings for members on essential insurance

IF THE NUJ gets enough members signing up to Imaging Insurance's professional indemnity insurance, we could get a better deal on premiums for these policies. For all freelancers including "Image-makers" (photographers, photo-journalists, video and film makers,) and "Writers" (journalists and authors), Imaging Insurance offers policies which are tailored to your individual needs.

**Professional Indemnity Insurance:** In these litigious times most freelancers now consider Professional Indemnity Insurance, or "libel insurance" as many writers refer to it, an essential business protection.

"Writers" Professional Indemnity Insurance covers you for claims resulting from words you write and professional services you provide, such as PR and Media advice. This insurance was devised specifically for NUJ members and provides cover for claims resulting from negligence, libel, slander, defamation, breach of someone else's copyright, confidential-

ity or privacy. Automatically included is cover for legal defence costs, so even if you are in the right and someone is just "having a go", the policy provides you with the back-up to prove it in court if necessary.

Cover is provided for material published, for example, in newspapers, magazines, business publications, books, on websites (both yours and other people's), blogs, and social media including Twitter, Facebook and so forth.

As an NUJ member you get cover for all the material you have had published since the first day of your current continuous NUJ Membership and also free Public Liability Insurance with a limit of liability of £1 million.

**Public Liability and Products Liability Insurance:** Public Liability Insurance is offered with a choice of limits of liability of £1 million, £2 million, £5 million or £10 million. PL Insurance covers you if you accidentally injure someone or damage

someone else's property, and is essential for any self-employed person or business.

**Image-makers' Professional Indemnity Insurance** covers you for claims resulting from photo, video or film images if, for example, you fail to produce work to a professional standard for a client, or breach someone else's copyright, confidentiality or privacy.

**Equipment and Business Property Insurance:** Photo, video, film, computer and all other business equipment can be covered on a new for old or agreed value basis. And if you have your own premises, you can also cover business buildings, fixtures and fittings.

**Employers Liability Insurance** is a further option. **Household Insurance** is also available.

• Contact Imaging Insurance on 01277 243016 or at [info@imaginginsurance.co.uk](mailto:info@imaginginsurance.co.uk) or visit [www.imaginginsurance.co.uk](http://www.imaginginsurance.co.uk)

# Is Freedom of Information losing ground?

THE REPORT rejecting narrowing the Freedom of Information Act, that mandates release of public bodies' documents in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is welcome: especially its rejection of the proposal to levy deterrent charges.

But *Private Eye*, ever the enemy of warm fuzzy feelings, points out that the report also recommends abolishing the relatively inexpensive first port of call for appeals against refus-

als by the Information Commissioner to order release of documents. Were this recommendation to make it into law, such appeals – routine when journalists request information – would have to go straight to the Upper Tribunal of the Administrative Appeals Chamber.

Such appeals may get more common. Before 2009 the Information Commissioner overturned more than half of government refusals

of requests that could "prejudice the conduct of public affairs" – for example by revealing splits. Then Christopher Graham was appointed Information Commissioner and the proportion fell to one in six.

These are mere recommendations. What they demand is vigilance when any proposal to change the law goes to Parliament. See page 1 for details of petitions...

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## Grant alert

The Grace Wyndham Goldie BBC Trust Fund provides assistance for people currently or previously in broadcasting, their children and dependants. The Trust helps towards educational costs or grants to relieve short term domestic hardship not covered by help from other sources. Applications need to be in by **31 July**. Details and forms are at <http://tinyurl.com/gracegoldie>



# Student support, rates of pay – and no pay

WHAT DO London Freelance Branch members, especially new members, want? At April's LFB meeting a panel of recently-joined Branch members described their experiences of coming into journalism and into the Union, with suggestions on what the Branch and the Union could work on. The panel was instigated by Elizabeth Ingrams, LFB's Membership and New Members officer, herself a member for just two years.

David Wilkins and Zaki Dogliani are recent graduates of journalism courses. David reported from South Africa and for BBC Lincolnshire before starting an NCTJ course at a small college in Brighton. Zaki is a recent University of Bristol journalism graduate who's since worked for outlets including BBC *Country File*.

David experienced severe difficulties as a journalist with visual and hearing disabilities on a training course. After "employers like the BBC bent over backwards" to help, David joined his course only to be told "if you can't do video (or social media) you can't be a journalist anymore." Big names like Gary O'Donoghue (the BBC's blind Washington DC correspondent) were "last year's journalist".

Zaki is now active with the Stu-

dent Publications Association, and in talks with an NUJ official about training for them. He says journalists on student newspapers are "threatened with expulsion or funding being cut for exposing the truth". He suggested established NUJ members giving impartial one-to-one advice to students on journalism courses: we need to ensure that "students aren't pressured into taking expensive postgrad courses unnecessarily."

Yousif Nur has been with LFB for just 18 months, and writes about music and "a bit of tech." He's not the only panelist to admit joining the NUJ "looking for revenge" after a national daily's website hired him as a moderator on the "basis of no contract" and then sacked him for being too thorough. Since joining, Jusuf's "skill-set, prospects, even my confidence has shot up."

Francesca Marchese, writing in English and Italian, set up *Giornalisti Italiani a Londra* (see page 6).

Dan Davies, broadcaster and play-

wright, identified "pay structure issues in social media." The *Canary*... supported Corbyn when no one else did", yet "underlying it is the most neo-liberal model imaginable... you get 50 per cent of the clicks generated from your story." This is, says Dan, "the Uberisation of



journalism... You're asking people to take the risk of an entrepreneur... for, if you're lucky, £180-200." There was support for reviving the Union's Cashback for Interns campaign: see [www.londonfreelance.org/interns](http://www.londonfreelance.org/interns)

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● There's a much longer version, including audience questions and discussion, at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1605want.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1605want.html)

New members speak: left to right – Brian Belle-Fortune, Francesca Marchese, Zaki Dogliani (speaking), Elizabeth Ingrams, Rashmee Roshan Lall, Dan Davies, Yousif Nur, David Wilkins.

Photo © Hazel Dunlop

## Google gains, authors lose

AS THE FREELANCE was going to press the US Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal by the Authors Guild (USA) against a ruling that Google was allowed to scan tens of millions of books without permission. That held that the unauthorised copying was "fair use" not least because it was "transformative".

"Today authors suffered a colossal loss," said Authors Guild president Roxana Robinson. "We filed the class action lawsuit against Google

Google's taking was a plain and brazen violation of copyright law. We believe that authors should be compensated when their work is copied for commercial purposes."

The *Freelance* has long wondered why Google is so keen to spend millions scanning works on paper. It helps feed the corporation's attempt to make translators redundant. But is that "transformative"? The massive publicity gained for its "Deep Learning" system beating a master of the

game Go may provide a clue. It wants to learn from the books – probably, to start with, to understand what we write and, to start with, throw more targeted ads at us.

NUJ Freelance Organiser John Toner commented: "We commend the Authors Guild for pursuing this and share their outrage. The job of getting authors a share of the massive profits tax-avoiding corporations make from our work now falls to lawmakers, not least in Europe."

## #isitfair – contracts blitz

ORGANISATIONS IN and around the Creators' Rights Alliance (CRA), including the NUJ, are launching a campaign on unfair contracts at [www.fairtermsforcreators.org](http://www.fairtermsforcreators.org) around the acronym C.R.E.A.T.O.R:

**Clearer contracts**, including written contracts which set out the exact scope of the rights granted;

**Fair Remuneration**. Equitable and unwaivable remuneration for all forms of exploitation, to include bestseller clauses so if a work does far better than expected the creator shares in its success even if copyright was assigned;

An obligation of **Exploitation** for each mode of exploitation. Also

known as the "use it or lose it" Clause. This is the French model;

Fair, understandable and proper **Accounting** clauses;

Term. Reasonable and limited contract terms and regular reviews to take into account new forms of exploitation;

**Ownership**. Authors, including illustrators and translators, should be appropriately credited for all uses of their work and moral rights should be unwaivable;

All other clauses be subject to a general test of **Reasonableness**.

The campaign seeks your testimony on the impact of unfair contracts – please visit the website.

Meanwhile World Copyright Day fell on 23 April and the International Federation of Journalists marked it by encouraging all journalists to comment on the contracts we work under. The IFJ, the NUJ and other member unions are still also looking for examples of unfair contractual clauses from all over the world that deprive journalists from their authors' rights. Members posted remarks as Twitter messages tagged #isitfair, denouncing unfair practices.

For news of legal developments on unfair contract issues in Europe see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1605copy.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1605copy.html)

Mike Holderness

## Council of Europe seeks protection for journalists

The European Federation of Journalists is pleased to announce that it has had positive input into extensive guidance on protection for journalists issues by the Council of Europe. The Council – not to be confused with the European Union – is the body that convenes the European Court of Human Rights. The guidelines contain specific measures to be taken by states to prevent violations of media freedom – including physical violence against journalists – to effectively protect journalism and journalists, and to prosecute crimes committed against them. For details see [bit.ly/EFJ-CoE](http://bit.ly/EFJ-CoE)

# Steve Bell's lectern strokers

STEVE BELL, Guardian cartoonist, described his 35 years chronicling "the monstrous conspiracy we call government." Although he's a member of London Freelance Branch, at whose February meeting he was speaking, Steve is "busier putting the freelance point of view at the Guardian chapel" (the workplace-based unit of NUJ organisation.) Steve's "been in the Union since the Seventies," and it "enrages me constantly how media owners try to grab all rights," Guardian contracts being particularly "appalling".

Starting out on kid's comics, Steve then "worked for *The Leveller* for no money" for a certain Tim Gopsill (now of LFB Committee) as editor. Then followed "stuff" for trade unions before he "got a break on *Time Out* which was wonderful" until the staff went on strike and then defected to found *City Limits*.

The *Guardian* in 1980 were looking for stuff to go alongside Doonesbury. Steve's If... strip at the *Guardian* hadn't been running long when "along came the Falklands War, a surreal moment – a nonsensical cod colonial war suddenly broke out... What was happening was obscene and absurd, that's where the strip found its feet."

Steve takes thousands of photos at party conferences, as well as drawing politicians at conferences from life, trying to "get" the essence of political figures, particularly new ones. Corbyn presents a dilemma. Steve agrees with "just about every-



thing he says" but he has to take the piss out of him."

In the early 1990s Steve was "dispatched to party conferences" where he sketched then Labour leader Neil Kinnock at work. While Kinnock at conference was a "podium-shagger", Blair was a "lectern stroker" and Gordon Brown – depicted by Steve as the Incredible Hulk at one conference – used to "wreck" the podium during speeches.

Steve had a lightbulb moment at a New Labour conference, when he saw "something about Tony Blair echoing Thatcher... an angry staring left eye and twinkling right eye."

Steve showed us his first sketch of Blair with one angry eye and the "twinkly right eye". (See photo).

According to Steve, Cameron "copies Blair's gestures, as did Ed (Milliband)" – Cameron is, Steve said, just a "Blair tribute act" who does Blair better than Blair ever did. Steve offered in evidence Cameron's exceptionally "smooth complexion" by way of explanation for his depiction of Cameron with a condom over his head.

Steve's encountered Cameron twice: on both occasions Cameron let him know he didn't like "the condom thing", so Steve made a mental note to continue with it. He originally drew Cameron as a jellyfish after his pledge to run the "most transparent government" ever. But in colour, Cameron-as-jellyfish meant drawing him in light blue ink, followed by a complicated blue-grey wash, which proved "too technically difficult."

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An early sketch of Blair's "mad eye" from a party conference, described by the artist

Photo © Hazel Dunlop;  
Blair sketch © Steve Bell

## A pay in the Sun

THE FREELANCE has heard third-hand that rates have been changed at the *Sun*. The case we have heard of affects shifts payments and appears to be unilateral. You can guess the direction of change. So can you please go now to [www.londonfreelance.org/rates](http://www.londonfreelance.org/rates) and submit – in strict confidence – the amounts being paid for shifts, words or photos by News UK titles, now? Thank you.

## You could get £000s from copiers

THE AUTHORS' LICENSING and Collecting Society distributes payment for "secondary uses" of writers' work, such as photocopying in libraries. Its annual distribution happened recently and members have been reporting back.

One notes that this was a particularly good year for "reproduction of journals" – leading to them receiving £1522.15 after commission – and added that "I shouldn't look down upon the £3.04 Public Lending Right payment I got from Estonia." (ALCS also collects these payments for lending of works by public libraries from several countries.)

Another had "been expecting maybe £45. Instead I got a fraction under £2000 – 85 per cent of it was from 'reproduction of journals' in the UK." Topping that, a member reported that "a host of short magazine pieces (some 100 words only), a few long features and a book chalked up £3500 for a couple of hours' work logging these." The total distributed was £22.5 million to 75,000 ALCS members.

To register to claim, you need to go to [www.alcs.co.uk](http://www.alcs.co.uk) – and then you log your articles with the collecting society, giving the International Standard Serial Number of

each magazine they appear in.

Meanwhile, the NUJ is discussing with ALCS ways of bringing online publications into the fold – even where these are free to readers, others make money collating them into press clippings services, but they typically don't have an ISSN. We hope to bring news soon on an increase in the proportion of the money collected that goes to freelance writers.

Illustrators and photographers should contact their equivalent collecting society at [www.dacs.org.uk](http://www.dacs.org.uk) – and to get UK Public Lending Right go to [www.plr.uk.com](http://www.plr.uk.com)

## More online...

We had more reports than would fit. Rather than print an odd number of pages, we've put these on [www.londonfreelance.org/fl](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl) –

- The George Viner Memorial Fund Awards for Black and Minority Ethnic members
- World Press Freedom Day – 3 May 2016
- Council of Europe seeks protection for journalists
- Germany, France and the Netherlands put proposals against unfair contracts
- British Library correcting Public Lending Right error.

## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## Snooper's charter, undercover cops, migration

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 requires internet service providers to keep records of what websites someone has visited, which they must give to the police without a warrant. The Bill's currently in Committee stages and then goes to the House of Lords where the real work of defending democracy, bizarrely, tends to happen.

One speaker is Ross Anderson, Professor of Security Engineering at the University of Cambridge and a designer of encryption systems. He has been warning for many years that large databases will never be free from abuse by security breaches.

The LFB meeting on **Monday 13 June** is on the current Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI) chaired by Lord Justice Pitchford.

The Inquiry looks at police "undercover", officers who infiltrated

campaign groups using the identities of dead children. Some undercovers had long-term relationships, with activists, even fathering their children.

Our speaker is Mike Schwarz of Bindmans Partners, lawyer for many of the people affected recognised by the Inquiry as "Core Participants". These include current and former NUJ members, some of whom were in the course of their work detained or subject to police seizures – possibly as a result of intelligence from undercovers.

Reporting on migration and diversity is the subject of the meeting on **Monday 11 July**. Our speaker is journalist and blogger Kiri Kankhewende, Special Projects Manager at Media Diversified and a contributor

This issue went to press on **Wednesday 20 April**.  
Deadline for the June online-only issue: **Monday 23 May**.

to Newsnight, BBC TV and radio and Al-Jazeera

- 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 a meeting, call a Branch officer.

- For updates on meetings see the Branch calendar web page [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html) and LFB's Twitter feed [http://twitter.com/NUJ\\_LFB](http://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB).

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

For etiquette on recording or live-tweeting from LFB meetings, see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1507film.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1507film.html).

For details of NUJ London Photographers' Branch meetings, see [londonphotographers.org](http://londonphotographers.org)

## Giornalisti Italiani a Londra

A NEW group of 100 London-based journalists named GIL – *Giornalisti Italiani a Londra* (Italian Journalists in London) – has just celebrated its first anniversary. It's organised on a closed Facebook group, on LinkedIn and via email.

It is composed of Italian reporters working for UK news organisations, correspondents of the main Italian newspapers, freelances and journalism masters students at universities in and around London. Some of them have developed professionally in the UK and are NUJ members; others have been living in this country for some years and are members of the Italian Order of Journalists.

One of the most common issues raised from Italian freelances in London is not getting paid work from Italian publications in either the UK capital or Italy. The Italian com-

munity in London has three printed newspapers, four online newspapers, two radio stations and several online magazines. Most are community journalism with only one professional reporter plus volunteers as contributors. The lucky ones get as little as £10-£15 an article.

Freelance Selene Luna Grandi explains: "Some asked me to swap payments with visibility. Maybe they think UK is a golden place and that writing articles or producing multimedia materials is not demanding". Selene's experience is typical. The aim of the GIL group is clear; namely, to help journalists strengthen their professional role, encourage a feeling of pride in their work and never accept unpaid roles.

GIL membership is free: members can ask for support on courses.

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**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](mailto:rharland@mozcom.com)

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## RESOURCES

London Freelance Branch has a vast amount of information and advice available for members (and others).

- The Freelance Directory is the first and best listing of actual freelance journalists – rather than wannabes – entries are free to NUJ members: [www.freelancedirectory.org](http://www.freelancedirectory.org)

- The *Freelance Fees Guide* suggests rates for hundreds of categories of work, and provides a mass of advice on your working life as a freelance: see [www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide](http://www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide)

- The Branch has a Frequently Asked Questions page – let us know what needs updating at [www.londonfreelance.org/FAQ](http://www.londonfreelance.org/FAQ)

- Members who join as freelances, or shift to freelancing, can download the *Freelance Fact Pack* – [www.nuj.org.uk/work/freelance/freelance-fact-pack](http://www.nuj.org.uk/work/freelance/freelance-fact-pack)

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Online Freelance contents: [www.londonfreelance.org/fl](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl)

## Branch plan

You can see the plan of activities for the year drawn up by London Freelance Branch Committee at [www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/plan.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/plan.html) – and comment and make suggestions.