

A win at Newsquest Wales, strikes in London

FIRST, THE GOOD news: the NUJ now has a recognition agreement with the *South Wales Argus*, a Newsquest title. And the challenging news: on 9 September 71.4 per cent of staff at Newsquest titles in South London voted for strike action over company plans to put nearly all of the newsroom at risk of redundancy.

Watch www.nuj.org.uk for

strike dates, on which you may find yourself unavailable, to the approbation of striking staff. Freelancers who suffer hardship as a result of being unavailable should contact the striking Chapel.

While the benefits of Union recognition at the *Argus* will mostly be felt by staffers, there is good news for freelancers too. Freelancers who

regularly do shifts at the newspaper may possibly now be able to get paid time off for NUJ Chapel activities (A “Chapel” in NUJ-speak is the unit of Union organisation based around a particular workplace.) Management are now legally required to allow an NUJ representative access to the premises to meet with members, including individual freelancers.

NUJ Brexit survey

Were you under pressure to cover the EU referendum – or the campaigns leading up to it – in a particular way? The NUJ is doing a survey on this, and would like to hear of your experiences. You can fill in the survey in confidence at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/nujefuref – and the *Freelance* is interested to hear about examples of pressure after the referendum – we’ve heard of advertisers demanding that journalists talk up “business confidence” in the UK.

Meeting on diversity hears of fears

REPORTING OF THE EU referendum campaign raised real fears of racial hatred, LFB members were told by Kiri Kankhwende, guest speaker at the July branch meeting. She is a journalist who specialises in politics and immigration and writes for the Media Diversified blog. She told the branch: “As a migrant, a black woman and a millennial, I didn’t feel represented or talked to in the referendum campaign. A lot of the discourse broke my heart, there is no other way to put it.”

“There has been a rise in xenophobia and racist attacks,” she

noted: “There are families that don’t speak to each other. There is a lot of casual racism.”

She said that the referendum campaign had left her “with a sense of betrayal. It has frightened a lot of people, including me. Everyone is now expected to be a border guard... teachers, doctors, lawyers, all have to ask people about their migration status,” she said. “It does not all sit on the shoulders of the media – we are an easy whipping horse – but the campaigners were not challenged enough on the things they said.” And, she added, “Some of

the things they said were just lies.”

Kiri Kankhwende became a UK citizen a few years ago. “I did it because it is my home,” she said. She lives in northwest London, in one of only five London boroughs that voted to leave the EU, and she gave the meeting examples of the casual racism she had seen in everyday life in her borough.

“When I became a UK citizen Teresa May sent a letter then saying I was welcome here. It certainly clashes with the hostile environment around me now, and media coverage has colluded with that.”

Cuts to London newsrooms?

Do you work in the newsroom of a London local newspaper? If so, how have cuts affected the quality of news that your outlet produces? The NUJ is seeking testimony to present in a briefing to the London Assembly. Do tell, in confidence, by email to campaigns@nuj.org.uk

A welcome for new members

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 27 October** from 6pm. These meetings happen there on the last Thursday of every third month.

The Branch is 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

Among those joining in September were Dee Semple (right) and Yunnus Dalqic (further right).

Photos © Hazel Dunlop



Encryption training alert 100001001100110

Liberty are planning two sessions of encryption training for journalists. The focus is on encrypting emails to keep correspondence with sources secure, using anonymous internet browsers such as Tor or secure, encrypted operating systems such as Tails. The training is delivered by Silkie Carlo, Liberty’s Policy Officer (Technology and Surveillance) and co-author of *Information Security for Journalists*. Register your interest via www.bit.ly/2cKS15p and when they have enough demand, Liberty will presumably get back to you with course dates and more details.

How LFB gets and spends its money

ALL BRANCHES in the union receive, as funding from Head Office, a percentage of the subscriptions paid by members.

As a large branch, LFB receives around £2000 per month, to be used for membership-led activities.

To this end, members can suggest projects that require funding.

The request for funds is put to a branch meeting via a motion, which is passed or not passed by the members present. (You will need to be a full member of the union to vote.)

Any member can present a mo-

tion. Often, suggestions come via the committee, which takes a practical interest in branch activities, but these do not carry any extra weight.

The rules regarding Branch money include: “No motion shall be moved at any Branch meeting unless it has been submitted in writing and received by the Branch before the start of the Branch meeting. The notice is placed on the website: see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html#motions and the monthly email to members. If you want these and don’t get them, visit

www.londonfreelance.org/link-up – and note that all motions to spend money must reach the Committee 10 days before the meeting.

Rules that apply across the union include a restriction to spending on “purposes connected with journalism or trade unionism”. Any member proposing a donation should be prepared to argue that it falls within the rules and is a worthwhile cause.

● A longer version giving chapter and verse for the rules is at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1609cash.html