

After Brexit, what?



Image: © Matt Salusbury, passport designs: © HM Passport Office/Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

LONDON Freelance Branch members who are nationals of another EU member state face uncertainty over their continued residency status in the UK, as Brexit looms. The Branch asks members who are affected to make contact – in strict confidence – via the *Freelance* email editor@londonfreelance.org and suggests that if your continuing status in the UK is already assured, then your “other EU” colleagues need you to show support.

Many EU nationals in the UK are now seeking to gain Permanent Residence (PR), a requirement as a first step towards naturalisation

as a British citizen. The 80-page application form asks them to supply evidence of their continuing presence in the UK since their arrival, and of any trips abroad. While we self-employed keep better track of receipts and bills than others do, EU nationals can't be expected to have kept everything. Up to now, all they'd needed to keep track of was their EU passport.

Many applicants have received letters telling them they fail PR criteria as they haven't had private health insurance cover in the UK. They've never needed any: there's a National Health Service, for which

there is no sign-up requirement or mechanism. Most EU member states have a state-regulated contributory health insurance scheme, often with nominal premiums – a discrepancy the Home Office would seem to be deploying to deny EU nationals their rights post-Brexit.

Now Sophie in 't Veld, a Dutch Member of the European Parliament, has called for a UK representative to appear before the Parliament, once Article 50 is triggered, to account for unfair treatment of EU nationals. She has called on EU nationals facing the UK's “bureaucratic wall” to contact their MEP now.

The European Parliament can – theoretically – veto the final exit deal between the UK and the EU. Leaks suggest they're already planning such a move over environmental protection.

Write to your MEP, and your MP while your at it, regardless of your own status. Contact them via www.theyworkforyou.com

On **Monday 20 February** there is a mass lobby of Parliament over the rights of EU nationals, organised by EU nationals' advocacy groups The 3 Million, New Europeans and others. It's from 2.30-6.30 and they'd like you to register, via the link from this article online. A march to protest Brexit in general is planned for **Saturday 25 March**.

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A precarious living in the gig economy: event

LONDON Freelance Branch presents an evening of informed debate on the headlong rush by bosses towards making us all freelance – regardless of whether we want to be or not. It'll be a how-to evening on understanding the gig economy and knowing your rights in it.

We will explore some of the dynamic responses from the trade union movement – how we as freelancers in any and every line of work are responding to all this. There will also be drinks and networking at the

start and finish of the evening.

Come to hear and discuss cutting-edge theory and bold strategies on how to tackle threats to our hard-earned working rights from a diverse panel of speakers:

- Guy Standing – a Professorial Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and a founder of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), a non-governmental organisation that promotes a basic income for all.

- Ursula Huws – Professor of Labour and Globalisation at Hertfordshire Business School where she does research on creative labour. Ursula is a long-time member of the National Union of Journalists.

- Mags Dewhurst – chair of the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain Couriers and Logistics Branch, who won a ground-breaking legal battle against the delivery firm CitySprint over being treated by them as self-employed.

See *PRECARITY* on page 5

Life after Brexit in Belgium

NUJ BRUSSELS Branch now has a guide for UK nationals – predominantly freelancers – working in Belgium. It opens: “while Brexit is making headlines for journalists all round the world, few of those actually writing the headlines have had time to give consideration to their own likely status after Brexit.”

Key points in the guide include:

Irish nationality is good (some UK nationals in Brussels Branch have already taken steps to get it); if you've been freelancing, keep records of your Social Security payments; if you've been in Belgium for less than five years, to become officially Belgian you'll have to decide on a language to demonstrate proficiency in – Dutch, French or German – and

start learning it now if you haven't already. Yes, you can have both UK and Belgian nationality.

The guide's at bit.ly/BXLguide and we'll alert you to any guides for UK national freelance journalists in other EU countries as soon as we become aware of them: if you know of any, please contact us via editor@londonfreelance.org

Sat 11 March
Special event on
precarious work

Mon 13 March
Brexit ethix with
star speakers

Mon 10 April
Rory Peck Trust

See back page &
twitter.com/NUJ_LFB



This QR code shall cause your internet-enabled smartphone to convey you forthwith to the Rate for the Job page online at www.londonfreelance.org/rates

The Rate for the Job

PLENTY of punditry rates in the broadcast sector are included in this month's Rate for the Job; and see page 5 for the story behind some.

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.

Submit rates online, in confidence, at any time, at www.londonfreelance.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. These are shown as (eg) £400 + 100. We still record rates paid in € as well.

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

Broadcasting: *Adam Boulton Show* on Sky, punditry £200; BBC radio interviews 2 hours of live 2-way to 18 stations, one every 8 mins, exes paid for provision of own ISDN line, usual BBC terms £150; *Newsnight* punditry £150; BBC R4 *From Our Own Correspondent* feature £142 **X**; BBC World Service punditry £80; *Newsnight* punditry spot "disturbance fee" £75 **X**; BBC Wales punditry £40; Sky News punditry – standing in a field (that our member was already in) blathering for about 15 mins, £200.

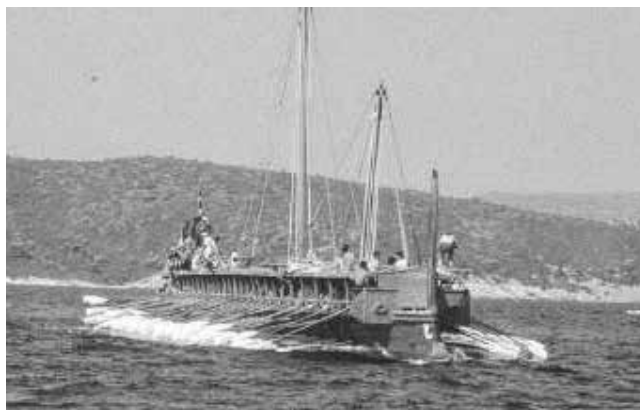
Photography: *Positive News* day rate £300; Victoria & Albert Museum offered £750 for a talk, member agreed instantly by mistake – so

asked for, and got, £500 of sponsor's freebies = £1250.

Shifts: *Shots* magazine (Media Business Insight) subbing day 9:30-18:00 £160; *N* magazine (Norwegian airlines inflight) subbing day £140; children's magazines per day design for layout, cover mount gifts, pre press £130; *Brides* 8 hours – work unspecified £120; children's magazines (same rates all titles) per day design for layout, cover mount gifts, marketing design work including digital £120.

Words, per 1000: *Aeon* feature don't know terms 250 **X**; *Stylist* magazine (online) 1200-word essay – was asked to provided 3 original photographs, but they didn't use all £150; *Arcturus* Publishing, all rights £144 **X**; *Scottish Sun* 150-word sports NIB @ £20 = £133; *Positive News* features £200-£250; *Loud & Quiet* magazine features, interviews, reviews, etc, £0 **XXXX**.

Words, other: *i* paper 370-word sports piece, negotiated up from £80 FBS £90.



The Trireme

The Trireme Award is for "the worst terms since I was last chained to the oars" in the words of one freelance. This month's Trireme Award goes to Loud & Quiet Ltd, publishers of *Loud & Quiet* magazine. They offered one freelance – in return for writing a feature, including "interviews, reviews, etc, the whole shebang" the sum of zero pounds 00 pence.

Photo © A member of the Trireme Trust

Training alert – do NUJ training survey!

AMONG THE NUJ training courses for 2017 is a three-dayer on shooting and editing video on Abode Premiere, starting on **15 May** in London. Watch www.nuj.org.uk/events and NUJ's @NUJOfficial Twitter feed for updates on training.

Please take time to do the NUJ's Training Survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/nujtraining. The NUJ can only grow its range of courses – as cheap as they possibly can be – if it knows which ones have enough interest to sustain them.

The survey includes a tick-box question on the sort of training you'd like – some are areas the Union's courses already cover, some are suggestions that it might offer in the future. At the end of this question there's an "Other" tick-box, which allows you to fill in other suggestions: it looks cramped, but I found I was able to fill in the short essay the subject deserves anyway.

As ever, the Federation of Entertainment Unions (FEU, it includes the NUJ,) offers free courses for

NUJ members on "the business side" of being a self-employed creative. We've heard a recommendation for its CV-writing course, for example. Details are at www.feu-training.org/

Many NUJ courses started as projects conceived by LFB before going national, so do pitch ideas for training initiatives to our Branch Training Officer federica.tedeschi@yahoo.co.uk – the Branch has a budget for developing training initiatives.

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How to apply for a Press Card

FOR THOSE of you who've recently joined the NUJ and want to apply for an NUJ Press Card – or need to re-new one – this is how it works.

Once you've got a membership number, you can apply for a UK

ring on the log in page if you've forgotten or need a password.

Press Cards are to identify you as a news-gatherer, especially to police at cordons. If you're never going to be out of the office gathering news – no Press Card for you. If designing pages or lecturing in journalism is all you ever do at work, you are not eligible for a Press Card.

Expect to be asked for evidence of paid journalism work – scanned invoices will do – and for a recent portrait photo of yourself, digitised, ready to upload.

The only way to get an NUJ Press Card is now via the NUJ's website form. LFB can no longer have a word with the NUJ Head Office to speed the process up, nor will turning up in person at Headland House help.

The decision on issuing a Press Card is out of our hands – the NUJ's just a gatekeeper to the Press Card Authority Press Card scheme.

It will take at least a couple of weeks after your application to get your Press Card by post.

Keep an eye on the date on your Press Card and apply in plenty of time to renew it, using the form at the link above. You can upload a new photo when renewing.

At www.nuj.org.uk/join/press-cards/ you'll find a link to apply for an IFJ International Press Card – a good idea if you're ever planning to work abroad. It's worthwhile applying for one, as holders are entitled to the insurance scheme for "hostile regions" – see page 4.

© Matt Salusbury



The author's press card, membership number omitted to prevent identity theft. Photo: © Matt Salusbury, Press Card design © UK Press Card Authority Ltd

Press Card online (only) via bit.ly/PressCard. Have your membership number ready. You need this to log in, as well as a password for www.nuj.org.uk – there's a phone number to

Transparence: a lovely word

FOR THE full flavour of the best bit of the EU's proposed changes to copyright law, say it in French. In Brussels *transparence* means more than being able to see through things: it has connotations of measures against corruption and abuse of power.

The proposal is to oblige publishers and broadcasters to be *transparent* about uses of creators' work. Each time we think about it we find new ways this would help writers, illustrators and photographers dealing with unscrupulous clients. We're not going to list these, to avoid frightening publishers and broadcasters who are sure they are scrupulous but oppose regulation on principle.

But what does this planned EU regulation mean for the UK? Good question. Answers on a postcard to HM Government, London SW1.

The Creators' Rights Alliance – of which the NUJ is a member – therefore followed up an idea from the Society of Authors and drafted amendments to put those best bits of the EU proposal into UK law re-

gardless. On 6 February the House of Lords committee on the Digital Economy Bill briefly debated inserting *transparence* for creators into that law. It didn't go to a vote: the point was to gauge the response.

Baroness Buscombe, for the government, was moderately encouraging. "The principle of transparency is an important element of well-functioning markets," she said: "I am aware that some creators and their representatives find it difficult to access information on the use of their works owing, for example, to difficulties in negotiating suitable contractual terms... the UK will actively engage in these debates while we remain a member of the EU." She hoped we "will understand the Government's wish to allow this process to develop before considering the case for domestic intervention."

Internet not broken again

In other news, the bit of the EU proposal that's generating most heat is the idea that internet companies should pay newspapers for using ex-

tracts of journalism. This has led to the Friends of Google shouting that we must "Save the Link!!" and stop the EU "Breaking the Internet". This campaign appears to be based on the most paranoid reading of how a future court might misinterpret the future law.

Certainly, search engines and social networks that eke out their fortunes by quoting other people's creative work and selling ads alongside it; these should pay for their vital raw material. The objection of the European Federation of Journalists is different to Google's.

The EFJ objects that the current proposals say nothing about making sure that a fair share of any money goes to actual journalists. And anyway, when Germany and Spain tried roughly similar proposals, Google simply said it would stop indexing any newspaper that wanted payment, and to make the point shut down **news.google.es**. Its monopoly power meant there was no money to share anyway.

© Mike Holderness

Journalism in a field in June

THE BYLINE FESTIVAL will be a heady mix of new journalism, skills workshops and impassioned debates, infused with Glastonbury vibes, promises organiser Peter Jukes. It is to be held in a Sussex country park over the weekend of 2-4 June: Jukes plans to attract up to 6000 journalists, movie makers and artists to share ideas, engage in conversations and enjoy live performances.

Byline Festival has partnered with the NUJ to offer union members admission to the event at £75 – half the usual price of £150 – for the weekend (including camping). For the discount enter the offer code

NUJBIFEST at www.bylinefestival.com

"For all that ails the media today, there is more journalism being produced than at any other time", says Jukes, who achieved fame live-tweeting the News International hacking trial (see the July 2015 *Freelance*). "We want to bring together as many practitioners as possible to swap initiatives and learn from each other".

An impressive line-up is confirmed, including Heather Brooke, Bea Campbell, John Cleese, Laurie Flynn, Bonnie Greer, David Henke, Lenny Henry, A L Kennedy, Hardeep Singh Kohli, Catherine Mayer, Jack



Monroe, Rowan Pelling and Tom Watson MP. There will be immersive theatre, CV workshops...

© Tim Dawson, NUJ President

The trouble with Brexit was a lack of debate

IN THE DECEMBER *Freelance* you have pieces titled "Post-truth ethical pressures" and "Concerned about Brexit? We aim to help?" The trouble with Brexit was not the ethics of reporting, but that there was no proper argument.

The media entirely failed to conduct a debate – especially about the effects on real people (rather than institutions, on economic indicators and so on). Really it comes down to who is going to win and who is going to lose.

I have a list of essential points that the media did not want to discuss. I barely heard anyone whisper that the right answer was to "remain and

reform" for the good of Europe.

Another point is that most of the people doing the talking are in Britain and almost all of those in London. From abroad, Britain looks a remarkably insular place. Even the intelligentsia have no sense of the international. I'm afraid that even the NUJ doesn't have much sense of political geography.

Ironically, some of the people who most needed a voice in the Brexit debate were deprived of a say: expats like me living in EU states (and EU expats in Britain).

I just scraped inside the rule that held that people who had been out of the UK for less than 15 years

could vote – but I am soon to become disenfranchised. From here in France, the whole debate looked as if it were about immigration in Sunderland as miscomprehended by people living within the M25.

To compound the problem of the non-debate (which is continuing) we have the further problem that we cannot even discuss the problem because where else do you have such a discussion but the media and why would the media (that is, us) want to discuss its own failure?

There are numerous issues here concerning the ethics of journalism which are being ignored.

© Nick Inman

Photographers who use Rex – get in touch!

Would any photographer who is a member of the National Union of Journalists and licenses images through Rex please contact the Freelance Office on 020 7843 3706 or freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk.

De-recognition climb-down

PENGUIN Random House has one of the NUJ's oldest Chapels (workplace-based units of organisation), and it has had a recognition agreement in place since the early 1970s.

Union recognition means elected union reps negotiate with management on behalf of employees collectively, although this collective bargaining doesn't at the moment extend to freelances. Most such agreements date from "re-recognition" following the Fairness at Work Act of the early 2000s.

Suddenly, late last year, the publishing company's management de-

cided it wanted to de-recognise the Union and tear up the recognition agreement it had with the NUJ.

What was at the time a small Chapel without that many members fought back, and the fight also turned into what one NUJ activist described as a "fantastic recruitment drive." Well-known authors who are published by Penguin pitched in – Owen Jones wrote to Penguin's management and former Greek finance minister and Penguin author Yanis Varoufakis also made his views known. Many writers represented by the Society of Authors (SoA) ex-

pressed their displeasure, as did the SoA's magazine *The Author*.

The *Freelance* understands that, as a result, Penguin Random House management had second thoughts and the de-recognition threat is now dropped. The NUJ Chapel is now a lot bigger as a result.

Some NUJ freelances are also members of the Society of Authors. A group of these, organised by the Adam Christie of the NUJ's Freelance Industrial Council, has written to the SoA to thank them for their cross-union solidarity.

© Matt Salusbury

It was party time

MANY freelance journalists get no invitations to any of the office Christmas parties of the many organisations for which they work – that's if those in control of the guest lists are aware of their existence at all. Some freelances face isolation at work, enjoying no contact with their colleagues beyond emails and (if they're lucky) the odd phone call. All the more reason for London Freelance Branch to put on a seasonal celebration of its own.

LFB's Yule fest this year was in the generously-proportioned hall of the London Welsh Centre, just down the road from the NUJ's national offices at Headland House. (A refurbished Headland House has since re-opened, see page 6.)

Invitations were extended to other NUJ London Branches, to

members' colleagues, friends and partners. We were joined by NUJ members from London Central, from New Media and London Photographers' Branches.

There was also a contingent from the *Giornalisti Italiani a Londra* (Italian Journalists in London) group, in which LFB members are active.

New arrivals were issued with their raffle ticket entitling them to their first drink at the bar on the house, with a generous spread of food laid out. Rik's Sound System provides ska sounds.

LFB would like to thank the London Welsh Centre's Mirain Roberts and her staff for helping to make our party such a success – in the words of our Treasurer, "all incredibly helpful, way beyond what we could have expected." There was the briefest of



Partygoers at LFB's Christmas bash

Photo: © Hazel Dunlop

interruptions to present outgoing Branch Chair Fiona O'Cleirigh with a grant in recognition of the hard work she's put in over the past years.

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Journalists charged for covering a riot in US

AS WE went to press, at least three freelance or "independent" journalists arrested covering the Washington DC protests at the inauguration of President Donald Trump in January were facing sentences of up to ten years after being arrested and charged with "felony rioting".

The journalists were among seven reporters arrested and charged during "J20", anti-Trump protests on January 20, despite showing their accreditation. One had his camera seized by police.

Four of the journalists arrested at the same event have since had charges dropped. Several NUJ freelances covered the events (avoiding arrest), see for example Jason N. Parkinson's footage at <https://phnat.org>. Journalists were targeted by police with shock grenades and CS gas spray. An eyewitness reported a member of the press being struck in the neck by a rubber bullet.

The US National Lawyers Guild

has claimed that the use of tear gas by DC police during the protest was illegal, with protesters "indiscriminately targeted because of their location." The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), of which the NUJ is part, has condemned the charges as "unacceptable in a democracy."

Some of those arrested were charged several days after events during which well over 200 people in total were arrested. Scott C Rodd, a DC-based freelance journalist, has appealed for any information on possible "other journalists known to have been arrested and charged while covering the Inauguration Day protests", so there could be more charges against journalists to come.

There's a petition calling on US District Attorney for the District of Columbia Channing D. Phillips and his spokesman William Miller to drop the charges against reporter Aaron Cantu and photographers

Shay Horse and Alexander Stokes Contompasis (146,000 signatures at the time of writing). Please sign it and circulate it, it's at www.change.org/p/u-s-attorney-channing-d-phillips-drop-felony-charges-against-journalists-who-covered-inauguration-day-protests

An expanding list

It's not surprising, given the above and more, that news agency Reuters issued reporting guidance that all-but declared the US to be a hazardous environment for journalists.

Of course the situation in Turkey remains dire. The International Federation of Journalists keeps protesting. And NUJ President and *Freelance* columnist Tim Dawson describes strange encounters in the Houses of Parliament as part of the NUJ's efforts in support of the media workers – at least 29 – jailed in Egypt. See www.londonfreelance.org/fil/1612prez.html

Insurance for journalists

THE International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), of which the NUJ is a part, now offers insurance for journalists working in hazardous areas. It covers the usual situations that conventional insurers don't like – war, rebellion, civil war or terrorism. It'll get you home and provide you (or your survivors) with up to \$100,000 for accidental death or disablement. The cover is from 1-4 weeks and the premium depends on the "zone" you're working in. The zone of highest risk – a list similar to countries covered by Trump's travel ban, plus some Russian regions, will set you back around \$60 a week; "lowest risk" places currently including the US and UK start at \$12. Admin fees, terms and conditions and the rest come on top. The *Freelance* is not licensed to provide financial advice, but it looks like as good a deal as you'll get. It's open to members with an IFJ International Press Card – see page 2 and www.insuranceforjournalists.com/ifj

Refer to central accounts!

THE *FREELANCE* presents more small tales of freelancers fighting that good fight not to work for free... These have lately joined our set of necessarily-anonymous stories.

Freelance A is asked to appear on BBC1's *One Show* as an "expert". He inquires of the director about the fee and gets this response: "unfortunately we don't pay contributors... exposure would be more valuable than money".

Freelance A's stout contribution to our war of attrition against such claims was to just say no.

Others, however, pitched into the freelance email group exchange that followed, to say they'd had different experiences of different bits of the

Beeb – one size does not fit all in the sprawling Corporation.

Freelance B, for example, was invited to do an expert pundit spot on Radio 6 Live. "The initial offer of nothing did not attract," says she. Immediately an offer of 50 quid came back. The not inexperienced Freelance B "then referred them to central accounts to see the level of fees I had been paid for a variety of BBC national and regional transmissions over the years".

This is a wheeze new to all on-lookers in terms of the reference to "central accounts" – very Beeb. A few days later, the proffered £50 became £100 and Freelance B accepted, plus an already established

45p per mile for her transactions with the Corporation.

Most freelancers who occasionally chat on the radio agreed £50 or £100 can generally be squeezed out via negotiation. However, Freelance C pitched in with a recent personal best he'd achieved for talking head-ery, namely £200 plus travel.

Also via an NUJ network we get news of a colleague asked to do a *Newsnight* pundit spot. He asks for a fee and they say "we don't pay – but we can offer you a disturbance fee". It's £75, he takes it, though guffawing about the terminology.

Just anecdotes *pour encourager les autres* and to encourage you.

© Phil Sutcliffe

Drone dosh!

The *Freelance* congratulates photographer Eddie Mitchell for his successful challenging of Alamy over its unlicensed use of his aerial drone image of a fire at a school that made national headlines in August. He took the company to Worthing County Court in December. What's scary is that, as Mitchell told *Press Gazette*, it emerged in court that Alamy receives over 2 million images a day and is not able to verify the source of supplied pictures. This one was supplied to Alamy by a contributor who had downloaded it from a news website. The agency – traditionally one of those less hostile to photographers – settled for £750 before the case went any further. Mitchell settles separately with *The Times* and with the *Daily Express*.

Public Lending Right to cover ebooks

A EUROPEAN Court of Justice ruling in November removed obstacles to Public Lending Right (PLR) payments to authors for library lending of their ebooks. Culture Minister Matt Hancock then announced that the ruling would "inform the wording" of a clause on ebook lending and PLR to be inserted by the UK Government in the Digital Economy Bill, currently in the House of Lords

and expected to get royal assent this Spring. Watch this space.

Meanwhile, authors who've signed up to PLR (for both the UK and the Republic of Ireland) can soon expect micropayments for each time their book's lent at a public library. These already cover a limited amount of ebook lending – occasions on which borrow-

ers bring their laptops in to a public library and have ebooks on loan downloaded onto them. If you have a book (or a chapter of an anthology) out, details of the PLR scheme and the "free money" it pays to authors are at www.plr.uk.com

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Why you should hang on to your rights

THERE SEEMS little doubt that the value of syndication has gone down with the general decline of print media and the availability of our work online. Time was, writers in some fields could regularly do a piece for the *Bugle* in London and sell it on to the *Echo* in Melbourne. If the *Bugle*

sells it on they should pay the writer half what they get. It's not dead, though. One member reports in the past three months getting £550 from a Japanese mag for a Pink Floyd piece that appeared in *Mojo* about 10 years ago; and £80 from a small US mag for a piece on AC/DC for *Sounds*

back in 1976. Both of these were sold on through the rocksback-ages.com online music journalism library, which took 50 per cent of the fee it got. This member is definitely pleased they didn't sign away their copyright – if they had, the UK mags would have kept the lot.

The Freelance on the go: how is it for you?

We've updated the *Freelance* newsletter and *Freelance Fees Guide* online to work better on more handheld devices – see www.londonfreelance.org/fl and www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide. Initial responses have been positive; but there are hundreds of different configurations of device and software to cater for. We know that if you use the web browser program Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 8 or earlier, it will look strange. You'd want to upgrade that anyway, to avoid viruses and other malware. Apologies, then, if you find anything broken. If you do, please email debug@londonfreelance.org telling us what page you were visiting and the name and version number of the browser program you used to try to visit it. (As above, "Microsoft Internet Explorer version 8" is a well-formed answer to that question; "Safari version 10.0" is another). With your feedback, we'll work through the rest of the site.

Their Paid Appearances

THE OXFORD Literary Festival saw its patron, Philip Pullman, resign in protest at plans to ask authors to appear for free. Following this and a campaign by the Society of Authors (SoA) it has agreed henceforth to pay its authors a fee of £150 (plus VAT where applicable).

As Pullman noted, a festival "pays the people who supply the mar-

quees, it pays the printers who print the brochure" – as well as paying for venue hire, for people to do admin and PR, for electricity, for the food and drink laid on. So why can't they the people the punters come for, the authors? He told *The Author* he was "extremely pleased" at the outcome.

An SoA survey of literary festival organisers back in 2015 found that

of the 17 who replied, 12 paid fees to authors, ranging from £100 to £1000, mostly within the still rather modest £150-£200 range.

For recent examples of how NUJ freelancers have talked up offers of zero for punditry and being on a panel at festivals into meaningful fees, often through quick thinking on the spot, see the top of this page.

Understanding & surviving precarious work – event details

PRECARITY from page 1

- Nicola Hawkins – an executive council member for young members in Equity (the actors' union). Nicola notes that "I find myself working in all kinds of industries and doing all kinds of jobs between acting work."
- John Toner – Freelance Organiser for the NUJ. He has seen has seen the thorny problem of employment

status growing from an occasional query to something the Freelance Office advises on every other day. "It is a boil that needs lancing," he says.

Book now!

The event is from 5-9pm on **Saturday 11 March** in the Brockway Room at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. The

event is free but, because of the costs involved in hiring the venue and ordering food/drink, we ask you to pay a £10 deposit, which will be returned after attendance (or on giving at least 5 days' notice of your not coming).

To get a ticket please go to www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1702prec.html

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Precarity special, Brexethics, Rory Peck Trust

IN ADDITION to the regular cycle of monthly Branch meetings, there's a special meeting organised by LFB on precarious work and freelancers in the gig economy.

This is on **Saturday 11 March** from 5pm-9pm at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL, nearest Tube Holborn. For details and how to book, see page 1.

The next regular Branch meeting of LFB is on **Monday 13 March**. The theme is what's happening to media ethics in our post-Truth, post-EU referendum, "fake news" era. Is there anything we as journalists can do about such alarming trends?

The speakers will be Professor Chris Frost of the NUJ Ethics Council, Hugo Dixon – he writes columns for Reuters, founded Breakingviews and is author of *The In/Out Question: Why Britain should stay in the EU and fight to make it better* – and also former BBC political correspondent Nicholas Jones.

Nicholas, who has written numerous books on political reporting, has made a special study of reporting on Brexit.

Chris will present findings from the NUJ's recent members' survey on editorial pressures on journalists to cover the EU referendum campaigns in a particular way.

On **Monday 10 April** we expect a speaker from the Rory Peck Trust www.rorypecktrust.org – a charity that provides practical and financial support to freelance journalists and their families, assisting in crises and helping them to work safely and professionally.

For confirmation of the theme and speaker for the April meeting, watch this space.

This issue went to press on

7 February

Deadline for the March online-only issue: **3 March**

LFB meetings are normally 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 (including new members' meetings) see the Branch calendar web page www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and LFB's Twitter feed 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.

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

THE TWO CHAIRPERSONS

WE WELCOME Zaki Dogliani and Pennie Quinton as our new Branch Chairs in a job-share. They co-chaired their first Branch meeting immediately after their election at the Branch AGM in January. They succeed Fiona O'Cleirigh, who stepped down from the role because she is moving to Northern Ireland. We thank Fi again for all her work

as Chair. Members newly elected to Committee posts include Federica Tedeschi, who takes over as Training Officer, and Francesca Marchese who is our new Membership Secretary. Among the new faces on LFB Committee is Gregory Baldeosingh, joining as member without portfolio. Other Committee members were re-elected to their posts, there's a

full list of Committee contacts at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html. There is a vacancy for another member without portfolio, taking on Branch projects as they arise, and for a vice-chair. If you're interested in standing for these, contact a Committee member via the link above.



The Branch invites new members who come to their first meeting to have their photo taken and give a few words about themselves: see them at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/intros.html. Shown here is a recent LFB New Members Meeting in January.

Photo © Francesca Marchese



Zaki Dogliani (left) and Pennie Quinton (right), LFB Chairs, in action. Photo © Matt Salusbury

NEW MEMBERS

NEW LOOK NUJ HQ



The *Freelance* got an early peek at the newly-refurbished NUJ London HQ, Headland House. Shown left is a quote from NUJ member and author George Orwell, painted on the stairwell. For more photos and for news of its soon-to-open café space, see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1702hh.html.

Photo © Matt Salusbury

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rates and fast-turnaround. Contact David dnh@sfe.net

WANT TO TRY YOUR HAND at writing fiction? Courses at The Groucho Club in Soho will inspire you, teach you the tricks of the trade and help you develop and polish your work. Our tutors are mainstream published authors. Our next term starts in January – for details go to www.writingcourses.org.uk

BLOGGING COOPERATION: Stuart Forster, the travel journalist and blogger behind Go Eat Do (www.go-eat-do.com) is looking to cooperate with fellow bloggers to build traffic and reach. Contact stuart.forster@gmail.com

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