

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Rory Peck Trust; then tax dreadfulness update

IT IS just possible that this newsletter arrives in time for an LFB meeting on **Monday 10 April**, in which case it's on measures you can take to protect your sources, with the *Freelance's* very own Mike Holderness among the speakers.

In addition to the regular cycle of LFB meetings, there's also a meeting for members new to the Branch or recently joined. It's on **Thursday 27 April**. See below for details of the time and venue.

LFB's meeting on **Monday 8 May** is on helping journalists in crisis.

We will have a speaker from the Rory Peck Trust www.rorypeck-trust.org.

This is a charity that provides practical as well as financial support to freelance journalists and their families, assisting in crises and supporting them to work safely and professionally.

We also expect Vaughan Smith of the Frontline Club.

We'll give more details of the May meeting as they are confirmed.

Tax and National Insurance is the theme under discussion at the LFB gathering on **Monday June 12**.

No, don't hide under the blankets. We plan to talk about organising opposition to the plan to make us file four tax returns a year.

And celebrating the government's sharp U-turn on National Insurance rates for the self-employed. And also briefing you on other issues with National Insurance Contributions. (See our article on what's happening with tax and National Insurance for the self-employed on page 1).

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

This issue went to press on **30 March**.
Deadline for the May/June issue: **01 May**

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.

VACANCIES ON NUJ COUNCILS

THERE ARE vacant seats on NUJ Councils that meet periodically to debate union policy in its various sectors. Vacancies are open to freelance members who work in particular industries, who represent a particular geographical region or belong to a specific demographic.

Of interest to LFB members is the **Freelance Industrial Council** (www.londonfreelance.org/fic) seeks a member from East Anglia. The **New Media Council** (www.nuj.org.uk/work/employers/new-media) is looking for a South East England rep. The **Photographers Council** (www.nuj.org.uk/work/photographers) has a vacant London seat and one for the South East, as does the **PR Industrial Council**. The Union's **NEC** has vacancies for a member working in books and two based in South East

England. You need to be recognised as working in the sector for the Industrial Council for which you want to stand. Contact the NUJ Membership Department (membership@nuj.org.uk) to tell them you wish to be recorded as being in that sector or demographic and also as a freelance. For South East England geographical seats your postcode needs to be outside London.

Candidates need to have nomination forms signed by an NUJ Branch, sent to arrive by **22 May**. To seek LFB's nomination, contact its Secretaries (philsutcliffe47@gmail.com or timgo@btinternet.com) in plenty of time for it to be put to the **15 May** Branch meeting.

For more details of all NUJ Council vacancies and eligibility, ask by email to leylay@nuj.org.uk for the Circular on Casual Vacancies.

NEW MEMBERS

Members who've recently joined London Freelance Branch are invited to meet other people new to the Branch, as well as some members with more experience of freelance journalism. The next LFB New Members Meeting is at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY (nearest Tube Russell Square or Holborn.) It's on **Thursday 27 April** from 6pm. These meetings take place there on the last Thursday of every third month.

LFB COMMITTEE

Your Branch needs you!

There are vacancies on London Freelance Branch Committee for a vice-chair to stand in for the Branch's two chairpersons when needed, and for a member without portfolio to take on jobs as they arise. For more detail on the responsibilities of the various Committee posts, and on how to put yourself forward for election, see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html

SOLIDARITY

London Freelance Branch has passed a motion condemning the imprisonment of Ivory Coast journalist Hamadou Ziao by the Ivorian authorities. Ziao – among many journalists arrested over coverage of army mutinies – was reportedly held in the Ivorian special forces camp at Agban for two days in February, accused of placing "fake or bad news" in the Ivorian newspaper *l'inter*. Ziao went on trial without a lawyer before being released. LFB has asked the NUJ's National Executive Council to urge the International Federation of Journalists to make representations to remind Ivorian President Alhassane Dramane Ouattara's government to respect press freedom.

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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LEGAL EDITING/PROOFREADING. At sea with legal material and jargon? Wondering when the ECJ became the CJEU or which 'European Court' is featured? Freelance legal editor with 20 years' experience of copy-editing, proof-reading and researching legal texts and law reports is here to help. Reasonable

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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