

Jun/Jul 2017

# W O R L D F R E E P R E S S

## Be safe & get story

SAFETY for journalists in hostile environments – and how journalists can and should look out for each other – was the theme of May's London Freelance Branch meeting. We heard from freelance TV journalist Sue Turton and also from Vaughan Smith of the Frontline Club ([www.london-freelance.org/fl/1706vaug.html](http://www.london-freelance.org/fl/1706vaug.html)).

Sue Turton's work has included reporting for Al Jazeera from Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria. She gave her own example of "what happens when things go badly wrong" in Egypt. She arrived there soon after the 2013 coup, when most journalists were "going in on holiday visas." One Al Jazeera crew was already in detention, with a producer put through a mock execution.

After a raid on Al Jazeera's bureau, Sue's team "went dark", with unnamed correspondents presenting stories by phone or appearing "without your face". They weren't then aware how much "every single thing we were doing was being closely monitored" by secret police "getting into lifts with us".

Four days after Sue left Egypt, her colleagues Peter Greste, Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed were arrested and detained. In total nine were charged with aiding and abetting a terrorist organisation – five, including Sue, in absentia. They were "tried and convicted with very little evidence that made sense... we got 10 years." Peter, Mohamed and Baher were jailed.

William Hague, who Sue had "known of old from Channel Four news" was then UK Foreign Secretary and condemned the charges. But Sue believes "it was our fellow journalists who made the differ-

ence... people like you" who "gave us airtime, space on their websites – even our competitors."

A source in government told Sue that President Abdel al-Sisi was sick of the bad publicity. There was, she was told, a conflict between the Interior Ministry and the Presidency over the case. Sisi changed the law to allow Peter to continue his sentence (supposedly) in Australia; two others were retried and pardoned.

The terrorism conviction meant Sue had to stop working for Al Jazeera. It's still unsafe for her to travel to states with extradition treaties with Egypt – the Emirates and most African Union countries. A former colleague from Egypt was held on arrival in Germany while they considered whether to hand him over.

Sue described "the difference between a freelance and a staffer when covering conflict" in terms of the support they can expect. The news

channels "won't let you go without hazardous situations training," without you learning the protocols: "Where is the nearest field hospital, where is your tourniquet? What is your blood group?" Sue "has been to so many places where there have been freelances where there is no protocol, 'we've taken them on and done their protocols for them.'"

The pressure has to be on the person who is commissioning to look after the freelance. More and more, they aren't doing that: "Put pressure on those employers to do the same."

Now there's a "new front line that's called the White House" and new precautions journalists have to consider, especially around email. Sue noted, "I've got friends in the White House pack... they're not walking away... We're all on notice now – fake news, alternative facts, working out how to counter these."

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Sue Turton reflects on Vaughan Smith's presentation (reported online)

Photo © Matt Salusbury

## A manifesto for journalism

ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2016, Mark Menzies, Conservative MP for Fylde, during a Digital Economy Bill debate, said, "I urge the Government... to ensure that at no future point could the BBC's editorial independence be infringed". Menzies revealed the prompt for his intervention – he was lobbied by a constituent.

Whatever one thinks of the UK's electoral system, each of us is represented by a Member of Parliament beholden to consider representations from all constituents. If government policy impacts on your life, it's worth making your case to your MP, or candidates in the election on 8 June. Based on our democratically-endorsed campaigning positions,

here is my stab at an NUJ manifesto for the General Election.

**1** A questioning interest in the veracity of information should be woven into the national curriculum.

**2** The NUJ lobbied hard over the Investigatory Powers Act, seeking additional protections for journalistic material. Judicial oversight of applications to see journalists' phone data is vital to protect our sources.

**3** A review of the Official Secrets Act is considering a proposal for dramatic increases in prison sentences for offenders. Seek commitments from potential MPs that they would oppose such measures.

**4** Local media face desperate travails. A Parliamentary enquiry

into the future of local news would focus the minds of the conglomerates that play fast and lose with long-established titles, also providing the opportunity to consider more radical options such as local news surcharges on internet giants.

**5** The NUJ has long called for the repeal of restrictive trades union legislation. Conservative cabinet member David Davis MP described the pernicious Trade Unions Act 2015 requirement to appoint picket marshals as a "Franco-style policy".

**6** There's a change in attitude to freelances and the self-employed. The Government's "Taylor Review" will be published soon. It could form

**MANIFESTO on page 3**

### LFB meetings

**Mon 12 Jun**  
Fighting tax and NI woes and winning

**Mon 10 Jul**  
How did journalism manage to cover the election, then?

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



This QR code takes your internet-enabled smartphone to the Rate for the Job page at [www.londonfreelance.org/rates](http://www.londonfreelance.org/rates) – email [QR@londonfreelance.org](mailto:QR@londonfreelance.org) if you actually find it useful, please.

# The Rate for the Job

THIS MONTH'S rates include the comment "didn't realise until too late... the rate was zero." Don't be shy about saying, early in negotiations: we need to talk about money.

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.londonfreelance.org/rates](http://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. Rates marked **X** are, in the editor's fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even perhaps the happy ☺ few.

**Broadcast:** *Listening Post* (Al Jazeera) 30-second footage re-licence worldwide for 5 years, £500; German TV company rock punditry, 90 mins – "Normally we don't pay"; / "What are you offering though?" £500; Associated Press video day £400; AP 1 minute footage on-spec 24-hour worldwide licence, 50/50 library licence, £360; *You and Yours* reporting day, £150 + expenses.

**Photography:** Associated Press TV 30-second video £110; *Scottish Sun* video £50 **XXXX**, pic online £20-£30, every pic after second one online £10, fee cap no matter how many pix used £100 **XX\*@!**

**Shifts:** *Money Saving Expert* reporting day (7 hours) £150; *Law Busi-*

*ness Research* freelance copy editor day £120; *Metro* subbing day (9 hours with one-hour lunch) £100 **XXXX**; LabourList.org (Labour Party) reporting and subbing day £85 **XX**; trade news service reporting, news, some features per hour £16.

**Words, per 1000:** Trade news service interview feature (US 75 cents per word) US\$1125; *Honcho* magazine US\$500; *Construction News* interview feature £275; *i* newspaper 400 words sports news FBS @ £80 = £200, 200-word sports sidebar @ £30 = £150; Aeon, Creative Commons licence to the world... £160; Time Inc specialist mag 500 words @ £75 = £150 **XX**; *Canadian Jewish News* 800 words @ \$150 Canadian = £106 **X**; *The Nightwatchman* (cricket quarterly) "didn't realise until too late" the rate was... £0 **XXXX**.

**Words, other:** *Pro Sound News Europe*, 1500-word report all rights, no expenses £300; 500 words £100, 300 words £75 **XX**; *Scottish Sun* online copy (length?) £35 **XX(?)**.



## 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 it's awarded to the News Corp UK-owned *Scottish Sun* (proprietor Rupert Murdoch: see page 3). The News Corp group has considerable international income, with real estate services and profits from publisher Harper Collins turning the previous year's operating loss into a profit last year. Despite this, the *Scottish Sun* seems to be feeling the pinch. One of its freelance photographers reports it's only able to find between £20 and £30 for a photo, with each additional photo in the series only earning £10, and with a cap of £100 on a series of photos, however many are used. Photo © **A member of the Trireme Trust**

## Strategic patience at WIPO

THERE WERE interesting developments for authors at the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva in the first week of May. Its Standing Committee on Copyright and related Rights was given a preview of a report on the future of copyright and authors' rights in the digital age.

Professor Pierre Sirinelli called repeatedly for authors – supporting whose work was the entire point of authors' rights in the beginning – to be returned to the centre of authors' rights and copyright law and WIPO's work.

As the simultaneous translation had it, "if we lose sight of the authors,

the most important people in the construction of copyright, we might as well say that they play only one role: to announce the date of their death" to determine when corporate copyright expires.

Sirinelli mentioned the problem that internet companies are immune to action over their use of content. "They announce: 'I don't have to discuss this with you because I am not responsible, but because I'm such a good person I'll discuss it but because I am not responsible I will offer you a pittance'."

He discussed the need for transparency in contracts, and to look at the "value chain" from companies'

income to authors' pockets.

That last point received strong support from the European Union, whose Commission is promoting measures demanding transparency in a Draft Directive (see the February *Freelance*). Nearly 1000 amendments to the draft have been put down in the European Parliament: we're wading through them.

© **Mike Holderness**

• For a full report – including debates on use of your work by libraries, archives, educational and research institutions and more – see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705wipo.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705wipo.html)

## ALCS – record payout for re-use of our work?

THE ANNUAL season of ALCS "free money" freelance thrills has passed and the *Freelance* brings you tidings of a possible new all-time individual record take – to encourage you to join ALCS and claim what's yours in April 2018.

For new readers, ALCS (the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Service) is a collecting society which distributes "secondary rights" income, still mainly from photocopying licences, to magazine, journal and non-fiction book author freelancers.

Millions are distributed among many, and hundreds get hundreds and quite a few hit low four-figures – which is nice, the more so in these hard times.

But this year intra-freelance gossip threw up the highest annual figure LFB's ever heard of. Has anybody ever landed a bigger payout than Freelance X's £4959.82?

Not fantasy. Mention of it promptly drew Freelance Y to say she got a bit over £4000 last year.

Common denominator: both were in their first year of ALCS membership so had hoovered up a deal of back-pay too.

Worth joining? Not 'arf! This is where to do it: [www.alcs.co.uk/join](http://www.alcs.co.uk/join) – go there now!

© **Phil Sutcliffe**

• What news of DACS payouts can LFB photographers and other visual freelancers offer? Any news of big



ALCS's London office

Photo: © **Matt Salusbury** scores pour encourager les autres?

Visual artists including photographers can sign up to DACS (the Design and Artists Copyright Society) via [www.dacs.org.uk](http://www.dacs.org.uk)

Note that you can now also claim for certain photos appearing in re-used works via ALCS.

**LFB hits record**

London Freelance Branch has hit a record. The latest figures show us having 4273 members. We've long been the largest branch in probably the largest union of journalists in the world, and we're growing.

# Stop Murdoch!

RUPERT Murdoch, who currently owns 39 per cent of broadcaster Sky, is preparing a bid to buy the remainder of the company. His attempt to do so five years ago collapsed with the scandal over the *News of the World* hacking phones.

The May London Freelance Branch meeting voted to donate £400 to the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom ([www.cpb.org.uk](http://www.cpb.org.uk)). This has been active in ensuring the bid was referred to

mediaregulator Ofcom and is part of the campaign to stop the renewed Murdoch bid going ahead. More lobbying work is needed.

Ofcom is preparing a report on whether Murdoch is a "fit and proper person" to hold a broadcasting licence. The Competition and Markets Authority will prepare a report on jurisdictional issues. We have more time to campaign: the timetable's been put back by the election (see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705murd.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705murd.html) for more).

Tim Gopsill, LFB Secretary and editor of the CPBF magazine *Free Press*, explained that Murdoch's Sky bid was being scrutinised by a "regulatory process biased towards approval". The current bid is by Murdoch's 21st Century Fox group, which owns Fox News. Tim warned that "when Murdoch gets 100 per cent of Sky he will turn it into Fox News."

Tim reported that Ofcom had recently met with Fox News employee Wendy Walsh and her lawyer, who were in London to raise issues of "governance" around Fox News ahead of the bid.

Fox and its senior anchor Bill O'Reilly have between then paid out well over \$13 million in settlements

over sexual harassment allegations, much of it in severance packages to departing male staff members accused of harassment.

It was once thought to be impossible to turn Sky into Fox News, given the UK's "balanced, regulated broadcasting ecology" and the Ofcom Broadcasting Code. But if it becomes a wholly-owned Murdoch company, with James Murdoch as chair... both Murdochs said they hate UK regulation, and that "The only reliable, durable, and perpetual guarantor of independence is profit," as Rupert told the 2009 Edinburgh International Television Festival.

There is a real risk of "Foxification" of Sky, which now provides almost all news for local commercial radio. Tim predicted that what we are likely to see on a wholly-Murdoch-owned Sky is wall-to-wall commentary, "right-wing talk shows, presented by controversial and forceful hosts who broadcast right-wing propaganda, non-stop."

He noted that all the key examples of "fake news" that were instrumental in Trump's election were either started or spread by Fox News. Watch this space.

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Rupert Murdoch features among temporary Shoreditch-style street art on Pitfield Street, London, last autumn

Street artist unknown. Photo: © Matt Salusbury

**More online**

You will find more at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl) including:

- The collection of Tim Dawson's President's Platform columns at [www.londonfreelance.org/president](http://www.londonfreelance.org/president)

- In particular, the President's report from "Jailed colleagues pre-occupy Turkey's journalists": [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705prez.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705prez.html)

- A report of Vaughan Smith's talk to the May meeting: [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1706vaug.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1706vaug.html)

- A meeting in Brussels on EU proposals for protecting whistleblowers: [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1706whis.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1706whis.html)

- Longer versions of other stories appearing here: [www.londonfreelance.org/fl](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl)

- An updated Frequently Asked Questions: [www.londonfreelance.org/FAQ](http://www.londonfreelance.org/FAQ)

## Brexit: ignore Home Office advice not to seek advice

NOW that Article 50 has been triggered, what should our many colleagues from other EU (or EEA) countries expect?

The UK government's new Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016 in theory give it the power to remove EU nationals in certain circumstances. Any such removals – particularly mass removals – would be practically near impossible. Theresa May has since admitted that freedom of movement is likely to continue "in some form" for a while post-Brexit.

The Home Office has issued advice that EU nationals "do not need to do anything as a result of Article 50 being triggered." However, this is apparently not to be trusted, and appears to be a ploy to avoid having to deal with the considerable paperwork of tens of thousands of

EU nationals applying for Permanent Residence (PR). Immigration lawyers advise that "other EU" nationals disregard Home Office advice and take any steps that they can to ensure they can't possibly be booted out come spring 2019. These include, if you're not an employee, registering as a job seeker, registering as self-employed and getting a Unique Tax Reference number from HMRC if you haven't already, and so on. Seek legal advice, say lawyers.

The European Council's recent draft negotiating guidelines have made it clear the rights of EU nationals to remain in the UK, as well as the status of UK nationals in what's left of the EU, are a "top priority" in negotiations, "crucial" to the deal.

The EU is demanding that EU nationals who've been in the UK for five years must have the right to

reside here for life, even if they are economically inactive (carers, for example). This appears to include any of their future partners joining them, for life. Negotiations between the EU and the UK are currently not going terribly well.

The Council's draft guidelines also demand a "simple and smooth application procedure" for EU citizens to get Permanent Residence, a pointed reference to the current 82-page application form, described by one MEP as "a bureaucratic wall": see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1706perm.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1706perm.html) for more on residence.

Meanwhile, the European Parliament, which has a final veto over the EU-UK exit deal, indicates that one issue over which it plans to exercise its veto is the rights of EU nationals in the UK. Watch this space.

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### MANIFESTO from page 1

the basis for a new deal for Britain's independent workers. If you are a freelance feeling the squeeze, let the candidates know.

**7** Even if you find aspects of the BBC's coverage irksome, a government of any stripe should recognise the vital role of the BBC and guarantee its funding.

**8** Rupert Murdoch's grab for total control of Sky television (see above) might falter all by itself, but that is no reason for complacency.

The union works with an all-party group of MPs who aid our campaigns, most recently chaired by Helen Goodman, seeking re-election as Labour member for Bishop Auckland. She concurs that there is always value in seeking out those wishing to

represent you! "individual cases influence the way MPs vote and the policies we adopt more often than you might think."

Whoever forms the next government, if enough NUJ members play the role of active citizens, our working lives and journalism will benefit.

© Tim Dawson, NUJ President  
• There's more at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705prez2.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705prez2.html)



# None huger than Perugia

THIS YEAR'S eleventh International Journalism Festival, Europe's largest annual media event, was like the Edinburgh Fringe for journalists. For five days media practitioners, NGOs and others gathered in Perugia, Italy (about half way between Rome and Florence) for more than 250 events. High-profile speakers at the Festival included Owen Jones and Craig Newmark.

Unlike the Edinburgh Fringe, this festival is free to attend and open to the public – first-come, first-served. All sessions at the festival were livestreamed and are available on YouTube. Sponsorship comes from Facebook, Google, Amazon, the EU and the Italian government.

In the Renaissance-era university buildings of Perugia's city centre, about halfway between Florence and Rome, more than 600 speakers shared their experiences of reporting from around the world.

Some key themes this year included the first anniversary of Giulio Regeni's murder in Egypt and reports on immigration, data journal-

ism, state surveillance and emerging authoritarianism.

One of the most valuable parts of the festival was hearing from journalists themselves around the world about the political situations in their home countries – rather than through the lens of the Western mainstream media. Syrian journalist Zaina Erhaim, for example, spoke about present-day Syria as being “five Syrias” based on the different groups or parties ruling the particular area. She described the six-year conflict as a revolution, not a civil war – since it involves the regime using public money to suppress opposition movements, rather than multiple parties of equal power battling each other.

In a panel on reporting on migration, Yasir Khan, the senior editor of digital video at Al-Jazeera English, spoke about the company's unique policies on reporting stories about immigration.

The company uses the term “refugees” (or “people”) but not “migrants” and tries to report on refu-



Participants at last year's International Journalist Festival in Perugia. Photo: © Tobia Faverio/IJF

gees as survivors rather than victims. In one widely-shared Al Jazeera video they followed a refugee living in Berlin who, every week, makes a large pot of soup to feed homeless people in a makeshift soup kitchen under a bridge.

Khan said this story got no trolls – what kind of negative comment could someone make about a person helping vulnerable people?

© Tamara Micner

## New members meet again

New members of London Freelance Branch met on 27 April with experienced members Phil Sutcliffe and Francesca Marchese, who writes: “more than 12 attended! We spoke about the mission of the Union, explored our website [www.londonfreelance.org](http://www.londonfreelance.org) and discussed job issues. New members introduced themselves and had an insight into the union's activity.” These meetings happen on the last Thursday of every third month. The next is at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY on **Thursday 27 July** from 6pm.



New members in April: photo © Francesca Marchese

## Media against hate

MORE THAN 30 media practitioners and NGO representatives gathered in Vienna for an event in April run by Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE), which represents not-for-profit community media.

As part of the CMFE's Media Against Hate campaign ([www.cmfe.eu](http://www.cmfe.eu)), sessions focused on how media folk can counter rising hate speech. There was advice on how to create more diverse, inclusive stories around issues raised by immigration and multiculturalism.

Mukti Jain Campion, an Indian-British independent producer for BBC Radio 4, presented her list of ways to tell media stories by and about under-represented communities which go beyond just interviewing diverse sources.

In her session on countering hate speech in social media and online comments, Vienna-based journalist

Ingrid Brodnig discussed the importance of challenging problematic metaphors and false analogies, and the need to create new images to counter xenophobia.

Ingrid noted that, although responding to abusive comments or posts is unlikely to change the minds of trolls or “true believers”, it can educate other readers less sure in their beliefs and more likely to be swayed by information. She described several effective strategies in use to address hate speech online.

One of these is to frame the discussion below an article rather than allowing an open-ended debate – “What are your experiences of moving to a new place?” rather than “What do you think?”

Other advice included allowing comments only when a moderator is available or when an issue is getting a lot of debate. Invest moderators'

time in the first half-hour after an article is published to set the tone of a debate. It's more effective to delete hateful comments before they are published rather than after: replace the comment with a brief explanation of why each was deleted.

Another effective tactic is to require commenters to answer some simple questions about the article before they can leave a comment (to prove that they actually read it – there's an example linked from the longer online version of this article).

Finally, workshop participants Ehab and Lama, both Syrians living in Luxembourg and working in radio, advocated those reporting on refugees looking at people's pasts and futures as well as their present: what were their lives like before they had to flee, how do they see their futures now they live in Europe?

© Tamara Micner

## Freelance Directory on the go now

The NUJ Freelance Directory is the most reliable and probably the biggest listing of professional English-language media freelancers. Now we've redesigned it to work better on mobile devices, so it looks a bit fresher too. Every freelance in it is an NUJ member who's demonstrated to the Union that they are in fact a professional journalist – whereas some other directories list anyone

who pays a fee. Your entry in the Freelance Directory is free to you as a paid-up NUJ member who has told the union you're freelance. Go to [www.freelancedirectory.org](http://www.freelancedirectory.org) to create or update your entry – especially if you've just joined the NUJ. You can upload sample photos, which can include a photo of yourself for your profile. You need to make sure the union centrally knows

you are freelance: we give full details of how to do this at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705coa.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1705coa.html)

The Freelance plans to feature selected new profiles – what do you think of that as an idea? Tell us – at [editor@londonfreelance.org](mailto:editor@londonfreelance.org)

And the Union's Freelance Industrial Council is discussing fresh ways to promote the Freelance Directory to editors, starting with those known to want to engage trade union members.



# Protect sources, fight secrecy

MERION JONES, investigations editor at the Bureau for Investigative Journalism, spoke at LFB's April meeting on protecting sources. (We also heard from the Freelance's own Mike Holderness on methods to minimise surveillance: see below.)

Merion reminded us of the threat posed by the Law Commission review of the Official Secrets Act (OSA). Through Merion's work he's "only been to prison to visit people": under new OSA proposals, he "would be facing a decade in jail" for investigations to date.

Up until the 1970s, journalists had the "really powerful constraint" of a D Notice Committee serving "D Notices" (D for Defence). Publish after being issued one, you got prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act. The existence of GCHQ, set up in the 1940s, stayed secret until 1974.

There followed the ABC trial in 1977 and 1978 (the "C", Duncan Campbell spoke about this in May 2016). Then came *Spycatcher*, with Government attempts throughout the late 1980s to stop ex-MI5 officer Peter Wright publishing his memoirs. "We are in danger of slipping back into that" with the latest OSA proposals, warns Merion.

The OSA review's not about protecting freedom of speech, but in

its own words about "unauthorised disclosure", about people who "obtain or gather" information. It comes with an "underlying assumption" of no public interest defence.

It's been a long time since a successful OSA prosecution of a journalist. In the trial of civil servant Clive Ponting, charged for releasing the Falklands War-era *Belgrano* documents, the judge removed the public interest defence, but the jury still refused to convict. When it came to GCHQ whistleblower Katherine Gun, who revealed Iraq War shenanigans, "they had to drop charges against her after it became clear Blair had lied."

Now we're being told the "problems associated with the introduction of a statutory public interest defence outweigh the benefits". We face going back 40 years, when it was almost impossible to write about the "secret doings of the state".

Tradecraft tips? Merion once "found I was being followed... I did a double back in the (Tube) station" and spotted someone on his tail. A lot of these people who might be tailing you, including the ones hired by the big corporates, are "ex-State security, ex-Northern Ireland... you will not spot them."

Then there's how to get the story



Merion Jones: photo © Hazel Dunlop

past the newspaper's lawyers. And "how much to tell your editor?" Never give your editor your notes. Tell them as little as you can about your source, to protect them. In the BBC in particular, if an editor knows anything, they will "be forced to reveal stuff up the chain."

Another difficulty is that "by nature whistleblowers are mad, bad and dangerous. If they were sensible they'd look to their pension." Merion described one source for a story around a "dangerous financial fraud... we set up a protocol, but within a day he was back sending swathes of data in his own name."

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## Come all ye to the Freelance Salon

For a fun and informative evening of networking and journalism workshops with a special focus on diversification and new ways to make journalism pay, come to the London Freelance Branch Salon. Our speakers have made a living from all kinds of things, and attendees should come away with ideas on how to use their skills and experience to add an income stream. It's from 6.30pm til 9pm on **Thursday 13 July** in Central London and it costs £10 for NUJ members and £20 for non-members. Booking is essential and is open now: see [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1706salon.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1706salon.html) Our speakers include **David Quantick**, who started as a music journalist (*Q*, *NME*) and now does a mixture of gag and script writing across TV and radio; and **Remona Aly**, a journalist, commentator and broadcaster with a focus on faith, lifestyle and identity who is a presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Something Understood*. Below: the crowd at the salon in October 2015: photo © Hazel Dunlop

## Protecting your sources: a short guide

THE ABILITY to protect sources is essential to journalism that holds power to account. Sources must be seen to be protected. This isn't going to be technical: I am now taking seriously the joke conclusion of earlier advice – Bronze Age methods of organisation and communication *rock!*

The new Investigatory Powers Act doesn't change anything about the ways your sources can be unmasked. It provides a legal framework for what the security services are doing anyway. The Act includes warrants for interception, equipment interference and bulk communications data acquisition – gathering "metadata" – see below.

The Act recognises the need for journalists to protect sources. But Section 264(5) excludes such material "if it is created or acquired with the intention of furthering a criminal purpose." So no protections if your source is revealing something covered by the Official Secrets Acts.

You may eventually win a court ruling on these provisions being unlawful, but by then your source may have spent time in jail, or lost their job and their pension. Andrew Bousfield told the Branch in 2011: if you

can't deal with someone who's on an emotional roller-coaster, "don't do whistleblower stories."

There's a difference between interception of content and of "metadata" – who's communicated with whom. Usually the authorities are more concerned with this than what you said. Listening to content is expensive. Programming a computer to build a map of who communicates with whom, and when, is cheap. If you take no precautions it can identify candidates for being your source.

In 2016 Ross Anderson – Professor of computer security at the University of Cambridge – suggested we avoid using computers. Meet in person. Take notes with a pencil. Do not take your own phone with you to a face-to-face meeting. Tell your source not to bring theirs.

Make sure you're not followed. Doubling back, rather than going to a meeting by the shortest route, may help. You can still buy a prepaid Oyster card for cash. Or cycle there. It's about pushing up the cost of tracking you. Digital surveillance is cheap. A 24-hour tail involves 9-20 salaries.

There are no magic technological fixes. Indeed, using an unusual and

"secure" communication channel may draw attention to you and to your source.

There's more on how safe the communications system WhatsApp is, the Committee to Protect Journalists' advisory on taking your laptop to the US (don't), on "burner" phones bought for cash, on not backing up your devices on the "cloud" – all at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/sources.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/sources.html)

This is a discussion document. No guarantees are possible. Send comments to [sources@londonfreelance.org](mailto:sources@londonfreelance.org)

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## LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

## Tax frightfulness; covering the general election

TAX AND National Insurance is the theme under discussion at the LFB gathering on **Monday 12 June**. We will talk about organising opposition to the plan by the current Government to make us file four tax returns a year.

This is subject to the outcome of the general election, which seems to have delayed its implementation, but Her Majesty's Customs and Excise appear to be proceeding as if it's going ahead.

We'll also be celebrating the recent U-turn on National Insurance rates for the self-employed; and also briefing you on issues with National Insurance Contributions.

Our speakers will be Louise Bolo-tin, co-trainer on the NUJ's training courses for freelancers, NUJ Freelance Industrial Council member and financial journalist; and Alex Redmond, partner at Artisan Accounts, who can advise on dealing with the system as it is now.

The Branch meeting on **Monday 10 July** is expected to be on reporting the general election, which will have happened by then. What trends can we identify in media coverage of the election campaign? How balanced was it? How biased? How courageous was it?

We hope to have a speaker from a journalism school that's been analysing 2017 election coverage in detail, as well as comparing it with coverage of previous elections.

We also expect to hear from a national newspaper journalist who's been covering this year's voting.

For confirmation of the July meeting details, see the links below.

In addition to the usual cycle of Branch meetings, there is a meet-

This issue went to press on **22 May**.

Your deadline for the July online-only issue: **30 June**.

ing for new and recently-joined members of LFB on **Thursday 27 July**. For venue and details, see page 4. There is *no* LFB meeting in August.

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](http://www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html) and LFB's Twitter feed [www.twitter.com/NUJ\\_LFB](https://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)

FREELANCE

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

## LETTER

## Woeful rates bemoaned

IN THE April issue of the *Freelance*, day rates for shifts on periodicals of between £120 and £160 are not labelled as below par. In my view, they are unacceptably low. I was getting between £100 and £120 over 20 years ago for subbing and/or layout shifts on various periodicals.

I consider that, taking into account overheads, etc, a freelance doing casual shifts needs to earn in three working days roughly what a full-time employee is paid per week if he/she is to net a comparable sum.

© **Fraternaly, Maurice Jay**  
Life Member

• *The editor writes:*

We found two rates that fit your description and are below £160 and revised their scoring.

We initially rely on people's self-scoring – and it's a sad reflection on the state of the industry that people aren't rating these, er, rates as poor... See page 2 for some decent and dreadful rates.

Please treat this response as appearing with your letter in the *Journalist* (the *Freelance* is posted to freelance members in the same mailing as the *Journalist*) and don't forget to send your rates to [www.londonfreelance.org/rates/submit](http://www.londonfreelance.org/rates/submit)

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

MANY former members of the London Photographers' Branch now find themselves members of London Freelance Branch.

LPB achieved a good deal, but recently it has struggled to sustain a working committee. As a result, the National Executive took the reluctant decision to close London Photographers' Branch and to move its members to LFB (unless they requested otherwise).

The LFB Committee extends a warm welcome to those lens-based journalists who find themselves newly among us. We hope in the coming months to programme some branch meetings to address the interests of photographers and videographers, like last year's successful workshop run by Verifeye's John D McHugh

**Pennie Quinton, Zaki Dogliani**  
LFB Branch Chairs

There are a couple of upcoming evening training events in the basement of the NUJ.

On **Thursday 1 June** there's Success with Self-Published Ebooks with NUJ President Time Dawson, author of the Union's *Make Ebooks Pay* guide.

Speechwriting for Profit and Persuasion, with Ian McKenzie – who's written speeches for cabinet ministers – is on **Thursday 22 June**.

They both start at 6pm at Headland House, 72 Acton Street, London WC1X 9NB and cost £12 to NUJ members. Details: [www.nuj.org.uk/events](http://www.nuj.org.uk/events)

## UNCLASSIFIED ADS

**FREELANCE UNCLASSIFIEDS** are FREE to members for non-commercial purposes. To non-members and for commercial purposes, £10 for this much. Acceptance is at the editors' whim; appearance does not imply endorsement. Comments on an advertiser? Tell us. Submit by email to [unclassified@londonfreelance.org](mailto:unclassified@londonfreelance.org)

**GLENSOUND GSGC4 ISDN** mixer for sports commentary or general reporter use. Lovely condition c/w with carry case, new leads and headset mic. Bargain at £395: [robunderwood80@gmail.com](mailto:robunderwood80@gmail.com)

**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@ssep.net](mailto:dnh@ssep.net)

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

**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](http://www.writingcourses.org.uk)

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