

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Women cartoonists; news trust, pay gap...

HAVE YOU noticed the dearth of cartoonists in our industry that are female? We have.

At the LFB meeting on **Monday 12 March** we will hear from two women cartoonists – Nicola Streeten and Blue Lou.

Nicola is co-founder of the Laydeez Do Comics prize for graphic novels, and co-editor of the forthcoming *The Inking Woman: 250 Years of Women Cartoon and Comic Artists in Britain*. Blue Lou's work includes cartoons for the *Morning Star*.

The issue of trust in journalism is on the agenda at the Branch meeting on **Monday 9 April**. Speakers from the Trust Project (thetrust-project.org) have been invited.

This initiative aims to help readers differentiate between "news content and fakery" by providing information online about the ownership, ethics and mission of the news outlet and the backgrounds of the journalists who wrote the story.

At the LFB gathering on **Monday**

14 May, the topic under discussion will be – provisionally – equality and discrimination around pay.

This follows recent revelations of women journalists at the BBC being paid much less than men, with an Equalities Commission investigation announced following the resignation of BBC China Editor Carrie Gracie over the gender pay gap. A significant speaker is being invited.

The meeting on **Monday 11 June** – around the second anniversary of the EU referendum – will provisionally look at a Brexit-related topic. A speaker from Europe Street News – covering the relationship between the UK and the European Union – has been invited.

This *Freelance* went to press on **23 February**.

Your deadline for the April online-only issue is **30 March**.

LFB meetings are always on the second Monday of the month, from 7pm to 9pm in the basement of the NUJ's

HQ at **Headland House, 72 Acton Street London WC1X 9NB**, accessible to people who use wheelchairs. The nearest Tube is King's Cross or Chancery Lane.

If you need the Branch to pay for care for a child or dependent so you can attend a meeting, contact a Branch Secretary: see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html

For updates on meetings and for confirmation of themes and speakers for forthcoming meetings, see the Branch calendar web page 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

FREELANCE

Branch contacts: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb
Online Freelance contents: www.londonfreelance.org/fl

NEW MEMBERS' MEETING

For members new to LFB or recently joined, there's a meeting on **Thursday 29 March**. It's a chance to meet other new members (and some experienced journalists who can offer advice), to hear about the mission of the Union and discuss work issues.

It's at the Camera Museum, Museum St, London WC1A 1LY, from 6.30pm. The nearest Tube's Holborn.

Shown below is a recent LFB new members' meeting in January this year, described by those there as a great success. Photo: © **Francesca Marchese**



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new leads and headset mic. Bargain at £395: rob.underwood@bbc.co.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

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

LFB COMMITTEE

WE WELCOME new members of London Freelance Branch Committee: our new Vice-chair Pierre Alozie, Negotiations Officer Tamara Micner and new members at large Francesca Albin, Michael Butcher, Tony Levene, Josiah Mortimer and Nick Renaud-Komiya. Contact details for these and the re-elected Committee members are at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html

We thank outgoing Committee members, including former Branch Chair Zaki Dogliani, Chapel Liaison Officer Tim Dawson and members at large Richenda Power, Elizabeth Chappell, Gregory Baldeosingh, Thibault Raymond Gbei, Hina Pandya and Dave Rotchelle. There's a vacancy for a member at large, to be elected at March's meeting.

See www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html for details.

TRAINING

TRAINING courses currently being planned by LFB – all yet to be confirmed – include search engine optimisation (SEO), video editing and possibly several courses aimed at photographers. A course on "How the NUJ works" will provisionally take place in May. Watch this space for announcements. Meanwhile, courses on "the business side" of being a freelance, held by the Federation of Entertainment Unions (FEU, of which the NUJ is apart) are FREE to NUJ members. See www.feutraining.org For NUJ Training Scotland courses, see nujtrainingscotland.com and for NUJ Training Wales courses, see www.nujtrainingwales.org

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