LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Lobbying to defend copyright, in Parliament

ONCE MORE, the government is having a go at copyright law: see page 5. So our meeting on Monday 12 November will discuss what we’re doing about it. Our speakers will include Mike Holderness, who is Chair of the Creators’ Rights Alliance, to which the NUJ belongs.

Go to the ramp to Parliament’s public entrance: arrive by 18:40 to be sure of getting through security checks in time. You are going to the meeting in Committee Room 4, hosted by Viscount Bridgeman. Keep an eye on LFB’s Twitter feed https://twitter.com/LFB meetings for updates and a pointer to full directions.

On Monday 10 December we’re holding a seasonal social event, jointly with the NUJ’s London Magazine Branch, at the NUJ HQ, Headland House, 308 Gray’s Inn Road: nearest Underground King’s Cross.

The meeting on Monday 14 January 2013 will be the Branch Annual General Meeting. Send any proposals to update the Branch rules, to editor@londonfreelance.org before 22 November.

This issue went to press on 20 October. Your deadline for the December / January issue is 22 November.

LETTER

Battle of Alamy?

I was disappointed to see the last copy of the Freelance quoting my old friend and fellow photographer, Julio Etchart, commending Alamy picture agency. This company is notorious for undercutting NUJ recommended rates and I hope that LFB is not endorsing Julio’s words or celebrating any other company adopting the supermarket model of “piling them high and selling them cheap”.

The NUJ should be publicising why decent rates are necessary and shaming the companies that charge less, especially if they won’t negotiate sustainable rates.

I acknowledge Julio’s supermarket analogy, but do portray it for what it really is: an unequal and exploitative relationship between large companies that hold too much power over their competing suppliers.

In response to these business models that serve only to harm our members’ long-term interests and sustainability, it’s about time the NUJ told them to BOGOF rather than doing their work for them – below the Union rate.

Stefano Cagnoni

PRÉCISION

Wilde at heart

The caption to our illustration of the perils of libel lawsuits was not entirely precise.

The lower-left panel indeed shows the auction of Oscar Wilde’s effects on 24 April 1895 following his withdrawing of a libel action against the Marquess of Queensberry.

The main illustration, however, is of the opening on 26 April of Wilde’s first criminal trial for gross indecency, in which the prosecution used evidence presented at the libel suit. Wilde was convicted at a second trial.

Courses from journalism.co.uk

Train the trainer – Saturday 10 November 10.00 to 16.30 – Friends Meeting House, Euston, London

Many journalists recognise that offering training courses can be a useful way to boost income and raise profile, with courses on everything from media training to PR writing skills to courses on new skills for other journalists. Running a training course isn’t just a case of doing their work for them – below the perceived rate.

Adding a second string to your bow – 14 November 18.00 to 21.00 – Friends Meeting House, London

An evening course to guide freelance journalists through expanding their skills into areas such as corporate copywriting, PR and paid public speaking.

ADVERTISMENT

Essential Twitter Skills – 22 November 09.30 to 13.00 – Royal Society of Medicine, London

This course is aimed at journalists, editors, writers and producers who really want to get to grips with the fundamentals of using Twitter successfully.

Advanced Twitter – 22 November 14.00 to 17.30 – Royal Society of Medicine, London

This course is aimed at journalists, editors, writers and producers who need to follow multiple streams of information and use Twitter in more creative ways.

Please contact sophie@journalism.co.uk with any queries or call 01273 384 293.

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