**LETTER**

**Worse than useless**

Former journalist editor Tim Gopsill hit the nail on the head when he told the May London Freelance Branch meeting that the current Press Complaints Commission (PCC) actually makes things worse than anything the NUJ has proposed (June Freelance). As Tim said, the Commission defends editors from criticism of their decisions while the NUJ will defend the public.

Both the Commission and the previous Press Council declare to deal with the two biggest sources of complaints: claims made in leader columns; and refusal by editors to print readers’ letters.

Most editors of Murdoch titles were not consulted over the company’s predictable opposition to changes proposed by the Leveson Inquiry – yet both they and the Commission are strangely silent over the fact that all UK-produced titles sold in the Republic of Ireland are subject to the very rules they claim they are against!

Yours fraternity

Bro. Chris Youett, NUJ rep on TUC Midlands

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**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. If you have any comments on an advertiser, tell us. Submit your ads by email to unclassified@londonfreelance.org.

**IRISH COUNTRY COTTAGE** for rent, 1 hour from Cork: remote, rustic cottage, well equipped, recently renovated, sleeps 9. Breathtaking views. Near Macroom and Killarney. Rates €350 June-August, €300 Sept and €250 any other time. Karl or Phil via jkhowe@eircom.net.

**LONDON & B&B** Wimbledon / Putney area in photojournalist’s home. Details: www.southfieldsstudio.co.uk or email southfields.bed@btconnect.com.

**DON’T GET IT RIGHT – GET IT WRITTEN!** Most people don’t want to write a book – they want to have finished it. Frances Coombes 5th non-fiction Motivation book published by Hodder due September. Details: admin@francescoombes.com.

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**MOTION for 9 September**

This meeting of London Freelance Branch votes to allocate out of branch funds £1000 – or whatever lesser sum is needed – to pay an NUJ member to telephone all members of LFB who are on the next warning of lapsing list for non-payment of subscriptions in order to persuade them to remain in membership of the NUJ.

Proposed: Mike Holderness

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**Your Branch needs you!**

LONDON Freelance Branch currently has vacancies for a Branch Secretary and for a Membership Secretary.

The work of the Branch Secretary includes writing up and circulating the minutes of meetings (usually taken by somebody else, see below), following up on matters arising and liaising with the venue management on hiring a space for meetings.

The Membership Secretary’s responsibilities include welcoming new members in the brief new members’ spot immediately before meetings. There’s also some admin on membership applications and input into organising occasional New Members’ Meetings.

We expect Committee members to commit to turning up to most LFB Committee meetings, which are from 6:30-8:30 at the NUJ King’s Cross HQ on the third Monday of each month. Jobshares in both the Branch Secretary and Membership Secretary roles are encouraged. If you are considering standing for one of these roles, get in touch a member of the Committee. There’s a list of LFB Committee members online (with vacancies) at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html.

Elections for vacant posts will be held at the September LFB meeting on Monday 9 September. Geraldine Hackett is kindly handling minute-taking at Branch meetings, but we need more volunteer minute-takers. LFB can arrange a free course in minute-taking.

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