Branch secretary bids LFB a reluctant farewell

AT THE BEGINNING of this year, I took on the rôle of London Freelance Branch secretary, having a few weeks previously been elected to the branch committee as a member without portfolio. During my brief tenure as secretary, I have handled the administration of the largest branch in the NUJ, and recorded branch activities and decisions with detailed meeting minutes.

Out of personal interest in developing new ways of working within the union, I recently set up an email-based policy forum for LFB, which for the time being is restricted to committee members. In the longer term, we plan to open this forum up to the branch at large, if it so wishes. The aim of the policy forum is to provide LFB members with a space between NUJ-wide Delegate Meetings to draft and refine detailed policy proposals, which could then be put to full branch meetings.

I have very much enjoyed my time as branch secretary, but sadly it must come to a premature end. The reason for my departure is that I have accepted an offer of a job from the University of Cambridge as communications lead for the European Graphene Flagship (http://graphene-flagship.eu).

Given that from the start of September I am no longer an exclusively freelance journalist, I cannot remain as an officer of an NUJ freelance branch, or, for that matter, of the Union’s Freelance Industrial Council, on which I sit as the Equality representative. Having been self-employed for the past 11 years, the prospect of returning to full-time employment in academia is daunting. Still, I will I’m sure cope with the transition from the real world.

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LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

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CALLING ALL EX PRESS / PHOTOGRAPHERS who may still have a 9 x 12V NP. Press Camera and equipment in working condition. As in ex-press photographer I used this camera and would like to use again for old time’s sake, possibly with a view to buying. My old VN, lets the light in. Please respond by email, including “Ken Laverty’s ad” in the Subject line, via freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk

IRISH COUNTRY COTTAGE rent, 1 hour from Cork; remote, rustic cottage, well equipped, recently renovated, sleeps 9. Breathtaking views. Near Macroon and Killarney Rates £350 June, August, £300 Sept and £250 any other time; email jkhowe@eircom.net

LFB meetings are from 7pm to 9pm (and except in December) 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 an LFB meeting, call a Branch officer.

For updates on meetings and for confirmation of the topic and speakers of meetings throughout 2014, see the LFB Branch calendar web page at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html—details of motions for meetings are at the foot of that web page.

See also LFB’s Twitter feed, http://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB

For details of NUJ London Photographers’ Branch meetings, see the website belonging to that Branch: www.londonphotographers.org