Making contracts fair – in Parliament

THE IMPOSITION of unfair contracts on journalists and other creators is gathering pace as a political issue – see page I. London Freelance Branch is holding a meeting to discuss this in Parliament on Monday 13 July. What can be done to protect journalists (and other authors and performers) from unfair contracts, ranging from those that force us to give up all rights to those that demand we fund any court cases?

Our speakers are Chris Bryant, Labout MP for Rhondda and Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport; and Tim Clement-Jones, the LibDem Lord to whom all members of both Houses of Parliament turn when anything comes up about copyright. We have invited Members from the Conservative and Scottish National Parties.

You will need to arrive at the top of the ramp down to the tourists’ entrance to the Houses of Parliament in good time for security checks. Tell the official at the top you are attending the NUJ meeting (currently scheduled to be in Committee Room 4a). ID is not required. How early you need to be depends on what else is on in the Palace of Westminster. We currently recommend getting there before 18:15.

There is, as usual, no Branch meeting in August.

On Monday 14 September we will host Friends’ House, hearing from Dorothy Byrne, head of C4 News and Current Affairs. The Freelance hopes for tips on how we can get commissioned by C4.

And on Monday 9 October our speaker will be Graham Hayday, who is head of studio at Guardian Labs. We hope he will be speaking about the ethical and journalistic issues raised by “sponsored content”. It was of course the Guardian that parodied its own “Wonderful Rutania” supplements with a special pull-out cord, at which point you will see the Freelance team temporarily cease typing. We otherwise welcome live tweeting of meetings mentioning the Branch identity @NUJ_LFB.

This went to press on 16 June. Your deadline for the September print edition is 14 August

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I AM SEEKING to diversify so have stated trading in vinyl records. So, fair prices paid for good condition records – in particular, rock, pop, soul, jazz, blues, folk, ska/reggae, Latin, Samba/bossa, African, contemporary beats. Also avant-garde. Collections mainly limited to the London area at present. And if you’re looking for a particular record, try me: Mike: at info@vinylvanguard.com.

WRITER REQUIRED to write monthly newsletter. Neutradol send out a monthly newsletter to subscribers and are looking for a freelance writer to compile this and send out via Mail Chimp. Please email mark.davis@msg.co.uk

GALLOWAY COTTAGE. Wood burning stove and games room. One mile from Scotland’s book town, two minutes walk to good village pub and distillery. Beautiful countryside and unspoiled beaches. woodpeckercottages@btinternet.com or see our website at woodpecker-cottage.co.uk

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LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

Recording or live-tweeting LFB meetings

THE BRANCH reminds its members that the “work matters” discussion at London Freelance Branch meetings is confidential: no recording or tweeting of this section of the meeting is allowed. LFB Standing Order 10 relates to the NUJ’s “Rule 18(1) concerning unauthorised disclosure of confidential Union or Branch Business, which also provides that in anything members may publish on Branch or Union affairs they shall not imply that they are giving anything but their own individual views.” See www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/rules.html for the full whack.

Speakers who agree to come to talk at LFB – for free – do so in the full knowledge that the remarks made by colleagues and (usually) fellow trade unionists, to whom they may make comments not intended for a wider public. When speakers are invited to speak at LFB they are informed that the Freelance will be running a report of their talk online and in print, and inviting them to flag up any parts of their talk that may not be for publication.

Speakers at LFB meetings have from time to time prefaced comments by saying they’re off the record, at which point you will see the Freelance team temporarily cease typing. We otherwise welcome live tweeting of meetings mentioning the Branch identity @NUJ_LFB.

TRAINING TIME

CHECK OUT the courses offer by the NUJ, at reasonable rates to members: Getting Started as a Freelance – tips that are useful whether you are moving from staff or new to journalism – 16 October; Pitch & Deal – getting what you’re due for your work – 30 October, both in London. See www.nuj.org.uk/events

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