PHILIP Beresford, best known for his work on the Sunday Times rich list, will talk about positive, life-enhancing things like being a successful freelance at the LFB meeting on Monday 9 November. This meeting is also the last one at which we can debate motions that the Branch may want to present to the union’s national Delegate Meeting.

The get-together on Monday 14 December is very likely to be a seasonal Branch social event, possibly hosted jointly with other London NUJ Branches. The December gathering will probably be on the fifth floor of the NUJ HQ at Headland House, 308-312 Gray’s Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP (Tube: King’s X) but may be in a pub somewhere in the Euston/King’s X area. Check the sources below for updates. The Branch will provide free food and some free drink.

The LFB meeting on Monday 11 January will be the Branch’s AGM, when we elect the Branch office-holders and its Committee – and what they entail are www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html – if you are interested in standing for one of these, contact a member of the current Branch committee via www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html

For details of these and other LFB meetings, see: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html

For possible motions for debate at this meeting, see: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html#motions – and to ensure you get email alerts of meetings and the online Freelance – just one message a month – see www.londonfreelance.org/linkup.html

This issue went to press on 29 September. Deadline for the November online-only issue: 19 October.

ALREADY! YES, already. You have only until 31 October if you want to send in your tax return on paper. Please note that’s the deadline for it to arrive at HMRC, not the date for you to send it. Nowadays you need to ring up your tax office if you want to do it this way: it can take a week or two for them to print and send a paper tax return for you and send back by post. And HMRC no longer acknowledge or record receipt of paper tax returns. The only way to get confirmation out of them that your returns have arrived is to file them online.

If you do your tax return online, the time to start sorting out all those receipts for tax year April 2014-April 2015 is now, as the 31 January 2016 deadline is rushing towards you faster than you think.

And if you became self-employed during the tax year that ended in April and need to submit a tax return for the first time, register now to get an HMRC online services user ID log-in. You will need an activation code: this requires HMRC to send a password to you by post, which can take a while (up to seven working days, or much longer if the lines become progressively busier in the build up to the 31 January deadline). So get it sorted now, via HMRC online services at https://online.hmrc.gov.uk/login.

And sort out now (if you’re not sure already) which is your tax office, and what their phone number is. It will get much harder and more time-consuming to find all this out at the end of January. Fines – in three figures – for filing your tax return late are now automatic. So don’t say we didn’t warn you.

LFB meetings (with the exception of the December seasonal gathering) are from 7pm to 9pm 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 a meeting, call a Branch officer.

For updates on meetings see the Branch calendar web page www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and LFB’s Twitter feed www.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/lfb/1507film.html

For details of NUJ London Photographers’ Branch meetings, see londonphotographers.org

TAX WARNING

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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I AM SEEKING to diversify so have stated trading in vinyl records. So, fair prices paid for good condition LP records. In particular, 50s to 90s rock, 60s-early 70s soul, jazz, blues, folk, ska/reggae, Latin, Samba/bossa, African, Cajun/Zydeco, klezmer. But all popular genres and eras considered. Contact Mike at: info@vinylanguard.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. woodpecker cottage@btinternet.com woodpecker-cottage.co.uk

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