WOMEN in journalism is the theme of the London Freelance Branch meeting on Monday 14 March. (International Women’s Day this year falls on the Tuesday just under a week before the meeting.)

Our speaker is NUJ General Secretary Michelle Stanistreet – the first woman to be elected to the post in the Union’s history.

She was previously Mother of Chapel (elected rep for the NUJ at the workplace level) at the Sunday Express.

What do our members want?

That’s the question under discussion at the April LFB meeting (Monday 11 April).

This will feature a panel of new members discussing their hopes regarding the Branch and how it can support them (and how they can support it!).

Expect a very interactive discussion on Branch priorities and possible new initiatives.

LFB’S SEASONAL end-of-year gathering is shown below in full swing.

LFB Chair Fiona O’Cleirigh (right, her head bedecked with tinsel) was surprised by a Christmas gift (picted) from the Branch Committee, in recognition of all her hard work over the year. Fi had briefly interrupted the festivities to welcome new members and to make the absolute minimum of Branch announce-

ments – breaking with established tradition by not doing so standing on a chair.

We were joined by members from other NUJ Branches including the London Central, London Independent Broadcasting and New Media, London Photographers’ and London Magazine Branches.

Our apologies to our members who use wheelchairs who joined us in a smaller gathering in the lobby of the NUJ’s Headland House HQ – this was due to the lifts to the fifth floor meeting room being repaired that day, a fact which the powers that be at Headland House apparently neglected to pass on to the Branch in advance.

Deadline for the March online-only issue: 22 February.

NEW MEMBERS are invited to meet other members with more experience of freelance journalism, as well as to participate in a lively discussion on Branch priorities.

We haven’t done anything like this for a while – the last time LFB had a vaguely similar meeting was a decade ago, and now it’s time for an update!

The meeting is an opportunity for members (both new and more long-standing) to input ideas.

LFB’s own New Members Officer Elizabeth Ingamns will be among the meeting’s facilitators.

Watch this space for more detail on the meeting’s format.

The threat to journalists posed by the draft Investigatory Powers Bill is the subject of the LFB meeting on Monday 9 May.

The draft Bill’s provisions include internet service providers having to keep records of what websites someone has visited, which they must give to the police without a warrant.

Speakers to be confirmed.

LFB meetings are from 7pm to 9pm at Friends’ House, Euston 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 http://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/ fl/1507film.html.

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

This issue to press on 3 Feb-

New members meet

LFB members new to freelance journalism are invited to meet other people new to the Branch, and members with more experience of freelance journalism, at the Camera Cafe, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY on Thursday 28 April from 6pm. These meetings happen there on the last Thursday of every third month. The Branch hopes to resume inviting new members who come to their first Branch meeting to have their photo taken and give a few words about themselves; see them at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/intros.html.