HELP US out, colleagues! Make it nice and easy for us. We guess – after spending too long looking it up – that “RTP” is national Radio Television Portugal, and that “JC” is Jewish Chronicle. But, please, give us in full any name that may possibly be ambiguous. Thinking about work for a company you’ve not dealt with before? Simply look at the Rate for the Job to find out what companies in similar niches have paid. Then aim higher. You can submit rates online, in confidence, at any time, at www.londonfreelance.org/rates – please give not only the basic rate (e.g. for FBS, First British Serial rights) but extra payments negotiated for extra uses, like the Web – or for print if it’s a Rate for the Online Job.

Rates marked X are, in the editor’s fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even perhaps the happy ☺ few. Broadcast(?): RTP (Portugal!) “11 minutes” news gathering £500. Photography: Narratively three-hour shoot, 11 photos used, offer of US$100 rejected, raised to US$150 X; Canon Focus photos £50. Shits: ILO (International Labour Organization!) per day book editing, Swiss francs 5000 = £3500 (£3860 at press time); The Mirror, special projects subbing, writing day £165; Webuser subbing/production day day £130 X; Namibian publisher, per day “OK as Namibian rate!” £60. Training: Private client social media, publisher advice, per hour £36.

Google News Labs training on tour

TECHNOLOGY changes fast, and keeping up with those changes can be tough as a freelance. The NUJ’s Freelance Industrial Council is aware that as freelances we can often miss out on the skills that can assist our work and enable us to deliver it to the high level promoted by training that staffers are routinely receiving.

Google News Labs work with many publications training them to use Google tools, which help on specific aspects on reporting and so, as an FIC initiative we have organised a half-day workshop, run by Google News Labs, which will teach you many of aspects of Google tools. This will include three sessions on Google tools journalists can use to research, report and visualise a story. One session will walk through advanced Search and Image Search, Google Trends, Public Data and the practical tips and tricks you can use on a daily basis. Also included is an introduction to video and YouTube, with lessons and case studies from around the world.

A map can help tell a thousand stories. In this session you will see how embeddable maps can help visualise a story in an engaging format. A workshop will teach you how to build your own Google Maps, how to explore and integrate StreetView and Earth imagery and organise data to create compelling interactives.

The training sessions are in: Manchester 6 September (Google, Manchester); Edinburgh 8 November (Double Tree Hilton, City Centre); Cardiff 25 October; Belfast 30 September (venues to be confirmed); and Brussels (event to be confirmed, in which case details will follow). Sign up free now at freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk. Places limited.

For a report of a successful NUJ freelances Google News Lab training in London, see www.londonfreelance.org/ll/1605goog.html © Hina Pandya

BBC News Channel reprieved after pressure

IF THE BBC had gone ahead with plans for its News Channel to disappear, Sky would have been left with a domestic monopoly in continuous UK television news.

The NUJ believes both the News Channel and the BBC World News channel play important and different roles. As part of its campaign for retention of the News Channel the union submitted ideas that could save millions of pounds across the newsroom by reducing waste and duplication, while safeguarding jobs and services. The NUJ encouraged members to sign a petition and to encourage their MPs to sign a parliamentary Early Day Motion in defence of maintaining the channels’ separate identities and output.

And when the proposal went before the BBC News executive board in July, it was rejected. NUJ broadcasting organiser Sue Harris said: “This is good news and I am pleased the BBC has acknowledged that the two channels provide distinct services. I would also like to thank Martine Croxall and David Campanale, our reps at the News Channel and BBC World, and both chapels for their amazing campaign to save the channel and to all the MPs, peers and other supporters who wrote to the BBC in its defence.” Pressure has paid off.

But Sue had to continue: “We are being told it will mean 10 per cent cut; the union is prepared to discuss with management how savings can be made without reducing the headcount.”