NEW LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

New ways to sell photos, journalists’ co-ops

THE LFB meeting on Monday 10 October will definitely feature John D. McHugh speaking about new ways of selling photos online. John, a conflict photographer whose work includes Afghanistan, recently founded Verifeye Media. Verifeye is a ‘Mobile Journalism (MoJo)’ photo agency. It engages “eyewitnesses” and paid-for freelances, selling licences for uses of your images on to news outlets. The agency employs technology for mobiles and web-enabled cameras that tags images with metadata verifying where images were made, who the creator is and specifying the licences under which they are seeking to sell a re-use of that image.

The October meeting will also see the election of LFB’s first Branch Social Media Officer, responsible for maintaining its @NUJ_LFB Twitter account and other LFB social media presences. See below.

As well as that month’s Branch meeting, there’s a gathering for new and recently-joined members of LFB on Thursday 27 October at the at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY from 6pm. Veteran journo’s will be there too, able to give friendly advice.

At the Branch meeting on Monday 14 November, LFB’s own Dan Davies, journalist and playwright, will host a panel on the opportunities for new models of working offered by journalist cooperatives.

New LFB who have chosen to do so introduce themselves at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/intros.

The meeting on Monday 5 December is a seasonal party, at the London Welsh Centre, 157-163 Gray’s Inn Rd, WC1X 8UE.

This issue went to press on 21 September: your deadline for the November online-only issue is 1 November.

LFB IS electing a Social Media Officer to run and develop the Branch social media presence.

Until now the role has been filled on a voluntary basis by Janet Awe. The Branch thanks Janet for her excellent work, which is regrettably no longer able to continue.

LFB’s September meeting voted to create an elected Branch Social Media Officer post to carry on and develop this work.

The Officer, a full LFB member, should ideally already be “doing” social media in a professional capacity (as their predecessor was.) The post involves tweeting suitably-timed announcements and reminders of forthcoming meetings and events, including freelance-relevant ones organised by the NUJ nationally.

LFB’s Twitter feed @NUJ_LFB quickly became the go-to-place for job alerts: we hope its valuable role in providing job alerts can continue.

There will always be breaking developments requiring a quick and appropriate response via LFB on Twitter. The Charlie Hebdo massacre was a recent example. There’s also a need for coordination (by email) with LFB Committee and the Freelance editors in particular.

Money? The Social Media Officer’s rate is £150 per day: it is anticipated that the post requires two days per month. There’s also an LFB Facebook page to curate, and the possibility of developing other platforms.

To stand for election, come along to the Monday 10 October LFB meeting (see above) or email the Branch Secretary timgo@btinternet.com. More detail on the role will be on the LFB website in time for that meeting.

LFB meetings 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 (including new members’ meetings) see the Branch calendar web page www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and LFB’s Twitter feed http://twitter.com/NUJ_LFB.

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

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

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WANT TO TRY YOUR HAND at writing fiction? Courses at The Groucho Club in Soho will inspire you, teach you the tricks of the trade and help you develop and polish your work. Our tutors are mainstream published authors. Our next term starts in October – for details, go to www.writingcourses.org.uk.

PHOTOGRAPHER and NUJ member Colin McPherson is offering short residential photography courses on the unique Scottish island of Easdale from September 2016. For further details, contact colinmcperson@mac.com.

RESOURCES

LONDON Freelance Branch has a vast amount of information and advice available for NUJ members (and others).

• The Freelance Directory is the first and best listing of actual freelance journalists – rather than wannabes – entries in it are free to NUJ members: www.freelancedirectory.org.

• The Freelance Fees Guide suggests rates for numerous categories of work, and provides a mass of advice on your working life as a freelance: see www.londonfreelance.org/feesguide

• The Branch’s Frequently Asked Questions page is at www.londonfreelance.org/faq

• Members who join as freelances, or move to freelance, can download the Freelance Fact Pack – www.nuj.org.uk/work/freelance/freelance-fact-pack.

LONDON Freelance Branch is looking to engage someone on a freelance basis to contact lapsed members, enthuising them to remain members of the union. For a job description and the modalities of application, see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1610laps.html

CONTACTS

Freelance office
John Toner / Pamela Morton 020 7278 7916
email freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk
post 308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP

Legale helpine for NUJ members in emergency only:
England and Wales 0800 587 7530
Scotland 0800 085 3425

Freelance editors
Mike Holderness
Matt Salusbury
email editor@londonfreelance.org

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