After Brexit, what?

LONDON Freelance Branch members who are nationals of another EU member state face uncertainty over their continued residency status in the UK, as Brexit looms. The Branch asks members who are affected to make contact – in strict confidence – via the Freelance email editor@londonfreelance.org and suggests that if your continuing status in the UK is already assured, then your "other EU" colleagues need you to show support.

Many EU nationals in the UK are now seeking to gain Permanent Residence (PR), a requirement as a first step towards naturalisation as a British citizen. The 80-page application form asks them to supply evidence of their continuing presence in the UK since their arrival, and of any trips abroad. While we self-employed keep better track of receipts and bills than others do, EU nationals can’t be expected to have kept everything. Up to now, all they’d needed to keep track of was their EU passport.

Many applicants have received letters telling them they fail PR criteria as they haven’t had private health insurance cover in the UK. They’ve never needed any: there’s a EU passport. Many applicants have received letters telling them they fail PR criteria as they haven’t had private health insurance cover in the UK. They’ve never needed any: there’s a EU passport.

A precarious living in the gig economy: event

LONDON Freelance Branch presents an evening of informed debate on the headlong rush by bosses towards making us all freelance – regardless of whether we want to be or not. It’ll be a how-to evening on understanding the gig economy and knowing your rights in it.

We will explore some of the dynamic responses from the trade union movement – how we as freelances in any and every line of work are responding to all this. There will also be drinks and networking at the start and finish of the evening.

Come to hear and discuss cutting-edge theory and bold strategies on how to tackle threats to our hard-earned working rights from a diverse panel of speakers:

- Guy Standing – a Professorial Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and a founder of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), a non-governmental organisation that promotes a basic income for all.
- Ursula Huws – Professor of Labour and Globalisation at Herfordshire Business School where she does research on creative labour.
- Mags Dewhurst – chair of the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain Couriers and Logistics Branch, who won a ground-breaking legal battle against the delivery firm CitySprint over being treated by them as self-employed.

Life after Brexit in Belgium

NUJ BRUSSELS Branch now has a guide for UK nationals – predominantly freelances – working in Belgium. It opens: “While Brexit is making headlines for journalists all round the world, few of those actually writing the headlines have had time to give consideration to their own likely status after Brexit.”

Key points in the guide include:

- Irish nationality is good (some UK nationals in Brussels Branch have already taken steps to get it); if you’ve been freelancing, keep records of your Social Security payments; if you’ve been in Belgium for less than five years, to become officially Belgian you’ll have to decide on a language to demonstrate proficiency in – Dutch, French or German – and start learning it now if you haven’t already. Yes, you can have both UK and Belgian nationality.
- Ursula Huws – Professor of Labour and Globalisation at Herfordshire Business School where she does research on creative labour.

The guide’s at bit.ly/BXLguide and we’ll alert you to any guides for UK national freelance journalists in other EU countries as soon as we become aware of them: if you know of any, please contact us via editor@londonfreelance.org
The Rate for the Job

The Trireme
The Trireme Award is for “the worst terms since I was last chained to the oars” in the words of one freelance. This month’s Trireme Award goes to Loud & Quiet Ltd, publishers of Loud & Quiet magazine. They offered one freelance – in return for writing a feature, including “interviews, reviews, writing a feature, including freelance – in return for…” a news-gatherer, especially to police at cordons. If you’re never going to be out of the office gathering news – no Press Card for you. If designing pages or lecturing in journalism is all you ever do at work, you are not eligible for a Press Card.

The survey includes a tick-box question on the sort of training you’d like – some are areas the Union’s courses already cover, some are suggestions that it might offer in the future. At the end of this question there’s an “Other” tick-box, which allows you to fill in other suggestions: it looks cramped, but I found I was able to fill in the short essay the subject deserves anyway.

As ever, the Federation of Entertainment Unions (FEU, it includes the NUJ) offers free courses for NUJ members on “the business side” of being a self-employed creative. We’ve heard a recommendation for its CV-writing course, for example. Details are at www.feu-training.org/

Many NUJ courses started as projects conceived by LFB before going national, so do pitch ideas for training initiatives to our Branch Training Officer federica.tedeschi@yahoo.co.uk – the Branch has a budget for developing training initiatives.

© Matt Salusbury

How to apply for a Press Card

FOR THOSE of you who’ve recently joined the NUJ and want to apply for an NUJ Press Card – or need to renew one – this is how it works.

Once you’ve got a membership number, you can apply for a UK Press Card online (only) via bit.ly/PressCard. Have your membership number ready. You need this to log in, as well as a password for www.nuj.org.uk – there’s a phone number to ring on the log in page if you’ve forgotten or need a password.

Press Cards are to identify you as a news-gatherer; especially to police at cordons. If you’re never going to be out of the office gathering news – no Press Card for you. If designing pages or lecturing in journalism is all you ever do at work, you are not eligible for a Press Card.

Expect to be asked for evidence of paid journalism work – scanned invoices will do – and for a recent portrait photo of yourself, digitised, ready to upload.

The only way to get an NUJ Press Card is now via the NUJ’s website form. LFB can no longer have a word with the NUJ Head Office to speed the process up, nor will turning up in person at Headland House help.

The decision on issuing a Press Card is out of our hands – the NUJ’s just a gatekeeper to the Press Card Authority Press Card scheme.

It will take at least a couple of weeks after your application to get your Press Card by post.

Keep an eye on the date on your Press Card and apply in plenty of time to renew it, using the form at the link above. You can upload a new photo when renewing.

At www.nuj.org.uk/apply-for-a-press-card/ you’ll find a link to apply for an IFJ International Press Card – a good idea if you’re ever planning to work abroad. It’s worthwhile applying for one, as holders are entitled to the insurance scheme for “hostile regions” – see page 4.

© Matt Salusbury

PLenty of punditry rates in the broadcast sector are included in this month’s Rate for the Job: and see page 3 for the story behind some.

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.

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. These are shown as (eg) £400 + 100. We still record rates paid in € as well.

Rates marked X are, in the editor’s fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even perhaps the happy £1.

Broadcasting: Adam Boulton Show on Sky, punditry £200; BBC Radio interviews 2 hours of live 2-way to 18 stations, one every 8 mins, execs paid for provision of own ISDN line, usual BBC terms £150; Newsnight punditry £150; BBC R4 From Our Own Correspondent feature £142 X; BBC World Service punditry £80; Newsnight punditry spot “disturbance fee” £75 X; BBC Wales punditry £40; Sky News punditry – standing in a field (that our member was already in) blathering for about 15 mins, £200.

Photography: Positive News day rate £300; Victoria & Albert Museum offered £750 for a talk, member agreed instantly by mistake – so asked for, and got, £500 of sponsor’s freebies = £1250.

Shifts: Shots magazine (Media Business Insight) subbing day 9:30-18:00 £160; N magazine (Norwegian airlines inflight) subbing day £140; children’s magazines per day design for layout, cover mount gifts, pre press £130; Brides 8 hours – work unspecified £120; children’s magazines (same rates all titles) per day design for layout, cover mount, digital £120.

Words, per 1000: Aeon feature don’t know terms 250 X; Stylist magazine (online) 1200-word essay – was asked to provide 3 original photographs, but they didn’t use all £150; Arcturus Publishing, all rights £144 X;; Sky News punditry £40; BBC Wales punditry £80; Scottish Sun 150-word sports NIB @ £20 = £133; Positive News features £200-£250; Loud & Quiet magazine features, interviews, reviews, etc, £0 XXXX.

Words, other: i paper 370-word sports piece, negotiated up from £80 FBS £90.

AMONG THE NUJ training courses for 2017 is a three-dayer on shooting and editing video on Abode Premiere, starting on 15 May in London. Watch www.nuj.org.uk/events and NUJ’s @NUJOfficial Twitter feed for updates on training.

Please take time to do the NUJ’s Training Survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/nujtraining. The NUJ can only grow its range of courses – as cheap as they possibly can be – if it knows which ones have enough interest to sustain them.

The author’s press card, membership number omitted to prevent identity theft. Photo © Matt Salusbury, Press Card design © UK Press Card Authority Ltd

The author's press card, membership number omitted to prevent identity theft. Photo © Matt Salusbury, Press Card design © UK Press Card Authority Ltd

The Rate for the Job

Training alert – do NUJ training survey!

How to apply for a Press Card

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Training alert – do NUJ training survey!
Transparence: a lovely word

FOR THE full flavour of the best bit of the EU’s proposed changes to copyright law, say it in French. In Brussels, transparence means more than being able to see through things: it has connotations of measures against corruption and abuse of power.

The proposal is to oblige publishers and broadcasters to be transparent about uses of creators’ work. Each time we think about it we find new ways this would help writers, illustrators and photographers dealing with unscrupulous clients. We’re not going to list these, to avoid frightening publishers and broadcasters who are sure they are scrupulous but oppose regulation on principle.


The Creators’ Rights Alliance – of which the NUJ is a member – therefore followed up an idea from the Society of Authors and drafted amendments to put those best bits of the EU proposal into UK law regardless. On 6 February the House of Lords committee on the Digital Economy Bill briefly debated inserting transparence for creators into that law. It didn’t go to a vote: the point was to gauge the response.

Baroness Buscombe, for the government, was moderately encouraging. “The principle of transparence is an important element of well-functioning markets,” she said: “I am aware that some creators and their representatives find it difficult to access information on the use of their works owing, for example, to difficulties in negotiating suitable contractual terms... the UK will actively engage in these debates while we remain a member of the EU.” She hoped we “will understand the Government’s wish to allow this process to develop before considering the case for domestic intervention.”

Internet not broken again

In other news, the bit of the EU proposal that’s generating most heat is the idea that internet companies should pay newspapers for using extracts of journalism. This has led to the Friends of Google shouting that we must “Save the Link!!” and stop the EU “Breaking the Internet”. This campaign appears to be based on the most paranoid reading of how a future court might misinterpret the future law.

Certainly, search engines and social networks that eke out their fortunes by quoting other people’s creative work and selling ads alongside them should pay for their vital raw material. The objection of the European Federation of Journalists is different to Google’s.

The EFJ objects that the current proposals say nothing about making sure that a fair share of any money goes to actual journalists. And anyway, when Germany and Spain tried roughly similar proposals, Google simply said it would stop indexing any newspaper that wanted payment, and to make the point shut down news.google.es. Its monopoly power meant there was no money to share anyway.

© Mike Holderness

The trouble with Brexit was a lack of debate

IN THE DECEMBER Freelance you have pieces titled “Post-truth ethical pressures” and “Concerned about Brexit? We aim to help!” The trouble with Brexit was not the ethics of reporting, but that there was no proper argument.

The media entirely failed to conduct a debate – especially about the effects on real people (rather than institutions, on economic indicators and so on). Really it comes down to who is going to win and who is going to lose.

I have a list of essential points that the media did not want to discuss. I barely heard anyone whisper that the right answer was to “remain and reform” for the good of Europe.

Another point is that most of the people doing the talking are in Britain and almost all of those in London. From abroad, Britain looks a remarkably insular place. Even the intelligentsia have no sense of the international. I’m afraid that even the NUJ doesn’t have much sense of political geography.

Ironically, some of the people who most needed a voice in the Brexit debate were deprived of a say: ex-pats like me living in EU states (and EU expats in Britain).

I just scraped inside the rule that held that people who had been out of the UK for less than 15 years could vote – but I am soon to become disenfranchised. From here in France, the whole debate looked as if it were about immigration in Sunderland as miscomprehended by people living within the M25.

To compound the problem of the non-debate (which is continuing) we have the further problem that we cannot even discuss the problem because where else do you have such a discussion but the media and why would the media (that is, us) want to discuss its own failure?

There are numerous issues here concerning the ethics of journalism which are being ignored.

© Nick Inman

Journalism in a field in June

THE BYLINE FESTIVAL will be a heady mix of new journalism, skills workshops and impassioned debates, infused with Glastonbury vibes, promises organiser Peter Jukes. It is to be held in a Sussex country park over the weekend of 2-4 June: Jukes plans to attract up to 6000 journalists, movie makers and artists to share ideas, engage in conversations and enjoy live performances.

Byline Festival has partnered with the NUJ to offer union members admission to the event at £75 – half the usual price of £150 – for the weekend (including camping). For NUJ members who use Rex – get in touch to contact the Freelance Office on 020 7843 3706 or freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk.

© Freelance Feb/Mar 2017

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**De-recognition climb-down**

PENGUIN Random House has one of the NUJ’s oldest Chapels (workplace-based units of organisation), and it has had a recognition agreement in place since the early 1970s. Union recognition means elected union reps negotiate with management on behalf of employees collectively, although this collective bargaining doesn’t at the moment extend to freelances. Most such agreements date from “re-recognition” following the Fairness at Work Act 1999.

Suddenly, late last year, the publishing company’s management decided it wanted to de-recognise the Union and tear up the recognition agreement it had with the NUJ.

What was at the time a small Chapel without that many members fought back, and the fight also turned into what one NUJ activist described as a “fantastic recruitment drive.” Well-known authors who are published by Penguin pitched in – Owen Jones wrote to Penguin’s management and former Greek finance minister and Penguin author Yanis Varoufakis also made his views known. Many writers represented by the Society of Authors (SoA) expressed their displeasure, as did the SoA’s magazine *The Author*.

The Freelance understands that, as a result, Penguin Random House management had second thoughts and the de-recognition threat is now dropped. The NUJ Chapel is now a lot bigger as a result.

Some NUJ freelances are also members of the Society of Authors. A group of these, organised by the Adam Christie of the NUJ’s Freelance Industrial Council, has written to the SoA to ask them for their cross-union solidarity.

© Matt Salusbury

**It was party time**

MANY freelance journalists get no invitations to any of the office Christmas parties of the many organisations for which they work – that’s if those in control of the guest lists are aware of their existence at all. Some freelances face isolation at work, unable to contact with their colleagues beyond emails and (if they’re lucky) the odd phone call. All the more reason for London Freelance Branch to put on a seasonal celebration of its own.

LFB’s Yule fest this year was in the generously-proportioned hall of the London Welsh Centre, just down the road from the NUJ’s national offices at Headland House. (A refurbished Headland House has since re-opened, see page 6.) Invitations were extended to other NUJ London Branches, to members’ colleagues, friends and partners. We were joined by NUJ members from London Central, from New Media and London Photographers’ Branches.

There was also a contingent from the Giornalisti italiani a Londra (Italian journalists in London) group, in which LFB members are active.

New arrivals were issued with their raffle ticket entitling them to their first drink at the bar on the house, with a generous spread of food laid out. Rik’s Sound System provides ska sounds.

LFB would like to thank the London Welsh Centre’s Mirain Roberts and her staff for helping to make our party such a success – in the words of our Treasurer, “all incredibly helpful, way beyond what we could have expected.” There was the briefest of interruptions to present outgoing Branch Chair Fiona O’Cleirigh with a gift in recognition of the hard work she’s put in over the past years.

© Matt Salusbury

**Insurance for journalists**

THE International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), of which the NUJ is a part, now offers insurance for journalists working in hazardous areas. It covers the usual situations that conventional insurers don’t like – war, rebellion, civil war or terrorism. It’ll get you home and provide you (or your survivors) with up to $100,000 for accidental death or disablement. The cover is from 1-4 weeks and the premium depends on the “zone” you’re working in. The zone of highest risk – a list similar to countries covered by Trump’s travel ban, plus some Russian regions, will set some Russian regions, will set

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© Matt Salusbury

**Journalists charged for covering a riot in US**

AS WE went to press, at least three freelance or “independent” journalists arrested covering the Washington DC protests at the inauguration of President Donald Trump in January were facing sentences of up to ten years after being arrested and charged with “felony rioting”.

The journalists were among seven reporters arrested and charged during “120” anti-Trump protests on January 20, despite showing their accreditation. One had his camera seized by police.

Four of the journalists arrested at the same event have since had charges dropped. Several NUJ freelances covered the events (avoiding arrest), see for example Jason N. Parkinson’s footage at https://phnat.org. Journalists were targeted by police with shock grenades and CS gas spray. An eyewitness reported a member of the press being struck in the neck by a rubber bullet.

The US National Lawyers Guild has claimed that the use of tear gas by DC police during the protest was illegal, with protesters “indiscriminately targeted because of their location.” The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), of which the NUJ is part, has condemned the charges as “unacceptable in a democracy.”

Some of those arrested were charged several days after events during which well over 200 people in total were arrested. Scott C Rodd, a DC-based freelance journalist, has appealed for any information on possible “other journalists known to have been arrested and charged while covering the Inauguration Day protests”, so there could be more charges against journalists to come.

There’s a petition calling on US District Attorney for the District of Columbia Channing D. Phillips and his spokesman William Miller to drop the charges against reporter Aaron Cantu and photographers Shay Horse and Alexander Stokes Contompasis (146,000 signatures at the time of writing). Please sign it and circulate it, it’s at www.change.org/p/u-s-attorney-channing-d-phillips-drop-felony-charges-against-journalists-who-covered-inauguration-day-protests

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An expanding list

It’s not surprising, given the above and more, that news agency Reuters issued reporting guidance that all–but declared the US to be a hazardous environment for journalists.

Of course the situation in Turkey remains dire. The International Federation of Journalists keeps protesting. And NUJ President and Freelance columnist Tim Dawson describes strange encounters in the Houses of Parliament as part of the NUJ’s efforts in support of the media workers – at least 29 – jailed in Egypt. See www.londonfreelance.org/fI/1612prez.html
Refer to central accounts!

THE FREELANCE presents more small tales of freelances fighting that good fight not to work for free... These have lately joined our set of necessarily-anonymous stories.

Freelance A is asked to appear on BBC1’s One Show as an “expert”. He inquires of the director about the fee and gets this response: “unfortunately we don’t pay contributors... exposure would be more valuable than money...”

Freelance A’s stout contribution to our war of attrition against such claims was to just say no.

Others, however, pitched into the freelance email group exchange that followed, to say they’d had different experiences of different bits of the Public Lending Right to cover ebooks

A EUROPEAN Court of Justice ruling in November removed obstacles to Public Lending Right (PLR) payments to authors for library lending of their ebooks. Culture Minister Matt Hancock then announced that the ruling would “inform the wording” of a clause on ebook lending and PLR to be inserted by the UK Government in the Digital Economy Bill, currently in the House of Lords and expected to get royal assent this Spring. Watch this space.

Meanwhile, authors who’ve signed up to PLR (for both the UK and the Republic of Ireland) can soon expect micropayments for each time their book’s lent at a public library. These already cover a limited amount of ebook lending — occasions on which borrowers bring their laptops in to a public library and have ebooks on loan downloaded onto them. If you have a book (or a chapter of an anthology) out, details of the PLR scheme and the “free money” it pays to authors are at www.plr.uk.com

Why you should hang on to your rights

THERE SEEMS little doubt that the value of syndication has gone down with the general decline of print media and the availability of our work online. Time was, writers in some fields could regularly do a piece for the Bugle in London and sell it on to the Echo in Melbourne. If the Bugle sells it on they should pay the writer half what they get. It’s not dead, though. One member reports in the past three months getting £550 from a Japanese mag for a Pink Floyd piece that appeared in Mojo about 10 years ago; and £80 from a small US mag for a piece on AC/DC for Sounds back in 1976. Both of these were sold on through the rocksback-ages.com online music journalism library, which took 50 per cent of the fee it got. This member is definitely pleased they didn’t sign away their copyright — if they had, the UK mags would have kept the lot.

Their Paid Appearances

THE OXFORD Literary Festival saw its patron, Philip Pullman, resign in protest at plans to ask authors to appear for free. Following this and a campaign by the Society of Authors (SoA) it has agreed henceforth to pay its authors a fee of £150 (plus VAT where applicable).

As Pullman noted, a festival “pays the people who supply the marques, it pays the printers who print the brochure” — as well as paying for venue hire, for people to do admin and PR, for electricity, for the food and drink laid on. So why can’t they the people the punters come for, the authors? He told The Author he was “extremely pleased” at the outcome.

An SoA survey of literary festival organisers back in 2015 found that 45p per mile for her transactions with the Corporation.

Most freelances who occasionally chat on the radio agreed £50 or £100 can generally be squeezed out via negotiation. However, Freelance C pitched in with a recent personal best he’d achieved for talking head-ly, namely £200 plus travel.

Also via an NUJ network we get news of a colleague asked to do a Newsnight pundit spot. He asks for a fee and they say “we don’t pay — but we can offer you a disturbance fee”. It’s £75, he takes it, though guffawing about the terminology.

Just anecdotes pour encourager les autres and to encourage you. © Phil Sutcliffe

Understanding & surviving precarious work – event details

PRECARITY from page 1

Nicola Hawkins — an executive council member for young members in Equity (the actors’ union). Nicola notes that “I find myself working in all kinds of industries and doing all kinds of jobs between acting work.”

John Toner — Freelance Organiser for the NUJ. He has seen has seen the thorny problem of employment status growing from an occasional query to something the Freelance Office advises on every other day. “It is a boil that needs lancing,” he says.

Book now!
The event is from 5-9pm on Saturday 11 March in the Brockway Room at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. The event is free but, because of the costs involved in hiring the venue and ordering food/drink, we ask you to pay a £10 deposit, which will be returned after attendance (or on giving at least 5 days’ notice of your not coming).

To get a ticket please go to www.londonfreelance.org/ fl/1702prec.html

Drone dosh!
The Freelance congratulates photographer Eddie Mitchell for his successful challenging of Alamy over its unlicensed use of his aerial drone image of a fire at a school that made national headlines in August. He took the company to Worthing County Court in December. What’s scary is that, as Mitchell told Press Gazette, it emerged in court that Alamy receives over 2 million images a day and is not checking the source of supplied pictures. This one was supplied to Alamy by a contributor who had downloaded it from a news website. The agency - traditionally one of those less hostile to photographers — settled for £750 before the case went any further. Mitchell settles separately with The Times and with the Daily Express.

The Freelance on the go: how is it for you?
We’ve updated the Freelance newsletter and Freelance Fees Guide online to work better on more handheld devices — see www.londonfreelance.org/fl and www. londonfreelance.org/feesguide. Initial responses have been positive; but there are hundreds of different configurations of device and software to cater for. We know that if you use the web browser program Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 8 or earlier, it will look strange. You’d want to upgrade that anyway, to avoid viruses and other malware. Apologies, then, if you find anything broken. If you do please email debug@londonfreelance.org telling us what page you were visiting and the name and version number of the browser program you used to try to visit it. (As above, “Microsoft Internet Explorer version 8” is a well-formed answer to that question; “Safari version 10.0” is another). With your feedback, we’ll work through the rest of the site.
IN ADDITION to the regular cycle of monthly Branch meetings, there’s a special meeting organised by LFB on precarious work and freelancers in the gig economy.

This is on Saturday 11 March from 3pm-9pm at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL, nearest Tube: Holborn. For details and how to book, see page 1.

The next regular Branch meeting of LFB is on Monday 13 March. The theme is what’s happening to media ethics in our post-Truth, post-EU referendum, “fake news” era. Is there anything we as journalists can do about such alarming trends?

The speakers will be Professor Chris Frost of the NUJ Ethics Council, Hugo Dixon – he writes columns for Reuters, founded Breakingviews and is author of The In/Out Question: Why Britain should stay in the EU and fight to make it better – and also former BBC political correspondent Nicholas Jones.

WE WELCOME Zaki Dogliani and Pennie Quinton as our new Branch Chairs in a job-share. They co-chaired their first Branch meeting immediately after their election at the Branch AGM in January. They succeed Fiona O’Cleirigh, who is our new Membership Secretary. Among the new faces on LFB Committee is Gregory Baldeosingh, joining as member without portfolio. Other Committee members were re-elected to their posts, there’s a full list of Committee contacts at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html.

LFB meetings are normally 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.

Can members who have difficulty reading the agenda on paper please contact us to get the agenda in electronic form ahead of the meeting.

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 January – for details go to www.writingcourses.org.uk.

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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 January – for details go to www.writingcourses.org.uk.

BLOGGING COOPERATION: Stuart Forster, the travel journalist and blogger behind Go Eat Do (www.go-eat-do.com) is looking to cooperate with fellow bloggers to build traffic and reach. Contact stuart.forster@gmail.com

THE TWO CHAIRPERSONS

WE WELCOME Zaki Dogliani and Pennie Quinton as our new Branch Chairs in a job-share. They co-chaired their first Branch meeting immediately after their election at the Branch AGM in January. They succeed Fiona O’Cleirigh, who stepped down from the role because she is moving to Northern Ireland. We thank Fi again for all her work as Chair. Members newly elected to Committee posts include Federica Tedeschi, who takes over as Training Officer, and Francesca Marchese who is our new Membership Secretary. Among the new faces on LFB Committee is Gregory Baldeosingh, joining as member without portfolio. Other Committee members were re-elected to their posts, there’s a full list of Committee contacts at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html.

There is a vacancy for another member without portfolio, taking on Branch projects as they arise, and for a vice-chair. If you’re interested in standing for these, contact a Committee member via the link above.

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

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Zaki Dogliani (left) and Pennie Quinton (right), LFB co-chaired their first Branch Chairs in a job-share. They succeed Fiona O’Cleirigh, who is our new Membership Secretary. Among the new faces on LFB Committee is Gregory Baldeosingh, joining as member without portfolio. Other Committee members were re-elected to their posts, there’s a full list of Committee contacts at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html.

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LFB meetings are normally 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.

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/fl/1507film.html.

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

NEW MEMBERS

The Branch invites new members who come to their first meeting to have their photo taken and give a few words about themselves: see them at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/intros.html. Shown here is a recent LFB New Member’s Meeting in January, Photo © Francesca Marchese

NEW LOOK NUJ HQ

The Freelance got an early peek at the newly-refurbished NUJ London HQ, Headland House. Shown left is a quote from NUJ member and author George Orwell, painted on the stairwell. For more photos and for news of its soon-to-open cafe space, see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1702hh.html.

Photo © Matt Salusbury

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