

# Book Branch News

NUJ Book Branch

[www.nujbook.org](http://www.nujbook.org)

February-March 2007

## Diary dates

**Tue 6 Mar, 18.30–20.30**

Book Branch meeting, Headland House. Members are entitled to expenses for extra public transport costs and any childcare costs related to attending the meeting.

**Sat 24 Feb, 10.30**

Black Members conference, Headland House. Confronting cronyism, nepotism and the old boy's network. Includes buffet lunch. To reserve your place email [lenac@nuj.org.uk](mailto:lenac@nuj.org.uk)

**Tue 3 Apr, 18.30–20.30**

Book Branch meeting, Headland House. Members are entitled to expenses for extra public transport costs and any childcare costs related to attending the meeting.

## Book Branch chapels

A & C Black  
Faber and Faber\*  
HarperCollins (London)  
LexisNexis Butterworths\*  
Lippincott Williams & Wilkins  
Lonely Planet  
Macmillan (Oxford)\*  
Open University (Milton Keynes)\*  
Orion\*  
Penguin/DK\*  
Random House\*  
Taylor & Francis Books\*  
Usborne\*  
\*recognized

## Book Branch News

February-March edition edited by Robert Wood

## BBN deadline

Please send news for the next issue of BBN by 12 March to [editor@nujbook.org](mailto:editor@nujbook.org)

NUJ, Headland House,  
308-312 Gray's Inn Road,  
London WC1X 8DP



## WORK YOUR PROPER HOURS DAY

FRI 23 FEB '07

Emma Wood reports on a TUC campaign and urges you to spread the message

Unpaid overtime costs us £4800 per year, each. This estimate by the TUC is the reason for a campaign calling on all of us to work our proper hours on 23 February. Simply take a proper lunch break and go home on time.

Although dedication to our work is costing each of us dearly, some people think making a stand could cost individuals even more. But are we going to allow that figure to grow? Are we going to continue accepting stress, fatigue, decline in standards, just because employers don't employ sufficient staff?

Clearly it is time to build up

union organisation in offices so that when such a reasonable suggestion as working the correct hours is made we are able to say yes if we want to.

## Activity in book chapels

There will be activity among book staff, which will take the form of discussions on staffing levels, the cost to individuals and the lowering of standards due to overwork. In publishing houses, where there is an organised chapel, the TUC material provided to accompany the day of action will be visible.

For more information:  
[www.workyourproperhoursday.com](http://www.workyourproperhoursday.com)

## Chapel news

### Open University

Management is trying to introduce 'performance management' without negotiating it through the agreed procedures.

### Orion

The chapel has identified a number of issues that could be catalysts for recruitment and is looking into ways of approaching this. The recent pay increase does not appear to have been awarded evenly across the company and the chapel is looking into this. Staff are also working very long hours and the chapel is therefore looking into taking part in 'Work your proper hours' day on 23 February.

### LexisNexis Butterworths

Just before Christmas the management produced a new equality policy; the chapel are scrutinising it and coming up with lots of ideas to strengthen it.

### Faber and Faber

Chapel is in negotiations.

## Five years of Guantanamo

At the January Book Branch meeting Aisha Maniar told of families affected and promoted the day of action on 11 January, the fifth anniversary of the prison camp

The London Guantanamo Campaign is campaigning for the release of the eight UK residents still held at Guantanamo, and for the closure of the facility. These detainees were all longstanding UK residents and most had refugee status. Several of them have families in the UK and the campaign works to support them, particularly the children. The US government has said it would release them if the UK government would guarantee to keep them under

surveillance. The UK government refuses to do this on the grounds that these men pose no risk. Detainees who have been released have either been returned to their countries of origin, regardless of whether they still have any contacts or means of support there, or dumped in third countries such as Albania. If there is evidence that detainees are involved in terrorism, they should be brought to trial; if there is no such evidence, they should be released. The continued indefinite detention is affecting the mental health of the detainees. Three died last year and the causes of death have never been made clear.



Protesters outside the Hiatt factory in Birmingham that supplies chains to Guantanamo (Source: [www.guantanamo.org.uk](http://www.guantanamo.org.uk))

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### Contacts

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**Book Branch website**  
www.nujbook.org

**Freelance rates online**  
www.nujbook.org/freeln01.html

**NUJ freelance directory and rate for the job**  
www.londonfreelance.org.uk

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### NUJ Book Branch meeting 9 Jan 2007 minutes (abridged)

**Present** A&C Black ; freelance; JKP; LexisNexis; Ofsted; NEC; Open University; Orion; guest speaker

**2) Previous minutes** accepted as correct.

**3) Matters arising:** none

**4) New members:** none

**5) Speaker:** for Guantanamo Coalition (see story on page 1)

**6) Workplace reports:** (see chapel reports)

**7) Reports:**  
Treasurer: no report

Welfare: Kyrán represented a member at an unrecognized workplace who was on long term sick leave as a result of bullying; the management were open to discussions and the member has now returned to work.

MABC: work continues on the sector history display; its appearance at ADM is being negotiated, but it could also appear at Headland House or other venues. Memorabilia are sought.

**8) Motions:**  
(a) Book Branch agrees to devote £100 to the purchase and distribution within the branch of copies of the latest Hands Off Venezuela magazine.

Prop: Sylvia Courtnage; sec: Kyrán Connolly. Passed.

(b) NUJ Book Branch, representing over 1000 workers in book publishing, puts on record its support for the demonstration at Downing Street on Wednesday 10 January 2007 by the London Guantanamo Campaign, demanding the closure of the illegal prison, and also the demonstration outside the Hiatts factory (suppliers of handcuffs, shackles and leg iron chains to the US Administration) in Birmingham on Thursday 11 January 2007, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the nefarious Guantanamo 'facility'. Prop: Kyrán Connolly; sec: Mitzi Bales. Passed.

(c) Book Branch condemns the scurrilous coverage of the Mayor of London Ken Livingstone's visit to Cuba in the Evening Standard of 4 January 2007. In particular, Book Branch regards the standard of journalism as unacceptable, only possible in a society that tolerates newspaper proprietors whose perception is that sales can be generated by sensationalist innuendo and pure lies.

The Branch is appalled that

Ken's meeting with the families of the Miami Five has been described as a meeting with 'terrorists' families' – given the lamentable press treatment of the innocent Birmingham Six and Guildford Four in the UK. Book Branch calls on the General Secretary to communicate our concerns to the Editor of the Evening Standard which has touted such appalling untruths. Prop: Kyrán Connolly; sec: Emma Wood. Passed.

**9) ADM:** the preliminary agenda is now available. Deadline for amendments and nomination of delegates is 12 February. These will be dealt with at the next branch meeting.

**10) Correspondence:** NEC ballot: close of ballot is 12 February.

CND affiliation ballot: close of ballot is 2 February.

Unite against Fascism conference on 17 February: branch delegate to be sought at February meeting.

**11) AOB:** European Works Councils liaison: committee to consider. Information to be sought from chapels in Bertelsmann companies, e.g. Random House, BCA.

### Annual delegate meeting, Birmingham, 12 April to 15 April

ADM is not some strange new drug (although there are some addicts). It's the union's annual delegate meeting where members from every NUJ branch gather to make decisions about our policies over the coming year(s).

Each branch can submit policy motions and these are prioritised, debated and voted on during the conference. Councils and officials report on their work and branches can question and comment on these too.

ADM is a great opportunity to find out about everything the union does. If there's something we don't like – it gives us the opportunity to try and change things.

Perhaps most important it's a chance to meet members and activists from other branches to share ideas and learn from others' experience. The policy discussions flow over into the bars and mealtimes.

ADM will be held in Birmingham from Thursday 12 April to Sunday 15 April. The 2007 ADM marks 100 years of campaigning for journalists and journalism.

Members of recognised chapels are entitled to paid time off to attend. Accommodation and travel are covered and there is a crèche.

We elected our delegates to represent the branch at our February meeting.

### Wanted for the archive

The archive will preserve and illuminate the branch's history. It will include pamphlets, leaflets, chapel newsletters, agreements and photographs. The archive is a way of keeping them all in one place for easy access and study.

You may have rare booklets from the 1970s and 1980s. If so, please consider giving them up for the archive.

Chapel newsletters, often produced during negotiations, and recruitment leaflets by chapels and the branch are wanted as well.

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