Branch AGM, possibly equalities and vlogging

The LFB meeting on Monday 11 January 2016 will be the Branch’s Annual General Meeting (AGM), when we elect the Branch Committee – posts and what they entail are at www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.htm. The AGM also elects auditors (who are not Committee members) to scrutinise the Branch accounts, and nominates Branch candidates to serve on Union bodies that are elected at the Delegate Meeting in the Spring. For possible motions for this meeting, see: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html#motions and for a more complete description of what happens see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/AGM.html.

To ensure you get email alerts of meetings and the online Freelance – one message a month – see www.londonfreelance.org/linkup.

The LFB meeting on Monday 8 February is provisionally themed around issues of equalities and journalism – likely looking at minorities’ access to the profession and how minorities fare once they’re in journalism. For confirmation of speakers and topics, and more details of these and other LFB meetings, see: www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings and watch the NUJ Twitter feed: @NUJ_LFB.

Vlogging (video blogging) for a living, and earning a crust by teaching others how to do it, is the subject of the Branch gathering on Monday 14 March. Our speakers will include Christian Payne of @Documentally aka documentally.com. Additionally, there is a Branch screening of Still The Enemy Within – a film on the Miners’ Strike 30 years on, Monday 1 February – see p 5.

This issue went to press on 2 December. Your deadline for the January online-only issue: 3 January 2016.

LONDON FREELANCE BRANCH MEETINGS

LETTER

Fleet Street in the smog of 1952

I AM a journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin in the US. I am working on a narrative nonfiction book about the Great Smog of 1952, which killed [at least] 12,000 people in London. It also has a dual narrative involving serial killer John Reginald Christie.

My book features several characters, including a police officer, a transit worker and a little girl who lost her father after the smog. I’d love to speak with a journalist who was working on Fleet Street in 1952 and 1953. Specific anecdotes are ideal – this book is meant to personalize a story that has been relegated to academic books. Please contact me via www.katewinklerdawson.com/contact/

Kate Dawson

Meet the new members

Despite rain and storm, freelance broadcaster Dan Davies and photographer Reinson braved it to join NUJ freelance committee at our new members’ meeting on 29 October at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1. These opportunities to meet other people new to the Branch, and members with more experience of freelance journalism, happen there on the last Thursday of every third month – the next is on Thursday 28 January 2016.

And we’re 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

photo: Elizabeth Chappell

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I AM SEEKING to diversify so have my ear to the ground for new ideas. I am working on a narrative nonfiction book about the Great Smog of 1952, which killed [at least] 12,000 people in London. It also has a dual narrative involving serial killer John Reginald Christie.

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INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS

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