Tax frightfulness; covering the general election

The Branch meeting on Monday 10 July is expected to be on reporting the general election, which will have happened by then. What trends can we identify in media coverage of the election campaign? How balanced was it? How biased? How courageous was it?

We hope to have a speaker from a journalism school that’s been analysing 2017 election coverage in detail, as well as comparing it with coverage of previous elections.

We also expect to hear from a national newspaper journalist who’s been covering this year’s voting. For confirmation of the July meeting details, see the links below.

In addition to the usual cycle of Branch meetings, there is a meeting for new and recently-joined members of LFB on Thursday 27 July. For venue and details, see page 4. There is no LFB meeting in August.

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 www.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/fl/1507film.html.

LETTER

Woeful rates bemoaned

IN THE April issue of the Freelance, day rates for shifts on periodicals of between £120 and £160 are not labelled as below par. In my view, they are unacceptably low. I was getting between £100 and £120 over 20 years ago for subbing and/or layout shifts on various periodicals.

I consider that, taking into account overheads, etc, a freelance doing casual shifts needs to earn in three working days roughly what a full-time employee is paid per week if he/she is to net a comparable sum.

© Fraternally, Maurice Jay
Life Member

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BLOGGING COOPERATION: Stuart Forster; 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

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

MANY former members of the London Photographers’ Branch now find themselves members of London Freelance Branch. LPB achieved a good deal, but recently it has struggled to sustain a working committee. As a result, the National Executive took the reluctant decision to close London Photographers’ Branch and to move its members to LFB (unless they requested otherwise).

The LFB Committee extends a warm welcome to those lens-based journalists who find themselves newly among us. We hope in the coming months to programme some branch meetings to address the interests of photographers and videographers, like last year’s successful workshop run by Verifeeye’s John D. McHugh.

Pennie Quinton, Zaki Dogliani
LFB Branch Chairs

CONTACTS

Freelance office
John Toner / Pamela Morton . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 020 7843 3703
Membership via switchboard . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 020 7728 7916
email . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk
post . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 72 Acton Street, London WC1X 9NB

Legal helpline for NUJ members in emergency only:
England and Wales . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 0800 587 7530
Scotland . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 0800 085 3425

Freelance editors
Mike Holderness
Matt Salusbury
email: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ed@londonfreelance.org
Follow us on Twitter . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . www.twitter.com/NUJ_LFB

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PHOTOGRAPHERS

There are a couple of upcoming evening training events in the basement of the NUJ. On Thursday 1 June there’s Success with Self-Published Ebooks with NUJ President Time Dawson, author of the Union’s Make Ebooks Pay guide. Speechwriting for Profit and Persuasion, with Ian McKenzie — who’s written speeches for cabinet ministers – is on Thursday 22 June. They both start at 6pm at Headland House, 72 Acton Street, London WC1X 9NB and cost £12 to NUJ members. Details: www.nuj.org.uk/events

TRAINING

Online Freelance contents: www.londonfreelance.org/fl