Can AI assist us?

HOW CAN Artificial Intelligence (AI) help journalists, asked November’s LFB meeting. Our speakers were computer scientists who work with journalists.

Neil Maiden, Professor of Digital Creativity at City University, London is co-instigator of Inject (www.injectproject.eu) – a free “discovery” engine. Inject trailed in local newsrooms in Scandinavia, where the journalists have to write six to ten stories a day. Neil claims Inject will “improve productivity so we can actually maintain the workforce” by helping journalists work “quicker and better”.

More “information discovery” than information search, Inject is a plug-in or add-on that you can add to, for example, Google Docs. It appears as a side bar that helps you come up with new angles and ideas. Neil demonstrated by running search terms from a then-recent story – “Democrats” “House of Representatives” “majority” – through Inject. The software offers a selection from hundreds of thousands of recent news stories from 300 public news outlets, translated from six languages.

Inject’s “creativity tool” gives prompts. For example, “Who is Richard Cordray?” He’s a random Congressional candidate who may be a possible angle – a less obvious and more original one – for a story on the recent US mid-term elections. Another prompt brought up Pakistan PM Imran Khan and his less-than-obvious links to the mid-terms.

There are various “tools” with icons that you click on in the Inject sidebar – “backing and evidence”, “causal”, “individuals”, even “quirky and satire”. The sources that pop up on an Inject search are deliberately random: run it again and it gives different results. A “control” on the sidebar allows you to be more “strict” with your choice of sources, how far back the stories go and which original languages sources are in. Its users employ it for two or three minutes at a time, for those first moments of a story when you have only a topic and are finding an angle for it.

Tony Abel is co-founder of www.krzanacom – a proprietary news-gathering tool used by the BBC and Reach. He’s noticed journalists are “really stretched” these days – with “way too much time” spent on keyword and trending searches in social media tools such as Tweetdeck.

According to Tony, AI is really good at those bits of the slog of newsgathering that we have to do but don’t really regard as journalism. Keyword searches don’t express your beat; they throw up mostly “noise”. Results from searches for “spikes in activity” on social media are already too late, while there’s the “more ideological issue… you’re being told what to write by what people are already talking about”.

While Google tells you what the top answer is, Krzana allows you to decide yourself what sort of sources you rely on. If you describe your beat with a search term such as, for example, “violence near polling stations in US”, Krzana will bring up real-time results from blogs, police websites, Wikipedia edits and so on. This allows journalists “to take these simple tasks… automate those” so we have time to do the stuff we are actually trained to do.

© Matt Salusbury • There’s a longer version of this article at www.londonfreelance.org/ff/1811ai.html

UC – bad for freelancers

NUJ MEMBERS are reporting serious problems with so-called “Universal Credit” (UC).

Many in the UK who have had variable income – a feature of freelance life – have relied on Working Tax Credit to tide them over lean months. When the government moves them onto UC they lose out, sometimes massively.

The problem is that UC assumes an “income floor” – the assumed minimum wage. It is re-assessed every month, and so doesn’t take account of big fluctuations in freelances’ income – as well as imposing a time penalty in effectively re-applying monthly.

This has the effect of being a “super sanction” disproportionately affecting those who are judged to be self-employed – and anyone who is a director of a company, including a company that a client required you to form in order to invoice them.

For example, say a self-employed individual has gross profit of £2452 over a four-month period for UC purposes. The income floor is applied and their UC award over this period amounts to £1116 including housing costs. As an employee they would have received £2164 – a difference of over £1000. Previously, they would have received Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit of about £2688 – so they’ve lost £1572 over the four months.

The NUJ is assisting members in taking up these concerns with MPs – and also the difficulties posed by the mandatory online claim process. A survey by the Department for Work and Pensions itself found that only half of all claimants were able to register their claim online unassisted. The NUJ is also campaigning with the Federation of Entertainment Unions and the TUC.

Apart from the obvious point that the government is sacrificing struggling freelancers on the altar of austerity, this has wide cultural implications. The NUJ’s sister union the Society of Authors points out that both JK Rowling and this year’s Man Booker prizewinner Anna Burns depended on benefits at some point in their careers. London Freelance Branch members with experience to share can contact uc@londonfreelance.org © Mike Holderness
The Rate for the Job

**“OK, I started work without a formal contract. But I did have a letter outlining the job and offering a rate, and I knew that was good enough,” a member writes.**

Then the contract arrived – when I was more than half way through the work, but see above – technically, I was contracted. This was a book publisher, and they like complicated contracts – even when they are not offering anything complicated like royalties.

But the last page of the contract included something I’d not come across before – but I’m told it’s not completely unheard of. That was that no invoice would be accepted without a purchase order number. “Purchase Order number! Please provide this thing, as I’ll be through with the job soon, and I would very much like to invoice you . . .”

Erm. . . Erm . . .

I ask again. The freelance who’s managing the project asks again on my behalf (and that of another writer who’s involved in the same project).

Eventually, the reply comes back that because of technical problems (genuine ones) there will be a delay.

Neil added that he “recommend anyone who is experiencing issues to contact us and we will investigate and try and resolve the matter for them.”

The Commissioner’s involvement often expedites the resolution of delays so we would encourage your members to contact us via www. smallbusinesscommissioner. gov.uk/contact and will be happy to help.”

**An offer of help**

The Freelance contacted the Office of the Small Business Commissioner about this issue.

Its Caseworker Manager Neil Cowley replied: “We would definitely want to hear from anyone who is having difficulty getting paid or getting a purchase order raised.”

Neil added that he “recommend anyone who is experiencing issues to contact us and we will investigate and try and resolve the matter for them.”

The Commissioner’s involvement often expedites the resolution of delays so we would encourage your members to contact us via www. smallbusinesscommissioner. gov.uk/contact and will be happy to help.”

**More online...**

The Freelance is frequently updated online at www.londonfreelance. org/fl – do check regularly.

**New meeting time**

London Freelance Branch meetings now start at 18:45 – see back page.
Another way to rip off freelances!

“HERE IS your FastFunds payment breakdown for the assignment ‘Brooklyn’s Northside Media is Stiffing its Workers (HuffPost)’; payment $700; transaction fee - $2.50; total payment to you $647.50.”

That was the message that greeted US freelance Luke O’Neil when he tried to pick up payment for a piece about an illustrator going unpaid for two years (top tip: stop doing the work long before that). That hefty cut to get paid immediately made Luke think: “am I being pushed into taking a payday loan?”

It turns out Huffington Post outsourced freelance payment admin to WorkMarket, catchline “the smartest way to organize, manage and pay your freelance contractors”. It’s now owned by payroll software corporation ADP. Luke found WorkMarket Vice-President Mousa Ackall announcing the service in January 2017: “thanks to Fast Funds Mobile, it had not in fact contracted with the practice more carefully.” Then the New York Times clarified that it had not in fact contracted with WorkMarket: the video had been posted prematurely and it had been taken down.

Blogger 3: factor 0. The Freelance is very interested to hear from journalists who encounter similar schemes: email Xfactor@londonfreelance.org

Afghanistan update

LONDON Freelance Branch Committee has established a sub-committee to discuss sending a delegation to Kabul to meet the Federation of Afghan Journalists, a newly-established journalists’ union formed from 17 organisations that existed before. Members of the sub-committee are: Safi, Tim and Mike.

The Federation of Afghan Journalists is in mourning following the killings of four more of its members since April. As reported at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1809if.html nine journalists were killed in an April double suicide bombing in Kabul and a BBC reporter was assassinated in Khost province on the same day.

Mohammad Salim Inghar, a cameraman with Afghan national TV, is the latest victim. He was killed on October 18 in a Taliban attack in Kandahar, in which Kandahar police chief, General Abdul Raziq and the provincial intelligence chief, Abdul Momin, were also killed. Mr Inghar was 64 and a father of six children. According to Reporters Without Borders, 14 journalists and one media worker have been killed in Afghanistan in the year up to 30 November 2018. The journalists’ federation believes the figure is much higher than reported by foreign press.

Brexit mystery deepens

AS WE go to press just ahead of a vote in Parliament on the Withdrawal Agreement, it’s becoming impossible to predict what will happen next with Brexit. Will there be a rapidly concluded deal, a catastrophic “no deal”, the prospect of a Norway Plus arrangement for the UK or even a possible second referendum on whether to stay in the EU?

In view of this, it’s unwise to give advice in print that will almost certainly be out of date, so we direct you to our latest guides online at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1811brit.html for our many members who are EU nationals in the UK and www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1811brit.html for the many UK nationals in the EU who are in the NUJ. Watch for updates online. Meanwhile, EU nationals in the UK are advised to register with their embassies for updates on what to do in case of Brexit.

To summarise: applications for the EU Settlement Scheme for EU nationals to register to stay in the UK after Brexit (“settled status”) will open on 30 March 2019. EU nationals should start gathering up any proof of their stay and economic activity in the UK to “evidence their residence” for their application. UK Prime Minister Theresa May has already pledged to EU nationals, “your rights will be protected, even in the event of no deal”.

Some EU countries with restrictions on being a dual national are making moves to relax these for UK nationals wishing to naturalise, in some cases for a limited period after Brexit. Stef Blok, the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands recently pledged that even in the event of No Deal, his government “will ensure a decent solution to British citizens staying in our country after 30 March 2019…. we won’t let these people down” (the Freelance’s own translation). UK nationals in the Netherlands will not need to apply for permanent residence post-Brexit. They will be contacted by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and “invited” to apply.

https://www.freelancersunion.org/2018/01/another-way-to-rip-off-freelances/

Afghanistan update

LONDON Freelance Branch Committee has established a sub-committee to discuss sending a delegation to Kabul to meet the Federation of Afghan Journalists, a newly-established journalists’ union formed from 17 organisations that existed before. Members of the sub-committee are: Safi, Tim and Mike.

The Federation of Afghan Journalists is in mourning following the killings of four more of its members since April. As reported at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1809if.html nine journalists were killed in an April double suicide bombing in Kabul and a BBC reporter was assassinated in Khost province on the same day.

Mohammad Salim Inghar, a cameraman with Afghan national TV, is the latest victim. He was killed on October 18 in a Taliban attack in Kandahar, in which Kandahar police chief, General Abdul Raziq and the provincial intelligence chief, Abdul Momin, were also killed. Mr Inghar was 64 and a father of six children. According to Reporters Without Borders, 14 journalists and one media worker have been killed in Afghanistan in the year up to 30 November 2018. The journalists’ federation believes the figure is much higher than reported by foreign press.

Brexit mystery deepens

AS WE go to press just ahead of a vote in Parliament on the Withdrawal Agreement, it’s becoming impossible to predict what will happen next with Brexit. Will there be a rapidly concluded deal, a catastrophic “no deal”, the prospect of a Norway Plus arrangement for the UK or even a possible second referendum on whether to stay in the EU?

In view of this, it’s unwise to give advice in print that will almost certainly be out of date, so we direct you to our latest guides online at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1811brit.html for our many members who are EU nationals in the UK and www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1811brit.html for the many UK nationals in the EU who are in the NUJ. Watch for updates online. Meanwhile, EU nationals in the UK are advised to register with their embassies for updates on what to do in case of Brexit.

To summarise: applications for the EU Settlement Scheme for EU nationals to register to stay in the UK after Brexit (“settled status”) will open on 30 March 2019. EU nationals should start gathering up any proof of their stay and economic activity in the UK to “evidence their residence” for their application. UK Prime Minister Theresa May has already pledged to EU nationals, “your rights will be protected, even in the event of no deal”.

Some EU countries with restrictions on being a dual national are making moves to relax these for UK nationals wishing to naturalise, in some cases for a limited period after Brexit. Stef Blok, the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands recently pledged that even in the event of No Deal, his government “will ensure a decent solution to British citizens staying in our country after 30 March 2019…. we won’t let these people down” (the Freelance’s own translation). UK nationals in the Netherlands will not need to apply for permanent residence post-Brexit. They will be contacted by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and “invited” to apply.

https://www.freelancersunion.org/2018/01/another-way-to-rip-off-freelances/
WE SPOKE to over 300 postgraduate students of journalism at City, University of London in October. As far as anyone can remember this is the first time that City, University of London has invited us to talk about the value of the NUJ. City is seen as having one of the best and the largest UK journalism departments.

The opportunity arose during the previous weekend. We had spoken with the head of the journalism department, Professor Suzanne Franks, who copied in senior lecturers: Richard Evans booked us for the first Saturday in December (a report on that event follows) and Dr Paul Lashmar contacted us at the end of September.

Paul, deputy head of the department of journalism, told us he wanted to focus his lecture on ethics. So Sarah Kavanagh, who is the staff member assigned to the NUJ Ethics Council, delivered a detailed speech about the NUJ Code of Conduct. He had already collaborated with her in the past in different universities.

After Sarah’s speech the recruitment group (LFB Committee’s Larry Herman and myself) plus Branch Co-Secretary Phil Sutcliffe introduced London Freelance Branch and replied to students’ questions about membership and branch activities.

A new version of the NUJ’s recruitment leaflet was distributed and the students all looked interested and engaged. The NUJ delivered an effective message – “Join us, it is good for you” – in a 30-minute slot. Our host was happy with the result, which is encouraging for future meetings. The NUJ already has direct contacts inside City and Goldsmiths; meetings planned at both and at the University of Westminster.

If any LFB members know lecturers in journalism departments at Brunel, University of East Anglia (UEA), Birkbeck or others, please contact the Freelance. Watch this space for details of events at other higher education institutions.

© Francesca Marchese

IT’S THAT time of year again: time to issue a stern admonition to self-employed freelance journalists. Do your taxes! Now you can only do your tax return for tax year April 2017-April 2018 online. You have until 31 January 2019 to do this.

If you’re unsure of your Government Gateway password to access your HMRC account with the tax people and start filing your tax return online, sort it out now, via the portal linked from the online version of this article. The HMRC enquiry line on 0300 200 3300 will tell you which is your local tax office – have your National Insurance number ready. If you became self-employed in tax year 2017-2018 and haven’t yet registered with HMRC for online tax returns and got a Unique Tax Reference number, contact your local tax office now. You’ll need to get a password sent to you by – possibly slow – post before you can start using HMRC’s online portal.

HMRC’s website can crash under the sheer volume of submitted tax returns in the run up to the deadline. There are automatic three-figure fines for failing to submit your tax return by the deadline.

Yes, you can record Council meetings

JOURNALISTS were reminded recently that they have the right to record local authority meetings and don’t need to give notice in advance that they are doing so. In October, Hackney Council apologised to an unnamed reporter from the Hackney Citizen after Councillor Sophie Conway, chairing a meeting of the Borough’s Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission, wrongly told the journalist to switch off their recorder and delete their recording of the meeting. The journalist refused.

Hackney Council’s assertion that the journalist needed to give prior notice that they were recording the meeting was also erroneous. Under the rather confusing Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, everybody has the right to record Council meetings and decisions. Many Councils have “protocols” about recording their meetings that still need to be updated to take account of the latest regulations.

Councillors still have the power to police recordings of sub-committee of meetings that are regularly attended by “vulnerable” people – as would a Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission – but only to ensure that journalists record the proceedings of the meeting itself and don’t film or record vulnerable people in the public gallery or any of their contributions. Councils also have the power to “mediate” between those recording meetings and vulnerable people who don’t want to be recorded. This may be where the Hackney confusion arose.

Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government says it’s still “advisable” for you to give notice that you are recording, if only to ensure you get the facilities to do so. The 2014 regulations cover district, borough, unitary and county councils in England only. There are different rules for parish and town Councils and for joint committees formed by more than one authority; we are unsure whether they cover the City of London.

The Local Government Act 1972 still applies, and obliges local authorities to hold meetings in “private” – with no public or press allowed – if they cover “confidential” matter. The statutory list of these includes enforcement action, trades union negotiations and things under commercial confidentiality or legal privilege. But the decision to hold these meetings “in private” must be taken in public, with plenty of formal notice given of a meeting “in private” to give the public the opportunity to object. Reasons must be given for meetings being held “in private” – if you’re barred from recording a Council meeting, get an explanation in writing. NUJ members can download them to print from the NUJ with “Reasons for every-member/”.

You may also want to take the opportunity now, before the January rush, to find out whether there are any gaps you need to fill with your “Class 2” National Insurance (NI) contributions.

Self-employed members who are EU nationals living in the UK should be aware that their application for the EU Settlement Scheme will be based largely on HMRC and Department of Work and Pensions data. Those who have out-of-date tax records should start addressing this now and seek advice.

© Matt Salusbury

Still need to be updated to take account of the latest regulations.
In solidarity with gallery staff

LONDON Freelance Branch Committee has sent a message support to the NG27 – 27 artists and educators engaged by the National Gallery who are seeking recognition as employees rather than freelances, with retrospective holiday pay. Their case went before an Employment Tribunal on 27 November, with a judgement expected on 7 December.

Most of the artists and educators, who welcomed visitors and gave talks on the works on display at the National Gallery, were hired under protest – on less-well-paid casual contracts. The gallery treated them as freelances, but made deductions to their pay through PAYE, gave them staff badges, trained them and put them through appraisals. The 27 say they were effectively employees.

Our letter of support said: “This case goes straight to the heart of issues around ‘bogus’ self-employment practices and the exploitation of precarious workers in the gig economy. We hope you have positive outcome from the Employment Tribunal… let us know if you need more support in other ways… Our union, NUJ will of course welcome any point of law over locally and Channel 4’s move to Leeds. CPBF(N) say resources are limited, so they “would prefer people to contact us to go on our email list so that we can send you the online version”. Contact the group at cpbfnorth@outlook.com.

Copyright opposition gets weirder

SHENANIGANS continue in the world of copyright. The European Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market is currently being negotiated between the Parliament, the Council that represents the member states, and the Commission – the EU civil service. Lobbying is getting weirder by the day.

One highlight has been copyright sceptic Cory Doctorow proposing that we should all oppose the part of the proposal called “Article 13”. Instead, “we could create blanket licenses” with payments distributed through collecting societies. Sounds great. And it is precisely what Article 13 enablers. This is strange, because Doctorow’s piece followed a forceful reminder of exactly this from, er, me. None of the copyright opponents have read the key part of the proposal: none of the dreaded “filtering” of uploaded works is required unless the internet giants refuse to pay licence fees. Instead, we have seen YouTube – owned by Google – nagging kids to pester their parents to oppose the Directive. That rather gets to the heart of their case – the gut reaction of a child “but why can’t I copy this?”

CPBF lives! Up North!

Following the winding-up of the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom (CPBF) – see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1810cpbf.html – the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom (North) is alive and well, covering the North West, Yorks & Humberside and North East of England in its campaigns for diverse, democratically accountable media.

A quarterly newsletter, Media North, in its latest issue covered the effects of the Johnston Press take-over and Channel 4’s move to Leeds. CPBF(N) say resources are limited, so they “would prefer people to contact us to go on our email list so that we can send you the online version”. Contact the group at cpbfnorth@outlook.com.

The Freelance regrets

The Freelance apologises for errors in recent print editions. NUJ Gold Badge recipient Jenny Vaughan joined the NUJ in 1969, not the erroneous date we gave in the August 2018 edition. We somehow give an incorrect first name to one of the tutors on our recent “Let’s role play better deals!” training courses in the October 2018 edition: it is of course Humphrey Evans who was tutor along with Phil Sutcliffe. The author of our report in the September 2018 issue on LFB’s participation at Bylinefest regrets his omission of our Training Officer Federica Tedeschis’s name from the list of Branch members who took part in LFB’s workshop event there. All these errors have been corrected in the online versions of the articles.

Salon sell-out success

LFB’s FREELANCE SALON networking event at the end of November was a sell-out. How to make a living out of investigative journalism was our theme. Paul Lashman, ace reporter and lecturer at City University, London said at the event: “Investigative journalism is bloody good fun. There’s nothing like sticking it to some rotten bastard who’s stitching up ordinary people”.

He declared: “Yes, you can pitch to Panorama as an unknown – it’s all about how strong is the story” and “Sure there are people out there who will try to steal your story, but if I work with a freelance who has good stories I want to make sure they walk away happy”.

Paul added that “The demand for good data journalism is the main driving factor in the field now” and “I’m working with the NUJ on a document to advise on how you keep your data secure and avoid being hacked by Inspector Knacker”.

Meiron Jones from the Bureau Of Investigative Journalism told participants, “It’s not about qualifications, it’s about learning skills. Mostly you will be taken on trust, and ‘If you know more about a subject than else in the room you are an expert’.”
New 6:45 start time for AGM, David Bailey

OUR BRANCH meetings have a new, earlier, start time – from now on they begin at 6.45pm. They will also finish slightly earlier at 8.45pm, so that everybody is out of the building before 9pm. This is to prevent our colleague, the receptionist at the NUJ’s HQ where we have our meetings, doing unpaid overtime.

The LFB meeting on Monday 14 January is its Annual General Meeting. We elect the new Committee for the next year; see below for Committee posts and what they entail. Our AGM is also the opportunity to propose any changes to Standing Orders – the Branch constitution (www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/rules.html). We also elect two auditors (not Committee members) to scrutinise the Branch accounts.

In addition to the usual cycle of monthly LFB meetings, there is a New Members’ Meeting for those new to the Branch, on Thursday 31 January It’s from 6.30pm at the Camera Museum in Holborn. It’s a chance to meet other new members and also experienced freelances. For details, see www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1812newm.html.

Our speaker at the LFB meeting on Monday 11 February is world-famous photographer David Bailey. David recently dropped into our Xmas party to collect his NUJ Life Membership. He has taken some of the most famous photographic portraits of the last six decades.

This went to press on 5 December. Your deadline for the January online only issue is 4 January 2019.

LFB meetings (except for new members’ meetings) are always on the second Monday of the month, from 6.45pm to 8.45pm in the basement of the NUJ’s HQ at Headland House, 72 Acton Street, London WC1X 9NB, accessible to people who use wheelchairs. The nearest Tube is King’s Cross or Chancery Lane. If you need the Branch to pay for care for a child or dependent so you can attend a meeting, contact a Branch officer.

For updates on meetings and for confirmation of themes and speakers for forthcoming meetings, see the Branch calendar web page www.londonfreelance.org/fl/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?

We draw members’ attention to the microphone that will be passed to you if you indicate you wish to speak at a meeting. This is so that our members with hearing problems can hear you via the induction loop.

For updated guidance on etiquette on recording or live-tweeting from LFB meetings, see the notes at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1805film.html.

AGM – ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE

THE London Freelance Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 14 January 2019 is the occasion for it to elect its Committee for the next year.

We encourage all full members of the Branch to consider standing for the Committee.

The following Committee posts are up for election in January’s AGM: Chair; Vice-chair; Secretary, Treasurer; Freelance Editor; Deputy freelance editor; Social Media Officer (these last three are co-terminous posts); Members-at-Large & New Members Officer; two Welfare Officers, ideally two Training Officers, Negotiations Officer; Equality Officers and up to five Members at Large (also known as “Members without Portfolio”).

For more on the Committee posts up for election, and what they entail by way of commitment, as well as how often, where and when LFB’s Committee holds its meetings, see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html and www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1812ctte.html – both these also link to a list of current Committee contacts.

The Committee’s Members without Portfolio (also known as Members at Large) take on tasks as they arise, which also present opportunities for new members of the Committee to gain experience before perhaps moving on to other posts.

Job-shares are encouraged. The outgoing Committee has jobshare Secretaries and Equalities Officers.

If you are considering putting yourself forward, contact the Branch Secretaries via the link above, or come to the AGM in person. © Matt Salusbury

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

FREELANCE UNCLASSIFIEDS are FREE to members for non-commercial purposes. To non-members and for commercial purposes, £10 for this month. Acceptance is at the editor’s discretion, regardless of not implying endorsement. Comments on an advertisement? Tell us. Submit by email to unclassified@londonfreelance.org

RETRIEVE RESIDENCE in SW France. Owner NUJ member. Broadband. Quiet village. Near rail and air: www.faugeres.co.uk Contact: enquiries@faugeres.co.uk with discount code: FLNUJ18

SHADOWING SOUGHT: I have had the pleasure of interviewing eminent politicians in Nigeria from the local to federal level. Now I would like to understand UK politics and have more field experience by shadowing an experienced political or criminal journalist. Please contact Ehi Elukator at danielcharles312@gmail.com

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

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

THE CHAPEL BAR

THE CHAPEL Bar in the building of the NUJ HQ at Headland House has re-opened, after briefly closing. As we went to press it had just opened its doors again.

The Chapel is now under the management of the people who run the Bread and Roses pub in Clapham, the Workers Beer Company (motto: Thirst Among Equals). The company also runs beer tents at festivals to raise money for labour movement and grassroots campaigns. The trade-union-friendly Workers Beer Company is in turn backed by Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council.

The Chapel is upstairs from the conference room where LFB holds its monthly meetings and has proved a popular gathering place for members both before and after these. (Note the earlier start time for Branch meetings; see above.)

CONTACTS

Freelance office
Pamela Morton & David Ayrton 020 7843 3726 / 3735
Membership via switchboard 020 7278 7916
email: freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk
post: Headland House, 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: editor@londonfreelance.org
Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/NUJ_LFB
© 2018 NUJ & authors; moral rights asserted.