Summer hols, shorthand and transcription

IN ADDITION to our regular cycle of monthly Branch meetings, there is a New Member’s Meeting for those new to London Freelance Branch or recently joined. The meeting is on Thursday 25 July at 6pm at the Camera Museum, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY. The nearest Tube is Holborn.

There is no NUJ London Freelance Branch meeting in August. Older readers may remember “holidays”. LFB is taking the nearest freelance equivalent on a holiday. Those of you who work regular shifts for a client are reminded that you may in some cases be entitled to holiday pay.

Regular LFB meetings resume with a gathering on Monday 9 September. Shorthand and transcription will be the provisional theme of the September meeting.

Do journalists still use shorthand, then? Yes, apparently! Shorthand is undergoing something of a renaissance right now.

We hope to include some fun activities by way of introduction to Teeline shorthand.

Then there’s transcription. We hope to be able to demonstrate some “transcription hacks” for transforming voice into text, whether through software that’s free, paid for subscription services or by other means. See page 4 and www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1907tran.html for a taster.

Speakers are to be confirmed, possibly including a Branch member who is also a shorthand tutor. Watch this space for updates (see below.)

This went to press on 3 June. Your deadline for the August online only issue is 22 July.

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.

LFB reminds its members that under the NUJ’s rules you do not need to pay more than one per cent of your taxable income in union subscriptions—subject to a minimum of £10 a month.

This means that you take all your business expenses off your turnover and ask the Union’s administrators to agree to let you pay one per cent of what’s left. If you are fortunate to have an income more than a hundred times the standard rate, of course you pay only the standard rates. You need the NUJ’s department on when you joined: see www.nuj.org.uk/news/dml6-nuj-subscription-rates for a report of the 2016 Delegate Meeting decision.

It also means that you need to submit evidence of your income to the Union each year. You should get a reminder from the Union’s Membership Department. To apply for a reduced rate, contact membership@nuj.org.uk

You need to call or email the membership office in plenty of time for 31 January of each year or they will automatically put your subscription up to the standard rates. If you are fortunate enough to earn enough in a given calendar year to go off reduced subs and onto the standard rates, Membership will stop sending you reminders. So if you earn so much less in the next calendar year that you are eligible for reduced rates, you will have to contact Membership all over again to tell them of the new situation.

More details can be found at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1906subs.html © Mike Holderness & Matt Salusbury

SURVEILLANCE EVIDENCE

I had 48 pages of stories published as evidence to a Commons Committee in Hansard last year. This means that any hack can describe, under privilege, without risk of libel, the nine companies described as “criminal corporations” in the evidence. The Irish Supreme Court picked up the evidence. But no hacks. Contact me if you’d like to find out more and to see if we can get the story moving.

Kevin Cahill
CahillkJ1944@gmail.com

LETTERS

Travel check

I've come across a start-up travel website called Culture Trip and want to know whether any NUJ members have had any experience with it. If you have I'd love to hear about their experience for a potential article.

Emiliano Mellino
emilianoam@gmail.com

New members meet

We remind you that the next LFB meeting for members new to the Branch is at 6pm on Thursday 25 July – as always on the last Thursday of every third month. As usual, the meeting is at the Camera Museum, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY – the nearest Tube is Holborn. Please tell any members you meet who are new to freelancing.

FREELANCE UNCLASSIFIEDS

REDSUCED NUJ SUBSCRIPTIONS

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