Casual shift woes, new members, third Monday

DOING casual shift work is on the agenda at the London Freelance Branch meeting on Monday 9 March. We’ve heard reports of the precarious nature of trying to make a living doing freelance shifts having a catastrophic effect on the mental health of some journalists.

Confirmed speakers will include NUJ Freelance Organiser Pamela Morton. We will hear also from some of the journal relations officers who work at the sharp end of casual shifts. Because of the sensitivity of the issues involved, they will be speaking under the Chatham House Rule – that is to say that what is said may be reported but not by whom: participants or their affiliations are not to be identified. So we will not be naming them in advance publicity such as this, either.

The Branch meeting on Monday 20 April is on the third Monday of the month, not the second Monday as usual. (The second Monday, a Bank Holiday this year.) Other than its unusual date, there are no details yet – check the LFB website meetings page (see below) for details.

Additionally, there is a meeting for new members and members new to freelancing on Thursday 30 April, from 6pm. It’s at the Camera Museum, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY – the nearest Tube is Holborn. The first coffee is on us.

This meeting is an opportunity for those who’ve recently joined LFB to meet other new members, as well as more experienced Branch members who can offer advice.

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For updates on meetings and for confirmation of themes and speakers for forthcoming meetings, see the Branch calendar web page www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/meetings.html and LFB’s Twitter feed www.twitter.com/NUJ_LFB

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Student member sought

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The NUJ Rule Book doesn’t allow student members to become full members, meaning they can’t vote at Branch meetings or be elected to Committee posts.

So the Student Member will be an observer, ensuring that student members’ views are represented at Committee and Branch meetings. They could, for example, have a role in planning future LFB recruitment events, such as the one planned – provisionally – for 26 February at the University of Winchester (details to follow).

The Branch can pay travel expenses for Committee members attending Committee meetings.

Elections for the Student Member will be held at the Monday 9 March Branch meeting. If you are student member of LFB and interested in standing, contact a Committee member via www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/contact.html or come to the meeting in person.

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