Covering complex protest; specialist fields

OUR BRANCH meetings have a new, earlier, start time – 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 8 April will discuss the problems faced by writers and photographers covering complex protests such as the Gilets Jaunes in France – not to be confused with the far-right yellow-jacketed ones in London because they’re far more confusing, though some are just as likely to attack journalists. One of our speakers will be Chris Myant, Chair of Paris Branch of the NUJ as well as a correspondent for the Morning Star.

We are also looking for someone to speak about the recently-unmasked French Facebook group that ran online harassment campaigns against feminists, female journalists, writers of colour and gay people; and some of whose members seem to have been male journalists. Please check the links below for updates.

On Monday 13 May we will be discussing how to make more money in specialist fields, and whether groups such as the British Association of Science Writers, the Medical Writers’ Association, the Garden Media Guild and so on can help alongside your NUJ membership. Again, more details will be online.

NEW MEMBERS MEET

Come and share experience with us

OUR NEXT meeting for members who have recently started freelancing is on Thursday 25 April. It’s from 6pm at the Camera Museum, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY.

We had a full house for the last new members’ meeting on 31 January, as the photo shows.

Freelance organizer David Ayrton joined Branch committee members Phil Sutcliffe, Francesca Marchese and Larry Herman – and 18 new members joined us during the hour-long meeting. Six were university students and three photographers; seven were women and four seniors.

We discussed: the Rate for the Job; how to write an invoice; how to pitch and follow up pitches; the best ways to present yourself; the Freelance Directory which is free to NUJ freelances at www.freelancedirectory.org and what new members can get out of attending branch meetings and courses organised by the branch and those from the Federation of Entertainment Unions.

Words and photo © Francesca Marchese and Phil Sutcliffe

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STROLLING with time management and procrastination? Experienced and qualified coach with background in journalism will help you draw up and implement a plan of action to get organized. Email Sara Dewar at sara@saradewar.co.uk

RETREAT RESIDENCE in SW France. Owner NUJ member Broadland Quiet village. Near rail and air. www.faugeres.co.uk Contact: enquiries@faugeres.co.uk with discount code: FHLNUJ18

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 Ebi Ekhator at danielcharles312@gmail.com

WELCOME TO A NEW COMMITTEE

WE WELCOME new and returning members to the LFB Committee following recent elections. See our updated list of Committee contacts linked above. Our new joint-share Branch Secretaries are Nick Renaud-Komiya (left) and Tony Levene (right) shown above taking minutes for the first time. In between them is Pennie Quinton, re-elected as Branch Chair. Former NUJ President Tim Dawson joins the Committee as one of our two Welfare Officers. February saw the re-election of Arjum Wajid as our other Welfare Officer, with Matt Salusbury elected as our Vice-Chair. Some voluntary Committee posts previously filled by only one member each now require a lot of work for a busy, active Branch with many members. There are now two Training Officers – Federica Tedeschi and Tim Gopsill – and two Membership and New Members officers – Francesca Marchese and Phil Sutcliffe. There is still a vacancy for Negotiations Officer. See www.londonfreelancer.org/lfb/jobs.html for what the post entails. Photo © Matt Salusbury

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