

Education Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2015



South East Central Branch

The communications union

CWU

Digital Photo Competition the end is nigh!



With only a few days left to enter our branch competition, this is a opportunity to just remind you of what the categories are:-

1. **Scenery** - This is your chance to send in that dramatic mountain ranges, violent sea-scapes etc., the world is your scenery oyster, so to speak.
2. **People** - This category could be, close up of faces, people working, celebrating, sadness, excitement, a lone person on a park bench, a cheering crowd etc.
3. **General/Unusual** - This is an open category in which you can send in your brilliant photos that do not fill the other criteria's. It might be an arty close up, reflections, unusual angles on everyday items, dramatic action photo of a motor sporting event or almost anything you can think of.
4. **The Natural World** - This could be a scenery photo but in close up and it has to be natural, it can also be of animals/birds/insects in their natural habitat doing the things that they do, such as last years 3rd place winner.

The rules of the competition can be found on the website www.cwusec.org.uk/comp/2015/photocomp.html Remember some of the photos will be put on the branch calendar for 2016. You've nothing to lose so get clicking!

Free Further Education courses

Please check the website at www.cwusec.org.uk/further-education/online-courses.html for details of free short duration online courses run by several famous university's.

Start Writing Fiction: This hands-on course helps you to get started with your own fiction writing, focusing on the central skill of creating characters. Just started, lasts 8 weeks, 3 hours per week. Please also see adjacent page.

Agincourt 1415: Myth and Reality: Mark the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, exploring its history and legacy, with this free online course. Starts October 19th, lasts 8 weeks, 2 hours per week.

Learn to Code for Data Analysis: Software and data make the world go round. Learn programming, to analyse and visualise open data, with this free online course. Starts October 26th, lasts 4 weeks, 3 hours per week.

Sustainability, Society and you: Join us for an introduction to the major global issue of sustainability and discover how you can have a real impact on our future. Starts November 2nd, Lasts 6 weeks, 5 hours per weeks.

Hadrian's Wall: Life on the Roman Frontier: Explore the archaeology of the most heavily fortified frontier in the Roman Empire, its people and their lives. Starts November 2nd, lasts 6 weeks, 4 hours per week.

Cracking Mechanics: Further Maths for Engineers: Practise the maths, learn the physics, and find out how engineers use both to solve real world problems. Starts November 2nd, lasts 6 weeks, 3 hours per week.

Empire: the Controversies of British Imperialism: The British Empire continues to cause enormous disagreement among historians. Find out why and join the debate. Starts November 2nd, lasts 6 weeks, 3 hours per week.

The Holocaust: an Introduction - Part 1: Part 1 of 2. This course depicts the complex history of the Holocaust, highlighting its impact on our world today. Starts November 2nd, lasts 3 weeks, 3 hours per week.

Electrify: An Introduction to Electrical and Electronic Engineering: How do we move things with electricity? How do the parts inside your computer work? Find out in Electrify. Starts November 9th, lasts 6 weeks, 3 hours per week.

Real World Calculus: How Maths Drives Formula One and Launches Angry Birds: Understand how maths, such as differentiation and integration, is applied in everyday life with this free online calculus course. Starts November 9th, lasts 3 weeks, 2 hours per week.

Exploring English: Magna Carta :Improve your English language skills while exploring the Magna Carta - the 800-year-old "great charter" that shaped the world. Starts November 30th, lasts 3 weeks, 2 hours per week.

Check out other online courses on the branch website.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" - Nelson Mandela

Lunchtime Learning



To commemorate the remembrance day we will once again hold a genealogy day in Tunbridge Wells and Withdean exchanges on the following days:-

Friday 6th Nov, 11:30 - 14:00 Tun Wells Exch

Friday 13th Nov, 12:00 - 14:30 Withdean Exch

In these events you will be allowed access to a genealogy website, which will give you access to the 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 UK census's, various military records, ocean going ships passenger lists, court records and newspapers.

An example of what you can find, with the help of the internet and a genealogy site can be seen on our website <http://goo.gl/oimOyV> which shows a case study entitled "Sad Case to King's Man" where information from family members, census reports, online army records where put together to find what happened in the last days of a 21 year old soldier.

Or check out the link <http://goo.gl/PhMqog> where by using the online genealogy site a habitual criminals life was pieced together by using the census returns, newspaper reports and even a photograph from the prison files.

Should any retired members wish to attend the lunchtime learning events - please contact

Creative Writing Competition



As the nights are drawing in and the weather beats at the windows, do not despair, you do not have to watch endless bouts of *Strictly Come Dancing* or *X Factor* on the television - you can enter this branch competition.

"OK, so what's it all about", I hear you mumbling under your breath, deciding whether to continue reading this article or not? Well one thing it is not is anything to do with improving your productivity at work.

Is there a creative story teller in you just aching to get out, do you feel a suppressed. Britain has had many great poets such as Lord Byron, William Wordsworth, Lord Tennyson, Thomas Hardy, Robert Burns and Siegfried Sassoon, could you be of the same ilk? Or perhaps like one of our many famous authors, Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, JR Tolkien, George Orwell, Roald Dahl and Virginia Woolf. Or perhaps a famous playwright such as William Shakespeare, Noel Coward, Harold Pinter, Alan Bennett or George Bernard Shaw.

Although the list above may seem daunting to compare yourself to, but each and every one of them had to start somewhere, and you have the advantage that they can't enter our competition as they are not members (and mostly dead which does tend to stifle the creative flow somewhat).

As this is the first time we have run this competition I shall, on November 4th, at the General Meeting in Tunbridge Wells, be asking the branch for permission to allow a prize fund for the winner of this competition, so keep your eyes open for any emails after then for updates.

If you would like to know, how to write, see opposite page and the free online course (just started) on how to Start Writing Fiction.

This competition is open to all members and your families but we will have to restrict the entries to two per member.

Time to chill out and get your quill out!



"Unshackle your mind-forged manacles", educate. William Blake .

Left Click

The CWU education and training department launched their brand new online learning platform, Left-Click, at a lunchtime fringe meeting at the opening day of this years Annual Conference in Bournemouth.

During a short video presentation outlining how the e-learning portal offers Union Learning Reps, Industrial reps and members the chance to develop new skills and learn at their own pace, in their own time and at a suitable place, **Trish Lavelle**, head of education and training, explained how Left-Click aligns with the union's mission to education, agitate and organise.

"Left-Click is designed around the needs of members," she continued, adding: "Courses are available 24/7 to suit any shift patterns and accessible on a number of devices to make access to learning as simple and easy as possible."

Deputy General Secretary, **Andy Kerr**, highlighted how e-learning and organising go "hand in hand".

Quipping that he would like to sign up for some of the courses himself, Andy added: "Left-Click takes us to a different level. This is not just for new reps but all reps."

Check the video out at the CWU website <http://goo.gl/zo4Tyt>



E-Learning: Where & When YOU Want It

CWU Left Click offers you the chance to develop new skills and learn at a time and place that suits you.

On your phone, on your tablet on your computer. Left-Click is there for you whenever you need it.

Be it training for union activists or learning for CWU members, Left-Click offers a growing list of courses.

Watch how-to videos and presentations, complete online activities and get a certificate that you can print off for your records.

We never look down on anyone, unless we're helping you up!

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