**Newsday 4**

I was assigned the role of Political Reporter for this week’s newsday, a role which on the surface can sound daunting – this however wasn’t the case. It allowed me to continue to improve on my journalistic skills in which I have built up over the past term especially, but to also expand to an area I was, until this point, unfamiliar with.

I began the day by interviewing the people of Cardiff with Michael Hicks, one thing we both found interesting was the lack of people willing to speak on record, something which proved to be an issue. We did however manage to collect four short interviews to make up our vox-pop.

On returning to the newsroom I then made a transcript of the interviews which would enable me to include them within my article which would focus on the referendum which had just passed. The fact that the referendum results were released on the Friday before means that the story could be seen as ‘old-news’, I did however take a different angle on the story, looking at what next for the Welsh Assembly Government and focusing on what the people of Cardiff wanted to see changed – the responses proved very interesting.

The story can be found here: <http://i2jnewsday1.wordpress.com/2011/03/07/power-to-the-people/>. I was happy to see another of my stories in the top stories of the day which shows that the hard work of going out and collecting interviews can really benefit your work.

As well as researching and writing up this article I, along with patch reporter Amy, also looked at another story which was taken from our patch (Cathays). I found my story on the Tuesday before newsday and of course by the time newsday itself came around, it was old news. After consultation with Craig I decided I would change the angle of the story completely and use one of my interviews as the focal point. I had originally planned to include a picture in this piece but due to technical difficulties it wasn’t put of the online article.

The story, which can be found here: <http://i2jnewsday1.wordpress.com/2011/03/07/lock-it-hide-it-keep-it-cathays-2/> with the changes made, again made it into the top stories section, something I am very happy with. It shows that even if a story may seem to look old, a change of angle, or a follow-up of the story even can make it news, rather than ‘churnalism’.

These stories provide a great example of how online journalism is, in a way, the best way to produce articles, with links being indented on the page. This is down to good work from the online subs; I can take inspiration from this when I come around to fulfilling this role.

From a personal perspective the fourth newsday taught me a lot; in fact it taught me more than any of the previous Newsday’s. I learnt more about finding the correct angle for stories as well learning to approach the public in a different manner. Instead of scaring them away by shoving a microphone in their faces, take your time, and gradually as they get more comfortable with speaking, ask if you can record the interview, this seemed to work fine.

The audio I recorded for my first story unfortunately didn’t make it onto the website; this is down mainly to myself. I returned to the newsroom with around two hours remaining but the radio producer was tied down with other stories, so something I could do next time is get the audio/footage in early and it will then have a better chance of making it onto the website.

A news story which has stood out for me this week is regarding the trouble which is continuing to trouble the middle-east and more specifically, Libya. When watching rolling-news it is clear to see that some of these reporters literally risk their lives to capture the footage and interviews that us viewers at home take for granted. It puts it into perspective that interviewing a few people in Cardiff City centre is significantly less risky than interviewing someone in the middle of a war zone.