**Newsday Three**

I was assigned the role of Magistrates Court Reporter for the third newsday, working alongside Tom Parry. The role provided me with an opportunity to expand on my experience of court reporting, and by the end of the newsday I believe that I have improved my journalistic skills as a result.

We began the day by arriving at court an hour early to become familiar with the surroundings and to also allow us to browse through the many cases. We decided to sit in on a case regarding a man who was found guilty of attacking his girlfriend after entering her property, unfortunately this story didn’t make it onto the website due to matters out of our own hands, it can however be found at the end of this blog post.

Similarly, the second of our stories didn’t make it onto the site, again this can be found at the end of this post. This second court story was not in so much depth as the first, this is down to the fact that the first case ran for around three hours and also because myself and Tom decided we would like to sit in shorter cases in order to pick up more stories, something which paid off.

The day from my personal perspective went very well, however, we encountered an issue in court in which the Clerk and the Legal Advisor refused to give us the names of the Magistrates, after discussing this with Craig we went back to court to receive an explanation of the problem, the legal advisor told us “People use it for the wrong reasons, I have been caught out by it in the past.” She did tell us however we could refer to the Magistrates as “Chairmen of the Bench”.

There is one thing that I would like to do differently if I was to be given this, or a similar role in the future, that problem regards time issues. Due to the first case running for around three hours, myself and Tom decided it would be realistic to only find two/three stories, which we did, this came at a cost however. We returned back to the newsroom at around 16:00 with two of the stories being up on ‘Q-series’ by 16:40, this didn’t give the Editors a chance to check over it for a final time and iron out any problems, including legal issues. In future if we are running slightly over time, a phone call to the news desk would probably be the best option.

Looking at stories in the news one really stands out to me, this is the story regarding material published on Twitter. Last week the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) ruled that any material in which has been published on Twitter should be considered public and therefore can be used by the media in reporting. The decision follows a complaint by a Department of Transport official that the use of her ‘tweets’ by newspapers constituted in an invasion of privacy, a complaint in which was rejected. This is a huge breakthrough for journalists and could have a major impact on the way stories are published in the future.