

**PodMag Script: Week 15th January (Week Five)**

Intro music

D: Hi, and welcome to the PodMag. I'm Karen Foley and I have no idea where Dave Middleton is. Strangely, somebody has been spring cleaning in here. I just can't believe it would be Dave. I really must find another presenter. Perhaps one who was on time occasionally, and who didn't normally leave things in such a mess. Anyway as Dave isn't here, I'll do the whole thing myself. It'll be better anyway without his silly interruptions anyway.

Door opens and trips over brooms.

D: Morning Karen. It's looking very spruce in here, I must say.

K: Where have you been? Could you try just once to be on time, and don't give me any stories about being locked in...

D: I thought we agreed that you wouldn't hold a grudge.

K: No, you agreed I wouldn't hold a grudge. Anyway, I must say that I like the spring clean you've given our studio. Although I can't seem to find a thing! I'm sure I put my copy of Shoes Weekly down here somewhere.

D: Oh that wasn't me Karen. Eugenie was chatting to me the other day when I was trying to avoid the Dean's security detail and she offered to give the place a good clean for us.

K: That's very nice of her Dave. I can see that she's also cleaned away our chocolate and mince pie supply....

D: Yes, she's done an excellent job hasn't she? Anyway, she's even said that she's going to make a complaint about having to share her cleaning cupboard with us, so you never know, we might just get a brand new location!

K: She may not have to, look, at this it came this morning.

D: What's this? Oh, a letter from the Head of Estates, Baron Hardup. Oh that's nice he says he was listening to the PodMag.

K: Read on Dave.

D: Oh!

K: Oh indeed. He heard your comment about this place being unfit for human habitation and we have 48 hours to move out.

D: Oh no! What will become of us? I'm too young to be homeless.

K: Mmm. Yes. Well, they're going to offer us a new place.

D: Well on a positive note Karen we have finally been getting some mail.

K: Thanks very much listeners, it has made Dave very happy indeed, and he is even answering most of the mail himself.

D: Yes, I am. It is good to know that you are enjoying the Podmag listeners.

K: So, we are going to read out some of our mail. First we have a letter from Kerry Sharp who says after catching up on all my studies over the Christmas holidays I finally had a chance to listen to the Podmag and the Student Life audio programmes. I found myself grinning and chuckling at some point from the presentation style of the Podmag, it is so cheerfully recorded and a real joy to listen too. Well thank you very much Kerry and I think it's a pleasure to record, don't you Dave?

D: I do, I can't think of anyone I would rather spend an afternoon in a room with.

K: Kerry goes on to say it also surprised me how fondly I felt about DD101 and starting my study journey. P.S. That Ted chap in the Student Life is a real motivation killer. Nobody needs somebody around them like that when they are trying to study. I quite agree and thank you very much for your email Kerry. Dave, who have you heard from?

D: I can't believe that people don't like Ted, I think he is a wonderful chap. Anyway, I have had an email from Adam Jacobs. Who says Dear Podmag team, Podmag sounds interesting, is it possible to subscribe to the podcast via RSS. For those of you who do not know what RSS stands for it is Really Simple Syndication and it means that you would get the Podmag delivered direct to you. At the moment Adam it is not possible, it is something we are working on and as soon as we can, we will let you know. Thanks for your email.

K: Well, we have had that echoed by Antonio Miller who has written to us and he has been studying with the OU for three years and says thank you for the Podmag and the Student Life, they are very interesting and he has a question, which is will the audio's of the Student Life and the Podmag be sent on a weekly basis to students involved in the OU? So I think a lot of interest there on people subscribing to the show.

D: I think there is. One of the reasons why we are not sending out lots of stuff via email is so that we do not clutter up your inbox with huge files but we are looking at ways of getting the Podmag to you more easily. I have had an email from Peter Steadman and Peter is an OU student studying DD101 and he says, I came across Podmag the other day by accident whilst trying to re-subscribe online to Podmag. Oh dear. I will send you the subscription details later Peter. Anyway, he goes on to say, anyway, I am now a fan of your show and I am looking forward to the workshops and conferences they sound really interesting. I can't wait to meet you Peter. So keep listening to find out more about the workshops and the conference.

K: And finally, we have a letter from Deidre Macintyre. She says, I have been listening to the first two Podmags and I'm definitely interested in attending the conference primarily because of the prospect of hearing Meg Barker speak about her work on relationships. Now interestingly Deidre contributed to the research by filling in one of the questionnaires. Very interesting, it is great to see the research coming full circle. She goes on to raise the point, I think it is important to get information out there that you might not actually find your prince and the chemistry may not always be perfect, but you can have a great working relationship. Very sound advice Deidre.

D: Thanks for that Deidre. We are all looking forward to Meg's keynote speech at the conference.  
Well do please keep emailing me.

K: Us!

D: Do please keep emailing us. It has been really good to have your feedback.

K: Anyway Dave, I've made a list of what we need to talk to the listener about this week. The most important thing is the digital storytelling project and also gives students an update on the conference. I'm also hoping that you've gone out and found us someone interesting to interview.

D: Ah yes.... Well actually Karen I have. I managed to catch up with Jonquil Lowe last week. Luckily I had my cassette recorder with me and this is what she told me.

### Interview with JL

(Knock on the door)

JL: Hi there, come in.

D: Hi Jonquil, how are you?

JL: Oh Dave, Hi, I'm well thank you, how about you?

D: Yes, I'm very well and Happy New Year.

JL: Thank you, Happy New Year to you too.

D: So, you are going to be a keynote speaker?

JL: I am.

D: And what is your talk going to be entitled?

JL: Well, it is called "why capitalism can't deliver"

D: Excellent, that sounds as if it is very timely.

JL: Yes, I'm pretty excited about it. You know that we are living in an era these days where the welfare state is being wound back and people are being expected more and more to take responsibility for their own financial security, and I'm deeply suspicious of this idea that the solution to everything is that people just go away and take care of themselves, buy products in the market. It is really not going to work quite like that. There is a strong *retrick* these days that the welfare state is too expensive, but really when we say that we can't afford the welfare state, what we are really saying is we don't want to pay the level of taxation required to support the welfare state to provide help in this way, so the idea that personal financial responsibility solves all problems just is not true.

D: Sounds like it is going to be a fascinating talk.

JL: I hope so.

D: I know a lot of people may be wondering why do we have economists because no economist that I am aware of actually predicted the state we are in now.

JL: OK, so you have your crown on, you are being the queen aren't you? She asked the same question. Actually the economists had quite an interesting answer, they said well, we were all looking at little bits of the system but nobody was looking at the big system. So maybe there is a whole new breed of economists out there who are taking this big picture view and might get it right next time. Prediction is a very very small part of economics and statistics suggest that 50% of the time we might be right and 50% wrong.

D: OK, that explains why we are in austerity, we backed the wrong horse!!

JL: We backed the wrong horse – yes.

D: Let me ask you a slightly technical question. A lot of people in Britain want us to come out of Europe. What would be the economic consequences of Britain just coming out of Europe now?

JL: My own feeling is that actually we are probably better off within Europe within a larger trading block. No country these days can escape from the global economy, so we have to trade with other partners.

D: Thank you, OK, final question that I wanted to ask you, if any students are thinking about just starting out and are thinking about studying economics, what would your advice be and what would be a good starting place?

JL: Well, if you have not studied economics at all before within the OU context DB123 – You and Your Money is a really great starting point because it takes personal finance, which after all affects us all you know. We have all got some experience of some aspect of this and DB123 what it does is it takes personal finance but puts it in the bigger context of economics, sociology, politics and so you get this really good hands on introduction to those subjects and how they can help you to understand and change the world.

D: Excellent, Jonquil thank you.

K: That's great Dave. She sounds really interesting. I'm looking forward to her presentation at the conference.

D: Yes so am I. So Karen, would you like to tell the listener all about our exciting plans!

K: OK Dave – so digital storytelling! Right, well I had this idea that students have lots of creativity and stories about how to succeed as students.

D: Hold on, I thought that was my idea...

K: Anyway, I thought that academic insight and advice is all well and good, but wouldn't it be a good idea to know what actually works in terms of being an OU Student and fitting in study around work and life. So we're looking for some students to become our partners to make some short videos that will benefit other students.

D: Yes, in fact the Higher Education Academy thought that it was such a good idea that they awarded me a grant to do this!

K: Actually, they awarded us a grant, Dave. So we thought that it would be great to link this in with the Student Connections conference, and showcase the finished videos during the week.

D: We're looking for six students who would like to play around with videos and produce something for their fellow students. You'd have to be willing to travel to Milton Keynes for a couple of residential events but you would be producing videos with a professional team about what matters to you and how your experiences can help others.

K: It's a very exciting project.

So, if you think that you would like to get involved let us know.

K: Email us with the title – Digital storytelling, to our usual address [podmag@open.ac.uk](mailto:podmag@open.ac.uk), and tell us a bit about you and why you're interested in this project.

D: OK Karen, so what's next?

K: The conference is next on my list. How are we doing Dave?

D: Well, in previous PodMag's we've announced Meg Barker, Peter Redman, Engin Isin and of course Jonquil Lowe as our keynote speakers. Would you like to announce our latest keynote speaker?

K: Thanks Dave. We've just heard back from our fifth keynote speaker for the conference and it is..... (music) John Allen!

D: John Allen will be familiar to many of you as he wrote the chapter on Supermarket power for DD101.

K: Well unfortunately, that's all we have time for this week.

We hope you've enjoyed this episode of The PodMag.

D: thanks for listening.

K: Catch you next time!