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## FIRST TUESDAY [News Reviews from 2011](#)

The First Tuesday discussions on *current affairs* aim to provide attendees with a way of developing and testing their understanding of a range of current affairs topics; improving their journalistic capabilities so that they can write opinion or comment style articles for the regional or national media or blogs, respond with a thoughtful angle on radio chat shows, TV talk shows or maybe just have an interesting angle to respond at work with.

### The topics discussed in December 2011 were:

- [Reflections on the Public Sector Strike](#) - introduced by [Mark Iddon](#)
- [Taking offence at Clarkson](#) - introduced by [Simon Belt](#)

### The topics discussed in October 2011 were:

- [Is the countryside under threat?](#) - introduced by Mark Iddon
- [Will the Euro survive?](#) - introduced by John Hutchinson

### The topics discussed in August 2011 were:

- [Massacre in Norway](#) by [Mark Iddon](#)
- [Financial Crisis](#) by [John Hutchinson](#)

### The topics discussed in May 2011 were:

- The killing of Osama bin Laden by US special forces after nine and a half years
- Developments in the Middle East - Syria and Libya in particular and role Nato
- The beatification of pope John Paul II and how religion is viewed in society

**The topics discussed in April 2011 were:**

- [Royal wedding and the media](#) by [Dave Porter](#)
- [Alternative Voting](#) system by [Simon Belt](#)

**The topics discussed in March 2011 were:**

- recent [developments in Libya](#) by [Mark Iddon](#)
- the government's [welfare state reforms](#) by [Jane Turner](#)

**The topics discussed in February 2011 were:**

- [Uprising in Egypt](#) , including side story of [WikiLeaks and US](#)
- [Red Card for Sky](#) : Andy Gray sacking, Richard Keys resignation from Sky - privacy issues