

# Lucy Varley

Email: [lucyloulocket@outlook.com](mailto:lucyloulocket@outlook.com) / Mobile: 07808281474  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lucy-varley-83b364bb/>  
Twitter: [@varleylou](https://twitter.com/varleylou)

## **Personal Statement**

I am passionate, dedicated and tenacious. I am a flourishing, national award-nominated journalist (Feature of the Year 2016, Feature of the Year and Newcomer of the Year 2017) with a flair for feature writing and editing. I am fully NCTJ accredited to the industry Gold Standard, with 100wpm Teeline shorthand and full qualifications in court reporting, public affairs, media law and sub-editing.

## **Industry Experience**

**Features Editor at Cavendish Press – February 2017 to Present:** As Features Editor at one of the UK's busiest and most prestigious news, picture and feature agencies, no two days are the same - and with every new day comes a new challenge. However, my daily duties include:

- Managing a team of flourishing feature writers and junior reporters to ensure they are each working to the best of their ability to produce accurate and engaging content for the UK's media outlets
- Sourcing, writing and editing exclusive and engaging stories, often to tight deadlines
- Producing eye-catching headlines, cover lines, signposts and sells
- Responding to public and reader enquiries
- Liaising with contacts from the UK's best-loved women's magazines, newspapers, TV shows, radio stations and online platforms. Also liaising with national police departments and their media officers
- Working alongside victims of serious crimes to share their stories across the UK's national media

**Feature Writer at *That's Life!* Magazine – June 2015 to February 2017:** Working on a busy features desk for a best-selling women's weekly magazine, my daily duties included:

- Sourcing and writing exclusive and engaging stories, often to tight deadlines
- Editing copy and producing eye-catching cover lines, heads, signposts and sells
- Producing the contents and letters pages for the magazine
- Regular contribution to the magazine's weekly health and debate columns
- Researching sensitive topics for discussion pieces within the magazine

**Feature Writer, Sub-Editor and Columnist at OPEN Magazine – June 2014 to June 2015:**

- Produced an interesting range of controversial exclusives
- Developed solo projects such as my weekly *Street Chic* and *The People Have Spoken* columns
- Interviewed intriguing people for my columns and features, such as a man who believed he was a moth, a lady who believed she was an alien, a woman who fell pregnant to a ghost and a drag queen
- Invited to review restaurants, bars and salons amongst other local businesses
- Promptly promoted to sub-editor for the publication following my employment

**Editor at Claire House Children's Hospice Charity Magazine – August 2014 to June 2015:**

- Worked alongside families with children in the hospice to produce to deeply moving features
- Responsible for writing features for the magazine and editing the publication as a whole

- Attended fundraising events and dedicated my free time to volunteering in the hospice to support my editorial responsibilities and maximise my experience within the hospice
- Responsible for flat-planning the magazine and signing it off for print

**Trainee Reporter at Mancunian Matters – March 2014 to July 2014:** As a trainee journalist, I was required to contribute to this online news publication, producing news and features every day.

- Produced a broad selection of distinctive features such as my ‘Ghost Sex’ piece, about a woman who claimed that a ghost got her pregnant following the tragic death of her partner
- Produced an exclusive feature for World Down Syndrome Day, highlighting the main characteristics of individuals with the condition. This was inspired by my younger sister, who has the condition. This piece led to BBC Breakfast inviting both myself and my sister onto their show to discuss the condition, and to debate the issues surrounding a blood test to detect the condition in early pregnancy
- Produced a creative feature debating the impact of modern-day adaptations of fairytales on children
- Provided round-the-clock coverage of the 2014 general elections alongside ITV, BBC and Sky News, and contributed to a high-demand live blog for Mancunian Matters. I also liaised with councillors, filed copy and pictures, and live-Tweeted breaking news

**Guest Speaker on the BBC Breakfast Show – January 2016:** Following a successful, informative column I wrote during my studies in journalism, I was approached by the BBC, who invited me onto their Breakfast Show to discuss the pros and cons of a new, non-invasive test to detect Down Syndrome in early pregnancy.

### **Education, Qualifications and References**

**Rainhill High School Media Arts College – 2006 to 2011:**

- All GCSEs passed at grade A\*-B, including a higher project in English at A\*A\*

**Rainhill Sixth Form College – 2011 to 2013:**

- All A-Levels passed at Grade A-B (English Literature, English Language, Theatre and Psychology)

**Further Education:**

- Gold Standard NCTJ Diploma in Journalism  
Qualified in: Essential Media Law, Court Reporting, Reporting, Sub-editing, Public Affairs and Shorthand at 100wpm
- Advanced Customer Service Level 3 NVQ
- Advanced Artist and Events Management and Business Level 3 NVQ

*All references and letters of recommendation are available upon request.*

### **Hobbies and Interests**

**Lou Locket (My Blog) – October 2014 to present:** As somebody who incessantly writes, I decided to set up a light-hearted lifestyle blog. In three years, my blog has had over 450,000 unique views, and has obtained many subscribers. It has even proved an additional source for real-life stories, as a number of my subscribers have contacted me upon learning that I write for the nationals. You can discover my blog at [www.loulocket.com](http://www.loulocket.com)

### **Skills**

Feature and news writing, story sourcing, editing and sub-editing, Teeline shorthand (100wpm) 60wpm typing, working to tight deadlines, photo editing, photoshop, covering complex court cases.