



# Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Championing Excellence and Diversity in Broadcasting

Winter 2017

Bulletin 121

## SIR DAVID CLEMENTI APPOINTED AS BBC CHAIRMAN



In January the former Bank of England deputy governor, Sir David Clementi, was announced as the new BBC chairman. Sir David carried out a review of BBC governance for the DCMS during Charter Review.

He recommended that the BBC Trust should be abolished and replaced by a unitary board with Ofcom taking on external regulation of the BBC. VLV met with Sir David to discuss our concerns about BBC regulation and governance. We welcomed his appointment and were encouraged when, in his pre-appointment hearing in front of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Sir David stressed that the BBC needs to be politically neutral. He said “the BBC is nothing if it doesn’t carry the trust of the people to be impartial and accurate. Above all, the BBC needs to be seen as the medium of record in the era of fake news and post-truth.”

On his appointment Sir David said “the BBC is a world-class broadcaster and one of the UK’s most beloved and cherished institutions. It will be a great honour to join the BBC at an important time in the organisation’s history.”

Sir David began work almost immediately to start the process of appointing members of the unitary BBC board which will take over governance of the BBC on 3 April 2017.

In response to the announcement, VLV Chairman Colin Browne said that “we congratulate Sir David on his appointment and look forward to a constructive relationship with him as he steers the BBC through challenging times and ensures that this hugely valued institution is truly accountable to its licence payers.”

## VLV’s 34th Annual Spring Conference Wednesday 26 April 2017 HOW TO ENSURE THE CITIZEN DIVIDEND Public service broadcasting in a digital age

*The Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG  
10.30 am - 4.00 pm*

“At a time of major change across the western world, the VLV Spring Conference will provide an opportunity to consider further the role of public service broadcasting in providing a trusted source of information and knowledge,” said VLV Chairman Colin Browne. “It will be particularly timely to hear from Fran Unsworth about the role of the BBC World Service in this highly uncertain environment.”



Francesca Unsworth is the Director of the BBC World Service Group and leads the BBC’s global news services - BBC World Service, BBC World News and BBC.com/news, as well as BBC Monitoring. She chairs the BBC’s international development charity, BBC Media Action. The BBC’s global news services have a weekly audience of 265 million. She is also deputy to the Director of News and Current Affairs and presently sits on the BBC’s Executive Team.

Other sessions will include a panel on trust in broadcasting to explore the world of alternative and real facts (*see Phil Harding’s view on Trusting in News on page 4*).

After lunch is the popular presentation of the VLV Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting 2016. These are always valued highly by the recipients as they are nominated and voted for by VLV members. There will be two awards given by VLV’s Trustees - the Naomi Sargent Award for someone who has contributed to the field of education and VLV’s Special Award for a major contribution to public service broadcasting. Previous winners were Sir David Attenborough and Gillian Reynolds.

*Book on enclosed form or go to [www.vlv.org.uk](http://www.vlv.org.uk)*



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*Championing Excellence and Diversity in Broadcasting*

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Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) represents the citizen and consumer interests in broadcasting and champions excellence and diversity in broadcasting. VLV is free from political, sectarian and commercial affiliations. VLV is concerned with the issues, structures, institutions and regulation that underpin the British broadcasting system and in particular to maintain the principles of public service broadcasting.

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**FROM THE CHAIRMAN, COLIN BROWNE**



Now that the broad issues affecting the future of the BBC have been determined, the focus will move to implementation and the manner in which the many requirements in the new Charter and the associated agreements are put into practice.

There is still some significant lack of clarity in the area of regulation, particularly in the division of responsibilities between Ofcom and the new BBC unitary board. In the 'post-truth' world, accuracy and impartiality are more important than ever. However, it appears that Ofcom's watchdog role in this respect will apply largely to news broadcasts and factual programmes but not to the totality of the BBC's output nor to the online news services.

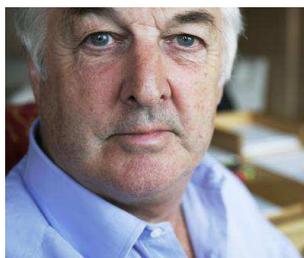
The VLV has never been a supporter of excess regulation. We want the new system to work for the benefit of all. However, there does need to be a mechanism for holding the executive to account and ensuring that there is independent scrutiny on behalf of licence payers and citizens more broadly. This will put a tremendous onus on the non-executive members of the BBC's unitary board, who will need access to sufficient resources and independent advice.

The appointment of high quality and genuinely independent non-executives will be key to this process. We were heartened by the appointment of Sir David Clementi as Chairman. Sir David, a VLV member, has shown a readiness to listen to a wide range of views. He also demonstrated, in his confirmation hearing in front of the Select Committee, a real knowledge of the BBC's output on television and radio. We wish him well and look forward to working with him.

As you will read elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, the importance of maintaining the values that underpin public service broadcasting in an era of fake news and an increasingly febrile social media will be the extremely timely theme of Lord Puttnam's Jocelyn Hay VLV Lecture on 21 March. We are very grateful to David, one of our patrons, for agreeing to give the third of these lectures commemorating our founder Jocelyn Hay. I hope I will see many of you there.

Finally, it was with great sadness that we learned of the death of former BBC Chairman, Sir Christopher Bland. Christopher had a great respect for Jocelyn and spoke at the celebration of her life which we organised. He was always generous and supportive to the VLV and I was delighted when he became a patron. He was a fine chairman of the BBC - as well as being possibly the best read person I have ever known. He will be greatly missed.

**SIR CHRISTOPHER BLAND  
1938 - 2017**



Sir Christopher was chairman of the BBC board of governors between 1996 and 2001 and became a Patron of VLV in 2015. He was Chairman of LWT from 1984 - 1993. He held a number of senior roles in business, including chairman of BT, and was Chairman of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

## JOCELYN HAY VLV LECTURE 2017

### LORD PUTTNAM CBE

**Why Public Service Media matters more than ever in the age of Brexit, Trump, Facebook and Twitter**



The VLV is delighted that **Lord Puttnam CBE** has agreed to deliver the third Jocelyn Hay VLV Lecture 2017 on Tuesday 21 March at the Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London at 7.00 pm.

'Fake news', attacks on a 'dishonest' and 'biased' mainstream media, and an increasingly febrile social media are increasing hallmarks of the age we inhabit. In this lecture Lord Puttnam will explore why it is essential that the values that underpin public service broadcasting are maintained and strengthened in the face of these developments, thereby helping to prevent the further erosion of public trust.

The Jocelyn Hay VLV Lecture Series was established to reflect the huge contribution that Jocelyn Hay, our founder, made to public service broadcasting and civic debate over thirty years. The first Jocelyn Hay VLV Lecture was delivered by **Sir Stuart Etherington**, Chief Executive of NCVO on *Broadcasting for a better society? Civil society and the media* in 2012 and the second lecture was delivered by **Professor Jean Seaton** in 2015 on *Pinkoes and Traitors - the BBC from 1974 - 1987*.

Lord Puttnam chaired the Inquiry into the *Future of Public Service Television*, part of the BBC Charter Review debate in conjunction with Goldsmiths College, University of London. *The Future for Public Service Television* report said the licence fee should be abolished "as soon as is practically possible" and replaced with a more progressive funding mechanism via council tax or general taxation. It also called on broadcasters to do much more to reflect the diversity of the UK.

Lord Puttnam spent thirty years as an independent producer of award-winning films including *The Mission*, *The Killing Fields*, *Local Hero*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Midnight Express*, *Bugsy Malone* and *Memphis Belle*. He was Deputy Chairman of Channel 4 Television (2006 - 2012) and The Sage Gateshead (2007- 2012), founding Chair of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) and Chair of both the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television and the National Film and Television School for ten years.

Please see back page for details to get tickets for the lecture or go to [www.vlv.org.uk](http://www.vlv.org.uk).

## NEW BBC CHARTER BEGINS

The new BBC Charter and Agreement were laid before Parliament in December 2016. They came into force on 1 January 2017 with transitional arrangements in place until 3 April 2017 when the new governance and regulatory model will be adopted.

The new Charter will last until 31 December 2027, a period of 11 years. Despite widespread concern about a reduction in the BBC's scale and scope during the Charter Review period, the new Charter leaves the BBC's purposes largely intact, although with the reduced funding settlement of July 2015 it will be constrained by a reduction in its overall income of between 10 and 20%.

The BBC now has additional responsibilities to reflect the diversity of the UK's population, ensure provision for the nations and regions, and, the most controversial requirement, to ensure its content is 'distinctive'. There has been much debate about the precise meaning of what is 'distinctive' and we anticipate that this debate will continue, possibly for the next 11 years. There will be a mid-term review, expected in 2022, in which the new governance and regulatory model will be assessed, but the Government has made it clear it is not its intention to turn this into a mini Charter Review.

## SAVE OUR SOUNDS

VLV has been on the Advisory Committee of a British Library project to inform the Library's developing plan for a national radio archive to ensure that project outcomes are not undermined by unanticipated changes in the broadcasting landscape, or by trends in media consumption.

The project considered the future nature of radio archives in the UK: their uses, legal constraints and opportunities, interviewing experts across the radio and academic sectors, concentrating on consumption, production, technology, research and legal implications. The report, *The Changing Landscape of Radio*, published in November 2016 outlines changes in radio and audio consumption, production and technology and considers how these might impact the future of a national radio archive. The British Library is the UK's national library, with a broad user base ranging from academia to industry and from on-site to online. The BL Sound Archive is the second largest sound collection in the world with around six million speech and music recordings covering a profusion of genres, including the nation's radio archive with nearly 200,000 hours of radio. However, there are no legal deposit arrangements for sound in the UK and an estimated 97% of current UK radio is not being preserved or adequately shared. The BL's current *Save our Sounds* programme of work includes plans for a more comprehensive national radio archive solution that ensures the preservation of existing recordings and puts in place systems for large-scale digital acquisition in the future. The BL envisages a national radio archive based on capture of current and ongoing licensed broadcasting in the UK, with the expectation it will be selective, concentrating largely on speech based programming. See more at [www.bl.uk/projects/the-future-of-radio](http://www.bl.uk/projects/the-future-of-radio).

## TRUSTING IN NEWS - fake news, alternative facts and post-truth politics

Phil Harding



It's not been a great twelve months for political journalism or for the media in general. We have seen the rise of fake news, the advent of post-truth politics, over-reliance on unreliable opinion polls and outrageous campaign claims and counter-claims.

Many feel that journalists – broadcast journalists in particular - have not done a great job in dealing with these issues. Were the more outrageous campaign promises of both sides in the Brexit referendum scrutinised and challenged vigorously enough? If politicians start to make claims that clearly bend the facts, do you challenge them or merely report them and leave the voter to decide? Where does spin end and lying begin? Is it part of the job of a journalist to expose fake news or does that merely draw attention to it? Did broadcasters let their regulatory commitment to impartiality get in the way of telling the truth? It has certainly felt as though many media organisations have been playing a game of belated catch-up in dealing with the new style of politics.

There were attempts to correct the balance. Boris Johnson was sometimes challenged about the £350 million a week claim. Tom Bradby had a good go on *News At Ten*. But too often that claim and others were allowed to stand unchallenged. Too often the very good work by the various fact-checking teams was relegated to just a passing cross-reference to their web site.

Audiences rightly look to broadcast news for accurate and impartial information. Up until now, the broadcasters have done a pretty decent job in providing that. That's why television and radio have the highest trust ratings for the media. But if in the future we are going to be surrounded by a sea of polarised misinformation, some of it from politicians, much of it from social media, then the broadcasters are going to have to adopt a different and more vigorous approach. Politicians are going to have to be challenged and corrected; false news exposed.

Fact-checking will have to be at the heart of this. Channel Four pioneered this; BBC News plans to beef up its fact-checking teams. But for fact-

checking to be truly effective it has to be both prominent and fast. In future it should be right at the heart of the mainstream output. It should be in the middle of the *Ten O' Clock News*; an integral part of the *Jeremy Vine* programme. Interviewers will have to call out 'alternative facts' for the lies they are. Boris Johnson's clowning obfuscation needs to be met with a sharp riposte rather than a knowing giggle. All of this will be difficult. It will require considerable editorial skill and nerve. Doubtless it will cause more rows. How will the newly expanded Ofcom with its statutory commitment to impartiality react to broadcasters explicitly taking the side of honesty versus dishonesty? Might the regulator need to take another look at its broadcast code to ensure the commitment to 'due impartiality' does not inhibit getting at the facts?

Impartial and accurate broadcast news, based on a compact of trust between the broadcaster and the audience is an essential part of the foundations of the British democratic system. But unless the broadcasters can now meet the challenges of the new political world in which we find ourselves, they risk being swamped and rendered irrelevant by the rising tide of post-truth junk. As we are already seeing in the United States, the implications of such a failure would be immense.

*Phil Harding is a journalist and broadcaster. He is a former editor of the Radio 4 Today programme and was Controller of Editorial Policy at the BBC.*

### CHANNEL 4 UPDATE



While rumours of the privatisation of C4C had died down last summer after the departure of John Whittingdale as Secretary of State, they were re-ignited in October

when the new Secretary of State, Karen Bradley, made it clear before the Culture, Media and Sport Committee that privatisation is still very much an option and she is hoping to come to a decision 'in the near future'.

The VLV considers that the Channel 4 Corporation plays a very important role in the UK's mixed broadcasting ecology, cross-subsidising PSB content from the income derived by more commercial content. It supports the independent production industry and it provides a range of content which often provides an alternative view to mainstream PSB channels. We are keeping a close eye on developments but as yet there is still no news from the DCMS on this.

## BBC STUDIOS IN BUSINESS

The BBC Trust formally approved the plan to turn the BBC's production arm, BBC Studios, into a commercial subsidiary on 20 December 2016. As part of its decision, the Trust made recommendations for future governance and regulatory oversight to the new BBC board and to Ofcom. This included that the BBC board should monitor BBC Studios to make sure it is commercially efficient, supports the BBC's public service commitments and maintains a strategic connection between the BBC and BBC Studios. The VLV responded to these proposals and made it clear that VLV does not believe that the BBC Studios model is ideal but that it is the best course of action in light of the removal of in-house guarantees in the new Charter. While retaining its own intellectual property rights is a growing necessity for the BBC to ensure its financial sustainability, we identified a number of risks with the BBC Studios strategy. There could be a move away from BBC production being solely focused on the interests of licence fee payers to those of other broadcasters; a loss of in-house expertise and less opportunity for career progression among staff; a reduction in the provision of less commercially attractive genres and a reduction in BBC production in the regions. It is clear that, as the guardian of the interests of licence fee payers, the new Board will play a crucially important role in ensuring that the BBC Studios model delivers value and benefits for audiences.

## Top TV programmes in 2016

According to data from **overnights.TV data** at the end of a tumultuous year with the EU referendum American election and the ongoing crisis of refugees fleeing Africa and the Middle East, TV viewing remained broadly stable, despite the increasing popularity of 'over the top' online sources. Helped by Olympics and Euro 2016, UK TV viewing fell by only 0.7% in 2016. The 2016 winner in the ratings battle was the final of *The Great British Bake Off* with 15.9 m viewers, ahead of its closest rival, the final of *Strictly Come Dancing* with 13.3 m. *Planet Earth II* was next, informing 13.1 m, while ITV's top 2016 shows were entertainment-focused with *I'm a Celebrity..... Get Me Out of Here!* (12.7 m) and *Britain's Got Talent* (12.5 m). The most watched drama of 2016 was an episode of *Sherlock* (11.6m) followed by ITV's *Victoria* (7.6m), BBC One's *Poldark* (6.4m). ITV and BBC Two both grew audience share: ITV up by 2.6% and BBC Two 2.9%. BBC One remained largely flat. Channel 5 fell most (3%) and Channel 4 dropped (0.9%) but finished with its highest rated show of 2016 on Christmas Day, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* with 6.8 m viewers.

## UHD OR NOT TO BE

The Digital TV Group (DTG) which is the UK collaboration centre for innovation in digital media technology, has commissioned a survey of 1,000 TV viewers in the UK who have purchased a TV in the last three years. The research reveals that unlike their US counterparts (a recent Snell Advanced Media survey indicated that '64 % of Americans still don't know what 4K is') the majority (55%) of UK consumers know what both the terms HD and UHD mean.

Interestingly more people from the North East (78%) than Wales (56%) have bought a TV in the last three years because they thought it was time for an upgrade. More people from the North East (78%) than London (54%) have purchased a high definition television in the last three years.



The majority of respondents (53%) who bought a UHD television within the last three years did so because they wanted a better

viewing experience - and the huge majority of the UHD-buyers claim there is an obvious improvement in the viewing quality between their old TV and their UHD one.

More 25-34 year olds (64%) than over 55s (44%) bought a UHD television because they wanted a better viewing experience. It seems that the younger generation is more likely to say that UHD viewing is better than expected - 84% of 25-34 year olds believe this compared to 56% of the over 55s surveyed.

An overwhelming percentage of respondents (96%) say that UHD viewing has at least met their expectations, with 67% saying that it was better than expected. When offered the option of watching a programme, event or film in UHD, more 35-44 year olds (96%) than over 55s (71%) will actively select the UHD option. The most popular platforms among those who watch UHD content are Sky (32%) followed by Netflix (17%) and Amazon (13%).

More than four in five (86%) say that, when offered the option of watching a programme, event, or film in UHD, they select it. While more than three in five (63%) respondents say they watch UHD content at least a few times a week. For more details on 4K, UHD and the survey visit [www.uhdready.info](http://www.uhdready.info).

## VLV AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2016 BACK TO THE FUTURE - What next for viewers and listeners?

VLV's Autumn Conference in November 2016 was well-attended at the Geological Society and looked at what might be in store for audiences over the next decade. With the ink not yet dry on the draft BBC Charter and the operating model of Channel 4 under scrutiny, two of our four sessions focused on two of our leading public service broadcasters.

**Lord Hall of Birkenhead CBE**, Director-General of the BBC, was our keynote speaker. He thanked VLV members for making their voices heard during the Government's BBC Green Paper consultation to which 192,000 people responded, most of them supporting the BBC and its mission. In his speech Tony Hall set out five ways in which he believes the BBC should measure its future impact and gauge its success. These were fulfilling a traditional mission in the digital age, providing something good for everyone, being a trusted voice in a crowded arena, bringing the country together and defining Britain's identity on both a local and global basis. Next we focused on Channel 4 with VLV's President, Dame Colette Bowe, chairing a session on the future of the Corporation which hangs in the balance with the Government still considering whether it should be privatised. **Dan Brooke**, C4C's Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, stressed that the corporation is financially sustainable with its existing model. He said Channel 4 is thriving and that ratings and revenues and spending on UK programmes were up last year. Journalist **Maggie Brown**, who is currently writing her second instalment of the history of Channel 4, said that it could be vulnerable because of its reliance on advertising but that it has a sharp commercial brain and, on balance, its sustainability is probably OK. **Steve Morrison**, the founder of All3Media, highlighted that we have an amazing broadcasting system in the UK and that Channel 4 is extraordinary because we have a thriving industry which produces content about the UK from a multitude of perspectives. He strongly opposed any proposals that Channel 4 should make its own content in-house. This would undermine the ecology of UK broadcasting and the existence of independent production companies.

The afternoon began with a panel discussion with three peers: VLV Patron **Lord Inglewood**, former Conservative Minister in the Department of National Heritage and former Chairman of the Lords Communications Committee, **Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury**, current member of

the Communications Committee and Liberal Democrat spokesperson in the Lords on Culture, Media and Sport, and **Lord Stevenson of Balmacara**, Labour spokesperson in the Lords. While there were warnings from the panel of the risk of people viewing content online and the unreliability of such content, they all passionately sang the praises of public service broadcasting in the UK. They suggested that VLV should keep making the case that the process of determining the level of the BBC licence fee should be more transparent. There was a debate on the meaning and implications of 'distinctiveness' in the new BBC Charter, with the conclusion being that it is an 'unfortunate' and 'unnecessary' word to have in the BBC's mission.

Finally the conference looked at the challenges and opportunities of a digital future with a panel of experts. **Jonathan Thompson** CEO of Digital UK and **Lindsey Clay**, CEO of Thinkbox, both said they believe that free to air television viewing remains remarkably robust, with more than 90% of people still watching TV live or recorded. This is despite Amazon Prime and Netflix investing heavily in drama and factual. Jonathan believes the technological revolution has already occurred – most of us have tablets, smartphones and many have video on demand subscriptions. It is surprising that young people are still watching live TV when there is so much else to distract them. Lindsay stressed that TV is still the most powerful platform for advertisers with incredible reach and a lot of time spent watching TV. **Matthew Horsman**, Director of Mediatique, said he did not think that new technology will kill off traditional public service broadcasting. He pointed out that we have been predicting the death of live TV for decades, but that it is very much still thriving. He said he thinks we will still be watching live TV in 2030, but he is concerned about how it will be funded. Journalist **Bill Thompson** was passionate about the ability of new technology to transform our lives. He posed a warning to TV executives not to ignore the opportunities of new technology if they want to ensure they deliver benefits to society via public service content.

**VLV's AGM** took place after the conference. Professor Jeanette Steemers, now Professor of Culture, Media and Creative Industries at the Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries, King's College London and Professor Bob Usherwood were voted back onto the Board and Peter Gordon and Andrew Board were confirmed as Trustees. Chris Mottershead and Dr Lynn Whitaker have now stepped down and were thanked for their support for the VLV. VLV's Annual Report can be seen on the website.

## NEWS IN BRIEF - BBC comings and goings

**Helen Boaden** left the BBC at the end of January after a 34 year career in which she was Controller BBC Radio 4, Director of News and latterly Director of BBC Radio.



**Bob Shennan** takes over as Director of Radio & Music, reporting to James Purnell in the newly-created Radio & Education division. He is responsible for the day-to-day running of BBC Radios 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 live

and digital-only stations 1Xtra, 6Music, BBC Radio 4 Extra, 5 live sports extra and Asian Network, as well as the BBC Performing Groups, the BBC Proms, BBC Music and radio production. He also oversees BBC Music, which showcases the best emerging UK talent through more than 15 new talent schemes, also bringing audiences some of the finest and most popular national events across popular and classical music.



**Sarah Sands** (left) has been appointed Editor of Radio 4's *Today* programme. James Harding, Director of BBC News and Current Affairs, said "Sarah is a

hugely experienced and highly respected journalist. For the past five years, she has been the Editor of the *London Evening Standard* and, prior to that, she was the Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*. She will bring her familiar verve and her broad range of interests to the programme and will build on *Today's* absolute commitment to critical and analytical journalism."

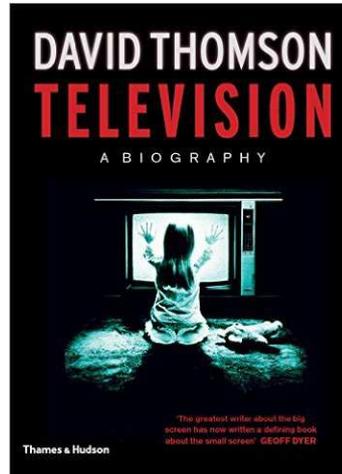
**Julia Bond** has been appointed the BBC's first Children's Commissioning Executive with specific responsibility for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Based in Glasgow, the role will be at the heart of the BBC Children's commissioning team and is part of the BBC's commitment to improve portrayal across the UK.

### VLV AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN BROADCASTING 2016

A reminder for all VLV Members to return their voting papers (included in this mailing) to the VLV office by 3 March 2017

## TELEVISION A BIOGRAPHY

David Thomson (Thames and Hudson 2016)



David Thomson is a well-known writer and teacher about film, best known for his *New Biographical Dictionary of Film*. He was born and brought up in Britain but has spent most of his adult life in the USA. His writing is a mixture of information based analysis and personal response, as a film critic.

In *Television A Biography* he explains that he began teaching about television in college back in the 1970s. His new book is an attempt to come to terms with television as a technological and social phenomenon, interweaving historical survey with information about the growth of the television industry and personal anecdotal accounts of some of his own viewing history. He structures the book into two parts, borrowing McLuhan's terms of 'the medium' and 'the message'. He offers analysis of a range of 'early' US programmes and examines how they evolved to fit the conditions of television, whereby the need for long-running shows emerged to try to shape viewers watching. He considers the possible impact of advertisements and compares the situation of the BBC where advertising was rejected as a means of funding. At various moments in his survey of programme genres he looks at the impact of British television such as *Monty Python* on the development of new programming in the USA.

Thomson looks at the development of what he calls 'long form' television, especially associated with cable television, such as *The Wire* and *Breaking Bad*. There is a section on television and politics/politicians. Here Thomson links in his concerns that television is used as a way of pacifying viewers and disengaging them from any active process. He has some brief comments on the emergence of President Trump. It is unusual to find books comparing British and American television in the way Thomson undertakes and trying to engage with the problematic nature of the medium. In the final parts of his book Thomson comments on the impact beyond television of small screen technology and the ways it is changing behaviour. He points out that more and more this technology is watching the user and compiling data on her or him and he sees this as threatening the health of democracy.

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#### Keeping up to date

VLV will be sending out regular updates by email - so please ensure that Sue Washbrook has your up-to-date email address or else keep looking at the website at [www.vlv.org.uk](http://www.vlv.org.uk)

## Diary Dates

**Tuesday 21 March 2017**  
**The Jocelyn Hay VLV Lecture 2017**

**Why Public Service Media matters more than ever in the age of Brexit, Trump, Facebook and Twitter**

**Lord Puttnam CBE**  
*The Geological Society,  
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG*  
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm  
Tickets £10 for members  
£15 for corporates

To book go to [www.vlv.org.uk](http://www.vlv.org.uk), use the enclosed form or contact Sue Washbrook at the VLV office.

**Wednesday 26 April 2017**  
**VLV's 34th Spring Conference**  
**How to ensure the citizen dividend: public service broadcasting in a digital age with**

**The VLV Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting 2016**

*The Geological Society,  
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG*  
10.30 am - 4.00 pm

**VLV's 34th Autumn Conference**  
**Wednesday 29 November 2017**

*The Geological Society,  
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG*  
10.30 am - 3.30 pm  
Followed by VLV's AGM

**VLV will announce other events over the next few months - watch email alerts and the website for details.**

#### VLV members only

**Please return your voting papers before 3 March 2017**



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

OR to pay by Credit Card please complete the form below or telephone 01474 338716

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card type: Mastercard  Visa  Expiry date   /   Issue No.   CVS    (last 3 digits of security on reverse of card)

Card No.     /     /     /     Amount £ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to pay by standing order  please send me a form. *giftaid it* I would like to GiftAid my payment  please send me a form