



# Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Working for Quality and Diversity in Broadcasting

Autumn 2012

Bulletin Issue 109

## THE BBC, JIMMY SAVILE AND NEWSNIGHT

As *The Bulletin* goes to press the BBC's Director-General has been facing MPs at the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee in relation to disclosures about the allegations surrounding Jimmy Savile and the postponed *Newsnight* item. These affect other institutions besides the BBC and are being investigated by the police and are the subject of several enquiries, including two set up by the BBC. None are matters directly for VLV, but on behalf of viewers and listeners we believe it is vital that trust in the BBC is restored. VLV considers the enquiries must be rigorous and awaits their outcome with concern.

The BBC, endorsed by the BBC Trust, have asked former Court of Appeal judge Dame Janet Smith DBE to lead the independent review into the broader issues and former Head of Sky News Nick Pollard to lead the review into *Newsnight*. Dame Janet's review will be into the culture and practices of the BBC during the years that Jimmy Savile worked there and will examine whether the BBC's child protection and whistle blowing policies are fit for purpose. The Pollard Review will seek to establish whether there were any failings in the BBC's management of the *Newsnight* investigation relating to allegations of sexual abuse of children by Jimmy Savile, including the broadcast of tribute programmes on the BBC. It will also look at the BBC's handling of material that might have been of interest to the police or relevant authorities.

## NEW SECRETARY OF STATE

**Rt Hon Maria Miller MP** has been appointed Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and Minister for Women and Equalities. She was born in Wales, is married and has three children. She has been MP for Basingstoke since 2005. She was a director of Grey Advertising and Rowland Saatchi and worked for Texaco in business development and marketing. She was Shadow Minister for Education, Family Welfare and the Family between 2005 to 2010, then PUS at the Department for Work and Pensions, before her new appointment.

## VLV'S 29th ANNUAL AUTUMN CONFERENCE

### IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD? Moving towards a White Paper

**Monday 26 November 2012**

*The Geological Society, London W1  
10.30 to 3.30 pm*



**Lord Patten of Barnes CH**, Chairman of the BBC Trust, will look back at his first 18 months at a time when all eyes are on the BBC. Journalist and broadcaster **Raymond Snoddy** will chair the session at VLV's 29th

Autumn Conference on Monday 26 November 2012. This will give VLV members and other conference delegates a unique opportunity to ask Lord Patten questions directly about the difficult issues facing the BBC - and how he sees the way ahead for the organisation in the context of the coming Communications Bill.

After the Spring Conference's fascinating panel looking ahead, we have invited **Tim Suter**, Perspective Associates, **Professor Steven Barnett** and **Helen Keefe**, from the BBC, back to re-assess the media landscape six months on. Other sessions will look at the implication of the findings of the Leveson Inquiry for all media, the debate around the Communications Bill and the ongoing effects of spectrum sell-off, media convergence and the post switch-off world.

The prizes for VLV's Student Essay Competition, supported by Channel 4 and The Voice of the Listener Trust, will be presented at the conference by Roger Graef. Watch VLV's website and e-newsletters for further details.

**The 12th Annual General Meeting of Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd will be held at 3.45 pm on 26 November 2012** at The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1. Nominations and resolutions should be sent to the Honorary Secretary at PO Box 401, Gravesend, DA12 9FY, no fewer than three and not more than 21 days before the AGM.

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Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Working for Quality and Diversity in British Broadcasting

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**The Voice of the Listener Trust**

(registered, charity 296207)  
which supports some of VLV's educational work.

Trustees:

Mr Michael Barton  
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Mr Paul Findlay  
Professor Sylvia Harvey  
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Dr Andrew Taussig

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Sue Washbrook: Membership/ Board & Trust Administrator.

Website: [www.vlv.org.uk](http://www.vlv.org.uk)

VLV is now on Twitter! [@vlvuk](https://twitter.com/vlvuk)

Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) represents the citizen and consumer interests in broadcasting and works for quality and diversity in British 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.  
VLV does not handle complaints.

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT**



This week marks the end of ninety years of UK broadcasting history. Analogue signals have been finally switched off; television distribution is digital only. Digital compactness has not only made space for wider channel choice but also increased the flexibility of viewing through an array of new portable devices like smart phones, androids, iPads, iPods, and the BBC iPlayer you can see on the train.

Nevertheless without being a media spoilsport, I have a couple of caveats. The first that, although numbers may add to the variety of consumer options, they don't guarantee the kind of diversity that produces genuine choice. Channels themed on sport, science, antiques or cooking may reach dedicated and distinct audiences but they don't bring the serendipitous choice of generalist channels, nor do they present audiences with concise and balanced news reports or documentary programming which offer contrasting and penetrating perspectives on key issues of the day. It is because media can help make up the democratic deficit and underpin democracy that VLV has always argued (as in its recent Response to the House of Lords Select Committee) for a plurality of adequately-resourced and responsibly managed public service content providers. What could better make that point than the Savile affair - with the BBC's awkward double engagement as public service employer and public service broadcaster?

My second caveat is that, despite the proliferation of channels and web-based opportunities for individual direct access to information, the major media outlets - broadcasters and newspapers - still play a major role in promoting stories and placing them in context. People in the UK - as in other communities - feel a shared, if not always articulated sense of having a stake in a public space in which they place expectations and aspirations. This underlies VLV's motivation in seeking to represent the interests of audiences in the forthcoming Communications Bill and the BBC Charter Renewal process - and why, alongside the nation at large, VLV awaits the reports of the Savile affair and Lord Leveson's Inquiry into the hacking scandal.

**NEW VLV CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER ANNOUNCED**

VLV is delighted that **Colin Browne** has agreed to become Chairman of the board of VLV, subject to the Board's approval at its next meeting on 1st November. He has wide experience of broadcasting and the media. He was Director, Corporate Affairs at the BBC from 1994 - 2000, having previously been Director, Corporate Relations at BT. From 2000-9 he was a partner and senior consultant at Maitland, one of the UK's leading financial and corporate communications consultancies. He currently has his own company providing strategic communications advice, is a former member of the Communications Consumer Panel, a non-executive director of the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) and a Trustee of Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature.

**Toni Charlton** has agreed to become VLV's Honorary Treasurer and has been co-opted onto the board. During a 35 year career with the BBC, Toni climbed the production ladder to become an Events Producer in Television Outside Broadcasts, before doing project management roles for BBC News and five years as the Chief Assistant for BBC Drama. Since leaving the BBC, she has acquired an MA in Communication from the University of Westminster; converted a barn in Devon and worked in both a paid and voluntary capacity on a variety of assignments as a freelance project manager - most recently working with the Events Services Team at London's Olympics and Paralympics.

**Eddie Tulasiewicz** has sadly had to step down as a director of VLV due to his other commitments. The VLV board would like to thank him for his contribution to VLV over the years. **Dinah Garrett** has given up her role of helping with the day-to-day running of VLV as its Managing Consultant and has been co-opted onto VLV's Board.

## VLV SUBMISSIONS

VLV has recently sent in four submissions: to the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications on Media Convergence; to DCMS on the five Communications Review Seminars and to the BBC Trust on its review of Service Licences. VLV is presently looking at the BBC Trust's consultation on the BBC's Purpose Remits (by 6 December 2012).

## MEDIA CONVERGENCE

VLV recently submitted its response to the Lords Select Committee on Communications. The context for this enquiry is the growth of broadband and the number of ways in which the public can access media content via not just computer screens but also mobile phones and iPads. The Government is in the process of selling off spectrum to allow companies to introduce 4G networks capable of receiving broadband signals. This is seen as beneficial to the communications industry.

VLV is concerned that the arguments have tended to be put in terms of new technologies rather than in terms of safeguarding media content for citizens. The process of digital media development has already altered the basis for our traditional system of public service broadcasting paid for by the licence fee. Already the BSkyB satellite service and Virgin cable system have introduced subscription payments which have brought in large new revenues and have allowed these companies to control access to various types of programme content, most noticeably sports. Whilst the rights revenue may have benefitted sporting bodies, the cost of subscriptions may limit the choices of less well-off families to watch sports.

VLV has focussed its campaigning on radio and television broadcasting but it is clear that the development of the broadband internet is affecting the inter-relationship between the traditional media. The BBC now provides websites in print, whilst newspaper websites carry video footage. However the primary cause for concern is the falling sales of newspapers, where many people get their news from online sources and where newspapers have lost advertising revenue to the internet. The economics of national newspapers are now being undermined and there is a danger that such newspapers will close through lack of income. This would mean a great diminution of sources of reliable news and weaken the democratic process. This is a situation which urgently requires discussion of possible alternative sources of finance to ensure the continuation of the national press.

## 4G - THE CONTINUING SAGA

VLV has always expressed its great concern that some 4G mobile services will use frequencies which were used for television until digital TV switchover, and are adjacent to the frequencies still used for DTT signals. It is very likely that the new 4G services may interfere with the reception of TV signals, making it difficult, if not impossible, for some households to watch DTT.

After consultation with DCMS ministers and Ofcom, the UK's major mobile operators have made another step towards speeding up the deployment of 4G mobile phone services in the UK. The aim is that the new joint venture will ensure viewers can continue to enjoy Freeview when 4G services are introduced. Latest news from DCMS is that the 4G roll out will start in November with the rebranded EE company. Further 4G roll out will continue in June 2013.

Culture Secretary **Maria Miller**

said: "The roll-out of 4G is a huge step forward for mobile broadband services in the UK, and will be incredibly important in driving economic growth. I am pleased that the mobile operators will be working together to ensure that no viewers lose their television services when 4G is rolled out"



EE, Telefónica, O2, Three and Vodafone have now formed a jointly-controlled company – Digital Mobile Spectrum Ltd, formerly known as 'Mitco', that will be responsible for ensuring that consumers continue to receive clear Freeview TV signals following the roll out of 4G mobile services. The new company will be chaired in the interim by **Andrew Pinder**, Chairman of premium phone services regulator PhonePay Plus and who was responsible for setting up the popular website DirectGov. Digital Mobile Spectrum Ltd will be funded by the successful bidders for 800MHz spectrum in the upcoming auction to a budget of £180 million. It will be monitored by an independent oversight board which will include broadcasters, mobile telephone companies and, most importantly, consumers.

In response to the new joint venture, Liz Reynolds, Freeview's Strategy Director said: "We're encouraged that the mobile operators have formed a scheme so quickly to support Freeview homes. It is of paramount importance viewers are provided with the right level of assistance to minimise interference with their TV service when 4G is introduced next year. We look forward to working with them in due course."

## THE CHILDREN'S MEDIA FOUNDATION

Anna Home OBE, Chair



Children's TV has always needed champions. The VLV has for a long time been one of them, through its Children's Group and its Annual Conference on Children's TV. There have also been single-issue campaigns like British Action for Children's Television (BAC TV)

organised in 1989 to lobby for proper regulation of children's content and Save Kid's TV (SKTV), which was set up in 2006 to address the withdrawal of ITV from its provision of children's programmes.

The **Children's Media Foundation (CMF)** is the latest development. It was formed earlier this year by an amalgamation of SKTV with The Children's Film & TV Foundation (originally the Children's Film Foundation).

Its founders believe that rather than set up a new organisation every time there is a crisis in children's media, there is a need for a permanent body, ready to represent the interests of the audience, respond to government consultations and press comments; in short, to influence policy and stimulate a higher standard of debate.

The CMF aims to be a multi-issue and long-term organisation, which will concern itself with children's media of all kinds.

The CMF will act on behalf of the children's audience to:

- promote and protect the quality, variety and range of media of all types for children and young people in all social groups
- support the production of media for children and young people in the UK while embracing stimulating content from all over the world
- increase public awareness and improve understanding of the value of media for children and the issues arising from it.

So far CMF has set up working groups, each concentrating on a specific area of activity. One example is our plan to build research relationships. We are particularly interested in supporting informed research into the impact of children's media, to stimulate more measured public discourse and as a service to policy-makers. We also have groups looking into online security, investigating the archiving of children's content (to search for lost programmes) and supporting media literacy.

We were instrumental in setting up a new All Party Parliamentary group on Children's Media and the Arts chaired by Baroness Benjamin, and that group is now co-ordinated by the CMF. We have also been active in responding to various consultations, including most recently the BFI consultation on the future of film.

The BFI is digitising and re-issuing a number of the classic Children's Film Foundation films, details of which can be found on the BFI website. [http://filmstore.bfi.org.uk/acatalog/info\\_23714.html](http://filmstore.bfi.org.uk/acatalog/info_23714.html)

In December the CMF will publish its first Yearbook, which will give an overview of what has been going on in the world of children's media in 2012 and anticipate the issues and events of 2013.

Like all similar organisations we need funding and are looking for supporters. We are particularly grateful to our Founder Patrons who include Anne Wood, Philip Pullman and Russell T Davies.

Support for the CMF can take several forms and details are available here <http://www.thechildrensmediafoundation.org/wordpress/my-membership-options-page>. If you care about the media choices available to your children or grandchildren, we would welcome your contribution to our discussions, and your support.

Over time we plan to co-operate with other organisations with similar concerns, such as the VLV, to organise events and debates. We keep in close contact with the VLV through Lewis Rudd who is a VLV Board member and a member of our Executive Committee.



**The Children's Media  
FOUNDATION**

We realise these are early days, but we very much hope to build this new organisation into something sustainable, which will make a real difference in the future.

[www.thechildrensmediafoundation.org](http://www.thechildrensmediafoundation.org)

## CHILDREN'S RADIO

Baroness Warnock - Chair of the Sound Start Group, whose supporters include VLV member Susan Stranks, has written to George Entwistle saying "Successive government reports show increasing numbers of children arriving at school unable to listen, concentrate or express themselves, which greatly hinders their social, educational and working lives. This poverty of language is a serious concern and we believe radio can play a key role in improving things."

## DIGITAL UPDATE - SWITCHOVER COMPLETED DIGITAL TELEVISION

For most VLV members the change from analogue to digital television TV reception happened a few years ago, London was one of the last regions to switch in the spring of 2012. However the switchover was only totally over when Northern Ireland completed its change on October 10 and 24. This was complicated by the need to ensure that some services from the Irish Republic could also be received.

However digital transmission and reception is not static. With analogue our reception remained the same for decades. Unfortunately we must be prepared to retune our TV sets regularly as digital transmission is moved around the spectrum. Some receivers will do this automatically.

## DIGITAL RADIO

You may be excused for thinking this has gone very quiet but much has been happening. It is government policy that a switch to mostly digital transmission of radio cannot begin until:

- 50% of all radio listening is via digital platforms; and
- when national DAB coverage is comparable to FM, and local DAB reaches 90% of the population and all major roads.

At this point the Government will announce a date when the change will take place. The Government and some commentators consider this could be as soon as 2016. An important monitoring report was published in October - *Ofcom's third annual digital [radio] progress report*. Some key points:

- The BBC has been working very hard building and installing digital radio transmitters and BBC digital services now reach 94% of homes
- Local radio is behind with only 66% coverage. An agreement has been reached to fund more transmitters
- By June 2012, RAJAR data (the industry funded survey of listening patterns) show that almost three in ten (29.5%) of all radio listening hours were to services delivered over a digital platform. This is just a 3.6% increase over a year
- Only 30% of radio sets purchased in the last year can receive digital radio broadcasts and 50% of the non digital radio owners have no intention of buying one in the next year
- However, whilst only 65% of digital listening is via a radio, many use online or digital devices or TVs.

As the Ofcom statistics present such a mixed picture VLV is sceptical that not even the Government's trigger for a move to digital

transmission will be reached any time soon. Along with many consumer organisations we do not accept the 50% trigger as by then it will be the most vulnerable and most dependent on radio that will not have switched.

"Radio is a vital element in the lives of many citizens of the nations and regions of the UK. The switch from analogue to digital will be a major change for the medium. The switchover should only happen when listeners have sufficient confidence in the change. Implicit should be the evidence that consumers have adopted the new technology in the numbers similar to those that had converted to digital television when switchover began. This figure must be for listeners, not households. A plan using 50% as the trigger is too fast and will risk alienating all strata of society, whilst putting at risk a well trusted media that is vital to many of the most vulnerable and isolated of our fellow citizens." (*VLV evidence to House of Lords Communications Select Committee 2010*).

## NEW CEO OF BBC WORLDWIDE

**John Smith** has announced that he is to step down as CEO, BBC Worldwide, after eight years of record growth. Under Smith's



leadership, the BBC's commercial arm has grown into a major global media company,

doubling its revenue, growing profits four-fold, almost tripling margins and returning more than £1.3 billion to the BBC.

Following Smith's decision to leave BBC Worldwide, BBC Director-General George Entwistle



announced that **Tim Davie**, the BBC's Director of Audio & Music, will succeed Smith as CEO of BBC Worldwide from 1 December 2012.

## Investment in UK content

According to a COBA report (Commercial Broadcasters Association), multichannel broadcasters invested £623m in UK TV content last year, an increase of 31% year on year from 2010.

**BROADCASTING A BETTER SOCIETY?  
THE FUTURE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE MEDIA**  
**The Jocelyn Hay Voice of the Viewer & Listener  
Lecture Series** has been set up in recognition of our President Jocelyn Hay's great pioneering campaigning over 30 years to safeguard public service broadcasting and to ensure that the voices of consumers, citizens, viewers and listeners have been heard at the highest level.

**Sir Stuart Etherington** delivered the inaugural lecture on Monday 22 October. He was appointed Chief Executive of NCVO in 1994. NCVO is a membership organisation that represents the interests of charities and voluntary bodies with over 8,500 members. Previously he was Chief Executive of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People. Throughout his career he has been involved in the leadership of voluntary organisations and policies surrounding them.

He explored three key developments in society: the power of the media saying that the effects of disproportionate ownership of the media are dangerous: the proliferation of online media platforms and the emerging opportunities of local television and community media. He said "In my time I have worked in many voluntary organisations and have seen how the media can give organisations the chance to explain and promote their work. The benefits are numerous, including appeals for donations and support and the recruitment of volunteers. Most importantly, the media offers a platform to give a voice to those who may otherwise not be heard.

But of course, there is also a dark side to both the media and civil society. The Leveson inquiry highlighted poor practice and shook public trust and confidence in many media institutions. And media echo chambers or single-issue campaign groups can damage the exchange of ideas. There are likely to be very damaging consequences if the activities of either civil society or the media are based on the views of a few."

He quoted the Department of Education's definition of citizenship which "encourages people to take an interest in topical and controversial issues and to engage in discussion and debate".

He said that as an educational activity, community media could skill-up citizens by improving media literacy. Inspiration can be drawn from the Media Trust's Community Voices Project, which distributes start-up funding from the Nominet Trust to fund volunteer mentors, training and outreach support to help communities find their voice. If done well, this can create employment and training opportunities in local areas.



L to r: Sir Stuart Etherington, Sue MacGregor and Colin Browne

In summary Sir Stuart said he believed " that civil society and the media are vital cornerstones of a healthy democracy. We have a common cause and when we work together, we are at our best. As I have highlighted this evening, to enable this to happen, we must address the inequalities of media ownership and ensure its power is harnessed for good.

"We need to assess and embrace the positive opportunities of online media, whilst being mindful of its potential pitfalls. And we need to rise to the challenge of the localism agenda and innovate with more local and community media.

"If we strengthen the relationship between civil society and the media, together we can drive for more philanthropic activity. Together we can increase public trust and confidence in charities and media institutions. And most importantly, together we can give a voice to all citizens. A voice to hold the Government to account. And a voice that speaks out on the issues affecting all of our lives."

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#### **BBC RADIO 4 LISTENERS - CAN YOU HELP?**

Patrick Weir, a PhD Researcher from Exeter University is asking for your help. His project is looking to engage with regular listeners to BBC Radio 4 and to allow them the space to talk about how this unique element of British cultural life affects them in their everyday lives. He will be focussing on Radio 4's flagship foreign news elements, primarily in the *Today Programme*, *PM*, *From Our Own Correspondent* and *Crossing Continents*. He wants to go beyond existing audience research studies, allowing participants to express in their own words: how foreign news presented across Radio 4 affects them as listeners; their perceptions and images of the world which may be reinforced or challenged and their emotional responses to what are often difficult and troubling stories. The research will include interviews, reflection journals and a web forum. If you are interested please contact directly Patrick Weir, PhD Researcher – Geography, C 364 Amory Building, Rennes Drive, University of Exeter EX4 6RJ or email [Pw277@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:Pw277@exeter.ac.uk).

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

DCMS has announced the appointments of **Dr Carol Bell** and **Aled Eirug** as Board Members of the **S4C Authority**.

Maria Miller has appointed Prince's Foundation head of communications **Joanna Hindley** as her special adviser. She ran the Conservative broadcast team for the last general election.

**Sir Peter Bazalgette** has been appointed as Chair of Arts Council England in succession to Dame Liz Forgan.

**Simon Albury** is stepping down as Chief Executive of the Royal Television Society after 12 years. **Claire Price** is presently Acting Chief Executive.

## NEWS IN BRIEF - From the BBC

The BBC has launched mobile downloads for BBC iPlayer. It is possible to download BBC content directly to your iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch for free and keep them to enjoy for up to 30 days. This service will be rolled out for android users soon.

After 14 years closed for business, the **BBC's Radiophonic Workshop** is set to reopen. The original workshop, founded in 1958, created the theme tunes for programmes including Doctor Who and Blake's 7, and became widely renowned as a pioneer in the electronic sounds industry. The new workshop will be online-based at The Space, the new ACE / BBC digital arts service.

## From Channel Four

Channel 4 has announced an exciting slate of ambitious original drama for the coming months, including new political thrillers (*Secret State*, *Complicit*) and teen dramas (*My Mad Fat Diary*, *Youngers*) from new and returning writing, directing and acting talent.

Channel 4 has partnered with Cancer Research UK to bring 'Stand Up to Cancer' to Britain – a fundraising campaign to help fund scientific research to find cures for cancer. On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October, Channel 4 aired a night of live TV entertainment that gave the public an opportunity to donate and help raise funding for clinical research in the UK.

## LOCAL TELEVISION LICENCES

Ofcom has awarded the first licences to run local TV services for digital terrestrial TV (DTT) channels in Bristol, Cardiff, Norwich, Brighton, Grimsby, Nottingham, Belfast and Sheffield.

## MEET TONI CHARLTON

Toni is VLV's new Honorary Treasurer and was co-opted onto the VLV Board in the summer. You can read more about her on page 2.



## Channel 4 and Sky

Sky customers will soon enjoy greater flexibility over how they enjoy the best of Channel 4. Following an agreement between the two companies, a range of Channel 4's linear channels and its on-demand-service 4oD are set to be made available across Sky's digital platforms.

**Ofcom** has published the first bi-annual **report for 2012 on the provision of television access services** (subtitling, signing and audio description) by broadcasters under the Code on Television Access Services from January to June 2012.

## Analogue switch off means end of CEEFAX

**Ceefax** was launched in September 1974 to give BBC viewers the chance to check the latest news headlines, sports scores, weather forecast or TV listings - in a pre-internet era where the only alternative was to wait for the next TV or radio news bulletin to be aired.

Ceefax had initially been developed when BBC engineers, exploring ways to provide subtitles to enable viewers with hearing problems to enjoy BBC TV programmes, found it was possible to transmit full pages of text information in the "spare lines" transmitted on the analogue TV signal. The BBC then appointed the late journalist Colin McIntyre, its former UN correspondent and chief publicity officer, as the first editor of the news and information service which was broadcast using the same method.

It was called **Ceefax**, simply because viewers would be able to quickly "see the facts" of any story of the day. Its audience peaked in the 1990s when it had 20 million viewers who checked the service at least once a week.

## THE VLV 2012 APPEAL

The VLV Board and the Trustees of VoLT would like to thank you all for your generous contributions to the VLV 2012 Appeal which has currently raised just over £15,500. As ever VLV needs your support. If you are able to contribute to the Appeal do please make your cheque payable to VLV Ltd and send it to VLV, P O Box 401, Gravesend DA12 9FY or download a donation form from the website at [www.vlv.org.uk](http://www.vlv.org.uk). Thank you so much.

## Advertisements

Please refer to VLV when responding to advertisements. VLV Ltd cannot accept any liability or complaint in regard to the following offers. The charge for classified ads is 30p per word, 20p for members. Please send typed copy with a cheque payable to VLV Ltd. For display space please contact Linda Forbes on 01474 338711.



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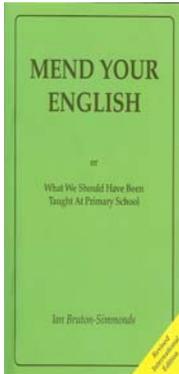
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## Autumn Competition



Win a copy of **Michael Palin's** book of his new series on **Brazil** by answering the following question. On which novel is BBC One's **The Paradise** based and who wrote it? Replies on a postcard to: Autumn Competition, VLV, PO Box 401, Gravesend, Kent DA12 9FY or by email to: [info@vlv.org.uk](mailto:info@vlv.org.uk) by **15 January 2013**. The Editor's decision is final. The Summer Competition was won by Ruth Clark from London SW14.



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**FOCUSES ON THE BBC**

## Letters to the Editor

Letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Association and may be shortened for publication. **Deadline for next issue: 15 January 2013.** Write, fax or e-mail your letters to the Editor at: [info@vlv.org.uk](mailto:info@vlv.org.uk) and confirm you are happy for your letter to be published.



VLV is now on Twitter!  
[@vlvuk](https://twitter.com/vlvuk)

## Diary Dates

**Monday, 26 November 2012**  
10.30 - 3.30 pm

### VLV's 29th Annual Autumn Conference

**In a Brave New World? Moving towards a White Paper**  
*The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1*

Keynote speaker: **Lord Patten of Barnes CH**, Chairman, BBC Trust  
 The BBC - some reflections 18 months into the job. Chaired by **Raymond Snoddy**

Other speakers include **Tim Suter, Professor Steven Barnett** and **Helen Keefe** (see page 1)

Presentation of **VLV Student Essay 2012 Competition** prizes by **Roger Graef**

**The 12th Annual General Meeting of Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd** will be held at 3.45 pm on **26 November 2012** at The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1. Nominations and resolutions should be sent to the Honorary Secretary at PO Box 401, Gravesend, DA12 9FY, no fewer than three and not more than 21 days before the AGM.

**The VLV Members' Forum** will follow the AGM immediately until 5.00 pm

For tickets and enquiries please call **Linda Forbes** on **01474 338711** or email: [linda.forbes@vlv.org.uk](mailto:linda.forbes@vlv.org.uk) or visit [www.vlv.org.uk](http://www.vlv.org.uk)



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