



**Voice of the
Listener & Viewer**

Bulletin

Working for Quality and Diversity in Broadcasting

Winter 2007/2008

Issue 91

The Future for Broadcast News in a Broadband/Digital Environment

VLV's 25th Annual Spring Conference

Wednesday, 23 April 10.15am – 4.00pm

The Royal Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London SW1

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Helen Boaden, Director of BBC News
Dorothy Byrne, Head of Channel 4 News and Current Affairs
Simon Bucks, Assistant Editor, Sky News
Clive Edwards, Executive Editor, BBC Television
Ceri Thomas, Editor of Radio 4's Today
Kevin Sutcliffe, Editor of Channel 4's Dispatches
Roger Graef, Chief Executive, Films of Record
Nigel Chapman, Director, BBC World Service
Hosam El Sakkari, Head of Arabic Services, BBC World Service
ITV News & Tonight, tbc
are among leading commissioners and editors who will speak at VLV's 25th annual spring conference in London on 23rd April.

Among the issues they will consider will be the impact on the quality, range, traditional scheduling and delivery of news and current affairs programmes in the post-switchover broadband/digital environment.

VLV believes that free access to impartial, high quality news is essential for an informed and active citizenship; a central plank of British democracy. Now, as rolling news services and new forms of delivery make it possible for people to access a variety of news sources at times of their own choosing, traditional bulletins and



Helen Boaden



Simon Bucks

investigative reporting are under threat. Staff and resources have been cut at BBC News. ITV has reduced its coverage of the nations and regions. Channel 4 has bravely increased its output of current affairs in the past two years but will it be able to maintain its quality and range in the face of a predicted future funding deficit? Sky provides a highly respected news service but bears no obligation either to continue it or to maintain its present broad agenda. So what does the future hold for news and current affairs? This conference will provide a unique opportunity to explore the options



Dorothy Byrne



Ceri Thomas

- Conference starts at 10.30am (coffee and registration from 10.15am).
- Session one will look at Reporting the Nations & Regions, the UK and World Events.
- Session two at 11.45am, at the Role and Future for Current Affairs.
- Session three at 3pm at the World Service and Reporting the World to the World.



Nigel Chapman

For more information please contact
linda.forbes@vlv.org.uk
Call: 01474 352835
or visit: www.vlv.org.uk

Broadcasting, Scotland and the Future?

The Scottish Storytelling Centre,
43-45 High Street, Edinburgh
Thursday 1 May 2008, 2pm



The Scottish Broadcasting Commission is examining the current state of television production and broadcasting in Scotland with the aim of defining a strategic way forward for the industry. The

Commission is looking at the economic, cultural and democratic importance of broadcasting to contemporary Scotland and is due to present its final report in Summer 2008. But what do viewers and listeners want from broadcasting in and for Scotland? How might news and current affairs contribute to a better informed and engaged Scottish electorate, especially among young adults. Voice of the Listener & Viewer – Young and Old- asks what the future holds.

Keynote speaker Blair Jenkins (photo above), Chair, Scottish Broadcasting Commission

For more information and tickets, please contact the VLV office or Dr Matthew Hibberd, Department of Film, Media & Journalism, University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA.

STOP PRESS

VLV Evening Seminar with the Culture Secretary Postponed from 4 March

VLV members will be aware that we had arranged with the former Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, The Right Hon James Purnell MP to speak at a VLV evening seminar at The Palace of Westminster on 4 March.

The invitation has been transferred to the new Secretary of State the Right Hon Andy Burnham MP.

However as we go to press we are unable to confirm the new date.

Please watch the VLV website or telephone the office for details: 01474 352835.

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Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Working for Quality and Diversity in British Broadcasting

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(reg charity 296207)
VLV's sister charity
which supports VLV's educational work
Acting Chairman: Professor Sylvia Harvey
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VLV office hours:

9.30am - 5.00pm Mon-Thurs

Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd (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 in broadcasting. VLV does not handle complaints.

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Website: www.vlv.org.uk

Changes at the Top

Some 50 members attended the 5th Annual General Meeting of Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd at the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1, on Thursday, 29th November 2007 at 4.00pm, following the autumn conference.

The chairman's and treasurer's reports were accepted and there were no special resolutions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Graeme Colin Thompson, who had served as Honorary Treasurer since 2002, was due to retire, having completed two terms in office, and wished to do so. A warm vote of thanks was passed for the help he had given VLV during his tenure. Hugh Peltor was appointed Honorary Treasurer in his place.



Dr Matthew Hibberd

Jocelyn Hay, Honorary Chairman, having been elected in 2006 for two years, was not due to stand down but gave notice that she wished to do so during the coming year.

There were three vacancies on the Board to which Laurence Pawley and Lewis Rudd were unanimously appointed. At their subsequent meeting in January the Board co-opted Dr Matthew Hibberd (above) as VLV's representative in Scotland, replacing Robert Beveridge.



Lewis Rudd

Lewis Rudd MBE worked in ITV for more than 40 Years. He joined Granada as a graduate trainee after leaving Oxford, and then spent five years as a researcher and producer in Current Affairs (including This Week) at Rediffusion.

He subsequently was in charge of children's programmes at various companies, including Central Television and Carlton Television. His programmes included Magpie, Rainbow, Wozel Gummidge, and Wise Up. Lewis was also Executive Producer of the Glyndebourne operas and a number of peak-time dramas, including Goodnight, Mr Tom. He is a Fellow of the Royal Television Society, and has received lifetime achievement awards from the RTS and BAFTA. He and his wife Joan live in Wiltshire.

Laurence Pawley

Laurence Pawley is currently a doctoral candidate and undergraduate tutor at Goldsmiths College, University of London. His thesis (which is supported by the Economic and Social Research Council) seeks to perform an analysis of contemporary interventions in citizenship theory, and operates through a case study of policy and programming within the BBC. More specifically, this focuses on policy



documents such as Building Public Value, and the 2006 broadcast Manchester Passion. His thesis is the culmination of a long-standing interest in the relationship between the media and evolving ideas of citizenship and democracy, a focus of his work for the past few years. His other research interests include democratic theory, media regulation, and the politics of popular music.

Laurence worked with VLV as an intern in 2006 and 2007, and has contributed to several recent VLV documents and responses. These include VLV's responses to Ofcom's consultation document 'The Future of Radio', the House of Lords Select Committee inquiry into media ownership and news, and the BBC Trust's consultation on the BBC's public purposes and public service remits. He holds a BA in The Politics and Sociology of Contemporary Culture, and an MA in Cultural Politics. He lives in Essex.

Hugh Peltor CBE

Hugh Peltor served for 35 years in the Royal Navy, much of his early time in submarines when he commanded the diesel submarine HMS ACHERON and the Polaris submarine HMS RESOLUTION. Later he commanded the Guided Missile Destroyer HMS GLAMORGAN.



On his retirement in 1991 Hugh was appointed CBE and became Director of the British Radio and Electronic Equipment Manufacturers Association (BREMA), a London based trade association representing the consumer electronics industry. The promotion and development of digital technology for radio and television were the main priorities working with Government, the broadcasters, retail industry and the CBI. He spent much time in Brussels addressing trade policy and consumer protection issues. He retired in 2004.

Hugh is a Fellow of the Royal Television Society, a Younger Brother of Trinity House and President of the local Sea Cadet Unit. Doreen and he have been married 42 years, have three sons and three grandchildren and live in North West London.

Executive Director

Peter Blackman, who joined VLV as Executive Director in June 2006, left at the end of October 2007. His time with VLV covered the final stages of the granting of the new BBC Charter and the licence fee settlement, as well as VLV's campaign on the crisis in children's television. He continues to support the aims of VLV. We thank Peter for all he did for VLV and wish him well for the future.

VLV is advertising for a new Executive Director; applications should be sent to the Chairman, marked confidential, at the VLV Gravesend office in Gravesend. See page 5 for full details.

Letters to the Editor

Letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Association and may be shortened for publication.

THE BBC

Richard Lindley in an article about Panorama (7 Jan) made important points: not only did he reassure us that there is still hope for a creative and responsible future with this programme; he also cited a measurement – the AI or Appreciation Index – more usually kept secret, whose result in this case was extremely favourable. An average score he reports, of 79 for Panorama, is well above the average of other programme genres. This deserves particular congratulation given that the programme has attracted younger viewers, who have always been parsimonious in their Appreciation marking.

The BBC must of course look at "the ratings" (the audience sizes, by which the advertising marketers evaluate commercially broadcast programmes) but it must maximise "reach" and above all strive for Appreciation averages. What is more, this information should systematically be made available to the public and should thus influence how broadcasting is assessed across the board.

Mallory Wober PhD, London

How sad to read in your bulletin of the sale of the BBC Resources division – how can they possibly manage without it and does this mean buying in their needs which will entail more expense? Surely an organisation as large as the BBC would require this back-up and won't this now mean a watering down of the excellent programmes we have enjoyed? Economise at all costs but this seems to be a regressive cutback.

Freda Tomlin, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

HOW TO COMPLAIN

Roger Bolton on the Sunday 27th January 'Feedback' programme invited comments on the BBC Information Programme Team, including how to complain to the Management Board. Web and e-mail addresses were given and a telephone number should anyone wish to phone. The deadline for comment was 31st January.

I am amongst the over 50% of the UK population that is not computer literate. I have telephoned this number eight times over two days at various times. Each time I have heard: 'The number you called is busy!'

Maybe you will let me know how I can complain to the BBC Management Board? (Editors note – See panel below).

D V Wilson, Edinburgh

COMPLAINING TO THE BBC

Telephone: 08700 010 0222

Textphone: 08700 010 0212

Write to: BBC Complaints, PO Box 1922, Glasgow G2 3WT.

COMPLAINING TO OFCOM

Telephone: 020 7981 3000 or 030 123 3000

Textphone: 020 7981 3043 or 030 123 2024

Write to: Ofcom, Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA.

If you do not get satisfaction, we suggest you write directly to Sir Michael Lyons, Chairman of the BBC Trust, 35 Marylebone High Street, London W1U 4AA. Or to Lord Currie, Chairman of Ofcom, Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA.

FREEVIEW

Do you think that Freeview Digital subscribers such as me are gradually to receive fewer and fewer programmes? A few months ago 'Bright Ideas' disappeared from Freeview and then 'UK TV History' was reduced to the hours of 7am to 6pm for free viewers. Who are we to protest to?

Could you please let us have a telephone number as many of us do not have computers? Thank you for all that you do.

Daniel J. Knight, Middlesex

Editor's note: Unfortunately the satellite channels are commercially funded and depend on advertising for their viability. UK History was replaced by Dave after 6pm, a channel aimed at young male viewers. After one month it became the 10th most popular channel in the UK with an audience of more than three million. If you wish to complain about the change, however, you should contact: UK TV, Viewer Liaison, 160 Great Portland Street, London W1W 5QA. Or telephone: 0845 734 4355.

BBC iPLAYER

It is a problem that the PC version of the BBC iPlayer uses 'peer-to-peer' file sharing technology. The feature can be turned off, but I do think the BBC ought to come completely clean about this, state what they are doing up front, and let the user decide. Frankly, there is no benefit to the user that I can understand for allowing such bandwidth sharing. It is a very attractive mechanism for hackers to exploit and, should this be achieved, it could cost the BBC hugely in regards to loss of public trust. The BBC is running a big risk doing this.

Adrian Pickering, Southampton

VLV AUTUMN CONFERENCE

I'm so sorry I missed the Autumn Conference but good luck with all your current and future projects. Public Service broadcasting certainly needs as much support as we can give it.

Dr Paula Knight, London SE9

I am sorry I have not been able to attend meetings recently. I would very much have liked to hear what Sir Michael Lyons has to say and in particular to know why he and the Trust have been so weak in going along with the excuses the BBC have been making for long contracts and over-paying certain free-lance 'talent'. The Trust appear to be doing a PR job for the BBC

rather than being the 'voice of the customers' – by whose licence they all exist.

Leonard White, Sussex

AN EASY GUIDE TO DIGITAL

Can I recommend that readers who want to know more about digital take advantage of a free offer by 'Which'? Their 'Easy Guide to Digital TV' will answer many of our members' questions about current digital technology and what equipment to buy. It is free. You just need to call 'Which' on 0800 432 0022

Bob Fletcher, Ashford, Kent

Editor's note: We agree and recommend this most useful guide.

OFCOM AND LOCAL RADIO CONTENT

Following Ofcom's recent consultation on the future of radio, I would like to know what activities Ofcom has undertaken to understand citizen views on what constitutes 'fakery' in radio broadcasting, in terms of co-locating stations or broadcasting 'local' news from a remote news hub (without making this clear to listeners) networking programmes which are presented as though they are being locally produced, and automating programmes whilst giving the appearance that these are being presented live – and often at the same time inviting listener input which has no chance of being incorporated into the current broadcast. Ofcom's recent ruling on local content seems to have weakened rather than strengthening the previous rules.

Clive Johnson, by email.

Deadline for next issue:

1 April, 2008

Write, fax or e-mail your letters to the Editor at:
info@vlv.org.uk

Vacancy for Executive Director

Part-time, short term contract with potential for renewal

A small but highly influential campaigning body which represents the citizen and consumer interests in broadcasting and new media is seeking an experienced Executive Director to work with the Honorary Chairman and Board to develop the organisation and expand its services.

Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) is a non-charitable, private company limited by guarantee (registered no. 4407712). Some of VLV's charitable activities are supported by its sister charity, The Voice of the Listener Trust (registered no. 296207).

VLV holds up to a dozen public events on topical subjects each year in London, Wales and Scotland. It lobbies and campaigns on broadcasting issues, produces regular briefings and a quarterly news bulletin, and is in frequent touch with Government, MPs, broadcasters, regulators, academics and other consumer bodies.

The position is for three months in the first instance.

The Executive Director will be required to:

Support the Honorary Chairman and Board of Directors in the strategic and developmental management of the organisation; co-ordinate the company's external relationship programme and develop and execute strategies for fund-raising and membership recruitment across the UK.

Please send a CV to:

The Chairman, Voice of the Listener and Viewer Ltd, 101 Kings' Drive, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5BD and mark all applications confidential.

The successful candidate will require:

- Experience of managing volunteers and of working in the voluntary sector or for a membership organisation;
- Proven leadership, management, financial and administrative skills;
- Good communication skills, including excellent verbal and written English;
- The ability to mix easily with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds;
- An all-round knowledge of broadcasting would be an advantage but not essential.

Salary and hours negotiable.

The position is supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

VLV is an equal opportunities employer

New Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham was appointed Culture Secretary following the Cabinet re-shuffle in January. He replaced the Rt Hon James Purnell who became Secretary of State for Work and Pensions following the resignation of Peter Hain.



Mr Burnham was appointed the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in June 2007 after serving as Minister of State for Delivery and Reform at the Department of Health. He was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality at the Home Office from 2005 to 2006.

He was elected to Parliament in June 2001 as the MP for Leigh and has served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to David Blunkett at the Home Office, and to Ruth Kelly at the Department for Education and Skills. He was also a member of the Health Select Committee from 2001 to 2003.

Earlier in his career, Mr Burnham was Special Adviser to Chris (now Lord) Smith at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 1998, and later worked as a researcher for Lord Smith's successor Tessa Jowell MP. He was also Administrator for the Football Task Force.

Mr Burnham was educated in Merseyside and later gained an MA in English at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. He is 38, married to Marie-France van Heel and they have three children. He is an avid supporter of Leigh Centurions Rugby League Club and Everton Football Club.

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP

VLV's 2007 Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting



Howard Goodall will present VLV's 2007 Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting at 1.45pm during the Spring Conference on 23 April. The entries have been short-listed and the final voting forms enclosed with this

Bulletin provide a unique opportunity for members to reward those broadcasters and programme makers they value most. Make sure you use it!

Howard was the winner of VLV's Special Award for Educational Broadcasting introduced last year in memory of Naomi Sargant. He was also appointed Ambassador for Singing in 2007 to lead a £40 million programme to improve singing in primary schools.

Howard is a prolific composer, conductor and broadcaster whose music will be familiar to many through the theme tunes he has written for television shows such as Blackadder, Mr Bean, the Catherine Tate Show and the Vicar of Dibley, and from several series he presented on Channel including, most recently, How Music Works. His composition O Lord God, Time and Eternity was performed at the Service of Remembrance for the Iraq War at St Paul's Cathedral in 2003 and his Eternal Light: a Requiem will receive its world premiere at Sadlers' Wells Theatre later this year.

VLV Student Essay Competition 2008 in association with Channel 4

Subject: Do citizens and consumers need different things from their communications environment, or is this a meaningless distinction?

Broadcasting is changing rapidly: digital switchover is already under way, different forms of delivery are converging, a more competitive environment is threatening all the terrestrial broadcasters and more and more people are creating their own content through podcasts, webcasts, vlogs and blogs. How are these changes affecting the needs of citizens and consumers?

Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) invites entries for its 2008 Student Essay Competition, held in association with Channel 4, from students studying for a UK registered undergraduate or postgraduate degree or similar professional/academic qualifications.

Winning entrants at undergraduate and postgraduate levels will each receive a cash prize of £500. The two winners and the two runners-up will also each have the opportunity for two weeks' work experience with a leading television production company.

Entries can be submitted either as a written essay of up to 2,000 words or as a short video or radio feature of no more than 10 minutes in length.

Full details and an entry form, which must be completed, are available at www.vlv.org.uk or in writing, enclosing an sae, from VLV, 101 King's Drive, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5BQ. The closing date for entries is Friday, 30 May 2007. There is no entry fee.



The Future of Radio

Digital radio (DAB) was first launched in the UK by the BBC in 1995. When the first commercial licences were later advertised some companies invested heavily at local and national level. The take-up was relatively slow and many readers will have seen that GCap, one of the major investors, is now withdrawing from digital because it feels there is no future for DAB. More than 6 million people use DAB, however, and both the BBC and Channel 4 have said they will continue to support their DAB stations.

One of the problems is that Britain, which was a pioneer in DAB, continues to use the original technology. Other countries have moved on and the early sets will not work with the new systems.

If you are buying a DAB radio, therefore, be careful to check that it is future proof and can receive the new DAB2.

Editorial Comment – VLV contributing to three high level policy forums



The growing outside recognition of the work that VLV does in representing the interests of listeners and viewers as citizens and consumers is well reflected in the fact that VLV is now represented on three high level policy-making groups.

Almost exceptionally so, for at many of the meetings and conference attended by VLV, our people, surrounded by predominately paid trade and industry employees with more sectional interests to promote, are the only volunteers present to speak on behalf of those who actually use the services. It takes skill, experience and time, and we are extremely grateful for the generous way our volunteers undertake this work on behalf of 'ordinary' citizens and consumers without the backing of a large administrative staff.

NEW RADIO WORKING GROUP

The new Radio Working Group set up by the DCMS and Ofcom is a case in point. The RWG has just two consumer representatives, drawn from the CEG Ministerial Consumer Advisory Group on Digital

Switch-over, of which VLV has been a member (or of one of its predecessors) for more than 10 years. Leen Petrie of the RNIB and VLV Board member Robert Clark are outnumbered more than ten to one by industry representatives, yet the Group is officially described as 'This industry and consumer-based body'.

NEW CONVERGENCE THINK TANK

VLV has also been invited to join the Convergence Think Tank set up by the former Culture Secretary, James Purnell, just before he left the DCMS. The CTT's aim is 'to look at convergence and the possible impacts, challenges and opportunities that convergence may have for industry, consumers and citizens'. Professor Sonia Livingstone represents VLV and attended its first meeting on 7 February.

Sometimes members ask why we bother with these high policy activities – including at European level – when all they are interested in are the programmes. But we have to accept that unless we do, the funding and regulation that govern the kinds of programmes that get made and when they are scheduled, will be dictated solely by commercial interests. Much of the ethos of public service could be lost and many of those who, for reasons of poverty, remote location or disability,

are not able to access subscription or niche services, will be left only with those which target the most profitable audiences.

VLV'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

That's why, as we embark on our 25th year, I am so proud of what VLV has done and conscious of the challenges ahead. Some of our priorities in 2008 will be the future for public service broadcasting, continuing issues surrounding digital switch-over (for television and radio), the contribution that broadcasting makes to the arts and to children's lives, and for the need for every listener and viewer to be media literate if they are to reap the benefits that new technology is bringing. Our focus will be on all the terrestrial broadcasters, but on the BBC and Channel 4 in particular. Over the next five years, the future of the Corporation's licence fee funding and the status of Channel 4 are essentially at risk. We have a duty to defend them.

Jocelyn Hay

VLV involvement in public consultations

VLV has recently contributed to a number of consultations by Ofcom, the BBC Trust and the House of Lords Communications Committee and others.

- In December there was the consultation by the BBC Trust into the BBC's Online Services and Ofcom's consultation on the Future of Children's Television. VLV recommended that Ofcom should give a designated official responsibility for children's output and require satellite services targeting young British viewers to invest a percentage of their profits in original UK content.
- VLV submitted a response to the House of Lords Communications Committee's inquiry into Media ownership and News in December and in January Jocelyn Hay, Ivor Gaber and John Clark were invited to give oral evidence. They made a second submission in February.
- In January VLV responded to Ofcom's Consultation on the Future of Digital Terrestrial TV in the UK, saying that Ofcom was planning too early and too comprehensive a sell-off of analogue frequencies and that the transmission standards it was setting for High Definition television were too low.
- In February, VLV responded to the BBC Trust's consultation on the future of Gaelic Television and also to one on how the BBC handles complaints. VLV found the procedures generally acceptable but is concerned that there no longer seems to be a way to register complaints about technical standards and that the procedures for solving complaints are inadequate.

- VLV is engaged in responding to Ofcom's consultation on its Draft Annual Plan for 2008/9. We are concerned at the paucity of input from other civic organisations and at the lack of a clear statement from Ofcom on what it considers citizens' interests to be. VLV is again surprised to note the lack of information about the activities of the Content Board and recommends that it be given more power, including the power to intervene in programme matters such as news, media ownership and children's programmes.
- VLV is currently preparing submissions on the future of broadcasting and the creative industries in Scotland to the Scottish Broadcasting Commission and to the European Commission on the Application of State Aid Rules to Public Service Broadcasting, which could affect the future funding of the BBC via the licence fee.

Copies of VLV responses are available on its website www.vlv.org.uk or in return for a large SAE.

Freesat to be Launched in the Spring

As members will know, VLV has been campaigning since 2004 for a genuinely free-to-air digital satellite service along the lines of Freeview, the digital terrestrial television (DTT) service. We are therefore delighted to hear that Freesat, the new free-to-air digital satellite television service is to be launched by the BBC and ITV in the spring. It will also include Channel 4, Five, S4C and many other commercial and public service channels, including radio. It will be available to viewers across the UK but of particular benefit to those who are outside the present range of DTT's Freeview. Freesat's other advantage is that it will have much greater capacity for interactivity and the bandwidth necessary for high definition (HD) programming, now becoming so popular.

We hope to have more details in the next Bulletin but for the latest information please visit the Freesat website: www.freesat.co.uk.

If you're buying a new TV set...

...make sure you get one that is able to receive digital services by looking for the digital tick. Also make sure it's High Definition (HD) ready.

And check that it's energy efficient with Ricability, the Consumer Research Centre, which has tested more than 100 digital appliances for energy efficiency and value for money. Visit www.ricability-digitaltv.org.uk.

The difference for stand-by power usage varies hugely on different models – from 0.2 watts per hour to 3.86 watts on some digital TV sets and between 1.53 watts and 15.2 watts on set-top boxes.



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 advertisements is 30p per word, 20p for members. Please send typed copy with a cheque made payable to VLV Ltd. For display space please contact Linda Forbes on 01474 352835.



VLV Gift Membership

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Voice of the Listener Trust invites you to enjoy

Leonard Bernstein and the Joy of Music

Presented by Emmy Award-winning producer and director **Rodney Greenberg**

A multimedia presentation celebrating the dynamic Leonard Bernstein and his glittering career on Broadway. Featuring videos, recordings, piano solos and songs from 'West Side Story'.

With

The BBC Elstree Concert Band conducted by Andrew Morley

Sunday 9 March 2008 at 3pm

BBC Maida Vale Studios, Delaware Rd, London W9 2LG

by kind permission of the BBC.
Nearest tube stations Maida Vale or Warwick Avenue

Tickets £12 (£5 under 15s) from linda.forbes@vlv.org.uk or phone 01474 352835 or on the door.



Diary Dates

Tuesday, 4 March

VLV Evening Seminar with Culture Secretary - postponed (new date tbc)

Sunday, 9 March

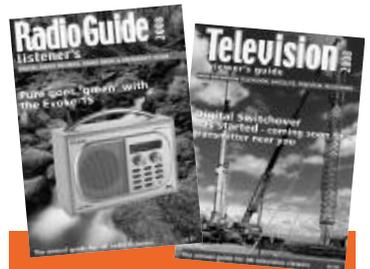
Leonard Bernstein & the Joy of Music, a presentation by Rodney Greenberg with the BBC Elstree Concert Band in aid of The Voice of the Listener Trust
BBC Maida Vale Studios, London W9 3 - 5pm

Wednesday, 23 April

VLV 25th Spring Conference: The Future for Broadcast News in a Broadband/Digital Environment
Royal Geological Society, Piccadilly, London SW1
10.15 - 4pm

Thursday, 1 May

Broadcasting, Scotland and the Future?
The Scottish Storytelling Centre
43 - 45 High Street, Edinburgh
2 - 5pm



THE RADIO LISTENER'S GUIDE 2008 & THE TELEVISION VIEWER'S GUIDE 2008

ORDERING DETAILS

The guides cost £5.95 each - (plus p&tp). Please make your cheques payable to *Radio Listener's Guide*, and send them to:

Radio Listener's Guide, PO Box 888 Plymouth PL8 1YJ

Winter Competition

Monty Don - Around the World in 80 Gardens

This book to accompany his landmark ten part BBC2 series covers visits to each continent and includes the unique floating gardens of the Amazon, modest domestic gardens in Havana and Bali, Monet's world-famous Giverny, the tropical planting traditions of Thailand and gardens in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan.

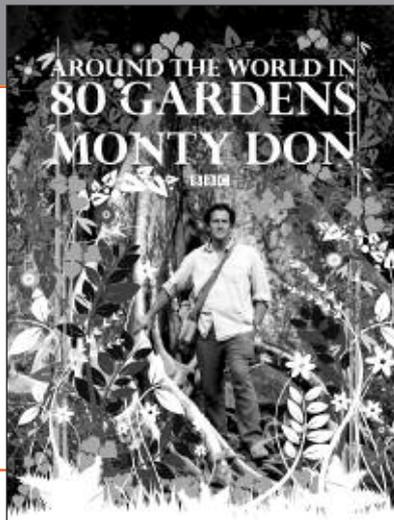
Published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson General (Jan 2008) RRP £20.00

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Which ancient garden is included in the '7 Wonders of the World'?

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