

PRESS RELEASE: embargoed to 00.01, 2 June 2015

Voice of the Listener & Viewer Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting 2014

***Strictly Come Dancing, Downton Abbey, Springwatch, Countryfile, The News Quiz, Composer of the Week* and BBC World Service honoured by VLV members**

Professor Brian Cox, Neil McGregor, Martha Kearney and Gillian Reynolds pick up awards

Martha Kearney and Professor Brian Cox were voted radio and TV contributors of the year by VLV members and radio critic Gillian Reynolds awarded the VLV Trustees' special award for her contribution to public service broadcasting over many years.

Other distinguished broadcasters receiving awards today at the VLV's Spring Conference in London include presenters Michael Mosley and Neil MacGregor. In a change from previous years programme awards have been voted for by genre. Winning TV programmes include favourites such as *Strictly Come Dancing, Downton Abbey, Countryfile* and *Newsround*. Winning radio programmes include *The News Quiz, Composer of the Week* and *Germany: memories of a nation*. Digital TV Station of the Year was BBC News HD and Digital Radio Station of the Year BBC World Service.

Now in their 23rd year the **Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting** are especially valued by their recipients. VLV Chairman Colin Browne said: "The wide range of nominations proposed by our members illustrate the tremendous quality and diversity to be found in UK broadcasting. Winners tell us they particularly value these awards as they are chosen by the people who really matter - engaged listeners and viewers."

This year the categories have been slightly changed to reflect the changing media landscape.

The VLV is delighted that Arqiva has supported three new awards - for Digital Free to Air TV Channel of the Year, Digital Radio Station of the Year and for the Most Innovative Contribution to the Use of Digital Media. The VLV Roberts Radio Award goes to Neil MacGregor for his landmark series *Germany: memories of a nation* and his *History of the World in 100 Objects*, both on BBC Radio 4.

The awards will be presented by James Naughtie at a ceremony during VLV's Spring Conference at the Geological Society in London, Tuesday 2 June 2015.

The full list of awards is:

VLV Awards (nominated and voted for by VLV members)

Radio

Best Radio Drama and Comedy Programme: *The News Quiz*, BBC Radio 4

Best Radio Factual Programme: *Germany: Memories of a Nation*, BBC Radio 4

Best Radio Music and Arts Programme: *Composer of the Week*, BBC Radio 3

Best individual contribution to Radio: Martha Kearney

VLV Arqiva Digital Radio Station of the Year: BBC World Service

Television

Best TV Drama Programme: *Downton Abbey*, ITV

Best TV Factual Programme: *Countryfile*, BBC One

Best TV Children's Programme: *Newsround*, CBBC

Best TV Entertainment Programme: *Strictly Come Dancing*, BBC One

Best Individual Contribution to Television: Professor Brian Cox OBE

VLV Arqiva Digital free to air TV Channel Station of the Year: BBC News Channel HD

VLV Special Awards in the gift of the VLV Trustees, Roberts Radio and Arqiva

The VLV Naomi Sargent Award: Michael Mosley

The VLV Naomi Sargent Educational Award is named after the distinguished adult educator who believed passionately in life-long learning. Naomi Sargent was Vice Chancellor of the Open University and Channel 4's first commissioning editor for educational programmes. This year the award goes to Michael Mosley who, as a science producer worked with presenters who ranged from Lord Winston to Jeremy Clarkson. More recently, as a presenter of medical programmes, he has submitted himself to research which revealed that he shares characteristics with psychopaths, and has popularized the 5.2 diet.

The VLV Arqiva Most Innovative Contribution to the Use of Digital Media: *Springwatch*

The Special Award has been selected jointly by Arqiva and the VLV Trustees. It goes to BBC Two's *Springwatch* which, together with its sister programmes *Autumnwatch* and *Winterwatch*, makes extensive use of social media, the Red Button, live webcams, linked websites reaching out beyond the live programmes so that people can learn and engage beyond transmission. The programme's Facebook page has recorded 172,000 'likes' and they have 119,000 followers on Twitter. They also make good use of Flickr, Instagram and Soundcloud.

The VLV Robert Radio Special Award (in the gift of Roberts Radio):

Neil MacGregor OM, AO, FSA

The VLV Roberts Radio Special Award has been won this year by the retiring British Museum Director Neil Macgregor for his outstanding radio series *Germany: memories of a nation* and his *History of the World in 100 Objects*.

The VLV Special Trustees Award: Gillian Reynolds MBE

The VLV Special Award, awarded by the Trustees, goes this year to journalist and broadcaster Gillian Reynolds MBE in recognition of her support for the concept of public service broadcasting and of course in particular for radio. Radio critic of *The Daily Telegraph* since 1975, she previously held the same post at *The Guardian* for seven years. In between these two jobs she was the first programme controller of Radio City in Liverpool. She has also been a great supporter of the VLV since it started in 1983.

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Notes to Editors

[Read the full conference programme here](#)

[Read nominations for awards here](#)

Journalists are welcome to attend the conference. For a media pass, please contact Sue Washbrook on sue.washbrook@vlv.org.uk or call 01474 338716

Further information from Colin Browne on colin@colinbrowne.com

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For all general press and media enquiries please call:

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Notes to Editors

1. The Voice of the Listener & Viewer's 32nd Spring conference takes place on Tuesday 2 June 2015 at The Geological Society in Piccadilly, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BG from 10.30 am to 3.45 pm.
2. The Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) is an independent, non-profit-making membership association, free from political, commercial and sectarian affiliations, working for quality and diversity in British broadcasting content. VLV represents the interests of listeners and viewers as citizens and consumers across the full range of broadcasting issues. VLV is concerned with the structures, regulation, funding and institutions that underpin the British broadcasting system. VLV is a charitable company limited by guarantee.
3. For 30 years VLV has played a unique role in keeping a citizen's eye on major legislative proposals and action taken by regulators and broadcasters, enabling the voice of consumers to be heard, independently from the interests of political parties, industry players and other pressure groups.
4. VLV is run by a board of Trustees, chaired by Colin Browne. Dame Colette Bowe is its newly appointed President. She succeeds Jocelyn Hay, who founded VLV in 1983, its president until her death in 2014.