



Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Working for Quality and Diversity in Broadcasting

Summer 2012

Bulletin Issue 108

SHOCK THREAT TO TV VIEWING FOR MILLIONS FROM GOVERNMENT MOBILE BROADBAND PROPOSALS

So said VLV's press release about the Government's proposal to sell frequencies currently used for digital terrestrial television to mobile phone companies, with the aim of improving 'on-the-move' internet and telecoms access. Nearly a million households throughout the UK, who get their TV signal via DTT - Freeview, the free non-subscription service - are likely to face severe interference or even blank screens. The number could rise to more than two million through population movements into affected areas or more consumers choosing Freeview.

Most householders are completely unaware that if they happen to live within 2km of one of these new 4G masts, then they will experience either vision loss or fragmented picture quality on their screens. VLV has contributed to the debate by submitting evidence to Ofcom and is working with other interested parties. It now appears from a letter from Ed Vaizey MP, Culture, Creative Industries and Communications Minister, to Ofcom's Ed Richards that the proposed spectrum auction will be started in September and no further funds will be made available for mitigation.

VLV has studied the Government's plans in detail and feels that the long-established tradition of 'free-to-air' broadcasting - funded by the licence fee - which governments of all persuasions have supported in the past, will be broken if these proposals become a reality.

The Government is proposing to set aside £180m to help adversely affected households. But this is a short-term scheme only and will be run by the companies who win in the 4G frequency/spectrum auction in the autumn. We estimate that the money set aside is quite inadequate to deal with the problem, and we question the ethical and legal propriety of licensing new services when it is known in advance that these will adversely affect existing TV viewers. *(contd on page 3)*

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VLV'S 29th ANNUAL AUTUMN CONFERENCE

IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD? Moving towards a White Paper

Monday 26 November 2012
The Royal Geological Society, London W1
10.30 to 3.30 pm VLV AGM at 4.00 pm

VLV is delighted that **Lord Patten of Barnes CH**, Chairman of the BBC Trust, will be the keynote speaker at our 29th Autumn Conference on Monday 26 November. Broadcaster and journalist **Ray Snoddy** will chair the session.



By then there will be a new Director-General of the BBC in post - George Entwistle, recently appointed by Lord Patten and the Trust; BBC Radio will be celebrating 90 years of broadcasting - and we will still be debating the issues raised by the DCMS seminars *(see page 3)* and consequent responses before the Government's planned publication of the Communications Bill White Paper in early 2013.

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. Watch VLV's website and e-newsletters for further details.



Winners of VLV's Excellence in Broadcasting Awards 2011 (see page 6)
(Photo: Richard Gardner, Rex Features)



Voice of the Listener & Viewer

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which supports some of VLV's educational work.
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VLV Office:

PO Box 401, Gravesend DA12 9FY
Tel: 01474 338711 / 01474 338716
Fax: 01474 325440
e-mail: info@vlv.org.uk

Office Hours: 9.30 am -5.00 pm Monday-Thursday

Dinah Garrett: Managing Consultant
Linda Forbes: Conference & Events Secretary.
Sue Washbrook: Membership/ Board & Trust Administrator.

Website: 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.

Registered Address: Unit 9, The Old Rectory Business Centre, Springhead Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8HN.

The Bulletin is edited by Dinah Garrett and published by Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd, a not-for-profit private company limited by guarantee (registered in England no 4407712).

ISSN 1475-2948



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We welcome George Entwistle to the daunting challenge of his appointment as the BBC's new Director-General. In September he will replace Mark Thompson, who has steered the Corporation through some very difficult times over the past eight years. VLV wishes Mark well as he hands on to his successor, along with the BBC Trust, the precious task of negotiating the renewal of the Royal Charter and of safeguarding the future of the Corporation beyond 2016. By way of what may be a good omen, we

remember the support Goerge gave to the arts and sciences when he addressed VLV members a few years ago.

Meantime the Government's shelving of the promised Green Paper on Communications in favour of a spring White Paper is deeply disturbing. An open process of public consultation will, it seems, be replaced by the presentation of preferred new policies from a Government neither in listening mode nor particularly sympathetic to the consumer cause. A testing situation for which VLV is now preparing. This involves, in part, adding to the Board's range of skills, contacts and resources; so I would like to extend a warm welcome to Colin Browne and Wendy Jones, whom the VLV Directors have co-opted on to the Board.

May I also thank you all for your continuing support at this time of unprecedented change and turmoil. VLV and its work will become even more important once the White Paper is eventually published, for without adequate funding the independence of the BBC and future of public service broadcasting as a whole could both be at risk.

Captain Hugh Peltor CBE RN (Rtd)



It is with great sorrow that I report the death on 10 June of VLV's Honorary Treasurer, Hugh Peltor. Hugh was Director of the British Radio & Electronic Equipment Manufacturers Association (BREMA) when I first met him. Debates about the viability of digital terrestrial television and radio were at their height and he was keen to protect the interests of consumers in addition to those of the manufacturers. This involved both of us in many trips to Brussels and I soon came to respect his expert advice. It

was a time of change for BREMA, during which he steered it skillfully through a merger with another trade association to form the new body Intellect.

After the merger in 2004 he retired and I was delighted when he accepted my invitation to join VLV to use the knowledge and skills he had gained at BREMA, as well as his special personal qualities, for us and for the wider public interest. Shortly afterwards he agreed to take on the task of Treasurer of VLV and two years later the role of Treasurer of The Voice of the Listener Trust, an invaluable, utterly reliable lynchpin between the Board and Trust. As Treasurer Hugh was not only involved in setting up the 2012 Appeal but also in establishing and chairing VLV's Finance and General Purposes Committee. He was also a keen and expert member of VLV's Digital Radio Group.

Hugh was unfailingly courteous and helpful in everything he did and so unassumingly modest that it was only when he joined the VLV Board that I learned about his very distinguished 35 year career in the Royal Navy. Most of the early years he spent in submarines, where he first commanded the diesel submarine, *HMS Acheron*, and then the Polaris nuclear submarine *HMS Resolution*. After leaving *Resolution* he commanded the guided missile destroyer *HMS Glamorgan*. He retired as a Captain in 1991 at the age of 52 and was awarded the CBE. I am sure his calm and confident approach to problems gave him the ideal temperament for these highly stressful jobs.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences go to his three sons, Aidan, William and Edward and their families, as they do to the many other organisations with which he was involved: The Submariners' Association, Trinity House, his local Sea Cadets and other naval charities. For us at VLV Hugh was very special, and we will sorely miss him.

THE GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW - DCMS POLICY SEMINARS

A key policy initiative for the DCMS has been a new Communications Act to take into account the major changes since the 2003 legislation. The consultation has been unusual. In May 2011 the Secretary of State issued a brief open letter setting out his views and asked for comments prior to a Green Paper. After a wait of over a year the open process of a Green Paper available for comment has been replaced by a series of policy seminars held at the DCMS. The DCMS press release explained "The seminars will be used to examine particular issues and collect evidence to inform the communications review." The subjects for the seminars, four of which were held in July are: *Driving investment in TV content; Competition in the content market; The consumer perspective; Maximising the value of spectrum* and *Supporting growth in the radio sector* (date still to be announced).

The process has been totally controlled by the DCMS. They decided the subjects, wrote most of the discussion papers, selected the speakers in each session. Organisations had to apply to attend and the DCMS decided on the attendees. VLV has attended three of the four seminars so far. At the consumer seminar, consumer organisations were only a small minority of those present. VLV were not invited to the spectrum seminar despite or maybe because we have been critical of some current plans for spectrum use.

Citizens and consumers

DCMS said " *We will focus on enabling a world-beating communications sector through providing three key ingredients: world-class infrastructure; the right incentives for investment in content; and support for open and dynamic markets through flexible, proportionate regulation.* There is little to support the wider interests of consumers in broadcasting matters beyond an aim to *meet consumer expectations of high-quality content and services delivered in a variety of ways.*"

What next for VLV

The seminars are only part of the review process this summer. As well as discussion papers the DCMS will provide a full transcript of each seminar and has asked for comments or papers on the subjects raised in the first four seminars by 14 September 2012. Apart from attending the seminars VLV will be making submissions to the DCMS. We encourage our members to look at the DCMS Communications Review website on <http://dcmscommsreview.readandcomment.com/about-the-seminar-series/> and consider making comments directly.

SHOCK THREAT TO TV VIEWING FOR MILLIONS FROM GOVERNMENT MOBILE BROADBAND PROPOSALS (contd from page 1)

Freeview, the BBC and other public service broadcasters, in addition to VLV, are pressing for amendments to include: adequate funding to provide effective remedies for all those affected; a pilot scheme in one or more areas, so that problems can be identified and costed before a country-wide roll-out of the scheme is even contemplated, and a guarantee that no Freeview household currently, or in the future, receiving 'free-to-air' television should be out of pocket or inconvenienced by the changes the Government finally introduces.

VLV is working closely with other interested parties to ensure that the Government and Ofcom take into account the unacceptable costs that may be incurred by viewers and listeners and make adequate provision. Professor Sylvia Harvey, a Trustee of VoLT, said at the recent Westminster Media Forum on *The Future of Free-to-air Television*: "To UK citizens, DTT, like our parks and open spaces, is a national asset. Government should safeguard them with equal respect and ensure adequate funding is in place to mitigate interference from the roll out of 4G or millions of DTT homes could be faced with blank TV screens."

VLV'S SUBMISSIONS AND COMMENTS

VLV has responded at length to Ofcom's consultation on *Securing long term benefits from scarce resources - A strategy for UHF bands IV and V*. This links into the previous consultation on the sale of the 800MHz spectrum (see above). VLV also responded briefly to DCMS's consultation on *Exemptions to the Video Recordings Act and on Advertising in Cinemas*.

VLV 2012 SPRING CONFERENCE

VLV's Spring Conference was well attended and, despite the continued lack of a Green Paper, covered many wide ranging issues. The day started with a lively presentation from **Roger Mosey**, BBC Director, London 2012, who whetted our appetites for the summer's programming, astonishing us with its scale. **Helen Goodman MP**, Shadow Media Minister, talked about the political media scene and Google's **Peter Barron** looked into the future. The day was rounded off with **Ray Snoddy** chairing an extremely lively crystal ball gazing session with **Tim Suter**, **Professor Steven Barnett** and the BBC's **James Heath**.

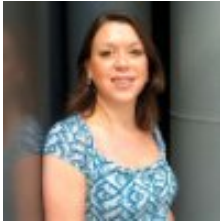


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SOCIAL MEDIA

A view from Sophie Jones, Head of Corporate Relations, Channel 4

At Channel 4 we're thinking a lot about the impact of social media. For anyone involved in broadcasting, these are fascinating times: social media has entered the mainstream as an influence of not only how we interact with media but communicate between ourselves, as people.



However, it is worth pausing to reflect that good old linear television remains an incredibly powerful medium. Contrary to the dire predictions of television's imminent demise, people are watching more television – just over four hours a day. For Channel 4, with its unique public service remit, television remains absolutely at the core of everything we do. Television channels – and the main Channel 4 in particular – are where we continue to invest most heavily and where we continue to deliver most public value through programming from *Channel 4 News*, to factual series with a strong public service ethos at their heart, such as the recent series *Mary's Bottom Line* that tackled unemployment, to investment in British film-making talent through films such as *The Iron Lady* and *Submarine*.

While for some the advent of the social media age has been seen as a threat, at Channel 4 we see it as the dawning of an exciting new chapter. One that builds on and enhances the enduring popularity of television, and high quality UK made television at that. And in our case, enhances our public impact.

Social media enables us to communicate in new ways with audiences and, importantly, allows them to communicate with us. Through social media channels we can get immediate feedback from our audiences about what they like – and don't – what they find funny or thought-provoking, what they're talking about. So we're actively monitoring that feedback, as well as through the phone calls, letters and emails we receive. We are also able to deepen engagement with our content, allowing audiences to get more out of the television experience...if they want to (of course it's fine to just sit back and enjoy). And we're making the most of exploring the possibilities across the genres.

We have made *Channel 4 News* available across multiple platforms and enhanced the level of information available online through innovation such as Fact Check. In current affairs and factual programmes, our research tells us that viewers don't want us to just passively tell them

about something – they want to be able to get involved. So in *Dispatches: Train Journeys From Hell* we involved viewers by asking them to share their own travel nightmares. In series such as the multi-award-winning *Hugh's Fish Fight* and the *Great British Property Scandal*, social media enables us to provide tools to find out more and to take action if people want to.

In drama, engagement is particularly strong, with *Hollyoaks* holding live Twitter chats with cast members and fans and *Misfits* providing opportunities for people to liaise with characters via Facebook. In entertainment, the 'dual screen' experience – watching TV while also using another device, like a smartphone – allows audiences at home to share in the fun by playing along live – in programmes such as *Million Pound Drop* and *The Bank Job*. And during our coverage of the London 2012 Paralympic Games later this year, we'll be making the most of the dual screen experience to provide additional information about the sports and the athletes.

The 'dual screen' experience of people commenting around the live broadcast of programmes is also an increasingly interesting way of gauging audience responses and creating buzz. We are actively using social media to market programmes.

Once 'true' convergence is here, with services such as YouView, the possibilities will get even more exciting. In the meantime, we're launching a new channel called 4seven this summer as a bridge to the world of convergence. The channel will feature the best of Channel 4, providing a seven day opportunity for viewers to catch up on programmes they might have missed, and in part scheduled according to the buzz around programmes generated on social media. It's the next stage in what is going to be a very exciting ride.

Channel 4 kindly supports the VLV Student Essay Competition, which this year asked what the challenges were from social media to public service broadcasters. The prizes will be presented at VLV's Autumn Conference.

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 £13,000. As President Jocelyn Hay writes the work of VLV still 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. Thank you so much.

GEORGE ENTWISTLE BECOMES DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE BBC



George Entwistle, was appointed the BBC's 15th Director-General on 4 July. Trust Chairman Lord Patten said "George is a creative leader for a creative organisation. Above all George is passionate about the

BBC, is committed to its public service ethos and has a clear vision for how it can harness the creativity and commitment of its staff to continue to serve audiences in ever more innovative ways." George Entwistle has been with the BBC since 1989 when he joined as a broadcast journalism trainee. His most recent position was Director of BBC Vision, which he has held since 2011. Prior to that he was the Controller of Knowledge Commissioning and he has been responsible for some of the BBC's most high profile programmes including *Panorama*, while he was Head of Current Affairs, and *Newsnight*, of which he was the editor. He will take over from Mark Thompson in the autumn after the Olympics.

COMPLAINTS

The BBC Trust has approved some changes to its Complaints Framework Consultation. The changes include: ensuring that recording of complaints is improved, by encouraging complainants to use a central address, phone number and website link; speeding up the complaints process for multiple complaints about the same subject; making the complaints system clearer for licence fee payers by clarifying how it will work at each stage; and bringing the time limit for complaints about website content into line with the 30-day rule that applies to broadcast content.

SERVICE LICENCES

The BBC Trust has launched a public consultation on a review of BBC service licences. This review stems from their wider review of governance last year, which committed the Trust to simplify its framework for governing BBC services. They have proposed a number of changes to the service licences which can be read on the BBC Trust website. VLV will be submitting its views (closing date is 14 September).

YOUVIEW LAUNCHED

YouView, the internet TV service which combines Freeview and on demand content, was formally launched earlier in July. Users will have access to programmes broadcast over the previous week from BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel Five, as well as the ability to pause and rewind live TV.

NEW BBC TRUSTEES

The Government has announced that Aideen McGinley become BBC Trustee for Northern Ireland (NI). She is currently Chief Executive of Ilex, the urban regeneration company for Derry-Londonderry, on secondment from her post as Permanent Secretary of the Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland. Sonita Alleyne also becomes a Trustee. She holds a number of non-executive roles, including at the British Board of Film Classification and Archant regional newspaper group. She is a former radio journalist and founder of digital production company Somethin' Else.

NEW CONTROLLER OF CBBC

Cheryl Taylor, currently Controller for Comedy Commissioning, has been appointed as the Controller of CBBC.

Already based in Salford, Cheryl has championed a variety of comedies including *Rev* and *Miranda*. Director BBC Children's, Joe Godwin, said: "I'm delighted to be



able to welcome Cheryl to the department. She brings so much commissioning and production experience, in the BBC and the indie sector, to the CBBC role – one of the most exciting and important commissioning roles in children's media."

VLV recently wrote to George Entwistle expressing its concern about the intention to remove Children's Programmes from BBC One and Two to the two digital channels. While we understand that the vast majority of BBC children's programme viewing is now on the digital channels, we do feel it is important that adults – and not just parents – are kept aware of the BBC's ongoing and outstanding commitment to this area. To this end, we would seek continuing evidence with regular and guaranteed cross-promotion on BBC One and Two of the presence and range of children's programmes, when the change takes place.

VLV NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please help us to increase our membership to enable us to continue our work in protecting public service broadcasting in the UK. If each member recruits one person it will make a huge difference to VLV. This Bulletin is full of news about the reasons why! Please contact the VLV office if you want membership forms.

THE FUTURE OF THE BBC PERFORMING GROUPS

As part of the BBC cuts exercise, *Delivering Quality First* (DQF), the BBC commissioned John Myerscough a year ago to conduct an independent, external evaluation of the BBC's six performing groups: the BBC Concert Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, BBC Singers and BBC Symphony Orchestra.

With DQF aiming for 20% cuts there was a concern that one of the larger orchestras would be cut. This was considered by the management but in view of the report's findings this has been rejected. To quote the report "accordingly, the 20% cut, however approached, would be inconsistent with the Corporation's editorial needs and delivery to audiences. The reduction in the quality, range and volume of live and specially recorded music would jeopardise the output of Radio 3 and other services and contradict the former's service licence agreement. Like-for-like replacement programming, sourced from the independent orchestras in the necessary volume, would more than eat up the savings generated by a closure, and be self-defeating." The report concluded "savings of up to 10% should be investigated. This should be achievable but it will not be easy."

Tim Davie, the BBC's Director of Audio & Music, outlined how savings can be achieved in his response to the report. "We have identified a plan which delivers substantial savings by renewing the 'creative vision' for the performing groups. In clarifying the unique role and purpose of each group and reshaping their operations accordingly, more specifically, this approach reduces costs by: modifying the number of contracted staff in each group to match more closely their output; introducing some session-based contracts to achieve simpler operation and more flexibility; modernising some work practices to encourage flexibility and value for money and lowering administration costs further by sharing functions, especially among the three London groups and the Proms. Limited increase in box office revenue, while ensuring we retain distinctiveness, also contributes to the plan."



The devil will be in the detail. The basic figures provided in the report are: the performing groups cost £26.9 million, so 20% savings amount to £5.38 million. This compares with the quoted cost

of £6.5 million paid by Sky for each Premier Division football match. The cuts proposed by Tim Davie will produce "potential savings of at least £2.1 million per annum by 2016/17."

We welcome this 12 page report and recommend it to our members as a valuable insight into the policies, programmes, costs and achievements of a key element in public service broadcasting by the BBC. It has also made some useful comparisons with similar independent orchestras which show the BBC in a positive light, both in terms of repertoire and efficiency.

VLV AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN BROADCASTING 2011

The Awards were presented during VLV's Spring Conference by Esther Rantzen. To mark the 20th Anniversary of VLV's Awards, a new VLV Multiplatform Award was presented, recognising a programme or series which utilises the best elements of the various platforms now available to broadcasters. The VLV Board and VoLT Trustees selected the BBC's series of programmes *Symphony* as the 2011 prize winner – for so interestingly and entertainingly exploring the classical symphony, from Haydn to Shostakovich, across BBC Radio 3, BBC Four and BBC Online.



VLV Awards

(nominated and voted for by VLV members)

Best Radio Programme: *From Our Own Correspondent*, BBC Radio 4

Best New Radio Programme: *Saving Species*, BBC Radio 4

Best individual contribution to Radio: Stephanie Flanders

Best TV Programme: *Countryfile* BBC One

Best New Television Programme: *Frozen Planet*

Best Individual Contribution to Television: Gareth Malone

Best Children's Television Programme: *Shaun the Sheep*

VLV Special Awards

(in the gift of VLV and the Voice of the Listener Trust)

The VLV Naomi Sargent Award: Andrew Graham-Dixon

The VLV Multiplatform Award: *Symphony*, BBC

The Roberts Radio Special Award (in the gift of Roberts Radio) : Peter White

MONITORING THE EFFECT OF DQF ON THE BBC'S OUTPUT

Board Member Lewis Rudd writes:

On Sunday morning 22 April BBC One devoted the whole morning to coverage of the London Marathon. This displaced the *Andrew Marr Show* from its normal 9 am time. The week before, when the programme was similarly displaced by coverage of the *Chinese Grand Prix*, it was moved to BBC Two. But not this time. Perhaps the slot on BBC Two was needed for something more important – hardly, it was filled by a repeat of a nature programme about chimpanzees. So, at a time when Parliament was sitting, less than a fortnight before important local government elections, on the day of the first round of the French presidential election, not to mention ongoing crises in the European economies and the Middle East, the BBC did not transmit this flagship current affairs programme.

The only possible conclusion is that the current round of BBC cuts – caused by the freezing of the licence fee and the imposition of extra financial responsibility for services outside the BBC's previous remit – has resulted in a reduction in the budget and therefore of the number of editions of the programme.

While members will sympathise with the BBC's dilemma, it is important that the BBC should be transparent and open about the cuts it is making. VLV will be asking the BBC Trust what steps are being taken to monitor these cuts. But it would be helpful if VLV members notify us of any such instances they spot.

LONDON 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES

Channel 4 is the official broadcaster for the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Channel 4 will broadcast more than 150 hours of coverage. It is also committed to ensuring that 50% of the presenters and reporters in its on-screen line-up will themselves be disabled people – and after an extensive talent search has met this objective. This will help to deliver a lasting legacy for the Paralympic movement and assist in shifting public attitudes towards disability. Channel 4 'fired the starting gun' on the biggest marketing campaign in its history – with a stunning 90 second film promoting the Paralympic Games, inviting viewers to "meet the superhuman" athletes - not shying away from disability and pretending they are not extraordinary. It is often the determination of these athletes to overcome their personal challenges that make them so astonishing. You can watch the trailer on YouTube.

MEET COLIN BROWNE

Colin Browne was co-opted onto the VLV Board in March. Colin 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 - 2009 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 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.



NEWS IN BRIEF

The BBC announces **BBC RE:THINK 2012**, a two-day event that will explore the essential issues of faith, philosophy and ethics. Hosted by BBC Religion & Ethics at MediaCityUK, Salford on the 12 and 13 September, the event is aimed at those with an interest in religious and ethical broadcasting and journalism.

TELEVISION CENTRE SALE AGREED

The BBC has sold **Television Centre** for £200 million to a consortium of Stanhope, Mitsui Fudosan UK and Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo) after a year-long selection process. Bids were tested against the BBC's three key objectives: maximising the value of the site for licence fee payers; protecting the legacy of this iconic building and choosing a buyer that could deliver.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Ofcom has published its **Public Service Broadcasting Annual Report 2012** covering programme spending and output, viewing figures and audience opinions on the PSB channels. **Channel 4's 2011 Annual Report** outlines the creative and commercial performance of Channel 4 last year with a preview of its future programme plans.

The **BBC's Annual Report** for the financial year 2011-12 has also just been published. The BBC generated £499 million in efficiency savings, has reduced its overall spend on artists, presenters and performers by £9.5 million, has reduced senior managers' pay and reduced cost per user hour to 6.4p from 6.6p. BBC Radio approval levels have never been so high and digital audiences for radio have grown.

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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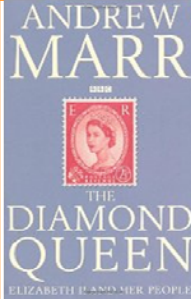
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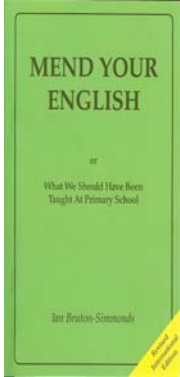
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Summer Competition



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 or
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 ON THE BBC**



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Letters to the Editor

Letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Association and may be shortened for publication. **Deadline for next issue: 1 September 2012.** Write, fax or e-mail your letters to the Editor at: info@vlv.org.uk and confirm you are happy for your letter to be published.

Diary Dates

Monday, 3 September 2012

12.30 - 2.00 pm

Proms Chamber Music

A concert of **Debussy** by pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** with Roger Wright, Director BBC Proms. This concert is broadcast live on BBC Radio 3
Cadogan Hall, off Sloane Square, London SW1

Monday, 22 October 2012

6.30 pm

The Jocelyn Hay Voice of the Listener & Viewer Lecture Series

Broadcasting a better society? The future of civil society and the media
Sir Stuart Etherington, Chief Executive, NCVO
Royal Over-Seas League, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Monday, 26 November 2012

10.30 - 3.30 pm

VLV's 29th Annual Autumn Conference

Keynote speaker: **Lord Patten of Barnes CH**, Chairman, BBC Trust

Presentation of **VLV Student Essay 2012 Competition** prizes

VLV AGM and Members' Forum

4.00 - 5.00 pm

The Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1

For tickets and enquiries please call **Linda Forbes** on **01474 338711** or email: linda.forbes@vlv.org.uk or visit www.vlv.org.uk

Visits

Monday, 3 September 2012

Visit to Broadcasting House, London
 Waiting list only

Other visits are being planned for 2012. Watch the e-newsletter for the latest details.



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