

**PLEASE NOTE THAT VLV'S OFFICE PHONES ARE OUT OF ORDER ( Wednesday 23 November) DUE TO A MAJOR BT BREAKDOWN IN THE AREA SO PLEASE EMAIL LINDA FORBES OR CALL DINAH GARRETT ON 020 8994 7252**

Further details and tickets contact: Linda Forbes on 01474 338 711 or 01474 338 716 or email [Linda.Forbes@vlv.org.uk](mailto:Linda.Forbes@vlv.org.uk)

## **Public Service Broadcasting under Siege?**

VLV's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Conference

**Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011,**

10.30am – 3.30pm

Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1

**A reminder that VLV's Autumn Conference on 30 November** gives members a chance to hear directly from some of the people making decisions about the future of the BBC and the media in this country. The BBC Trust has put out ***Delivering Quality First*** to public consultation and we still await the coming Green Paper and Communications Bill. **Director-General Mark Thompson** said that DQF "is a plan which puts quality and creativity first. It's a plan for a smaller BBC, but a BBC which uses its resources more effectively and collaboratively to deliver a full range of services to the public." Judging from some of his evidence given to the Select Committee on Monday this week, certain proposals, such as the severe proposed cuts to local radio, are being thought through again.

In this context the conference will hear from keynote speakers **Caroline Thomson**, BBC Chief Operating Officer, with chair **Gillian Reynolds**, Radio Critic of *The Daily Telegraph* and **Lord Fowler**, former Chair, House of Lords Select Committee on Communications with chair **Stewart Purvis**, Professor of Television Journalism, City University.

Topically as the Leveson Inquiry takes evidence, Lord Fowler will look at broadcasting, and particularly the BBC, in relation to the lessons that we have learnt from the phone-hacking scandal. Other speakers include **Ilse Howling**, Managing Director, Freeview, talking about the importance and future for free to air services in the digital age in the face of other delivery platforms and **Roger Darlington**, member of Ofcom's Communications Consumer Panel, who will give an update on Digital Radio. The conference will be followed by **VLV's AGM** and a **Member's Forum**.

Channel 4's **Jon Snow** will present the VLV Student Essay Awards at lunchtime.

**Tickets:** Corporate £210; Organisations/Academics £105;

**For all press and media enquiries please call:**

Linda Forbes or Sue Washbrook (Monday to Thursday during office hours)  
VLV Office 01474 338711/338716; email: [info@vlv.org.uk](mailto:info@vlv.org.uk) or

Dinah Garrett (Friday to Sunday and out of office hours)  
0208 994 7252 or email: [ddinahg@vlv.org.uk](mailto:ddinahg@vlv.org.uk) or [ddinahg@supanet.com](mailto:ddinahg@supanet.com)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**1. Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) is an independent, non-profit-making association**, free from political, commercial and sectarian affiliations, working for quality and diversity in British broadcasting. 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 does not handle complaints but is in touch with Members of Parliament, Government, media regulators and broadcasters; publishes briefings, responses to public consultations and a quarterly newsletter; holds conferences and other events in different parts of the UK, open to the public at affordable prices; organises visits for its members to broadcasting centres and holds annual Student Essay Competitions and Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting.

**2. VLV's 2011 Student Essay Competition** invited entries from students studying for a UK registered undergraduate or postgraduate degree, or similar professional qualification, on the following subject: *'What safeguards, if any, do you think should be in place to protect media pluralism, journalistic integrity, and opportunities for citizens and consumers to make their views known, in the Government's forthcoming Communications Green Paper? Should anything else be safeguarded in your opinion? Refer to existing legislation and current regulatory, e.g. Ofcom's Guidelines.'*

VLV Honorary Life President Jocelyn Hay said: "This is VLV's sixth annual student essay competition. Previous competitions have attracted entries from students across the UK and we were very pleased with the standard they set. We are again grateful to Channel 4 for providing the cash prizes and delighted that Jon Snow has kindly agreed to present them. The competition offers students the chance not only to win a cash prize but also a valuable opportunity for work experience."

Winning entrants in two categories (undergraduate and postgraduate) will each receive £400. The winners and the runners-up will each also be offered two weeks' work experience with a leading television or radio production company.

**3. VLV stages events to continue the debate about public service broadcasting**

During a busy autumn schedule, Voice of the Listener & Viewer held a series of events around the country, in Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Edinburgh and London, giving members and other interested people the chance to consider the current key challenges to public service broadcasters in the UK.

**Wednesday 23 November 2011**

4.00 - 6.00pm

**The Value of Localism - what's the case for local media?**

In association with OFCOM and the Centre for Media Research, Ulster University

Speakers: **Pat Loughrey**, Warden, Goldsmiths College, **Dave Hyndman**, Community Media Director, NvTv, **Mike Nesbitt** MLA; **Jonathan Rose**, Director, Ofcom NI and **Maggie Swarbrick**, University of Ulster. Chair: **John Rosborough**

*University of Ulster, Belfast Campus, York Street, Belfast BT15 1ED*