

"Working for quality
and diversity in
British broadcasting"



PO Box 401, Gravesend, Kent DA12 9FY
Telephone: 01474 338711 / 01474 338716
Fax: 01474 325440

Founded in 1983 by Jocelyn Hay CBE

E-mail: info@vlv.org.uk
Web: www.vlv.org.uk

News Release
Immediate

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**Justin Webb, Radio 4's *Today Programme*, will present
VLV's Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting
Tuesday, 12 April 2011 during
VLV's 28th Spring Conference in London 10.30am – 3.45pm**

Risking Quality in Times of Change – What future for Public Service Broadcasting?

The future of *BBC News from Local Radio to the World Service, the BBC's other Radio Services, and Preparing for a New Communications Bill in 2012* are on the agenda for VLV's 28th Spring Conference in London on Tuesday, 12 April. This event will provide a unique opportunity for members of the public to question BBC executives and leading opinion formers on a range of current issues including the future of BBC news and journalism, the World Service and the BBC Trust's recent reviews of BBC radio services. Coming in the wake of reports about new proposals for drastic cuts in services, what criteria are BBC managers using to set priorities as they strive to cope with the damaging impact of the licence fee settlement and the new funding responsibilities placed on the Corporation? Conference will also look ahead to a Green Paper this summer prior to a new Communications Bill in 2012.

Conference Programme

10.30: Opening session: ***Update on Radio***,

Speaker: **David Liddiment**, BBC Trustee

Chair: **Gillian Reynolds**, Radio Critic, The Daily Telegraph

11.15 :

Speaker: **Helen Boaden**, Director, BBC News,

Chair: **Stewart Purvis**, Professor of TV Journalism, City University

1.45: ***Presentation of VLV's 2010 Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting by Justin Webb of Radio 4's Today programme***

2.45-3.45 ***Preparing for the new Communications Bill.***

Speakers: **Stephen Whittle**, Chair, Broadcast Equality and Training Regulator, former Controller, BBC Editorial Standards

Roger Graef, Criminologist and Film Maker, Director, Films of Record

David Elstein, Chair, Open Democracy and Broadcast Policy Group, former CEO Channel 5 and former Head of Programmes, BSkyB

Chair: **Roger Bolton**, Presenter, Radio 4's *Feedback*

4pm–5pm: **VLV Members' Forum**

Helen Boaden has been Director of BBC News, since 2004. This will be her first major speech after joining the BBC's Executive Board. Her brief covers BBC Journalism and all BBC News Services from Local Radio to the World Service.

Stewart Purvis is Professor of Journalism at City University; he was formerly CEO of ITN and Ofcom Partner for Content and Standards.

Stephen Whittle is Chair of the Broadcast Equality and Training Regulator and former Controller, BBC Editorial Standards

David Elstein is Chair of the Broadcast Policy Group and Open Democracy, a former CEO of Channel 5 and Head of Programmes at BSkyB

Roger Graef is a distinguished Criminologist & Film Maker, Founder & Director, Films of Record.

Roger Bolton is an independent television producer and a former Editor of the BBC's Panorama Programme. He was also a presenter of Channel 4's *Right to Reply*

Gillian Reynolds is Radio Critic of *The Daily Telegraph*

Justin Webb was the BBC's North America Editor before joining *Today* in 2010

Commenting, VLV Honorary President, Jocelyn Hay said:

" Following the consultation with BBC staff launched recently by Director General Mark Thompson, more and more alarming reports of possible cuts in services are emerging as different departments try to defend their interests at the expense of others. Who is looking at the bigger picture, considering the public good and what will serve licence payers best? This conference will provide a unique opportunity for members of the public to question key BBC executives about how they are making decisions about what choices will be available in future. Helen Boaden will cover the impact of cuts recently announced by the Foreign Office to the World Service, the future of news on Local Radio; David Liddiment will explain the BBC Trust's findings on BBC national radio services in the light of the 2010 Licence Fee Settlement.

The conference will also look ahead to a Green Paper this summer prior to a new Communications Bill in 2012. With the abolition of Consumer Focus and Ofcom's Consumer Panel, VLV is now the only organisation dedicated to representing the interests of listeners and viewers across the full range of broadcasting issues. End

Note to Editors:

Venue: *The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1*

Reporters and Photographers welcome – Please ask for a pass.

Tickets: VLV Members £45 (including buffet lunch); £33 (excluding buffet lunch)

Corporate: £210 (including buffet lunch); Voluntary and Academic Organisations: £105 or 2 tickets for £160.

Students: £15 (excluding buffet lunch); £30 (including buffet lunch)

Tickets include refreshments, lunch (as indicated), documentation and attendance at the Awards ceremony. All prices quoted include VAT

VAT Reg No: GB 835 5365 14

For further details and tickets please contact Linda.Forbes@VLV.org.uk or phone 01474 338711 or 338716

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