

*"Working for quality
and diversity in
British broadcasting"*



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The Future for Broadcast News in a Broadband/Digital Environment
Voice of the Listener & Viewer's 25th annual spring conference
Wednesday, 23rd April 2008 10.15am – 4pm, at
The Royal Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London SW1

Helen Boaden, Director of BBC News;
Dorothy Byrne, Head of Channel 4 News and Current Affairs;
Simon Bucks, Assistant Editor, Sky News;
Ceri Thomas, Editor of Radio 4's Today, and
Kevin Sutcliffe, Editor of Channel 4's Dispatches
Nigel Chapman, Director, BBC World Service

are among leading commissioners and editors of news and current affairs programmes who will speak at VLV's 25th annual spring conference in London on 23rd April.

Professor Steven Barnett of Westminster University will chair.

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

Commenting VLV Chair, Jocelyn Hay, said: 'Free access to impartial, high quality news is key to an informed and active citizenship and central to British democracy. New forms of delivery make it increasingly easy for people to access a variety of news sources by different means at times of their own choosing. At the same time, however, traditional investigative reporting is 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 funding deficit in two or three years time? Sky provides a highly respected news service but bears no obligation either to continue it or to maintain its present agenda. So what does the future hold for news and current affairs? This conference will provide a unique opportunity to discuss the options'.

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

Howard Goodall, the musician, composer and broadcaster will present VLV's 2007 Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting immediately after lunch, at 1.45pm.

Editors note ;

For more information please contact: Linda Forbes@vlv.org.uk Or call:: 01474 352835

For latest information and tickets: visit: www.vlv.org.uk

Press and photographers welcome – please ask for a press pass.

Tickets: Corporate, £150. Academics and voluntary organizations, £75. Students, £15.

Prices exclude VAT.

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