

"Working for quality
and diversity in
British broadcasting"



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A very happy new year to everyone and we look forward to seeing you at our events in the coming months. We will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary – it was in 1983 that Jocelyn Hay founded Voice of the Listener.

Gwyneth Williams,
Controller, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 4 Extra,
in conversation with
Robin Lustig

Tuesday 5 February 2013 at 2.00 pm

George Fox Room, Friends House, 173- 177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

An opportunity for VLV members to hear about the current plans for Radio 4 and Radio 4 Extra from **Gwyneth Williams** and to ask her questions. Gwyneth has been the Controller since September 2010 and under her leadership there have been subtle changes to the network. VLV last had the chance to question her in May 2011. **Robin Lustig**, who has just left *The World Tonight*, will take the chair. Please use the enclosed booking form or go online to www.vlv.org.uk.

VLV Ltd Extraordinary General Meeting

In conversation will be followed by an EGM of VLV Ltd – for members only. Please confirm on the enclosed booking form if you plan to attend. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to comment on the proposed changes to VLV Ltd, please email susan.washbrook@vlv.org.uk before 31 January 2012.

VLV News

At the AGM on 26 November Colin Browne was elected Chairman and Toni Charlton Treasurer. Wendy Jones and Dinah Garrett were elected onto the board as Directors. Lewis Rudd, Norman Green and Eddie Tulasiewicz stood down as directors and were thanked for their contributions over recent years by VLV President Jocelyn Hay. She also paid tribute to Linda Forbes, who left VLV at the end of December after 23 loyal years. Jocelyn said how much members valued the cheerful welcome from Linda when members called the office and her warmth and efficiency at events.

Submissions

In its response to the BBC Trust Review of Purpose Remits, VLV said it was glad that the Trust put at the centre of the review the needs of listeners and viewers in making the BBC Purpose Remits more easily understood by licence fee payers. The full submission can be read on VLV's website.

VLV is preparing its response to the Trust's BBC Online and Red Button Service Review which will consider how well both services are performing, their future strategic direction and whether the service licences need to be changed. Full details can be read on the BBC Trust's website. Do send us your views by 17 January. The BBC iPlayer – celebrating its 5th anniversary - enjoyed 77 million requests for television and radio programmes between 22nd December and 1st January 2013.

BBC News

Lord Hall of Birkenhead CBE appointed the new Director-General of the BBC

VLV welcomed the appointment of Tony Hall, saying it believes that he has the right credentials for the job as Director-General which is a hugely challenging task in the present circumstances. VLV wishes him well in restoring licence payers' trust and confidence and will invite him to speak to members during the year.

Pollard Review and *Newsnight* Review

Both reviews were published just before Christmas – and can be read in full on the BBC and BBC Trust websites. The BBC said that it 'welcomed Nick Pollard's conclusion that the decision to drop the investigation was not due to managerial pressure. Specifically, *"the decision to drop the original investigation was flawed and the way it was taken was wrong but I believe it was done in good faith. It was not done to protect the Savile tribute programmes or for any improper reason."* However, the report makes uncomfortable reading. It raises basic questions about how we work, communicate and make decisions as an organisation. The report also exposed failures in leadership. We accept Pollard's recommendations in full.' A number of management changes have taken place as a result of the reviews. Chairman Colin Browne spoke on behalf of VLV on Radio 4's *PM* that day, emphasising the need for the BBC to re-establish trust and confidence with its viewers and listeners.

News from Ofcom

Ofcom has published the names of the organisations which have applied to take part in the 4G spectrum auction which starts this month. Ofcom has also set up a special webpage for consumers at <http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/4g/>. VLV continues to monitor these developments closely as it is still very concerned about the issue of interference with terrestrial television reception.

Ofcom has published a review of its involvement in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. To meet the extra demands of broadcasters, media and the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG), Ofcom developed a plan for additional capacity ahead of the Games assigning 17,000 wireless frequencies for accredited Games organisations; and worked throughout to resolve any cases of wireless interference.

VLV is drawing up a response to Ofcom's consultation on its 2013/14 Annual Plan.

DIARY DATE

VLV'S 30th Annual Spring Conference – Wednesday 24 April 2013

Venue: The Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1

Time: 10.30 – 3.30 pm

The day will include the presentation of **VLV's 2012 Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting** including the **Roberts Radio Special Award**.

Bookings online at www.vlv.org.uk; or contact Sue Washbrook, VLV Administrator, at susan.washbrook@vlv.org.uk by telephone on 01474 338716.

VLV administration

In order to run VLV more cost effectively, a number of changes have taken place at the office.

The **office hours** have been changed - VLV's Administrator, Sue Washbrook, will be in the office from Tuesday to Thursday from 9.30am to 3.30pm and **VLV's telephone number** is now just **01474 338716**.

Saving postage - please let us have an email address so that we can email you, rather than send papers through the post.

January 2013