Working for Quality and Diversity in Broadcasting

Winter 2012

Bulletin Issue 107

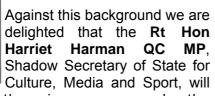
VLV'S 29th ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE The Shape of Things to Come - looking forwards to the Communications Bill

Monday 30 April 2012

The Royal Geological Society, London W1 10.30 to 3.30 pm Members' Forum at 4.00 pm

After a very busy end to 2011, VLV now looks forwards to the issues to be debated around the Communications Bill Green Paper, which will shape the future of our broadcasting world. In the next few weeks the Green Paper will be published, more will emerge from the BBC Trust's consultation on *Delivering Quality First*, evidence to the Leveson Enquiry will continue - and London

will be about to host one of its biggest ever media challenges during the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games.



speak about the issues around the Communications Bill, giving members the opportunity to question her directly about the opposition's policies. **Steve Hewlett**, presenter of BBC Radio 4's *Media Show*, will be in the chair.



Roger Mosey, the BBC's Director 2012, will talk about the BBC and London 2012 and **Peter Barron**, Director, External Relations, Europe, Middle East

and Africa for Google, will talk

about the online world and its potential for connectivity. A further session will give delegates the chance to look at the issues raised by the Green Paper. Details will be



published in the February e-newsletter.

Inside Editorial page 2 VLV events page 5 DQF update page 3 News in brief page 7 Media plurality page 4 Diary Dates page 8

VLV CELEBRATES THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF ITS AWARDS

VLV is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting in Radio and Television. During its Spring Conference on 30 April, we are delighted that **Esther**

Rantzen CBE, well known presenter and campaigner, will be with us to present the awards. VLV knows that the winners value these awards especially as they are nominated and voted for by our members, the viewers and listeners who enjoy their programmes.



Members will receive their ballot papers with this mailing - so please vote and return them by the closing date, **Wednesday 7 March.**

VLV STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION 2012

"What challenges do social media pose for Public Service Broadcasting? How should Public Service Broadcasters address those challenges?"

VLV Board Member Professor Jeanette Steemers has announced the topic for the 7th VLV Annual Student Essay Competition. She said "I think one way social media challenges PSB is because they engage the public in a more active way and people can express themselves. It seems more democratic and less paternalistic. PSB should possibly move into those areas too, but then it's stepping on the private sector's toes - but if it doesn't engage, it risks becoming old-fashioned."

Last year's winner was Anna Chapman. She studied at the London College of Communications for its Diploma in Broadcast



Journalism. The runner-up was Amie Tsang, (right with Jon Snow) who has been studying for an MA in Political Journalism and Campaigning at City University, London. Full details of entering the competition on page 7.

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Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Working for Quality and Diversity in British Broadcasting

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The Voice of the Listener Trust

 $\begin{array}{l} (registered.\ charity\ 296207)\\ which\ supports\ some\ of\ VLV's\ educational\ work. \end{array}$ Chairman: Mrs Jocelyn Hay CBE Trustees: Mr Michael Barton Mr John Clark Mr Paul Findlay Professor Sylvia Harvey Lady Solti Dr Andrew Taussig

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Website: www.vlv.org.uk



VLV is now on Twitter! @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.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



VLV is off to a good start in 2012. For me, as President, it is gratifying to see how well our new teams are doing. This will be a critical year for broadcasting and VLV must maintain its role as the leading advocate for listeners and viewers.

During the past year VLV Board members have put a huge amount of skill and effort into preparing responses to nearly a dozen public consultations; our submissions have incorporated comments from the many VLV members and others who have contacted us. I'm delighted that, combined with members' vigorous input at conferences and meetings with key decision makers, this has had a positive influence on policy. Two issues especially stand out: the proposed cuts to the World Service and to BBC Local Radio. Cuts to key foreign language services have been suspended, and the BBC Executive has been told by the BBC Trust to think again about some of the most damaging, insensitive changes targeted at local radio. It's encouraging to know that policy proposals can be reversed when they are confronted by the force of public opinion and cogent, well-organised arguments.

New consultations - requiring a VLV response - are on the way, as you will see elsewhere in this Bulletin. VLV will again offer unique opportunities for you and others in different parts of the UK to debate and influence the issues. The Coalition Government's Communications Bill will affect all the broadcasters but especially the public service players: the BBC, Channel 4 and ITV, between them accounting for the great majority of all TV viewing and the BBC for more than half of all radio listening. The Leveson inquiry has revealed shocking malpractice by parts of the press. VLV needs your help to ensure the same does not happen to broadcasting. Our policy work is done by volunteers, but

delivering and publicising it costs money. Please be as generous as you can with your support. Thank you.

THE VLV 2012 APPEAL

As President Jocelyn Hay says above, it is a critical time for media in the UK - when there are fundamental issues being debated, and the media landscape is changing so rapidly. For nearly thirty years VLV has been the leading campaigner for public service broadcasting: championing programme content - on radio, television and now multiplatform - characterised by creativity and integrity, offering genuine choice and wide appeal, reflecting the cultures, interests and passions of both majorities and minorities in UK society - nationally and within regional and local communities. Working alongside civil society groups to establish productive relationships with all public service broadcasters and with relevant bodies to make their activities more transparent, so that VLV members, as citizens, may feel - rather than being mere passive consumers - a sense of ownership and a real power to exert independent influence.

VLV is launching its 2012 Appeal to enable it to continue its key role as the debate evolves. We urgently need to widen our membership more, to involve younger members more actively, and, through technology, to 'shop-window' our events, themes and messages more effectively. Do help us if you can. (see page 7 for ways to donate)

DELIVERING QUALITY FIRST - THE BBC TRUST'S INTERIM RESPONSE

The BBC Trust has now published its interim findings on the BBC Executive's *Delivering Quality First* proposals. The key points are:

- The Trust's independent advisers have concluded that the BBC Executive has developed robust and challenging efficiency proposals. It is now setting a target for the BBC Executive to generate annual efficiency savings of 11 per cent by 2016-17 with controls to monitor the implementation of the plan.
- There was a high level of response to its public consultation. Most respondents expressed specific concerns based on their particular listening/viewing interests, although there is a general recognition of the financial constraints faced by the BBC and the need to make difficult choices.
- The Trust identified a small number of areas where it has asked the Executive to re-think their plans most notably where it felt that particular proposals would have an unduly detrimental impact on the BBC's journalistic output.
- It is still conducting its analysis in some areas and, with input from Ofcom, is examining whether any further regulatory testing such as a Public Value Test is necessary. This includes looking at the significance and impact of those particular proposals which would require the Trust to amend service licences.

Otherwise, the Trust is broadly endorsing the shape of the plans proposed by the Executive - albeit it will continue to test some aspects of the detail - and will proceed next with planning the specific budget for next year. It now has a number of further analytical strands and processes to pursue, including: further analysis of consultation responses; setting and publishing the BBC's budget and business plans for 2012-13; and regulatory testing. It has also asked the Executive to prepare statements, as part of the implementation of *Delivering Quality First*, about what the BBC intends to offer the audience in each of the Nations of the UK. The Trust aims to publish its final conclusions in the spring.

The BBC welcomes the Trust's endorsement of the majority of the *Delivering Quality First* proposals and will be working on the changes to proposals in local radio and regional current affairs over the next two months. (Source BBC Trust)



DELIVERING QUALITY FIRST - VLV'S RESPONSE

VLV sent in submissions to the BBC Trust about *Delivering Quality First* and the BBC Local Radio service review, which you can read in full at www.vlv.org.uk. Thank you for sending us your views, which, together with comments heard at VLV's meetings over the autumn, helped inform our overall views. Many concerns about local radio were expressed - and it is heartening to see that the BBC Executive has now been asked to look again at their plans.

In general we welcomed the BBC Trust's commitment to the two priorities to increase distinctiveness and serve all parts of the audience. We noted that the BBC Trust sees the need for BBC Management to work up 'robust, detailed delivery plans' and VLV is reassured that the BBC Trust states that it will regularly assess whether the quality of content is being compromised by the DQF process. We look forward to the regular progress reports promised by the BBC Trust. However we cannot agree fully that this approach is the right one, since there is not enough detail in the DQF proposal to demonstrate how changes can be implemented in ways that ensure continuing quality and diversity of content.

It is essential for the future of the licence fee and the BBC that it caters for the vast majority of the population. The BBC must not be seen as a broadcaster that only provides for the 'well educated' and those with 'serious' interests. VLV supports the DQF proposals insofar as these seek to ensure that the BBC will continue to offer a wide range of quality, distinctive programming across all genres.

Public trust in the BBC has, we suggested, been damaged as a result of the 2010 licence fee settlement and a number of other public incidents, for example, the controversies about the pay of both talent and senior management and about specific programmes. We are aware that the BBC is particularly vulnerable as large sections of the media are hostile to it. Surveys show that the public still trusts BBC news output. Retaining this trust is crucial if there is to be continuing public support for the principle of the licence fee and for the BBC as a public service.

VLV welcomes the Trust's decision to limit the cuts to local radio and local current affairs on television. We are delighted as this clearly demonstrates that the Trust does respond to what viewers and listeners want and the local radio cuts are very unpopular. VLV will be examining the Trust's findings in detail and will monitor the progress of DQF.

UPDATE ON VLV'S SUBMISSIONS

It was a busy end to the year for VLV with submissions sent to Ofcom about media plurality, as well as to the BBC Trust on DQF and local radio. Since then VLV has responded to the Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee on media plurality, and is presently preparing papers on the BBC's acquisition of non-exclusive broadcast rights for the Olympics (Ofcom - 14 February), Ofcom's Draft Annual Plan (17 February) and the selection of local television sites (Ofcom - 19 March).

MEDIA PLURALITY IN THE AGE OF LEVESON



THE BBC VIEW by John Tate Director of BBC Policy & Strategy, Chairman of BBC Studios and Post Production

The first stage of the Leveson Inquiry has been fascinating, not least for

the light it has thrown onto media practices and ethics. Soon, however, it enters a new phase, looking at media plurality alongside press self-regulation. To this end, the Culture Secretary has asked the regulator Ofcom to consider how media plurality is best measured, whether new restrictions should be imposed and "whether or how it should include the BBC".

While these policy questions might not get the attention of the red-tops, they are vital to democratic society. In many ways, the UK starts from a position of strength. We have a plurality of news sources offering a diverse and wide of views across television, newspapers and online. Our news sector can be characterised bγ high levels of news consumption, accurate and well-funded journalism, competition between providers and a variety of ownership and governance structures.

To date, laws to safeguard a healthy and plural news market have focused on restricting ownership across different media such as print and broadcast. The growth of digital sources – such as the internet – may increasingly challenge this model. The BBC therefore welcomes the aim to measure plurality across all news platforms, including the internet. Yet in our view, plurality cannot simply be measured by a crude audience 'share'. The number of news sources available, the range of views each source conveys and the number of sources used by individuals are also key indicators.

By any measure, the BBC is a leading provider of news in the UK market. Yet, as acknowledged by the majority of those who recently responded to Ofcom on this subject, the BBC's popularity should not be seen as a 'problem' that needs fixing. The BBC delivers significant public benefits through the universal availability of well-funded, high quality news. The strategic commitment of the BBC to news and to aspects of news facing commercial pressures (e.g. newsgathering and specialist journalism) is of real value.

Ultimately, the BBC's popularity is a result of the daily choices of millions of UK citizens who regularly consume its services and rate it the most trusted, accurate and impartial news provider. Audiences choose the BBC despite the expanding range of other news providers: BBC News attracts 72% of all TV News minutes consumed, despite only broadcasting 27% of news minutes broadcast. They choose the BBC despite the fact it takes a smaller share of UK broadcast revenues than at any other time in its history – and it is a share that is all but certain to fall over coming years.

This audience choice is informed by audience's trust in the BBC: the number of people who would choose the BBC to turn to for accurate and impartial coverage is five times higher than for the next nearest news provider (ITV). The views and choices of audiences point to the BBC boosting the health and plurality of the UK's news sector rather than detracting from it. The BBC's role is anchored in its uniqueness as a publicly-funded, independent news provider with strict governance and regulation. At the heart of the BBC's difference lie three factors: first, its Royal Charter remit to act independently and in the public interest; second, its accountability to licence fee payers; and third, its governance and regulation safeguarding editorial standards and integrity. Together, these factors form a 'triple lock' tying the BBC to the public interest in news plurality.

In light of its fundamentally different nature, the BBC – like most respondents to Ofcom - argued that the BBC should not itself be the trigger or subject of any new plurality regulation. Licence fee payers and Parliament established the public interest safeguards for the BBC at the time of the last Charter in 2006. The appropriate time for reviewing them is at the time of each Charter Review.

The current debate on plurality is still in its infancy. However, the BBC hopes to play an active role in the debate to ensure the UK's plurality regime continues to safeguard quality journalism in the future.

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VLV SEMINAR IN BELFAST - The value of localism - what's the case for local media? Supported by Ofcom and The Centre for Media

Research, University of Ulster

The first VLV event held in Belfast for 15 years drew a capacity audience that was widely representative of those in education and broadcasting, eager to hear from, and engage with, the top class panel.

The seminar was jointly organised by Professor Máire Messenger Davies, of the Centre for Media Research, University of Ulster, and a member of the VLV Board; John Rosborough, NI VLV and Jonathan Rose of Ofcom NI. Thanks are due to the University for providing the venue at their Belfast campus, to Tim Kerr and Kelly Gordon of the University's Cultural Development team, for help with practical arrangements, and to Audrey Watson of the UU press office, for publicity. The speakers included Dave Hyndman, Community Media Director , NvTv; Mike Nesbitt , MLA for Strangford and former UTV journalist; David Mahoney, Director of Content Policy, Ofcom; Maggie Swarbrick, Director, MA in Journalism, University of Ulster and BBC broadcast journalist and Professor Pat Loughrey, former Controller, BBC Northern Ireland, Director, Nations and Regions from 2000 - 2009 and now Warden of Goldsmiths' College, London.

The word 'local', as seminar chairman John Rosborough pointed out, is used flexibly in Northern Ireland, meaning everything from a few streets away to somewhere in the province which could be 100 miles distant. Undoubtedly we like local a lot as evidenced by the number of newspapers and the success of local radio and television programme output.



L to r: Dave Hyndman; John Rosborough; Jonathan Rose; Maggie Swarbrick and Mike Nesbit

As the UK moves towards belatedly creating better local provision, it could learn from Northern Ireland, which has a recipe that works for the community, and is a constructive part of social, political and cultural change said Pat Loughrey, Visiting Professor at the University of Ulster.

The seminar concluded with a Q&A session. Comments were made on the need for knowledge and training in the setting up and economics of community radio and television.

To read the complete report of the seminar go to www.vlv.org.uk.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES – Out of date in the Digital Age?

The answer from all the panellists at this VLV Seminar in November was certainly "no", although **Joe Godwin,** Director of BBC Children's, said we should talk of "content" rather than "programmes", given the different platforms used by children. This was underlined by the research presented by **Jane Rumble,** Ofcom, which showed that, while 95% of children watched TV every day, and viewing by younger children was on the increase, older children ranked mobiles and the internet as more important to them. Joe

pointed up the importance of story-telling and that TV should provide relaxation and entertainment, but should also support such values as inclusivity and tolerance. He



L to r: Reg Bailey, Jane Rumble, Máire Messenger Davies, Anne Brogan, Joe Godwin and Sonia Livingstone

worried that the lack of children's programmes on the other PSBs meant a loss of plurality in commissioning from UK producers, and that the fragmentation caused by the number of commercial channels diminished the shared experience.

Life peeress **Floella Benjamin** urged producers not to play catch-up with new technologies, stressed the importance of quality over quantity, and wanted parents to play their part in children's viewing habits. The BBC should lead the way, and not copy what others do.

Reg Bailey, CEO Mothers' Union, gave examples of the worries of his members, citing the characters in Peppa Pig not wearing seatbelts. Parents worry about the "subtlety" of advertising, as younger children cannot always distinguish between programmes and commercials, and felt that there was a product placement creep. Independent producer Anne Brogan felt that TV must continue to be able to try new formats and take risks. Although much of the US drama content was enjoyed, the range was very limited. Professor Sonia Livingstone, LSE, pointed out some of the under-served areas children with different quality drama. backgrounds and needs, and the over twelves. Other speakers had given examples of the wider purposes, in which television should share with schools the burden of preparation for life.

ADVERTS ON BBC WORLD SERVICE APPROVED BY BBC TRUST

The scheme to insert advertising into World Service English output on the Berlin FM frequency is "the worst of all possible worlds", said Sir John Tusa, VLV Patron and former Managing Director, BBC World Service from 1986 to 1993. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, he said it would breach a "crucial" principle and "not raise much money. It's not a trivial matter or a trivial moment." Advertisements will also be put on the World Service's Arabic, Russian and Spanish websites.

The scheme follows a government request that the Service generates £3million from commercial activities by 2013/2014.

Jim Egan, acting director of global news at the BBC, accepted it was "a significant moment" but said the plan would provide "a significant contribution to the £3 million target". He refuted Sir John's suggestion that it represented "the thin edge of the wedge" and would lead to advertising across the BBC.

VLV is keeping a close eye on these developments to ensure that it is indeed not the thin edge of the wedge over advertising on the BBC's services.



NEW B B C TRUSTEE Suzanna Taverne has been appointed Trustee from January 2012. She worked at a senior level in financial, media and cultural organisations. She currently holds nonexecutive roles at

Nationwide Building Society and Ford Credit Europe. She is a trustee of the Design Museum, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service and the Shakespeare Schools Festival. A former director of strategy at Pearson plc, her most recent executive role was director of operations at Imperial College London. Prior to this, she was managing director of the British Museum, where she oversaw the building of The Great Court.



DIARY DATE

VLV is delighted that the BBC Trust Chairman, Lord Patten of Barnes CH has accepted its invitation to be the keynote speaker at VLV's 29th Autumn Conference on 26 November 2012.

NEW BBC AND SKY DEAL ON ONLINE AND INTERACTIVE

The BBC and Sky have announced a landmark partnership deal that will bring the BBC's popular video-on-demand service BBC iPlayer to up to five million Sky homes in 2012. It means that later this year BBC iPlayer will be available to Sky homes directly in the living room TV. Using BBC iPlayer, audiences will enjoy the full complement of BBC programmes in a familiar, easy-to-use BBC iPlayer experience that helps audiences catch up on what they missed and discover new programmes to enjoy.

A core BBC value is to reach all audiences on a universal basis, so Sky's plan to make Anytime+ available to customers regardless of their internet provider is an important development in helping to bring BBC iPlayer to around 5 million new homes in 2012 – at no extra charge. BBC iPlayer has proved hugely popular with UK audiences since launching in 2007, delivering a record two billion TV and radio programmes in 2011. In addition to enjoying BBC iPlayer on the PC, audiences now have total freedom to catch up on BBC programmes on the TV, on mobile phones, and on tablets too.

VLV knows that there is great concern over the size of the retransmission fees which the BBC and other PSB broadcasters in the UK have to pay BSkyB – over which they currently have no choice, even though they add huge value to the satellite platform. It is likely that the Communications Bill Green Paper will cover this issue. VLV will be monitoring the debate on this.

NEW CRICKET CONTRACT

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has agreed a new six-year deal with BBC Sport for the radio rights to broadcast ball-by-ball commentary on international cricket from 2014 to 2019. The agreement, which will encompass two home Ashes series in 2015 and 2019, and tours by India in 2014 and South Africa in 2017, provides BBC radio with live and exclusive coverage of all England's home Test and One-Day International and T20 series.

70 YEARS ON



Happy birthday to *Desert Island Discs* which has just celebrated its 70th anniversary. Kirsty Young had special guest Sir David Attenborough, making his fourth appearance, to mark the landmark series. Sir David has always been

a great supporter of VLV's work.

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NEWS IN BRIEF THE CHILDREN'S MEDIA FOUNDATION

The Children's Media Foundation (CMF) has developed out of Save Kids TV and is dedicated to ensuring that UK children have a wide choice of the highest quality media. The Foundation aims to stimulate and participate in debate on the issues around children's media content and the way in which it is consumed. Its perspective is that on the whole media made for children is a force for good, when it is well-funded, well-produced and well-regulated. www.thechildrensmediafoundation.org

MUSIC ALL THE WAY

BBC Four and the Southbank Centre have announced an ambitious new partnership for a year-long classical music festival. Controller of BBC Four Richard Klein announced that the channel - the home of arts, music and culture is to enter into a partnership with Southbank Centre for its major year-long classical music festival, The Rest is Noise, created by Southbank Centre Artistic Director Jude Kelly. BBC Four will support Southbank Centre's initiative by broadcasting a landmark television series about 20th century classical music alongside other activity to be announced later in the year. BBC Radio 3 will work alongside Four to provide complementary programming of the classical events and performances which will tie in to the television series and other activities across the year.

APPOINTMENTS Channel 4

Ofcom has announced the award of a second term to the current Chairman of the Channel 4 Board, Lord Burns GCB. Ofcom also announced the appointment of Lord Hall of Birkenhead CBE as Deputy Chairman and the appointment of Paul Potts, M.T.Rainey and Josie Rourke as non-executive members of the Channel 4 Board.

MG ALBA

Maggie Cunningham has been appointed as the new Chairman of MG ALBA, the body responsible for funding Gaelic programming. She will take up the four-year appointment at the beginning of July 2012.

THE VLV 2012 APPEAL

If you would like to make a donation to the VLV 2012 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.

MEET SOPHIE CHALK, one of the new spokesmen for VLV

VLV Board member **Sophie Chalk** says "I've always thought of VLV as the most important organisation representing the interests of all British citizens in broadcasting so this is a huge honour. This is a crucial time for broadcasting



with a new Communications Act coming up, the licences of ITV and Five up for renewal and also the BBC Charter. We have a system of public service broadcasting which is envied around the world. It is an essential tool in a democracy, to inform, educate and entertain. We should protect this system against the inevitable erosion which seems to be the trend."

VLV HAS BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT

VLV is regularly asked for its views on the whole range of media issues. In the past three months its has been asked about product placement, religious programmes on ITV over Christmas, children's programmes, location of local TV sites, Freeview, television sound, trust in BBC programmes and of course the BBC's *Delivering Quality First* plans.

VLV STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION 2012

"What challenges do social media pose for Public Service Broadcasting? How should Public Service Broadcasters address those challenges?"

There are two categories in the Competition - undergraduate and postgraduate

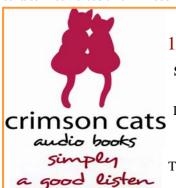
two Winning entrants in categories (undergraduate and postgraduate) will each receive £400. VLV is delighted that Channel 4 is providing the cash prizes for the competition. The winners and the runners-up will also be offered two weeks' work experience with a leading television or radio production company. Full details and entry form, which must be completed, are available at www.vlv.org.uk or in writing, by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Linda Forbes, Conference Administrator, VLV, P O Box 401, Gravesend, Kent DA12 9FY.

Entries should be submitted online as a written essay of a maximum of 2,000 words. The closing date for entries is **Friday 15 June 2012**.

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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.



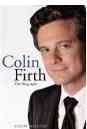
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Winter Competition



Win a copy of Colin Firth The Biography by Alison Maloney by answering the following question. When did Colin Firth appear on our TV screens as Mr Darcy in Jane Austen's *Pride*

and Prejudice and who wrote the screenplay? Replies on a postcard to: Winter Competition, VLV, PO Box 401, Gravesend, Kent DA12 9FY. Or by email to: info@vlv.org.uk by 1 April 2012. The Editor's decision is final. The winner of the Autumn Competition was Norma Root from Brackley.

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 April 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.



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FOCUSES ON THE BBC



Diary Dates

Monday 30 April 2012

10.30 - 3.30 pm

VLV's 29th Annual Spring Conference

The Shape of Things to Come - looking forwards to the Communications Bill

Keynote speaker: Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP, Shadow Deputy Prime Minister and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport; Roger Mosey, BBC Director, London 2012 and Peter Barron, Director, External Realtions, Europe, Middle East and Africa, Google,

VLV's 2011 Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting which will be presented by Esther Rantzen CBE

Members' Forum

4.00 - 5.00 pm

The Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1

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

A series of visits is being planned for 2012. Watch the e-newsletter for the latest details.

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