



**Voice of the
Listener & Viewer**

Bulletin

Working for Quality and Diversity in Broadcasting

Autumn 2009

Issue 98



Applause for British broadcasting. Humphrys and Marr

CELEBRATIONS AT BAFTA

At BAFTA, Piccadilly, on 7 October, VLV who find out things.' celebrated its 25th anniversary and the best in British broadcasting.

Andrew Marr was host for the evening, presenting extracts from the Top 25 'most admired' radio and television programmes from the past 25 years. Over that time, said Marr, VLV had come to be listened to by politicians and broadcasters because the only axe it had to grind was on behalf of listeners and viewers. At the present moment morale was low as programme makers struggled to find new ways of funding high quality programmes. With this big event VLV wanted to remind everybody just how good British broadcasting could be.

Top of the 'Top 25' came BBC Radio 4's *Today*. Accepting the award, on behalf of the programme, John Humphrys re-asserted the role of the BBC first enunciated by Lord Reith: to inform, educate and entertain — with the emphasis on inform. 'In the end', said Humphrys, 'the real job is being done by reporters

Between the clips, shown on BAFTA's big screen, there were other speakers, including Roger Wright, Controller of BBC Radio 3 and Director of the Proms, Dorothy Byrne, Head of News and Current Affairs at Channel 4, and Steve Morrison, Chief Executive of the 'super-indie' All3Media. 'I believe that people like us', said Morrison, 'who care about UK quality content, need to get together and insist that our audio visual culture and creative industries are too important to let slide.

Programmes for children have long been central to VLV's concern, and a special President's prize was presented to the BBC's *Blue Peter* by Jocelyn Hay, VLV's founder.

Ending the evening Chairman Richard Lindley said that having celebrated the old it was time to look forward to the new. He invited the audience to come and raise a glass to the high quality British radio and television programmes of the future — in whatever new ways they might be delivered to the listener and the viewer.

THE TOP 25

Radio 4's *Today* came first and Radio 3 and BBC TV's *Proms (2007-08)* were second. *The Jewel in the Crown (1984)* — an evening at the Maharanee's and *Inspector Morse (1997)* tied third. Radio 4's *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue (2009)* and *Planet Earth (2006)* both came fifth, followed by *Blackadder II (1986)*, *Death of Yugoslavia — Wars of Independence (1995)*, *Bleak House (2005)*, *Our Friends in the North — 1984 (1996)*, *The Singing Detective — Skin (1986)* and *This Week — Death on the Rock (Thames Television for ITV, 1988)*. Tied 13th: *From Our Own Correspondent (Radio 4, 2009)* and *BBC TV's Edge of Darkness — Northmoor (1985)*. *World in Action — The Spy who Never Was (Granada for ITV, 1984)* came 15th. Tied 16th *In Our Time (Radio 4, 2009)*, *28 Up (Granada for ITV, 1984)*, *The Two Ronnies (1986)*. Six programmes tied 19th: *Dispatches (Channel 4)*, *The South Bank Show — P.D. James (ITV, 2006)*, *State of Play (2003)*, *Channel 4 News (an ITN Production for C4)*, *The Thick of It (2005)* and *Newsnight (1997)*. No 25: *Test Match Special (BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Extra, 2009)*.

VLV has its own annual awards (see p.5). The Top 25 were chosen by a wide cross section of programme-makers and supporters of public service broadcasting. More details and pictures can be seen on our website.

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Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Working for Quality and Diversity in British Broadcasting

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Carol Cattley



PROPOSAL TO SWITCH OFF VHF RADIO TRANSMISSIONS



ONE of the well-publicised proposals in the final Digital Britain Report, published in June, was the switch-off of most VHF radio transmissions in six years time.

VLV fully supports most advances in broadcasting technologies including digital radio. We ensure that our members are kept informed of developments. However we have serious concerns about the proposal to switch from analogue to digital radio broadcasting by the end of 2015. Additionally we consider that recommendations that will involve most citizens from all strata of society, changing how they listen to the radio, should have been the subject of a formal consultation exercise. VLV has therefore written to the Secretary of State and made a submission critical of the proposals which we summarise below.

The Digital Britain report assumes that two key criteria will be met by 2013 and that the switch-off can take place two years later. The criteria are: (1) When 50% of listening is to digital; and (2) when national DAB coverage is comparable to FM coverage, and local DAB reaches 90% of the population and all major roads.

We consider that these targets are unrealistic and will severely affect the most vulnerable in society. If the targets are not

modified the 50% of consumers still listening on analogue sets would have just two years to switch. It means everyone dumping most radio receivers and the purchase of new equipment ranging from radio alarms to HiFi receivers. It is proposed that community radio will be allocated the VHF frequencies vacated by the current broadcasters so some listeners will want to keep VHF sets.

The timescale will force the most vulnerable and at-risk citizens, those most dependent on radio, to adopt unfamiliar technology before the coverage issues have been fully resolved. We also have concerns about the quality of the proposed £20 set, including the functionality of all models and the digital technology chosen for this project: Europe is adopting a more up-to-date version of DAB. We have wider concerns about the funding of this proposal which will be met mostly from the licence fee — which is already threatened. There will be considerable costs to most citizens.

The Digital Britain report makes a very good case for the unique nature of radio. Being a flexible medium, radio's appeal to the listener is that it is more than simply a stream of audio: it is an intimate, portable and ambient medium; and it is also a very personal medium: the pictures that it forms inside our heads are different for every listener. Radio is a vital element in the lives of many citizens of the nations and regions of the UK.

The proposals in the final Digital Britain Report indicate an approach that is too fast and will risk alienating all strata of society, while putting at risk a well-trusted medium that is essential to many of the most vulnerable and isolated of our fellow citizens.

Robert Clark

Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) represents citizen and consumer interests 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 wants to maintain the principles of public service broadcasting. VLV does not handle complaints.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Sticking with the twists and turns of policy in the world of broadcasting and new media remains a rollercoaster ride.

Hardly had we stopped patting ourselves on the back for our successful efforts to get Secretary of State Andy Burnham to continue the ban on product placement in our television programmes when he was abruptly reshuffled. In came former BBC reporter Ben Bradshaw, who promptly reversed his predecessor's decision, and called for a new consultation on the topic. Quite extraordinary! And in VLV's judgement, quite wrong.

Once again we shall make the argument that product placement, by blurring the line between advertising and programmes, contaminates what we are watching. It will, as it has in America, skew the way that programmes are conceived and scripted, and destroy viewers' trust in what they are watching. Will writers and actors be striving to tell the truth about life or trying — surreptitiously — to sell us a product? We earnestly urge Ben Bradshaw to reconsider his clear intention of lifting the ban.

Other consultations also jostle for our attention. The BBC Trust — Ben

Bradshaw is hostile to that too — has a responsibility to get the best out of the BBC in your interests, the interests of the listener and viewer. Every five years the Trust carries out a review of some of the many different BBC services. Now it's the turn of BBC 1, BBC 2, and BBC 4. It wants to know what you like, what you dislike, and what the Trust should do to make these channels better. The Trust is also asking what you think about the BBC 'red button service' — what happens when you press the red button on your television remote control.

VLV suggested to the BBC Trust that we should include with this edition of our *Bulletin* the questionnaire the Trust is giving out to people who want to respond — and our offer has been enthusiastically accepted.

Of course VLV will be contributing to these reviews as an organisation, using the experience and expertise of the VLV Board. But our response will be much stronger if we are confident we know what you think. We can't leave it until our Autumn Conference on 26 November to find that out — the consultation closes too



soon afterwards, on 18 December; instead we are asking you now, before you send your completed questionnaire back to the BBC Trust, to take a copy and send it to us. That way our VLV response will have the benefit of knowing exactly what our members think of these BBC television services.

So please remember — fill in the Trust questionnaire and add any comments you may have, and send us a copy — just as soon as you can. These reviews are important, and we shall do our best to make sure that whatever you as an individual, and VLV as your collective Voice, have to say, will be heard loud and clear.

Richard Lindley

VLV CHALLENGES THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BBC LICENCE FEE

The Digital Britain Final Report published in June made clear the Government's commitment to the provision of high quality public service broadcasting and a particular need to ensure the availability of independent and impartial news in the nations and regions. Such a commitment has been at the heart of VLV campaigning for over 25 years. Where we part company with the Government is over how they propose to do it.

Given the serious fall in advertising revenue, commercial broadcasters are cutting back on the quality and availability of news throughout the UK. The Government's proposal is to take a portion of the licence fee — 'top-slicing' — and use it to help set up a competitive regional news service of some kind. Should this raid on the licence fee revenue that at present goes entirely to the BBC be implemented, VLV thinks it would be a very significant and irreversible

first step in breaking the direct link between the licence fee and the BBC. It would, inevitably in our view, ultimately weaken the quality of BBC programmes.

In taking the citizen's interest as the starting point, VLV has always argued for public service broadcasting provision which is wider than the BBC. In that provision, however, the BBC range of programmes and services, backed by the financial security the licence fee affords, is undeniably the biggest single element. The BBC is the pride of the UK and the envy of countries round the world. In VLV's view this 'top-slicing' proposal threatens that vital asset; and it does so without a thorough exploration of alternatives, or an adequate debate about the social and cultural implications for our citizens.

If Government aspirations for 'Britain to be a global centre for the creative industries in the digital age' are to be realised — as the foreword to the report has it — then a strong BBC funded by the licence fee remains essential.

Hugh Peltor

EUROPE

Quality TV or not? This is La Question!

For someone living in France this year's MacTaggart lecture by James Murdoch at the Edinburgh International Television Festival made very interesting reading. Not only was it thought-provoking but it was a full frontal attack on the BBC. One might or might not approve of what Mr M said but the debate he generated was great! As I was listening to the speech on the internet, I realised how unique the television industry is in the UK. It resists pressure from state interference and its creativity and reputation are known the world over.

That is not something that can be said about television in France, where the industry is driven by politics, ratings and advertising. This year the French media landscape or the PAF (Paysage Audiovisuel Français) as they call it, has seen key changes which will affect it for many years to come.

The first is the nomination of the Directors General of all public broadcasters. Until now they were appointed by the CSA (Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel), the equivalent to OFCOM. Through the passing of an act in parliament the appointment of the heads of public channels has become the sole prerogative of the French President, who since his election in 2007, has cynically applied one of his personal dictums: it is good to have close friends and allies in key places. The CEOs of two of France's leading private sector channels, TF1 and M6, are known to be bosom buddies of President Sarkozy.

The second revolution in France's public broadcasting landscape has been the recent partial removal of advertising from French public channels. Advertising will be banished entirely as of 2012. Many have applauded the move saying it would improve quality but have failed to realise that this is the first step towards privatising the public TV sector. With the gradual disappearance of advertising and the recent €20 million reduction of state aid for the next financial year, can public service broadcasters really be expected to be creative and bring programmes of excellence to their viewers? And more importantly, is it acceptable to allow advertising spending originally destined for France Télévisions to go to its private sector competitors? I hope readers will agree that the answer to these questions is NO.

Unfortunately this is the reason why FTV has been forced into the ratings war, a race to try and grab the few remaining viewers it can win back from private channels. Since private broadcasters tend to dish out fare that is easy both on the eye and on the brain, with programming dominated by reality TV, game shows, cheap soaps and other 'light' entertainment, public broadcasters in France, like their counterparts in Italy before them, have begun adopting similar formulae.

It is obvious that in the UK Mr Murdoch's interests go against those of the BBC. A private commercial channel versus an organisation catering to all walks of life and putting its viewers at the forefront of its remit. I can understand Mr M's frustration at the fact that the public sector in the UK has not yet been hit by the Sarkozy or Berlusconi phenomenon; this has prevented him from imposing his ideas on the entire media industry. But he and others in the British television business must be part of a healthy equilibrium of choice, and I urge him to understand that this should remain the case for as long as possible. There is nothing wrong with entertainment on television but we all have a moral responsibility to society to provide high quality programmes for all.

Sanjay d'Humieres

Sanjay is a graduate of London Guildhall University, where he completed a BA(Hon) in Film and Broadcast Production, Communications and Marketing. He is now Communications Manager for G2i Ventures in Bangalore, India. This article is his personal view.

UPDATE ON THE NEW COALITION

As reported in the Summer *Bulletin*, VLV has set up a Citizens' Coalition for Public Service Broadcasting (CCPSB), thanks to a small, rapid response grant from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust. This new Coalition works with civil society groups, charities, community groups, unions, arts organisations and concerned individuals who believe that public service broadcasting is a public good which is under threat in the UK.

The campaign priorities are largely a response to Digital Britain. They include: the future of C4 and ITV, local news and news in the nations and regions, protection of the BBC's funding base, and the decline in original public service content.

In September CCPSB responded to the DCMS consultation on sustainable independent and impartial news; in the nations, locally, and in the regions, which included the proposal to 'top-slice' the part of the Licence Fee currently used for digital switchover after 2012. The coalition supported the decision to protect local, regional and national news, but suggested other sources of funding, such as industry levies, re-transmission fees or regulatory assets, as an alternative to using the Licence Fee to fund non-BBC content. Professor Sylvia Harvey, a member of the VLV Trust, is chair of the CCPSB steering group, and VLV is acting as the treasurer.

CCPSB will officially be launched on Monday 2 November at an event in Parliament, which will be sponsored by John Grogan MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary BBC Group.

The event starts at 5.30pm. All are welcome, but space is limited, and places must be reserved in advance by contacting: psbcoalition@googlemail.com. For more details of the CCPSB including our membership, latest submissions and press releases, please see our website at: www.publicservicebroadcasting.org.uk.

Rebecca Fulton

HOUSE OF LORDS

VLV gives evidence to a Lords Committee

Jocelyn Hay and I gave evidence on 8 July to the House of Lords Communications Select Committee. This was a joint session with evidence from Save Kids' TV as well as VLV, and the main thrust was the growing problem of UK-originated children's programmes.

While parts of the discussion got bogged down in how to interpret the much-quoted statistic that by 2006 only 1% of all children's programming shown was first-run UK-originated content, we were able to get across the point that the thirty dedicated commercial children's channels transmit mainly programmes intended for the American market. Jocelyn pointed out how France and Germany have imposed investment quotas on broadcasters to help them meet the European Directive requirement of 51% of original European production. I stressed the need for children's programmes to go out in a context and an environment where children could be expected to find them — and that this applies also to children's radio.

The committee asked us about the public service role of the dedicated children's channels. While acknowledging that some of their commissions would qualify as public service, I said that the two problems were that often these channels did not commit themselves fully (for instance, Nickelodeon's good but sporadic Nick News) and that in any case viewers had to pay to access these programmes.

The committee picked up comments on Ofcom's 'light touch' in regard to content generally, and Jocelyn commented on how Ofcom fails to differentiate between viewers and listeners as citizens, and viewers and listeners as consumers, and tends to act as an economic rather than a content regulator. She referred to VLV's disappointment that Ofcom's PSB Review had not taken more notice of the suggestion that public service broadcasting beyond the BBC might be

KIDS IN CYBERSPACE
— WHAT ARE THEY
UP TO?

VLV's 15th annual **Children's Media Conference**, to be held at the Geological Society, Piccadilly, on **Thursday 12 November**, examines the brave new world of children's media beyond television. The keynote speaker will be Professor **Tanya Byron**, author of *Safer Children in a Digital World*, and other participants include BBC Head of Children's Interactive and On Demand **Marc Goodchild**. Researchers Professor **Sonia Livingstone** (LSE), **Ben Williamson** (Futurelab) and **Hamish McPharlin** (Decipher) will report on the changes in children's online and viewing habits. **Richard Murray** of Jagex Ltd will demonstrate the popular online game Runescape, and Sony will show Little Big Planet. The BBFC and the Child Exploitation and Online Centre will participate in a session on how the dangers of the internet are being assessed, while practitioners

STOP PRESS: Joe Godwin, the BBC's newly-appointed Director Children's, will be attending the conference

given funding from industry levies rather than 'top-slicing' the licence fee, which VLV opposes. Both of us indicated VLV's strong reservations about so-called 'contestable funding'. In regard to the Digital Britain White Paper, Jocelyn also stressed the need for common technical standards in digital technology as delivery methods and services converge. As an example, she said one of the best pieces of recent news for consumers was that mobile phone operators had agreed to standardise their battery chargers.

Lewis Rudd

VLV's 27th Annual
Autumn Conference.

'The End of the BBC's Licence Fee Monopoly?'

Thursday, 26 November

Guest Speakers:

Mark Thompson

Director-General of the BBC
and

Jeremy Hunt

Shadow Secretary of State
for Culture, Media and Sport
details in Diary p.8

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE



Organiser Lewis Rudd

from commercial protection organisations emoderation and Crisp Thinking will illustrate methods of moderation.

Session chairs include **Anna Home** OBE, **Colette Bowe** chairman of Ofcom, **Gary Pope** of Kids Industries, Professor **Maire Messenger Davies** and Professor **Jeanette Steemers**.

VLV Awards for
Excellence in
Broadcasting 2009

A regular feature in the broadcasting year, these awards lend authority to VLV because they allow discerning listeners and viewers to identify and vote for favourite programmes and presenters, old and new.

Nomination forms for both Radio and Television accompany this *Bulletin*. Please complete and return them before 2 December — it is important that as many of you as possible participate.

Helpfully, one member has written to say that she makes a note of anything she enjoys or thinks deserving straight away, otherwise it can slip her mind.

Ballot papers with short lists for voting in each category will be sent with the Winter *Bulletin*, when the celebrity presenter for the Awards Ceremony at the VLV Spring Conference 2010 will be announced.

Carol Cattley

AUSTRALIA

What's ahead for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation?

This year it was to the ABC that Australians tuned for vital information during Victoria's horrendous bushfires. Since then the ABC has been integral to the analysis of what happened, the grieving process, and in uniting the community around providing emotional and practical support for victims.

This reminds us of what would be lost if the public broadcaster was allowed to fall from its pre-eminent position in the life of the nation.

Yet the ABC's future as a national broadcaster that is truly independent from political and commercial influence remains tenuous. The wonderful programmes that the ABC still manages to produce are a tribute to its dedicated staff.

The ABC is not supported by a licence fee, and its funding has been seriously eroded by governments of both major political persuasions over many years. The last Conservative government stacked the ABC's governing board with people who lacked experience suited to govern the country's major cultural institution; some are even opponents of independent public broadcasting. It slashed the ABC's base triennial funding, important for the broad-



caster's arms-length operation from government, and increasingly targeted funds to specific areas for political purposes.

The new Labor Government, thus far, has demonstrated support for the ABC's political independence. It has begun to implement a new process for appointments to the broadcaster's governing board, one that is loosely based on Britain's Nolan principles and places greater pressure on governments to appoint on merit. But it has not rectified the inadequate funding of the broadcaster's existing depleted services; its focus has been on new initiatives.

Under its present board and without adequate funds, the ABC is increasingly engaging in commercial activities that risk influencing the independence of its content and damaging public trust in its integrity.

With much of ABC television's production now being outsourced, it is in danger of becoming simply a transmitter of private sector content: the public broadcaster is being privatised through the back door.

And a new threat is emerging. Powerful commercial media owners are looking to the public purse for revenue. They are letting the Government know they think public broadcasters should only do what the private sector can't, and arguing that services a public broadcaster would traditionally provide should be put out to tender. Those of us around the world who appreciate the importance of independent public broadcasting to our democracy and culture have our work cut out.

Glenys Stradijat

Friends of the ABC

Testing times for digital radios

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) commissioned Ricability — the charity testing consumer products for the elderly or disabled — to pick DAB radios which had features likely to be helpful to the blind, partially sighted and dexterity-impaired.

Of the 15 radios selected only one stood out as being easy to use for all groups, and produced good sound. Another was reasonably easy to use, with good sound, and three could suit dexterity-impaired people, but produced poorer sound quality.

With care it was possible to find a suitable radio; however it was thought that

manufacturers had not considered disadvantaged people enough. This was seen as a missed opportunity since digital has great scope for designs that would make radios easier to use for everybody.

Roberts RD-8BW Duet (£160) was designed with the British Wireless for the Blind Fund. Reception was very good and a distinctive rotary dial was easy to tune. It had five preset buttons — large, illuminated and easy to set. Its display was larger than most, but the screen was reflective and obscured when using some controls. It had a mono speaker but played stereo through

headphones. Live radio could be paused and rewound. The only other radio with good sound and reasonably easy to use was the Dualit DAB kitchen radio DKR-1 (£150). Its screen displayed good size characters. It was not easy to find stations without using the five presets, but these could be easily set. Its mono speaker played stereo through headphones or external speakers and could be connected to a hi-fi system. Printed copies of the report are available from Ricability (tel. 020 7427 2460) and www.ricability.org.uk.

Robert Clark

Letters to the Editor

Having listened to the R4 Media Show today (7 Oct), I became aware of your existence and have now become a member of VLV. It seems from your website that VLV is predominantly involved in relatively high-level governance and technical matters. Yet I note that Quality is, quite properly, high on your agenda.

May I declare my hand by saying that I appreciate the tone and clarity of English epitomised by (amongst others) David Attenborough or Huw Edwards. Regrettably, many BBC newsreaders fall short of that standard; most other BBC journalists are far worse. I offer three main examples. First, is a widespread inability to think before speaking — leading to familiar gap-fillers such as 'well', 'you know' and (of course) 'um'. Second is the poor clarity of vowel sounds. Third is a significant drift towards regional accents, as if diversity is some kind of excuse for poor quality. It is not.

Roger Lloyd-Williams

azlw@yahoo.co.uk

Letters do not necessarily represent VLV's views and may be shortened.

Deadline for next issue: 1/1/10

Write, fax or e-mail your letters to the Editor at info@vlv.org.uk

BOOK REVIEW

Harm and Offence in Media Content — A Review of the Evidence

(second edition) by **Andrea Millwood Hargrave and Sonia Livingstone**

In today's media and communications environment pressing questions arise regarding the media's potential for harm, especially in relation to children.

This fully revised edition offers a unique and comprehensive analysis of the latest research on content-related harm and offence. For the first time, a balanced, critical account brings together findings on both established and newer, interactive media. It argues against asking simple questions about media content and use.

Jocelyn Hay

ISBN No: 978-1-84150-238-0 Price: £19.95

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF VLV Ltd

The 7th AGM of Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd will follow the Autumn Conference at 3.30pm on Thursday 26 November at the Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1. Tea will be served between the conference and the AGM.

Nominations for the board are invited. They must be seconded and accompanied by a sworn statement from the nominee that they are willing and eligible to stand and sent to the Company Secretary, PO Box 401, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 9FY not more than twenty-one days and no fewer than three days before the AGM. Ivor Gaber and Lawrence Pawley have had to stand down for personal and job related reasons. Sonia Livingstone's term of office has ended and she will stand down at the AGM. We thank all three for their unflinching help in carrying VLV's work forward.

There are four vacancies. Two people have already been co-opted with a view to their election at the AGM — Professors Jeannette Steemers and Bob Usherwood.



Jeanette Steemers
School of Media, Arts
and Design, University of
Westminster



Bob Usherwood
Professor Emeritus,
University of Sheffield

New honorary director

At the moment VLV has no full-time Director so we have recruited a part-time Honorary Director to help manage VLV's many activities. Bryher Scudamore was Editor of Esther Rantzen's 'That's Life!' on BBC1, and went on to become Editor, Digital Channel Development.



Since leaving the BBC Bryher has, among other things, been the Director of Communications at the Eden Project, the

world-famous educational charity.

Says Chairman Richard Lindley: 'We are very lucky to have Bryher to help us over the busy next few months.'

Winners of VLV's 2009 Grand Draw



Hugh Peltor picks the winners

1st Prize — 40in. LCD Full HD Bravia Sony Television

Roger Bickerton Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

2nd Prize — Freeview+ Digital TV Recorder

Dr Jeanette James Surbiton, Surrey.

3rd Prize — Solar DAB Roberts Radio **Mary Harris**, Chesham, Bucks.

4th Prize — Gemini 20 DAB Roberts Radio

John Collis Ongar, Essex

5th Prize — BBC DAB Gemini 15 Radio

Mrs B Clapperton Fareham, Hants.

6th Prize — BBC DAB Gemini 15 Radio **Eddie Thompson** Woodbridge, Suffolk

7th Prize — £10 M&S voucher

Miss D. White Salisbury, Wilts.

Many thanks to the companies who so generously donated those prizes.

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 352835.

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Give a VLV membership as a gift to a friend or relative. We will add an appropriate greetings card and a FREE copy of the Radio or TV User's Guide. Fill out the subscription form below and state which publication and card type you would prefer.



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THE RADIO LISTENER'S GUIDE 2009 & THE TELEVISION VIEWER'S GUIDE 2009

ORDERING DETAILS
The guides cost **£5.95** each (inc. p&p). Please make your cheque payable to Radio Listener's Guide and send it to

Radio Listener's Guide.
PO Box 888,
Plymouth, PL8 1YJ

Diary Dates

Thursday, 22 October

Visit to ITN Newsroom, London WC1, 12 noon
FULLY BOOKED

Tuesday, 27 October

Visit to BBC Natural History Unit, Bristol, 2pm

Tuesday, 3 November

Westminster Evening Seminar at the Palace of Westminster. With the Rt. Hon. Ben Bradshaw MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. 6.30-7.30pm

Thursday, 12 November

15th Annual Conference of the VLV Forum for Children's Broadcasting 'Brave New World? Children's Media Beyond Television'. At the Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1 (opposite Fortnum's) 9.30-4.15pm (registration 9.15am).

Thursday, 26 November

VLV's 27th Annual Autumn Conference. 'The End of the BBC's Licence Fee Monopoly?' At the Geological Society, Piccadilly, W1. 10.30-3.30pm (registration 10am). Followed by VLV Ltd's 7th AGM at 3.30pm.

For tickets and enquiries please contact:

Linda Forbes

tel: 01474 352835 email:

linda.forbes@vlv.org.uk

or visit www.vlv.org.uk.

AUTUMN COMPETITION

River Cottage Handbook No.3



Bread

by Daniel Stevens
introduced by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

WIN A COPY OF DANIEL STEVENS'

BREAD introduced by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

Published by Bloomsbury price £14.99

This ardent River Cottage Handbook illuminates the ins and outs of home baking — with and without using yeast — with recipes for 60 kinds of bread.

Q: Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and River Cottage are associated with which county in the south-west of England?

Replies on a postcard to Autumn Competition, VLV, PO Box 401, Gravesend DA12 9FY or by e-mail to info@vlv.org.uk by 30 November 2009. The answer to VLV's Summer Competition for Alice Roberts' *The Incredible Human Journey* is 200,000 and the winner was **Mr T. Howard Firth from Huddersfield**



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