



# Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Working for Quality and Diversity in Broadcasting

Autumn 2014

Bulletin Issue 115

## THE POLITICAL DEBATE HAS BEGUN

These are busy times in the world of broadcasting – and that means for the VLV too.

While politicians say that formal consideration of a new Charter for the BBC will not start until after the General Election in May 2015, in practice the debate has already begun – not least in the context of the inquiry by the Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport into the future of the BBC.

We await its report with interest, but the omens are not particularly promising. We are concerned that the Select Committee has spent very little time talking to consumers and licence fee payers and that a number of its members, including its Chairman, seem more interested in constraining the BBC than in securing its future. With the current licence fee agreement due to expire at the end of next year, there will be real challenges in securing adequate funding for the BBC. However, the Select Committee is not a decision-making body. The VLV will be working hard with the real decision-makers to ensure that the interests of consumers and citizens are properly taken into account.

Other key decisions affecting broadcasting include the allocation of spectrum – on which television received by your roof-top aerial depends - both by the UK and by European authorities. The VLV has been campaigning hard to ensure that the interests of the consumers of public service broadcasting are protected in the face of a potential 'spectrum grab' by the mobile phone operators.

These are just some of the challenges affecting the media landscape – you can read more elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Whether it is responding to consultations, lobbying decision-makers on a face-to-face basis or seeking to engage public opinion through the media, the VLV is active in support of our members' interests.

## VLV's 31st ANNUAL AUTUMN CONFERENCE

**Public Service Broadcasting - reframing the debate**

**TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2014**

*The Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG*

*10.30 am - 4.00 pm*

Much of the current debate about the future of the BBC, Charter Review and the licence fee and broadcasting more generally seems to us to be dominated by media, political and industry participants, often with vested interests. The voice of the consumer, of the 'ordinary' licence fee payer, is insufficiently heard. Against this background the VLV conference will explore the issues of most concern to viewers and listeners.

Sessions will include the challenges facing the new Chairman of the BBC Trust, Channel 4's place in the developing broadcasting landscape, the future of radio and an update on some of the key developments in technology which will provide the backdrop for policy-making in the sector.

Speakers and chairs include **Sir Christopher Bland, Will Wyatt, Richard Ayre, Phil Laven, Jonathan Drori, Paul Robinson, Dan Brooke, Patrick McIntosh, Professor Stephen Barnett, Robin Lustig and Raymond Snoddy.**

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**The 12th Annual General Meeting of Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd will be held at 4.00 pm on Tuesday 18 November 2014 at The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1** Nominations and resolutions should be sent to the Chairman at VLV, The Old Rectory Business Centre, Springhead Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8HN no fewer than three and not more than 21 days before the AGM.. Minutes of the 11th AGM held in November 2013 are available on request in advance by contacting Sue Washbrook at the VLV office.

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## Voice of the Listener & Viewer

*Working for Quality and Diversity in British Broadcasting*

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Please note VLV no longer has a PO Box.

All mail should be sent to the address

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.

above.

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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN, COLIN BROWNE



Events continue to move apace in the world of broadcasting, not least at the BBC, where the new Chairman, Rona Fairhead has just taken up her position. She arrives at a particularly important time for the BBC and public service broadcasting generally. The current BBC licence fee term expires at the end of 2015, while the present Charter period ends in 2016. The new Chairman will have the responsibility of leading the BBC's negotiations on a new funding period and the renewal of the Charter, including the future of the Trust itself and the governance of the Corporation. We wish her – and the new secretary of the Trust, Jon Zeff – well and look forward to an early meeting with them.

The future of the BBC is only one of a number of important issues facing public service broadcasting. The privatisation of Channel Four appears to be once more on the agenda; powerful international companies are stalking ITV and Channel Five is of course already foreign-owned; while imminent decisions on the future use of spectrum, both in the UK and across Europe, could undermine the principle of universally available public service television, free at the point of delivery.

The VLV will be working hard to ensure that the views of listeners and viewers are fully reflected when these issues are decided, seeking to mobilise public opinion and in particular to influence the key decision-makers; but of course we need to have sufficient resources to do this.

In that context, I am delighted to make two important announcements. First, thanks to the generosity of members in responding to our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal, the Trustees have decided that we can afford to take on additional support during this particularly important time. I am very pleased to say that Sophie Chalk, one of our Trustees who has been overseeing and often writing our responses to consultations in recent times, will be working two days a week for us for the next six months. She will step down as a Trustee during this period.

Secondly, as you will read on page 4 in the *Bulletin*, one of our Trustees, Patrick McIntosh, is undertaking the tremendous challenge of walking to the South Pole at the end of the year, in order to raise funds and, especially, to raise awareness of the work of the VLV and of two cancer charities. Increasing our membership is a key challenge for us and Patrick's expedition gives us a wonderful vehicle to do this, through highlighting the challenges facing public service broadcasting and the VLV's role in influencing decision-making.

We are enormously grateful to Patrick, who will be telling us more about his expedition at our Autumn Conference. I hope to see you there.

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**Rona Fairhead CBE** took up her position as Chair of the BBC Trust on 9 October. She appeared before the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee and her appointment has been ratified by the Privy Council. She studied law at Cambridge and has a MBA from Harvard. During her business career she worked for, amongst others, ICI, British Aerospace and Pearsons. She was awarded a CBE in 2012 for services to British industry. She has said she intends to do the job for three days a week, while retaining non-executive roles at banking and retail giants HSBC and PepsiCo.

## SPECTRUM SCARCITY

### The end of universally available public service broadcasting?

Since the invention of broadcasting sufficient spectrum has been provided to enable radio and television signals to reach viewers and listeners in their homes. And, until now, the concept of public service broadcasting (PSB) in Britain has ensured that a range of channels including BBC One and Two, ITV 1, Channels 4 and 5 have been available to all British homes, free at the point of use, on payment of the licence fee costing around £12.50 per month. However, all Governments are now under pressure to free up spectrum for new services. At present the hungriest of the newcomers appear to be the mobile phone and data providers. These socially and economically important services have already acquired spectrum in various bands, but seem now to have their eyes firmly fixed on obtaining more of the spectrum that has been most suited to the needs of broadcasters. The rules of this game of competitive acquisition are played out under the eyes of an international referee: the World Radio Conference.

The WRC meets in November 2015 to make key decisions on the next round of allocations. It is likely that, following this conference, broadcasters will be removed from the 700MHz band. In Britain the free-to-air PSBs currently occupy this band. And services here also include all the free channels available via the Freeview platform. Removal will require all users to undertake, at the very least, extensive retuning and may also require purchase of new TV sets or aerials. The changes will bring annoyance, uncertainty, anxiety and additional cost to many.

However, things could become significantly worse in later years as the mobile companies have already signalled an interest in using the 470-694 MHz band. If this were to happen it is likely that free-to-air TV would disappear. Viewers would be left with two options for TV reception, both involving significant cost: (1) a cable or satellite subscription service, typically at present via Virgin or BSkyB; (2) reception of the current average usage of 27 hours of TV per week via the internet through fixed or mobile broadband. This mode of distribution would pose an enormous challenge to internet server capacity and is likely to entail a much higher cost to viewers than that currently offered through the monthly 'unlimited broadband' tariff.

VLV has made several submissions on these topics to Ofcom, available on the VLV website.

Members may wish to raise their concerns about possible loss of citizen entitlement to good quality information - as well as the 'disbenefit' to consumers - with their MP, local or national newspaper, the Chair of Ofcom, Dame Patricia Hodgson, or the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP.

*Professor Sylvia Harvey, VLV Trustee and Visiting Professor, School of Media and Communication, University of Leeds*

### VLV at EBU Public Affairs Assembly

VLV Trustee Sophie Chalk represented VLV at the invitation of the European Broadcasters Union (EBU) Public Affairs Assembly on October 10 in Budapest. The EBU is a membership organisation of many of the public service broadcasters across Europe and influences policy and regulation.

The session, *Return for Society: what does it mean in practice?*, is timely as we in the UK face potential challenges to our Public Service Broadcasters. There are murmurings that Channel 4 could face privatisation if a new Conservative government is voted in next year and the BBC faces negotiation over the next BBC Charter.

How do we assess public value in 2014? From VLV's perspective public value is delivered by broadcasting content which is free at the point of access, high quality, provides programmes for a range of audiences reflecting the diversity of interests of the population as a whole. Public service broadcasting can bring the nation together and inform us as active members of a democracy. In the face of constantly increasing competition from other, more commercial interests, we need to continue the work of VLV over the past 30 years to ensure our public service broadcasting system which is admired around the world continues to thrive. If we lose it, we will never get it back.

### Lamy Report: Future Use of the UHF band

The European Commission has published Pascal Lamy's report on the future use of the UHF band. He has proposed a '2020-2025-2030' formula with the aim of enabling Europe to fulfil the *Digital Agenda for Europe* broadband targets in three steps, while giving broadcasting a clear path to invest and develop further. The 700 MHz band (694-790 MHz) that is currently used by terrestrial broadcasting networks and wireless microphones should be dedicated to wireless broadband across Europe by **2020** (+/- two years); regulatory security and stability for terrestrial broadcasters in the remaining UHF spectrum below 700 MHz to be safeguarded until **2030**; and a **review by 2025** to assess technology and market developments. Read more on the Commission website.





VLV Chairman Colin Browne and other members visiting The Rovers' Return whilst in Salford where they saw both the new BBC Media City Production Centre as well as ITV's studios, including the newly opened set of Coronation Street. Very helpful Q & A sessions took place with senior managers from both the BBC and ITV.

## CONSULTATIONS UPDATE

**World Radiotelecommunications Conference (WRC)** – VLV has made a submission to Ofcom supporting the continued use of spectrum by public service broadcasters in the face of competition from telecommunications companies wanting to use spectrum for mobile data. The WRC is an official decision-making forum for the powerful international regulatory body, the International Telecommunication Union. The ITU regulates spectrum allocations in Europe and around the world. It is hoped that our submission will make it clear to Ofcom that citizens and consumers in the UK still value free to air broadcasting and are not all ready to move onto television supplied via broadband.

**Consultation on the future use of the 700 MHz Band - Cost-benefit analysis of changing its use to mobile services.** In a similar vein, VLV's submission to Ofcom strongly opposes taking away the use of spectrum currently used by broadcasters to allocate it to other purposes such as mobile telephony. We believe that Ofcom's proposals give insufficient weight to the damaging impact of such a change on broadcasters using the Digital Terrestrial Television system and the consequent detriment to consumers and citizens.

**London Live Local TV Licence** – the local TV station in London put in a request to Ofcom to reduce the amount of local content it broadcasts. VLV strongly opposed this move because local content is an essential ingredient if local TV is to remain relevant to those who watch it. As a result of opposition from other industry players and VLV, Ofcom has ruled that London Live cannot reduce its local output.

## BBC Music - Radio

VLV is finalising its submission as the *Bulletin* goes to press. You can see it on VLV's website in November.

## TRIPLE CANCER SURVIVOR TO TREK TO THE SOUTH POLE

58 year old VLV Trustee Patrick McIntosh, from Smallfield in Surrey, is to celebrate overcoming bowel cancer, prostate cancer and skin cancer all in the space of two years by skiing to the South Pole.

His company, KMG Chartered Financial Planners, also based in Smallfield, is setting up a charitable foundation named the KMG Foundation, to raise money for three charities close to his heart; Bowel Cancer UK, Prostate Cancer UK and the Voice of the Listener & Viewer.



More than anything, though, he wishes to encourage people to appreciate the danger of delaying seeing a doctor as well as to recognise the signs and symptoms of bowel cancer, the UK's 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest early death killer.

The VLV is important to this campaign because they fight for quality and excellence in UK broadcasting, a service which most of us take for granted. For Patrick, the link is that public service broadcasting can provide the platform for informed, impartial debate on the issues of the day, including public health.

The trek will take place in January 2015 and Patrick's training is already well underway, including running around 26 miles a week, swimming most days and walking weighed down with a jacket full of sand and a rucksack full of bricks.

It will be a semi-solo expedition, with only one other man (renowned arctic guide Conrad Dickinson, who recently walked to the South Pole with Prince Harry and Walking with the Wounded). The two men will be walking 222 km over 15 days or more in temperatures as low as -35°C, and at an apparent altitude of 4000m. They will be unsupported, so carrying and dragging 50 kg of kit and provisions.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit [kmgfoundation.blogspot.co.uk](http://kmgfoundation.blogspot.co.uk)



**KMG** FOUNDATION

where there are regular blogs about the

upcoming challenge and Patrick's ongoing training. You will also be able to visit [kmg.co.uk/kmg-foundation](http://kmg.co.uk/kmg-foundation) in the next few weeks for more information about the KMG Foundation and how to donate.

VLV has just participated in the 2014 Conference of EURALVA (the European Alliance of Listener & Viewer Associations), held in Barcelona and organized by TAC, VLV's partner association in Spain. TAC's President, Pepe Guerra, is also President of EURALVA. The conference's central theme was the challenge of protecting children and families in a multi-platform, largely commercial media environment. A particularly interesting intervention came from NICAM (National Institute for the Classification of Audiovisual Media) in the Netherlands. NICAM's Martijn Huigsloot described a classification matrix which evaluates risk and potential offence by examining not only the content in question but also the cultural context of the country market where it might be broadcast. The CEO of Qustodio, a Barcelona-based manufacturer of parental protection software, gave participants a feel for practical possibilities within the home. Production executives from TV 3 (Catalonia) and RTE Dublin (participating on the EBU's behalf) gave a content-provider viewpoint.

Vincent Porter had set the conference scene with a presentation placing public service broadcasting in the broader European legal framework, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, the Audiovisual Media Services Directive and decisions of the European Courts of Justice and Human Rights. In a round table session moderated by Andrew Taussig, a vivid illustration of the challenge facing PSBs from 'over-the-top' players like Netflix was provided by Ian Morrison from the Friends of Canadian Broadcasting. In his second presentation, Vincent surveyed the remits of PSB players across Europe, illustrating how they varied in range and specificity. Also from VLV, Maria Michalis (University of Westminster) examined the distribution challenges facing PSBs in an environment where, because of platform proliferation, the PSB programme offer may no longer have such prominent positioning nor the almost automatic access that has hitherto been the case.

Following Vincent Porter's stepping down from the role of EURALVA's European Media Adviser, the EURALVA Board nominated Maria Michalis to take on this task, in partnership with Carlos Llorens of the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

*Dr Andrew Taussig*

## **COLIN SHAW CBE 1928 - 2014**

In our last e-bulletin we reported the death of Colin Shaw CBE, who served as Chair of The Voice of the Listener Trust and for many years as a VLV Board Member, playing a central and complementary role to Jocelyn Hay across the range of VLV's work.

Even after his departure from the Board and the Trust, he was frequently consulted by Jocelyn and other Board Members or Trustees for his knowledge of the media and of broadcasting governance issues in which, as a very senior administrator and trained lawyer, he took a very particular interest. Some of us vividly recall his concern, as a former Chief Secretary of the BBC, with how the division between BBC Trust and BBC Executive Board would affect the location of ultimate editorial responsibility.

His distinguished career, spanning the BBC and the IBA (Independent Broadcasting Authority) – where he was Director of Television – culminated in his becoming founding Director of the Broadcasting Standards Commission. This position admirably suited his strong belief in the positive influence which properly-supported quality broadcasting could have on underpinning stable democracy and national identity. During his retirement years he co-authored (with Andrea Millwood Hargrave, a close friend and colleague from the BSC) *Accountability and the Public Interest in Broadcasting*. He also contributed to training initiatives in various countries including Uganda and the Ukraine as well as deploying his punctilious drafting skills in a joint VLV – UNESCO initiative to assemble a set of *Guidelines for Groups to Encourage Citizen Participation in Broadcasting*.

Colin was, in the best sense, erudite and cultured - with a historical awareness and a strong family loyalty. He took great pride and pleasure in telling about the journeys he made with his children and grandchildren to the Commonwealth War Graves in Belgium, in France and further afield on the Bosphorus. A strong family – as well as a distinguished career – belongs intimately to the legacy he leaves. We extend our deepest sympathy to Elizabeth, Giles, Tessa and Susan, and to the whole of Colin's family, including six grandchildren and one great-grandchild whom, sadly, Colin just missed meeting.

*Dr Andrew Taussig*

## THE FUTURE OF BROADCASTING IN SCOTLAND

For those concerned with issues of quality and diversity in broadcasting then a key area of interest in Scotland's independence referendum (and its aftermath) relates to the future of broadcasting in Scotland. Following, not surprisingly, from the large-scale enquiry of Blair Jenkins's Scottish Broadcasting Commission, the SNP's white paper outlined radical plans to effectively disaggregate Scotland's part of the licence fee and assets from the rest of the BBC, in order to establish a separate Scottish Broadcasting Service (SBS) to act as Scotland's autonomous public service broadcaster (albeit working in a 'joint venture' with the remainder of the BBC). The rationale for this was simple according to the SNP: as a nation Scotland contributes some £320m to the licence fee yet BBC spend in Scotland is around £200m and projected to fall to £175m. Put simply, it is argued that this current economic distribution means Scotland does not get a fair or even proportionate share.

But the argument is not simply an economic one: the white paper reiterated the BBC Trust's 2013 research finding that "Scottish viewers and listeners register - at less than 50 % - the lowest level of satisfaction with BBC services recorded anywhere in the UK. Evidence also suggests that people in Scotland want more Scottish programming". And though Scotland did not vote for independence (and while I personally believe that the economic reality of a separate SBS might damage rather than enhance broadcasting in Scotland and so defeat the object of its creation) such concerns are not likely to go away and may even be revisited by Robert Smith's Scotland Devolution Commission. Could broadcasting become a devolved power? Should it? How do we address the concerns of a dissatisfied audience hungry for more and better "Scottish programming" and best exploit the attendant creative opportunity this creates for the production community?

Even the idea of what we mean by 'Scottish programming' is itself a tricky question. One of the findings of my PhD research in BBC Scotland was the value placed on origination and development of ideas/intellectual property (IP) as a particular marker of success. And though this IP did not need to be in any sense obviously 'Scottish', it was not enough simply to function as a production warehouse service for the ideas and IP of others: it was the creation and subsequent production of content that was prized (most especially in a network context). This argument was echoed more recently in screen industry debates in the build-up to the referendum as there appeared to be strong demand for a rethink of the structures and processes by which network content originating in Scotland is commissioned.

To discuss these issues (and many more!) the VLV is planning to host, in association with the Centre for Cultural Policy Research, the RSA and the Scottish Media and Communication Association, a conference on 'The Future of Broadcasting in Scotland' in Glasgow in spring 2015.

*Dr Lynn Whitaker, FRSA, is Lecturer in Cultural Industries and Cultural Policy at the Centre for Cultural Policy Research, University of Glasgow. She is a VLV trustee.*

## VLV visit to New Broadcasting House London

Ten VLV members visited New and Old Broadcasting House in June to see the new facilities in full flow and had the opportunity to discuss current issues of interest. David Jordan, Director of Editorial Policy and Standards and member of the Executive Board, gave us a run down on his role and a frank explanation of some of the complexities of managing objectivity and impartiality across reporting and programme making throughout all BBC services. This stimulated many questions and a healthy discussion, particularly of the BBC's role in educating the public on democratic processes. We were very grateful for the amount of time, involvement and welcome frankness that David showed for us. We then visited the studios making *Woman's Hour*, amongst other programmes in Old BH and the on-air and recorded programmes of Radio 2 in Western House.

Returning to New BH we had an opportunity to unravel the mysteries of the Weather Studio, which sits above the vast new Newsroom. The automation is remarkable and 120 weather bulletins are put out per day with the forecasters having to gauge their own timing on the hoof. One VLV member was able to show her considerable skill as a future presenter by delivering her own forecast in front of the big screen. We were treated to an explanation of the Newsroom and its varying sections, viewed from the gallery above the vast pit of newsmen and the presenters' stage in constant use for national and BBC 24 bulletins and news programmes. It is hugely impressive, but confusing to the uninitiated, and the combination into a single area must be a considerable culture change from the old newsrooms. We found the content of continuous, valuable interest. *John Clark*

## Help VLV to get more members

You will find a copy of *Why join the VLV* with this mailing. ~~Do copy it and pass it on to your friends~~ and any colleagues you think would be interested to join VLV and support its aims. If you need membership application forms do contact Sue Washbrook in the VLV office.



## LEGACY GIVING

**How do you get George Osborne and the government to support the VLV?** By making a donation in your Will or assigning part of your pension fund to the VLV.

As the law currently stands, after the first £325,000 your estate will pay inheritance tax of 40% when you pass away. If you assign in your Will a tiny part of your estate to the VLV then this gift will avoid inheritance tax – in other words 100% of the gift goes to the charity.

It is also interesting to know that if you give 10% of your estate to charities, after the nil rate band, including the VLV in your Will, then your overall inheritance tax rate reduces to 36%. For larger estates, giving away 10% of your estate to charity is almost a self-funding exercise because the inheritance tax savings fund the gift. So your beneficiaries lose very little by you taking this action in your Will because the tax paid is far less and their net inheritance not dissimilar than had you not made the charitable gift.

### **Making a donation in your lifetime**

Any donation made to the VLV attracts Gift Aid at the standard, basic rate of income tax. If you are a higher-rate taxpayer, you can also personally claim further tax relief against your donation. The way in which it works is as follows; it is assumed that the VLV has received the basic rate of tax at source. You then make a claim through your tax return receiving back the balance of tax above the basic rate and at your highest marginal rate. In other words, if you are a 45% taxpayer, then you can claim back 25% additional tax relief against your gift.

### **Free advice**

The VLV, in association with KMG, Independent Financial Advisers, are offering a one-hour free consultation to any member of the VLV who would like to explore tax planning opportunities which could benefit the VLV and help with estate planning. Many Wills are out-of-date; many people do not have a Will and many people need advice on mitigating inheritance tax. KMG will be very pleased to help all VLV members in securing the best possible arrangements for their estate and for the VLV.

If you would like further information on any of the above issues or would like to arrange your free consultation, then please contact Lucy D'Souza or Katie Forman on 01342 840 110.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**The BBC is to extend the iPlayer service** to allow catch-up viewing of programmes from seven days to 30 days after broadcast. In six months the BBC Trust received almost 5,000 complaints from viewers who wanted an extended catch-up time. The Trust sought independent advice from Ofcom and "concluded that this is a sensible move that will benefit audiences and provide a clearer and more consistent catch-up service."

In the last part of her series **The BBC Report** on the past, present and future of the BBC, **Charlotte Higgins** assessed the health of the corporation and the challenges it faces on the road to charter renewal in 2016. (See *The Guardian* website).

**BBC DG Tony Hall** wrote about the value of the licence fee, *The Daily Mirror*, 20 August: "In the age of iPlayer, YouTube, Twitter and free services online, some people say the licence fee has had its day. I think they are wrong. Look at what you get in return for a fee that works out at 40p a day – *Strictly*, *EastEnders*, *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock*, *the World Cup*, *Olympics*, *Match Of The Day*, *CBeebies* and *CBBC*, new drama like *Happy Valley* and *Line Of Duty*, the best natural history programmes, all of the BBC's radio stations, the BBC website and iPlayer, news, sport and weather apps, and impartial news from around the world. What is important is that the BBC offers something for everyone. That's the strength of the licence fee. All pay for it and everyone gets something in return." (see *Daily Mirror* website)

**Digital Radio: Ed Vaizey**, Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy spoke at the Radio Festival saying he is a big supporter of radio, emphasised the sector's popularity and resilience and talked about the impact of competition from iTunes, Spotify and Rdio. He reinforced the Government's view that the future of radio is digital and outlined key actions and progress including the news of agreement by the major parties to the principles of funding the build-out of local DAB coverage. There were measures to help achieve the switchover criteria and announced that BBC national DAB coverage had already reached 95%. Their goal is to reach 97%, which would complete before the end of 2015.

### **Comings and goings**


Former head of Ofcom **Dame Colette Bowe** has been appointed as the first chairwoman of the Banking Standards Review Council.

**Ed Richards** is stepping down as chief executive of Ofcom.

**Joe Godwin** will become the Director of the BBC Academy, the UK media sector's biggest skills trainer, when it moves to its new home in Birmingham in 2015.

## 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 Sue Washbrook on 01474 338716.



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### VLV's Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting 2014

Will the new radio and television categories for **VLV's Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting** help members remember the programmes that they enjoyed during 2014? The Trustees hope so. These awards are particularly valued by the award-winners because they know that their programmes have been nominated by and voted for by us as listeners and viewers. So do take a few minutes as this year draws to a close to add your suggestions to the nomination forms that have been sent to you with this bulletin. Please return your nominations to VLV by **Monday 5 January 2015**.

### VLV Office Address

**Please note that VLV no longer has a P O Box and so all mail should be sent to:**

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## Diary Dates

**Friday 14 November**  
**Visit to New Broadcasting House**  
**(waiting list only)**

**Tuesday 18 November 2014**

**VLV 31st Annual Spring  
 Conference**

**Public Service Broadcasting -  
 reframing the debate**

*The Geological Society, Piccadilly, London  
 W1J 0BG*

*10.30 am - 4.15 pm*

Speakers include Sir Christopher Bland, Richard Ayre, Will Wyatt, Jonathan Drori and Phil Laven, Dan Brooke, Paul Robinson, Robin Lustig, Steve Barnett and Raymond Snoddy.

~~**Tuesday 18 November 2014**~~  
**4.00 pm - for Members only**

**The 12th Annual General Meeting**  
 of Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd  
 will be held at 4.00 pm on Tuesday  
 18 November after the conference.  
 There will also be a Members Forum.

With VLV's first full financial year of operating as a charitable company limited by guarantee ending on the 31 May 2014, Sue Washbrook has now completed the administration required to effect the transition from functioning as two separate organisations (The Voice of the Listener Trust and the Voice of the Listener & Viewer) to one charity.

Many thanks to all the members who responded to her requests to alter their standing order arrangements and to those who have signed gift aid forms.

**Toni Charlton, Treasurer**



## NEW SUBSCRIPTION / DONATION / CHANGE OF ADDRESS\* (delete as appropriate)

**VLV Subscription**—individual £30, two at same address £45, student e-membership £10, concessions (over 75) £22.50, joint concessions at same address £40.  
 Please make cheques payable to VLV Ltd and send to The Old Rectory Business Centre, Springhead Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8HN

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OR to pay by Credit Card please complete the form below or telephone 01474 338716

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card type: Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Expiry date  /  Issue No.  CVS  (last 3 digits of security on reverse of card)

Card No.  /  /  /  Amount £ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to pay by standing order ☐ please send me a form. *giftaid it* I would like to GiftAid my payment ☐ please send me a form