



Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Working for Quality and Diversity in Broadcasting

Autumn 2011

Bulletin Issue 106

VLV's 28th ANNUAL AUTUMN CONFERENCE AND AGM Public Service Broadcasting under Siege?

Wednesday 30 November 2011

The Royal Geological Society, London W1

10.30 to 3.30pm. AGM and Members' Forum at 4.00 pm

During a busy autumn schedule, Voice of the Listener & Viewer held a series of events around the country, in Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Edinburgh and London, giving members and other interested people the chance to consider the current key challenges to public service broadcasters in the UK. Two more events, in Belfast (*see opposite*) and the seminar on Children's Television (*see page 5*), are still to come.

VLV's Autumn Conference on 30 November gives members a chance to hear directly from some of the people making decisions about the



future of the BBC and the media in this country. The BBC Trust has put out **Delivering Quality First** to public consultation (*see page 3*) and we still await the coming Green Paper and Communications Bill. The keynote speakers will be **Caroline Thomson**

(*above*), BBC Chief Operating Officer, with chair **Gillian Reynolds**, Radio Critic of *The Daily Telegraph* and **Lord Fowler**, (*right*) former Chair, House of Lords Select Committee on Communications, who will look at broadcasting, and particularly the BBC, in relation to the lessons that we have learnt from the phone-hacking scandal.



Ilse Howling, (*left*) Managing Director, Freeview, will talk about the future for free to air services in the digital age in the face of other delivery platforms. **Roger Darlington**, member of Ofcom's Communications Consumer Panel, will give an update on Digital Radio. The conference will be followed by **VLV's AGM** and a **Member's Forum**.



VLV SEMINAR IN BELFAST - The value of localism - what's the case for local media? Wednesday 23 November 2011

Supported by Ofcom and The Centre for Media Research, University of Ulster

University of Ulster, Belfast Campus, 4.00 - 6.00 PM

On a recent visit to Northern Ireland, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, **Jeremy Hunt**, claimed "Local TV will contribute to growth in the creative industries, develop local journalism and help to bring communities together around a shared voice and interest. . . These new, local TV services will be a fundamental change in how people get information about their own communities, and how they hold their representatives to account."

In contrast, more recently, the BBC announced major cuts in local radio services, arising from the Government imposed licence-fee freeze. So how much do local media really matter? Panelist **Pat Loughrey**, former BBC Head of Nations and Regions said 'Tip O'Neil said that "all politics is local". All news is ultimately local too. In any hierarchy of audience need, local news comes first. Sadly, those needs are seldom reflected in political or corporate priorities.'

The seminar will discuss local media provision from a variety of perspectives – industry, regulatory, political, professional, educational and consumers. Invited speakers include **Dave Hyndman**, Community Media Director, NvTv; **Mike Nesbitt** (*left*), 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; **Professor Pat**

Loughrey, (*right*) former Controller, BBC Northern Ireland and Director, Nations and Regions from 2000 - 2009. He is now Warden, Goldsmiths College, University of London and a



Visiting Professor, School of Media, Film and Journalism, University of Ulster with VLV member **John Rosborough**, award-winning radio producer and former radio executive, in the chair.

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Voice of the Listener & Viewer

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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 HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT

The media landscape is facing enormous change, not just the BBC cuts but digital switchover and a new Communications Bill. So VLV too must change to be 'fit for the fray'. I'm delighted that a keen, new team of people is taking responsibility for getting our message across. Sophie Chalk, Eddie Tulasiewicz and Bob Usherwood bring a mass of experience, enthusiasm and skills, as they have already demonstrated in articulating VLV's response to the BBC's October 6th announcements.

But they in turn will need back-up with first-rate organisation; so I'm equally delighted that Dinah Garrett has kindly agreed to lead VLV's support team. I first met Dinah when she worked at the BBC, arranging many of its public meetings and big events. She was unfailingly efficient, helpful and courteous. So it is an immense reassurance to me to know that, with the continuing help of Sue Washbrook and Linda Forbes in our Ebbsfleet office, VLV will be equipped to maintain its role as the leading advocate for the citizen and consumer on broadcasting and new media matters.

Looking back over VLV's achievements, the one of which I am most proud is that VLV has transformed the consumer cause in broadcasting. So much of the practice we now take for granted has come about because of VLV's work.

When VLV started in 1983, viewers and listeners were kept at arms-length, never consulted by broadcasters, regulators or governments, often contemptuously dismissed if they dared to express an opinion about programmes. It was VLV's patient, non-confrontational style and high quality submissions that led gradually to begrudging respect, not only at UK, but also European level. We persuaded the European Commission to include consumers in their Audio Visual Green Paper consultation. My VLV Board colleague Professor Vincent Porter and I were the first non-industry people to be invited to give oral evidence to the EU Commission and then to the Council of Europe. It was the same with the UK Government, the UK media regulators (subsumed into Ofcom in 2003), the BBC itself, Channel 4 and other public service broadcasters.

Yet this pattern and practice are now so established that if they are ignored - as happened last autumn when the Secretary of State agreed a new licence fee settlement with the BBC behind closed doors - not only the public but many politicians condemned the arrogant disregard for those who consume - and pay for - the BBC. Worse still, statutory consumer representation was simultaneously slashed, leaving us at VLV as the only dedicated organisation representing the interests of viewers and listeners across all broadcasting issues.

So, as I step back, I'm proud to welcome VLV's new teams, confident in their ability to take VLV forward, and glad to offer them my support and that of all VLV members.

The 11th Annual General Meeting of Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd will be held at 4pm on 30 November 2011 at

The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1.
Nominations and resolutions should be sent to the Honorary Secretary at PO Box 401, Gravesend, DA12 9FY, no fewer than three and not more than 21 days before the AGM.

DELIVERING QUALITY FIRST - THE BBC'S PROPOSALS

Delivering Quality First follows the licence fee settlement agreed with the Government in October 2010, which sees the licence fee frozen to 2017, and the BBC assuming new funding responsibilities, including for the World Service, S4C, BBC Monitoring, local TV and broadband. To fulfil this settlement, Director-General Mark Thompson set a savings target of 20%.

The proposals outline four areas for new savings:

(1) Productivity savings: changes to the way the BBC works including the amount that is spent in making programmes and running the organisation. **(2) Content scope reductions** - changes to programmes and services that the BBC provides for audiences. **(3) Added commercial income** - achieved by focusing on programmes highly valued by UK audiences and high in commercial value and **(4) Working capital savings** - tighter management of working capital across the BBC Group.

Changes to the way the BBC works

The BBC will build on its current efficiency programme to release a further £400m of savings per year by 2016/17 by: **a more flexible workforce** which reduces duplication of expertise; **streamlining the corporation's use of technology** in workplace and production processes; **continuing to reduce senior management numbers** under plans announced in July, and flattening the structure to ensure there are no more than five layers between the Director-General to the most junior member of staff; **modernisation of terms and conditions** for BBC staff; and **increasing out-of-London production** and reducing the BBC's property estate.

The BBC Trust's Public Consultation seeks the public's views on those proposals relating directly to channels and services. These include possible changes to the BBC's national TV channels, radio stations, programming and services in the nations and regions and changes in the handling of digital access and distribution. The BBC Trust is consulting at the same time on BBC Local Radio and the Asian Network.

The general approach taken is prioritising and protecting the services and content that deliver the most value to audiences, looking at each individual service and its value within the portfolio, rather than cutting whole services or giving each service the same percentage savings target. Full details of *Delivering Quality First* on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/dqf/ataglance.shtml>. Source: *About the BBC website*

DELIVERING QUALITY FIRST - VLV'S RESPONSE

VLV's concern for viewers and listeners is the long term impact of these cuts - especially staff cuts - which could be critical to the content, quality and the quantity of BBC services. This in turn will have an impact on society in the UK in terms of democracy, culture and creativity.

The VLV Strategy Group met to discuss VLV's response to the BBC's proposals in the document *Delivering Quality First*. Our initial response was to welcome the BBC's decision not to cut any particular channel or service. However we were concerned about the likely implications of the proposals to reorganise part of the provision of local radio. We thought it ironic that one reason for proposed cuts to **local radio** was that BBC was being asked to fund elements of the proposed new local **television** service. The Strategy Group has undertaken to look in detail at the complex proposals set out in *Delivering Quality First* to clarify what the likely consequences of these will be both in terms of scope, quality and productivity. VLV's response to the proposals will of course be made available to members once it is completed.

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE CUTS!

Voice of the Listener & Viewer welcomes your views and would like to hear them before we reply to the BBC Trust's consultation. Have your say by contacting us at: info@vlv.org.uk or write to VLV Ltd, PO Box 401, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 9FY before 9 December 2011.

Alternatively you can contact the BBC Trust directly at: dqf.consultation@bbc.co.uk or write to *Delivering Quality First*, BBC Trust, 180, Great Portland Street, London, W1W 5QZ. Copies of the consultation document are available from the BBC Trust at that address.

To keep up to date with the debate and issues of concern do join VLV as an e-member – there's a special offer membership fee of £10 (£5 for students) if you join by 31 December 2011. In this way you can be kept regularly informed about VLV's campaigns, consultations, conferences, public meetings and members' visits to radio and TV stations. (*To join VLV see details on the back page*).

Remember that all responses about the BBC's proposals in *Delivering Quality First*, Local Radio and the Asian Network need to be returned to the BBC Trust before 21 December 2011.

JEREMY HUNT ON THE COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW - FOCUS ON LOCAL TELEVISION

Giving the keynote speech at the RTS Conference in Cambridge in September, Secretary of State Jeremy Hunt outlined his ambitions for a new Communications Act.

His main focus appears to remain on local television and growth – supporting businesses by deregulating. He proposes a system of local stand-alone services to reduce the setting up costs. The BBC licence fee will be paying £40 million over three years to support the local TV initiative. DCMS estimates each local TV service will have annual operating costs around £500,000; they announced 65 areas, where it will be possible to launch the local media ventures. Other proposals will include Ofcom developing a platform-neutral way of measuring media plurality, more appropriate to a multi-platform marketplace to ensure that the new Act safeguards plurality of news provision in broadcasting; protection for families from offensive content, with a possible obligation on ISPs to ensure all their customers make an active choice about parental controls.

He made it clear that in the future it will be unrealistic to expect public service broadcasters to deliver all the content they have in the past in return for their licences. While he says we must support PSB he said 'we must also allow our PSB operators the flexibility to develop new business models.' The ongoing Communications Review is currently considering consultation responses and a Green Paper will be published before the end of 2011.

NEWS FROM THE BBC TRUST

The conclusions from the BBC Trust review on the current governance arrangements are that:

- (1) There should be clearer roles and responsibilities between the BBC Trust and the Executive Board
- (2) The Trust should build on its existing relationship with Ofcom, which should have a strengthened market impact assessment role
- (3) The complaints and compliance systems within the BBC should be addressed to make them faster, simpler and more transparent and
- (4) A simpler and more easy-to-understand system should be introduced for the way the Trust governs BBC services. Specific changes include the creation of a new Chief Complaints Editor reporting to the Director-General to co-ordinate complaints handling across the BBC, and clearer and simpler information will be provided to the public on where they should go to complain about BBC content or services. The Trust will also now formally consult Ofcom on any major proposals from the BBC Executive for changes to the BBC's activities.

UK PROGRAMME PRODUCTION - SECURING ITS FUTURE

VLV's evening seminar in October gave the opportunity for members of the industry to explain and to give their views on the direction that the UK's media industry should be taking in years to come in the light of budget reductions in the field of home grown programming.

Members of the panel included **David Liddiment** BBC Trustee and Creative Director of All 3 Media, **Dan Brooke** Director of Marketing & Communications at Channel 4, **Adam Minns** Director of COBA, **Steve Barnett** Professor of Communications, University of Westminster with **Steve Hewlett** TV journalist and presenter, Radio 4's *The Media Show*, in the chair.



(left to right: Steven Barnett, Adam Minns, Steve Hewlett, David Liddiment and Dan Brooke)

Steve Barnett began the debate by making a presentation in which he indicated that the money spent on home grown content has dramatically reduced and that this was cause for concern. He called upon commercial broadcasters such as ITV and Channel 5 to play a more active role in getting high-quality content to audiences or it might jeopardise the industry's reputation as one of the best in the world.

Adam Minns however, underlined the need for commercial broadcasters to have high-rating shows to secure much needed revenue and that ITV PSB obligations were no longer sustainable in such an uncertain economic climate. He went on to say that despite this deregulation, ITV had also focused some of its funds on high-quality drama, such as *Downton Abbey*.

Dan Brooke of Channel 4, whose organisation is both publicly funded and reliant on advertising, said that Channel 4 thrived on home grown content and that his organisation would stay committed to home grown programme-making and that Channel 4 was in no better position to help the industry achieve this goal.

David Liddiment gave a rather optimistic view of the situation by saying although there would be a reduction of hours, the quality would remain high or even increase at a time when attracting a television audience is increasingly difficult.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

**PARENT
PORT**
WORKING
TOGETHER FOR
MEDIA STANDARDS

UK media regulators have joined forces to launch Parent Port (www.parentport.org.uk), a new website aimed at giving parents straightforward information on what they can do if they feel they have seen or heard something inappropriate for their children from across the media, communications and retail industries. The website makes it easier for parents to make complaints by directing them to the right regulator for their specific area of concern.

Digital switchover hits the halfway mark

More than half of UK homes have completed the switch to digital-only TV. On 21 September more than four million households in the West Midlands, Yorkshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme made the transition to digital TV, taking the UK total to 17 million homes or 63%. The switchover is due to be completed next year and will free up spectrum for new services such as next generation mobiles and wireless broadband.

Communications Minister Ed Vaizey said: "Switching to digital TV is the biggest project in UK broadcasting history and has been a real success. The project is on time and has run brilliantly smoothly. Switching to digital TV provides people with more channels while freeing up valuable spectrum." The four remaining regions to switch next year are London, the south of England, the north east of England and Northern Ireland.



CHARITIES HELP LONDON GET SET FOR DIGITAL

Information packs will be sent to 12,000 charities this month as Digital UK's Community Outreach Programme gets underway in the London TV region. Designed to help charities and local community groups support those viewers who rely on them, the packs include posters, leaflets and factsheets plus a DVD explaining switchover and the BBC-run Switchover Help Scheme. Key materials have also been translated into the top eight languages spoken in the capital.

THE FUTURE OF S4C AND THE BBC

An agreement has been reached between the S4C Authority, the BBC Trust and the DCMS on the future funding, governance and accountability of S4C until 2017. The arrangements will protect the editorial and managerial independence of S4C, whilst safeguarding appropriate accountability to the BBC Trust for licence fee funding spent by the service.

PROGRAMMES - OUT OF DATE IN THE DIGITAL AGE?

VLV's 17th Seminar on Children's TV Wednesday, 2nd November 2011

6.30pm – 8.30pm (Registration from 6pm)
Venue: 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1

Children's programmes have long been a key factor in the definition of public service broadcasting, and VLV has been among the leading campaigners to support high quality British programmes. With some 30 dedicated commercial children's channels, increasing use of the internet and dwindling funding available, what is the value of these programmes to UK children today? To what extent are the broadcasters addressing the problems of modern society? The seminar, **with support from BBFC**, will examine the ongoing role of children's programmes in today's multi-media age. Have they changed to meet the new conditions, and are they still as important? What is the relationship between broadcasters and parents and with society as a whole?

Joe Godwin, BBC Director of Children's; **Baroness (Floella) Benjamin**, independent producer, writer and long time campaigner; **Reg Bailey**, Chief Executive, Mother's Union; **Anne Brogan**, Director of Kindle Entertainment and **Professor Sonia Livingstone**, Social Psychology and Head, Department of Media and Communications, LSE. Chair: **Professor Máire Messenger Davies**, Media Studies, School of Media, Film and Journalism, University of Ulster and VLV Board Director.

PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING – WHAT DO WE REALLY, REALLY WANT?

People in the North of England had an early chance to voice their views on the BBC cuts and other media issues on October 22, when the **Bishop of Manchester**, Rt Rev Nigel McCulloch, chaired a VLV public forum on the future of public service broadcasting. The speakers were **Sophie Jones**, Head of Corporate Relations, Channel 4; **Adrian Mills**, BBC North; **Cat Lewis**, MD, Nine Lives Media and **Professor Sylvia Harvey**, Visiting Professor, University of Leeds and Trustee, Voice of the Listener Trust. Sylvia Harvey set the scene with useful facts and figures (see www.vlv.org.uk) as a background to the debate. There was a great welcome for the move of many BBC departments from London to Salford, concern about the quality of local radio, given its resources, the lack of potential funding for local TV and the importance of keeping the dialogue about the future of public service broadcasting in the public domain.

VLV MEMBERS VISITS

THE DIGITAL TELEVISION GROUP

Twelve members of VLV visited the **Digital Television Group** (DTG) in their new headquarters on the Albert Embankment next door to MI6. The Group were met by Director General Richard Lindsay-Davies and three of his senior colleagues. After an introduction by the Director General we toured the facilities in small groups, which gave us an opportunity for some in-depth discussion with our guides. This enhanced our understanding of the key role of the DTG and its importance to consumers in having confidence that equipment purchased will meet its advertised performance.

VLV is an Affiliate Member of the DTG which is the independent industry body responsible for digital television in the UK. Established in 1995 the DTG provides a focal point bringing together broadcasters, equipment manufacturers and other stakeholders to define detailed broadcast and receiver specifications and to check conformance against brand requirements.

BBC BROADCASTING HOUSE, LONDON

A group of VLV members visited **Broadcasting House, London** in September. They saw the Radio Theatre – recently renovated. Its floor has been completely changed and raked, making disability access easier as well as the general view for the audience. The theatre can now have an audience of 300 people. The guide enthusiastically told the group about the future plans for New Broadcasting House - that within the year a new public Media Café would be open to the general public. People would be able to sit and watch the BBC News and Weather action through a huge glass floor/wall. The group met one of Radio 4's presentation editors and Network Manager Denis Nowlan and learnt about the way Radio 4 is put on air and some of its future plans. They also saw many of the historic artworks and rooms in the building.

APPOINTMENTS

The BBC has appointed **Rhodri Talfan Davies** as Director, BBC Cymru Wales. Rhodri Talfan Davies, previously Head of Strategy and Communications at BBC Wales, will report to the Director-General, Mark Thompson. He joined the BBC Direction Group (BDG) in September. He said that 'BBC Cymru Wales is of enormous importance to the creative and cultural life of the nation and performs brilliantly on the UK networks too.'

ACTION AGE ALLOWANCE

The Voice of the Listener & Viewer is now a partner in the Age Action Alliance, launched on 30 September, to coincide with Older People's Day celebrations. We are joining dozens of organisations from across the voluntary, private and public sectors who are coming together to celebrate the lives of older people and address the challenges of our ageing society. As the first national initiative of its kind, the Alliance aims to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged older people, prevent deprivation in later life and challenge age discrimination. We will work together to improve the lives of older people and help transform communities into better places to grow older. This gives VLV the opportunity to share information and its concerns about working for quality and diversity in broadcasting with a wide network of organisations across the UK. DWP are supporting Age UK in facilitating the development of this wide partnership of players drawn from public, private and civil society organisations to take forward a preventative, community based approach to improving the quality of life of the worst off older people. This community has been set up for members of the Age Action Alliance to take this work forward.

<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/welcome.do>
<<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/welcome.do>>

SERVING THE CITIZEN:

Broadcasting Accountability in an Online Europe

The **2011 Annual Conference of The European Listeners' and Viewers' Association (EURALVA)** took place in Edinburgh in association with **VLV's Annual Conference in Scotland**, at the Storytelling Centre, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh on Friday 7 October 2011. Preben Sørensen, President, EURALVA and Jocelyn Hay, Honorary Life President, VLV, opened the conference. There were representatives from over a dozen countries. The presentations on the future of public service broadcasting in Europe's nations and regions, including a special session on the current media scene in Scotland, media literacy and family values and meeting citizen's expectations were fascinating. More detailed reports will be available on www.euralva.org.

José Maria Guerra-Mercadal, Vice President, ICmedia in Spain was elected the new President of EURALVA, and Lars Peter Melchiorson, Chairman, SLS, Denmark, becomes Vice President.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters do not necessarily represent the views of VLV and may have been shortened for publication

As one of the pioneers who founded BBC Radio Carlisle, as it was then, in 1973, I am disturbed to hear of the proposal to reduce the staff of BBC Radio Cumbria by almost ten posts. Often over these many years BBC Local Radio has borne disproportionately large cuts which have diminished the programme range. This is happening yet again. BBC Radio Cumbria must save 20%, more than most other stations. More than a third of Cumbrians listen; the station boasts the highest weekly reach of any English BBC local station and in Cumbria outstrips any other radio service. It would have been encouraging had that been recognized and rewarded rather than penalized.

I do not object to the BBC's proposal for fewer local programmes in the evenings and at weekends when audiences are low, but to take one-fifth of the station's resources away threatens the very quality of what remains. What is often conveniently forgotten in London is that BBC Local Radio is a social service as well as a public service through which many find companionship.

Nigel Holmes

BBC TRANSPARENCY

Secretary of State Jeremy Hunt has amended the BBC Agreement in Parliament in order to gain greater transparency in the BBC's operations. It will give the National Audit Office the right of full access to BBC financial information when carrying out its studies. The changes to the Agreement also formalise the additional responsibilities given to the BBC under the terms of the television licence fee settlement of October 2010 including: **(1)** the BBC's new responsibility for funding S4C, the World Service and BBC Monitoring; **(2)** the BBC's funding responsibilities and commitments to local television and broadband.

While VLV agrees that transparency in itself is no bad thing, we are concerned to ensure that this move will not lead to interference from Government in editorial decisions and the workings of the BBC, as the National Audit Office reports to the Treasury Committee.

Letters to the Editor

Letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Association and may be shortened for publication.

Deadline for next issue: 15 December 2011

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.

MEET Professor Bob Usherwood, one of the new spokesmen for VLV



Bob says that "growing up as part of a working class community in London's East End I was educated through the local public library and by

regular access to the BBC, which, at that time, radiated public service principles. They provided gateways to a richer and more rewarding world. I believe that it would be a tragedy if the kinds of opportunities I enjoyed were not available to present and future generations, but that is the very real threat that we face. The activities of the Voice of the Listener & Viewer are crucial if we are to maintain high quality public service broadcasting that educates, informs and entertains. I am honoured to speak on its behalf and look forward to communicating its value and values to the public, politicians and policy makers."



VLV is now on Twitter!

@vlvuk

We'll tweet on important issues. Please follow us and re-tweet to your friends and colleagues

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Everyman's England, originally published in 1936, is a book of travel articles by Victor Canning about England in the 1930s, and was one of the first Crimson Cats audio books published in 2005. Summersdale Publishers have re-issued it in a hardback book edition.

We are currently offering a **25% discount** to buy the book and CD together, plus a card signed by Charles Collingwood (Brian Aldridge in *The Archers*). The card can be completed with your name – or name of your choice – to personalise this offer. Charles is the reader of the audio book and has written the introduction to the printed edition.

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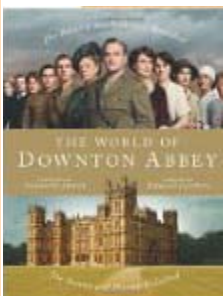
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Autumn Competition



Win a copy of **The World of Downton Abbey** by Jessica Fellowes by answering the following question. What is the name of the house which is called Downton Abbey in the TV series and where is it?

Replies on a postcard to: Autumn Competition, VLV, PO Box 401, Gravesend, Kent DA12 9FY. Or by email to: info@vlv.org.uk by 15 December 2011. The Editor's decision is final. The winner of the Summer Competition was Belinda Webster from London.



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**FOCUSES
 ON THE BBC**

Visits

A series of visits is being planned for 2012. Details in the next issue of The Bulletin.

For tickets and enquiries please call **Linda Forbes** on **01474 338711** or email: linda.forbes@vlv.org.uk or visit www.vlv.org.uk

Diary Dates

Wednesday 2 November 2011

6.00 – 8.30 pm

VLV's 17th Annual Seminar on Children's Broadcasting Children's Programmes - Out of Date in the Digital Age?

Speakers: **Joe Godwin**, Director of BBC Children's, **Baroness (Floella) Benjamin**, **Anne Brogan**, Director Kindle Entertainment, **Reg Bailey**, CEO, Mothers' Union and **Professor Sonia Livingstone**, LSE
 Chair: **Professor Máire Messenger-Davies**, University of Ulster
 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1

Wednesday 23 November 2011

4.00 - 6.00pm

The Value of Localism - what's the case for local media?

In association with OFCOM and the Centre for Media Research, Ulster University
 Speakers: **Pat Loughrey**, Warden, Goldsmiths College, **Dave Hyndman**, Community Media Director, NvTv, **Mike Nesbitt** MLA; **David Mahoney**, Director of Content Policy, Ofcom and **Maggie Swarbrick**, University of Ulster. Chair: **John Rosborough**
 University of Ulster, Belfast Campus, York Street, Belfast BT15 1ED

Wednesday 30 November 2011

10.30 am to 3.30 pm

VLV's 28th Annual Autumn Conference . Public Service Broadcasting Under Siege?

Speakers: **Caroline Thomson**, BBC Chief Operating Officer, **Lord Fowler**, **Roger Darlington**, Communications Consumer Panel, **Ilse Howling**, Managing Director, Freeview.
VLV AGM and Members Forum
 4.00 to 5.30 pm
 The Royal Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1



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