



**Voice of the
Listener & Viewer**

Bulletin

Working for Quality and Diversity in Broadcasting

Autumn 2007

Issue 90

Trust and Transparency in Broadcasting

Thursday, 29 November 10.30am – 3.30pm
at the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1



Sir Michael Lyons, Chairman of the BBC Trust will give the keynote speech at VLV's 24th autumn conference in London on 29th November at 11.15am. Professor Stewart Purvis, City University, will be in the chair.

The BBC Trust has been in existence for almost a year, Sir Michael in post for six months. He will explain how the Trust represents the public interest and how he hopes it can restore confidence in the public service ideal.

The BBC and British broadcasting have long been admired abroad for their quality and public service ethos. But 2007 has been a difficult year, with scandals about phone-in scams and deceptions in programme making. Public confidence in the UK has been badly dented but what about opinion overseas? Under the chairmanship of the veteran broadcaster Charles Wheeler, three distinguished overseas observers,

Thomas Kielinger, London Correspondent, 'Die Welt', Michael Goldfarb, former London Bureau Chief, National Public Radio, USA, and Marc Roche, London Correspondent, 'Le Monde' will discuss the state of British broadcasting and whether it still receives the same respect abroad.

**The BBC and British
broadcasting have long been
admired abroad for their quality
and public service ethos.**

Although the media regulator, Ofcom, has postponed its decision on the future of radio in the UK due to the huge response to its summer consultation, it has indicated that it favours an early switch from FM and AM radio to DAB digital delivery. Chief Executive, Ed Richards also seems in favour of selling the resulting redundant frequencies to the highest bidder. Is this wise with so many doubts about the quality of DAB reception, and when only about a tenth of radio sets in use can receive DAB? Peter Davies, Ofcom Director of Radio & New Media will explain.

BBC Radio has had few real rivals to date, especially in its speech-based services. But now, Channel 4 plans to launch nine radio channels to compete with the BBC. Nathalie Schwarz, Chief Executive of Channel 4 Radio will explain why.

The switch-off of analogue television in favour of digital delivery has already begun in Cumbria. Did it go smoothly and what lessons have been learnt to ease the process elsewhere? Ford Ennals, Chief Executive of Digital UK, the company managing the process, will report. Phil Laven, former Director of Technology at the European Broadcasting Union will chair the afternoon.

Culture, Media & Sport Committee report on Public Service Content provides some shocks

The Parliamentary Select Committee for Culture, Media & Sport, in its report (HC36) published on 14 November, reached the conclusion that 'the market is likely to continue to provide the content that consumers want and provide much of the content considered socially valuable.'

This view is not only contrary to that of many other observers, but also contradicted by the Committee's acknowledgement that certain genres of programmes are already under pressure, notably children's programmes and programmes, including news, intended for specific national and regional audiences. These pressures, it expects to increase as digital switchover approaches.

The Committee considered it important that a significant number of UK-produced children's programmes should continue to appear on commercial channels as well as on the BBC, but it appreciated that the impact of restrictions on advertising during children's programmes was creating doubts about the future level of UK production for the child audience. *Continued on p2*



VLV's 2007 Student Essay Competition



Jon Snow, Channel 4 News anchor will present the prizes to the winners of VLV's 2007 Student Essay Competition immediately after lunch during the autumn conference.

The top cash prize of £500 in each of two categories, equivalent to under and post graduate levels, has kindly been donated by Channel 4. The two top entrants in each category will also receive two weeks' work experience kindly donated by Films of Record, Tiger Aspect Films, Ragdoll Productions and Endemol UK.

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Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Working for Quality and Diversity in British Broadcasting

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VLV office hours:

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Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd (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 in broadcasting.

VLV does not handle complaints.

Design & Production

High Profile Ltd, Tel: 01474 533077

Published by Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd,

A private company limited by guarantee

(Registered in England number 4407712)

Registered address:

101 Kings' Drive, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5BQ.

Tel: 01474 352835 Fax: 01474 351112.

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Changes at The Voice of the Listener Trust



Elizabeth Smith OBE has stepped down as Chairman of the Voice of the Listener Trust after holding the position for two years. Mrs Smith, who originally agreed to act as interim chair for only six months, is also Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association.

We are extremely grateful for the active interest she has taken in supporting the Trust during her term in office. Amongst other initiatives she took the lead with the VLV Chairman, Jocelyn Hay, in launching VLV's 2006 fund raising appeal.

We extend a warm welcome to Professor Sylvia Harvey, who became a Trustee in 2005 and has now been appointed Acting Chairman.

We also extend a warm welcome to Lady Solti who has been a Patron of VLV for several years, and now kindly agreed also to become a Trustee of the Voice of the Listener Trust.



Trained at RADA, Valerie Solti started her professional acting career in the West End before moving into television as an interviewer and presenter with the BBC. Since the death of her husband, the conductor George Solti, in 1997, Lady Solti has continued to be involved in the

international world of classical music and opera. She is trustee of several music organisations and adviser to a number of others, including the Sadler's Wells Foundation, the Marinsky Theatre Trust, the Hungarian Cultural Centre in London and the Liszt Academy, Budapest, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Solti Foundation and the Friends of the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

The other Trustees are Michael Barton, John Clark, Jocelyn Hay (Hon. Secretary) and Dr Andrew Taussig.

Culture, Media & Sport Committee report on Public Service Content provides some shocks

Continued from front page

After 2013 when digital switchover has been completed, the Committee's proposes that 'public funding should be made available beyond the BBC on a contestable basis, to sustain plurality and bring the benefits of competition to the provision of public service content that the market would not provide, its source being either the licence fee or general taxation. However, it goes on to say, 'We do not believe that the overall cost to the public should be allowed to increase.'

NEW MEDIA

The Committee also said that a huge amount of public service content is currently available on new media and that 'there is clearly no threat to the production and distribution of public service content on new media platforms and therefore 'no need for further intervention to support public service content on new media.'

CHANNEL 4

In regard to Channel 4, the Committee believes that 'Channel 4's remit is too loosely defined' and it should be more tightly tied to the provision of content that the market is unlikely to provide.

VLV GAVE WRITTEN AND ORAL EVIDENCE

VLV presented written and oral evidence to the Committee during its inquiry. It is frankly shocked to read the Committee's assumption that no public intervention will be required in the future to ensure the delivery of public service content. In this it is at odds with Ofcom's warning that, as switchover approaches, virtually all 'the public service genres will be at risk as competition for audiences increases'. ITV's decision to cease commissioning virtually all new children's programming, its desire to withdraw from regional programming, and the disappearance of all arts programmes (except the late-night South Bank

Show) from ITV indicate how rapidly the risk has already developed with switchover still five years away from completion. While accepting, as, with VLV's support, Ofcom does, that public intervention will be required to sustain public service content, the Committee's suggestion that money might be taken from the BBC licence fee in order to subsidise public service programming on commercial channels is one that VLV strongly disputes. The move would bring no extra funding into the pot.

The BBC's ability to maintain the range and quality of its services is already compromised by the amount of funding it has had to commit to digitalisation and, while that burden should be lifted by 2013, any further proposal for docking its future licence revenue is at the very least premature.

Copies of the Report are available from HMSO and can be accessed via the website: www.parliament.uk

VLV's 5th AGM

The 5th AGM of Voice of the Listener & Viewer Ltd will be held at 4pm on Thursday, 29th November at the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1.

Following the enlargement of the Board in 2006, there are four vacancies on it. Nominations and resolutions should be sent to the Company Secretary at 101 Kings Drive, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5BQ, no fewer than three and not more than twenty-one days before the AGM.

The AGM will follow the Autumn Conference and all members are welcome. Tea will be served between the conference and the AGM.

Letters to the Editor

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

PROPOSED MERGING OF ITV REGIONS

People living in the London area might not be quite so aware of the concern being expressed in other places following the recent announcement by Michael Grade, ITV Executive Chairman, that he wished to reduce the ITV regions from seventeen to nine.

I live in Border Region and believe the region proposed for this area would extend about 170 miles from East to West and a similar distance from North to South - a huge area extending from York to just south of Edinburgh, from the Isle of Man to Holy Island and from Stranraer to Sunderland. Under this scheme there would be at most an opt-out of a mere ten minutes for the former Border area, within the 6pm regional evening news. Much the same would happen in other regional areas, such as the West Country... Border's traditional strength is that its area is not dominated by a large city, so even though it covers a large area at present, all parts are better represented than they are by the BBC regional bases in Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow.

ITV's aim is to save £35 to £40 million per year from a budget of £120 million, which can then be spent on entertainment programming. Yet on ITV's website it says 'ITV has been the only true regional television network in Britain since its creation in 1955'. Culture Secretary James Purnell and Ofcom Chief Executive Ed Richards say they have not yet taken a view as to whether ITV should continue to have quotas to fill in genres such as regional news, current affairs and religion, yet James Purnell on Radio 4's the Message in September said 'The value of competition between public service providers is important. Regional news is a vital part of this.'

I hope this is an issue that VLV will take up.

Nigel Holmes, Carlisle, Cumbria

EDITOR'S NOTE. Regional news is indeed an area of concern to VLV and on which we have lobbied.

THE FUTURE OF RADIO

As a member who has many analogue radios in their house I am delighted to see that VLV is opposing Ofcom's move to abolish AM and FM radio "within 7 or 8 years" - VLV Bulletin Summer 2007

Equally important is the use of radio in cars - we have three cars in the family all of which rely on AM/FM for travel information and entertainment. If these wavelengths are removed, most of Britain's 33 million vehicles will have radios which cannot access the new services. Virtually no manufacturers are offering DAB radio at present as standard with new cars, so even vehicles being sold today will be unable to enjoy in-car radio in the future. This has major implications for both entertainment and safety on the road.

I hope this issue can be emphasized in future submissions to Ofcom

Nigel Knowlman, Gloucestershire

I had no idea Analogue Radio is to end so soon. I imagined it was in the dim and distant future, perhaps not at all, as we were told when digital broadcasting was first talked about.

In the summer Bulletin you rightfully mentioned the number of radio sets which will have to be replaced or thrown away (damaging the environment) but you didn't mention the colossal increase in the amount of electricity which will be used by both radios and televisions when digital is the only option.... I just cannot see the wisdom of it, especially as I have recently upgraded my wind-up wireless and was hoping it would 'last me out'. Radios 3 and 4 and the World Service have been a constant source of education, entertainment, help

and comfort. It looks as if I will lose all this support sooner than expected. Wind-up is not an option for digital.

Ms E M Thornton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk

It was good to have an account of all that Voice of the Listener & Viewer has done recently to preserve the quality of Public Service Broadcasting in Britain.

Listening to the radio or watching television I'm constantly aware of how much we owe you, for the excellence of BBC programmes and for the knowledge that the Voice will continue to work for improvement (particularly in television!)

Unfortunately I can't get around much any more but I would like the accompanying cheque to go towards supporting your work.

William Ash MBE, London W2

I am writing to see if you too are irritated by the ever-increasing "trails on Radio 4" - now called "previews" but just as annoying! They don't even vary the text. "Feedback" ignores my complaint and is part of the unwelcome digression into the Ratings Competition.

Dr J B Davies, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

ALARMIST SCIENCE REPORTING

I listen a lot to Radio 4 and World News on digital. I doubt that I could live happily without BBC radio - the TV I have long given up.

But the following matters are increasingly annoying me, and in my humble opinion, are undermining the credibility and value of BBC news reporting.

First, the excessive devotion to alleged facts/research findings and stories about 'dangerous, man-made global warming'. The BBC is seriously overdoing it. After some thought, I would now claim that it is either doing propaganda for our government and its research establishment... or it has allowed the personal beliefs of a few presenters to determine content.

Every morning another fear-inspiring, but scientifically dubious, story appears. Today it was a 30% increase of CO₂, more than expected - by whom? That Mount Blanc has more snow than ever, or Antarctica more ice than for a long time, was not mentioned. Bush fires are... The facts that are reported are clearly selected to alarm the public, warn of looming catastrophe, and prepare the public to accept what government and the EU want to do to our energy and agricultural system. Why not trust the audience a little more and discuss these issues honestly!

There may be political and economic reasons for climate alarmism but the BBC should be a bit more open minded and careful. Consensus science has often been wrong.

Second, sports reports are too long and the interviews inane.

Third, the BBC increasingly sounds like an advertising channel for computers, websites, Ipods and email. Such a waste of time and wholly inappropriate....

Dr. Sonja A. Boehmer-Christiansen, Reader, Department of Geography, Hull University & Editor, Energy & Environment

**Deadline for next issue:
7 January, 2008**

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

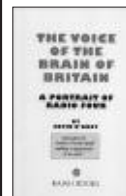
Book Reviews

A LICENCE TO BE DIFFERENT: THE STORY OF CHANNEL 4

By Maggie Brown. ISBN: 978-1-84457-205-2
Published by British Film Institute, P/B £16.00



Published to coincide with Channel 4's 25th birthday, A Licence to Be Different follows Channel 4 from conception to this year's Celebrity Big Brother racism row and its uncertain future. Channel 4 has had a chequered history ripe for explanation and analysis. Maggie Brown's book uses interviews from key players to illuminate past decisions and the public's reaction to controversies such as Brass Eye, the rise of Big Brother and Michael Grade being dubbed 'pornographer-in-chief'. Her focus on both the business and content sides of the channel makes for a compelling account of the tension between its remit to innovate and financial security.



THE VOICE OF THE BRAIN OF BRITAIN: A PORTRAIT OF RADIO 4

By Kevin D'Arcy.
ISBN: 978-0-9556706-0-2.
Published by Rajah Books, P/B £12.99

Radio 4 has a central influence on British culture, despite accounting for just 2.2% of the BBC's programme budget, according to Kevin D'Arcy, who makes an impassioned plea for the station. He argues that because of its lack of genuine independence, Radio 4 is in danger. He believes that because of Government dominance of the BBC, and the pressure of self-censorship, Radio 4 might not survive in its present form beyond the next BBC Charter, in spite of it having an audience larger than all the national newspapers put together. He says that the Archers is the most popular programme for people who listen on line, and that Sunday Worship on radio has twice the audience of Newsnight on BBC1 television.

LIFE ON AIR, A HISTORY OF RADIO FOUR

By David Hendy,
ISBN 978-0-19-924881-0
H/B £25. Published by Oxford University Press.



David Hendy draws on the BBC's vast archives and interviews with key personnel to tell the compelling inside stories behind its best-loved programmes such as Today, The Archers, Gardeners' Question Time and The Shipping Forecast. He explores the station's struggle to justify itself in a television age amid passionate disputes with its fiercely loyal listeners. He also gives a kaleidoscopic view of the changing nature of the BBC and the very nature of British life and culture in the last decade of the 20th century.

The Crisis in Children's Television

VLV's 13th annual conference on the future of Children's Television
7 November at the Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1

SPEAKERS:

Peter Duncan, Actor, Director, Chief Scout & former Blue Peter Presenter

James Thickett, Director of Ofcom's 2007 Review of Children's Television

Professor Máire Messenger Davies, University of Ulster & author of the Academic Literature Review Annex of the Ofcom Report

Richard Deverell, Controller BBC Children's Programmes

Rhian Gibson, Commissioning Editor, S4C

Nick Wilson, Director, Children's Programmes, Five

Finn Arneson, SVP, GM Original Series and International Development Turner Networks Int

Trish Magee, Head of TV Channels, Tiscali UK

John McVay, CEO, Pact, the Producers' Alliance

Greg Childs, Hon Secretary, Save Kids' TV

Raymond Snoddy, journalist & commentator

The chairing was shared by **Kate Bulkley**, journalist & commentator

Professor Sonia Livingstone, London School of Economics

Gary Pope, Director, Kids' Industries

Lewis Rudd, former Controller, Children's Programmes, Carlton Television



Peter Duncan with Eileen Hayes, NSPCC Parenting Adviser

commercial broadcasters to commission or broadcast children's programmes. This was one reason why, recognising the seriousness of the situation, Ofcom, was bringing forward by a year its review of public service broadcasting. The plight of children's programming was just one example of the problems other public service genres will face in future. There was a danger that the BBC might become the only source of indigenous programming.

Richard Deverell, however, explained the challenges that he faces, following the lower than expected BBC licence fee settlement. His department faces budget cuts of approximately 5% in each of the next five years and the loss of 20% of his staff. He hoped that efficiency savings, the planned move to Salford and the greater use of independent producers will help to offset the loss. He also felt it was important for the hours of children's programmes to be extended until 9pm as most children were available to watch between 7 and 9pm.

Rhian Gibson was more cheerful as she outlined her plans for a new Welsh language channel. Nick Wilson was also upbeat. The pre school animation and other commissions were successful on Five and so long as they continue to attract audiences they would remain.

After lunch there were interesting presentations of satellite and new media provision for children by Gary Pope, Finn Arneson and Trish Magee. Tiscali, which makes a range of content available via broad band and video on demand provided a possible model of the way that things might go in an all-digital world.

Lewis Rudd chaired the final session in which

Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to speak at VLV Westminster Evening Seminar

Tuesday, 4 March 2008

James Purnell MP, who was appointed Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport in Gordon Brown's first Cabinet reshuffle, has agreed to address a VLV Westminster Evening Seminar on Tuesday, 9 March 2008 at 6.30pm. The seminar will be held in one of the committee rooms in the Palace of Westminster and will be free to VLV members and guests. For security reasons, however, entrance will be by ticket which may be obtained from the VLV office.

Mr Purnell last spoke to VLV members about the White Paper on BBC Charter Renewal in March 2006 when he was Minister for the Creative Industries.

In March 2008 he will bring us up to date on Government policy and other current issues. He will allow plenty of time for questions from the floor.



John McVay and Greg Childs proposed some new ways of funding children's content. Pact proposes a range of tax and other fiscal incentives while Save Kids' TV are developing a model with a multi media service involving a variety of different forms of funding and delivery methods. Ray Snoddy, however, was sceptical that the Treasury would cooperate.

Jocelyn Hay caught the mood of the delegates by saying that the issue was far too important to be left to chance and too urgent to be left until Ofcom's public service review. If action were not taken now, the production industry which had served British children so well in the past would simply go out of business. She urged all present to take the issue into the political arena and change the present climate of indifference. Our children are our future. They deserve the best she said. We must persuade the politicians that a viable means must be found to provide programmes that nurture them mentally, emotionally and culturally.

Peter Duncan opened the conference with an impassioned plea for more high quality provision for children. 'We clearly care so much about the education of our kids, the food they eat, the love they get. We must also care about the content they see on their screens.'

Many delegates were then shocked to hear from James Thickett that only 17% of the thousands of programmes now available to young viewers in the UK are original British productions. Just 1% of those are not repeats. Yet children need access to programmes which reflect their own language, literature, values and environment said Professor Messenger Davies in order to grow up into well rounded citizens. This was especially important in poorer homes where children watch the most television.

In response to questions, Mr Thickett pointed out that under the 2003 Communications Act Ofcom does not have the power to require ITV or other

An Evening with Michael Parkinson

Nearly 100 VLV members and guests enjoyed an amusing and thought provoking evening with Michael Parkinson at the British Academy in October. This time the well-known personality himself was the subject of an interview by John Stapleton, the GMTV broadcaster.

Michael Parkinson began his career as a journalist and broadcaster in the 50s. At the end this year he will wind it up when both his Saturday evening television show and his Sunday morning series on Radio 2 end. The tyranny of a 47 week show every year left little freedom for personal interests, he said. He looks forward to having the leisure to do other things, including travelling with his wife Mary. His autobiography is due to be published in 2008.

During a fascinating interview covering his early life in Barnsley and his steady climb to fame, he told many amusing anecdotes. He recalled with pride some of the great personalities he had met over the years. He also voiced some of his fears about the current state of broadcasting and the threats now facing the BBC and the whole ethos of public service broadcasting. VLV members were glad to hear that, although giving up his regular shows, he hopes to continue broadcasting on an ad hoc basis. We are most grateful to him and to John Stapleton for generously giving up their evening for VLV members and their guests who included John's wife, Lynne Faulds Wood.



Editorial Comment – Three Cheers for the Fours



To counteract the gloom of recent months, we are this autumn celebrating the anniversaries of four institutions of great importance to VLV members and to the country at large. I am referring to the

creation forty years ago of the BBC's four national radio networks and its local radio services, and also, twenty-five years ago, to the setting up of Channel 4 and S4C, the Welsh language channel. We congratulate them all for the way that they have helped to enrich our cultural and democratic life.

In the light of these anniversaries, perhaps it is time to remember that VLV itself was created in 1983 as Voice of the Listener, and many of our members find that radio still provides an irreplaceable companion to their daily lives.

RADIO 4

It may seem invidious to single out any from these services, because each appeals to a different audience, as was the intention. But Radio 4 is widely acknowledged to be unique, not only in the UK but in the world. No other station provokes so much affection, or ire on occasions, as its Controllers have learnt to their cost.

When Radio 4 came on air in 1967, and when Channel 4 and S4C followed fifteen years later, the sun still shone for public service broadcasting. Few questioned its rationale and fewer still its motives. Fortunately, Radio 4 inherited the solid non-musical traditions of the former Home Service in drama, features, talks and news – together with the confidence to follow them.

CHANNEL 4

Channel 4 was set up with equal confidence that it would enlarge the public's knowledge and experience in a range of different ways. It was to make a real contribution to society and, to give the Channel security to grow, was provided with a financial safety net by the ITV companies who still enjoyed their monopoly of television advertising. Under the wise guidance of Sir Jeremy Isaacs, the Channel built a reputation for innovation and for high quality current affairs, helping to establish a thriving independent production sector. Twenty-five years later, it is still adventurous, frequently contentious, and the provider of what many consider the best daily News.

THE ARRIVAL OF SATELLITE

The delicate ecology that prevailed in the 70's however, was shattered in 1989 by the launch of Rupert Murdoch's satellite service, BSkyB, and by

the Broadcasting Act of 1990 which lifted many public service obligations from ITV. The introduction of competition from the unregulated satellite services and the weakening of the public service ethos all round, have led inevitably to a rush for ratings and a reduction in the diversity of output, despite huge growth in the number of channels.

Ironically, the hundreds of channels that now target British viewers bring wider choice to a few – at a price – in particular those who enjoy sport and American movies but for many, despite the subscription required, it is the opportunity to re-view comedy, drama and documentaries originally made and broadcast free to air by the four terrestrial public service broadcasters which is most appreciated. But where will these programmes come from in future if we lose the public service ethos and funding that enabled them to be made in the first place?

SECURING THE FUTURE

So congratulations are not enough. We also need to encourage those in charge at the BBC, Channel 4, Ofcom and the Department for Culture, to ensure that these services can be sustained today and tomorrow. The contribution they make to the cultural and democratic life of our nation is irreplaceable.

Suzanne May

VLV in the News

VLV has had very good press coverage recently in the Daily Telegraph, the Times, Western Mail, Ariel, Glasgow Herald and on the Guardian Website. Broadcast coverage has included BBC News 24, Radio Four's Today Programme, The World Tonight, You & Yours, The Long View, Radio Five Live, Radio Merseyside and Radio Solent.

Update on Digital Switchover

On November 14th Whitehaven in Cumbria became the first community in the UK to complete the switchover from analogue to digital television reception. Residents who failed to make the necessary adaptations to their equipment will no longer be able to receive any programmes on their analogue televisions.

Digital UK, the body charged with overseeing the change, have used this first switch to test the procedures and it is generally agreed that they have done all that is reasonable to ensure the changes went smoothly. By switchover day the local newspaper reported that only 4% of homes in the area had not made the change.

The National Consumer Council has concerns that the high level of support provided in Whitehaven might not be available in other regions and that some viewers might get left behind or ripped off by

unscrupulous tradesmen. There is also concern that some landlords may not consult all tenants properly or impose unfair service charges.

Digital UK is working hard to communicate with all sectors of the industry and with the public and private housing sectors. It has set up a helpful website (www.digitaluk.co.uk) which provides information about switch-over. It includes a post code checker that tells you when switchover will happen at your address and the options for new equipment and suppliers. It also gives some indication of the quality of the signal you can expect to receive now and at switchover. The helpline telephone number is 08456 505050.

Robert Clark

digital  When buying new equipment always look for the digital tick

CURRENT PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

BBC Trust

The BBC Trust is consulting on the BBC's online services. Deadline: 15th December. More information at: www.bbc.co.uk/trust

Ofcom

Proposed BSkyB digital terrestrial television service changes: deadline 14th December. Sky has applied to have three free-to-air channels removed from Freeview on the DTT platform and replaced by five pay channels. These channels would not be receivable using the current technology – viewers would need to add another set-top box. More information at: www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/dtv/ or phone: 020 981 3000

The Future of Children's Television

Programming: deadline 20th December. This is not a formal consultation rather a general discussion of the future of children's television, but Ofcom would appreciate contributions. See page 3 of this Bulletin. More information from: www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/kidstv/ or phone: 020 981 3000

Watch out for news of Ofcom's Review of Public Service Content, expected in December.

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 advertisements is 30p per word, 20p for members. Please send typed copy with a cheque made payable to VLV Ltd. For display space please contact Linda Forbes on 01474 352835.



VLV Gift Membership

Give VLV membership as a gift to a friend or relative. We will add an appropriate greetings card and a FREE copy of the 2008 Radio or TV User's Guide worth £5.95.

Just fill out the coupon below and state which publication and card type you would prefer.



THE RADIO LISTENER'S GUIDE 2007 AND THE TELEVISION VIEWER'S GUIDE 2007

ORDERING DETAILS

The guides cost £5.95 each - (includes p&tp). Please make your cheques payable to *Radio Listener's Guide*, and send them to:

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

Diary Dates

Thursday, 29 November

Truth & Transparency in Broadcasting
VLV's 24th Annual Autumn Conference
The Royal National Hotel
Bloomsbury, London WC1
10.30 - 3.30pm

Thursday, 29 November

VLV Ltd 5th AGM
The Royal National Hotel
Bloomsbury, London WC1
4pm

Tuesday, 4 March 2008

VLV Evening Seminar with Culture Secretary James Purnell MP
Palace of Westminster
London SW1
6- 8pm

Sunday, 9 March 2008

Leonard Bernstein & the Joy of Music, a presentation by Rodney Greenberg with the BBC Elstree Concert Band in aid of the Voice of the Listener Trust
BBC Maida Vale Studios
London W9
3 - 5pm

Autumn Competition

Michael Wood - The Story of India

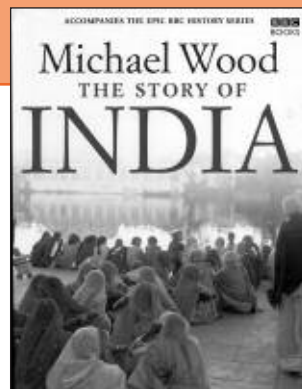
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