



Voice of the Listener & Viewer

Championing Excellence and Diversity in Broadcasting

Winter 2016

Bulletin 119

PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING ON A PRECIPICE?

**VLV's 33rd Spring Conference
Tuesday 19 April 2016**

*The Geological Society, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG
10.15 am - 3.30 pm*

The VLV's Spring Conference could not be more important or timely at this stage of the Charter Renewal process. It is unlikely the White Paper will have been published by then - but it is a chance for VLV members and colleagues in the industry to air concerns about the main issues.



VLV is delighted that **David Abraham, Chief Executive of Channel 4**, will be speaking at the conference at a time when the future of Channel 4 is also in the

headlines (see page 4).

David became Channel 4's sixth Chief Executive in May 2010. Previously he was Chief Executive of UKTV, where he led the re-launch of the G2 channel as Dave.

David was President and General Manager for TLC at Discovery Networks USA, where he oversaw all content investment and strategy from 2005-2007, having been General Manager of Discovery Networks UK from 2005-2007. David began his career in 1984 at advertising agency Benton and Bowles and was a founding partner and Chief Operating Officer at the independent advertising agency St Luke's. David is also a non-executive Director of Skillset, the sector skills council for creative media.

Other speakers for the conference will be announced shortly. The conference will be followed by a VLV Members' Forum.

VLV's Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting 2015 will be presented at lunchtime.

Inside

Chairman's letter	page 2	VLV in Scotland	page 5
BBC update	page 3	Conference	page 6
Channel 4	page 4	News in brief	page 7

SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN WHITTINGDALE MEETS VLV MEMBERS

Almost 100 VLV members and industry colleagues are meeting with CMS Secretary of State John Whittingdale for a question and answer session in Parliament on Wednesday 10 February. A report of the meeting will be put up on VLV's website as soon as possible afterwards. Thank you to all those who have submitted questions in advance.



NEW SHADOW CMS SPOKEMAN

Maria Eagle, MP for Garston and Halewood, was appointed in September as Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by Jeremy Corbyn in his recent Shadow Cabinet reshuffle, in place of Michael Dugher MP. She moved to Culture, Media and Sport from Defence.

She has pledged to take the Conservatives to task on their 'attack' on the BBC and will call on the Government to push forward with implementing the Leveson proposals on press regulation. Eagle said she was 'pleased' to have been appointed to the role and immediately went on the offensive attacking the Tories over cuts, the BBC and press regulation.



She tweeted that culture, the arts and sport are an "important part of our national life but under this Tory Government we have seen them suffer from huge cuts", adding that the BBC is one of the UK's "most treasured institutions".

For further information about VLV events, to book tickets or become a member please go to VLV's website on www.vlv.org.uk or call VLV's Administrator Sue Washbrook on 01474 338716, or email sue.washbrook@vlv.org.uk.



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Voice of the Listener & Viewer (VLV) represents the citizen and consumer interests in broadcasting and champions excellence and diversity in 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 CHAIRMAN, COLIN BROWNE



As you will see from this *Bulletin*, the debate on the future of the BBC continues to intensify, ahead of the publication of the Government's White Paper. This has now been joined by a similarly intense debate about the future of Channel 4, where all options appear to be on the table.

In these discussions, the VLV has sought to ensure that the interests of citizens and licence payers are kept at the forefront of decision making. We are also stressing that as the UK has probably the most successful broadcasting ecology in the world, the onus is on those who propose change to demonstrate the benefits. We have proposed specific measures to protect the independence of the BBC by the introduction of a more transparent and open process for determining its funding; and we have suggested changes to its governance to meet the weaknesses in the present system.

By the time you read this, we will have had our session with the Secretary of State. We cannot expect all the answers at that stage, but hopefully the direction of travel will be clearer. Thank you to everyone who has submitted thoughts and questions. We need your support more than ever.

NEWS FROM VLV

VLV has represented the interests of its members at three recent key policy events in the last few months:

Colin Browne, Chairman of VLV, spoke at a UK Policy Forum event on 8 December 2015 **Public Service Content, Broadcasting and Beyond**. Alongside him on the panel were Margo Horlsey of the Public Service Broadcasting Trust, Steven Barnett of the University of Westminster, Peter Fison of South West London TV, John McVay of PACT and Phil Critchlow of the Radio Independents Group. Colin stressed that policymaking needs to support universally available, free to air public service broadcasting for the foreseeable future since the vast majority of us still consume content live, catch up or recorded via a radio or television. Colin also spoke on a panel at the public service broadcasting event co-hosted by VLV, RSA Scotland, CCPR and SMCA at Glasgow University on 13 January 2016 (see page 5).

Sophie Chalk, VLV's Public Affairs Manager, spoke on a panel alongside Professor Paddy Barwise of the London Business School, Bill Thompson of the BBC and Professor Des Freedman of London University at the **Media Communications and Cultural Studies Association** conference in Canterbury on 7 January 2016. All were asked to identify what is missing from the current Charter Review debate. There was consensus that the Green Paper implicitly suggested that the BBC should reduce its scale and scope which is distracting from debating the most important issue - what could the BBC do better in the coming charter period? The audience appeared to support VLV's call for the voice of listeners and viewers to be heard and many of them offered their support if needed in the coming months, including the option to demonstrate with VLV outside DCMS if the White Paper on BBC Charter renewal is a let down.

VLV welcomes a future for TV free at the point of use. Thanks to the campaigning of VLV and other organisations, the **November World Radio Conference 2015** decided to allocate sufficient spectrum to European broadcasters until the year 2023 to ensure the future of free to air television for at least the next eight years. This allows some security for viewers and also a safer investment environment for the future of digital TV.

VLV Trustees: Professor Bob Usherwood and Professor Jeanette Steemers left the board at the November AGM. VLV is delighted that both of them have agreed to continue contributing to VLV's work.

BBC TRUST PUBLISHES CONSULTATION RESULTS

The BBC Trust has published the feedback received from 11,583 people who responded to their consultation on the BBC Executive's proposals for the next charter period. The Trust's analysis indicates people are concerned that existing and

BRITISH BOLD CREATIVE

valued services and programming could be compromised by some of the plans laid out in the *British, Bold, Creative* proposals which were released in September 2015.

This very much echoes the views which VLV expressed in its own submission to the BBC Trust. VLV is concerned that the BBC may be focusing too much on its online platforms to deliver content, when the vast majority of audiences still watch live, catch up or recorded content via their radio and TV sets. The universality of the BBC was highlighted as an important issue among respondents, who want the BBC's content and services to be available to everyone, regardless of age, location or internet access. Many older licence fee payers say they feel forgotten by the "prioritisation of online content over traditional broadcasting."

Many people said they fear that these technology-driven proposals could exclude those in rural areas and the less well off from accessing content and that older people might end up paying for programming they are unable to view because they do not understand the internet well enough or have the necessary equipment to access online content. The report highlighted the concern that online programming would also lead to more personalisation of viewing which would diminish the 'national experience' of the BBC and undermine the BBC ethos of bringing people together.

Most of those who responded said that the World Service should be funded by the Government rather than by the licence fee and the proposed expansion into Russia and North Korea was seen as a possible political move and unnecessary, given that the broadcasts would inevitably be blocked.

It was recognised that the BBC needs to provide programming across all the regions. However, it was felt that better representation of the whole of the UK across news and other programming was required. The public's protectiveness of news output is robust and it was clear audiences do not want an online news streaming service to undermine current broadcast output.

The responses from this consultation have been passed on to the BBC Executive to develop more detailed proposals for the BBC's future, which will be finalised later this year.

BBC CHAIRMAN WRITES TO JOHN WHITTINGDALE

BBC Chairman Rona Fairhead has written to John Whittingdale after confused messages about the DCMS consultation on the BBC. Some 192,000 responses were received, but 177,000 of them - 92 % - were allegedly via the campaign group 38 Degrees. DCMS is now planning extra focus groups.

Rona Fairhead wrote on 4 February:

"I know from the conversations we have had since your appointment as Secretary of State that you are committed to an open and transparent process for the BBC's Charter Review. You have also said that you want to engage the public in that debate.

"To that end, we at the Trust have conducted a great deal of research and consultation to feed into that process, involving over 50,000 members of the public, and we have published all of the results. The results are clear - although the public expects the BBC to improve in a number of areas, their overall message is one of extraordinary support for the mission, purpose and shape of the BBC. Proper consideration of this information - and the information collected from the Government's own consultation - will ensure that the views of licence fee payers are central to the decisions that you and the Government take about the future of the BBC.

"I was very concerned, therefore, to see it suggested in the press - not attributed to you - that some of the 190,000 responses to your consultation might be ignored. ... I realise that it can be helpful to carry out additional research alongside consultations, ... however, I would be grateful for confirmation that your department will consider fairly all the responses from all the consultations alongside the results of any other research work." (for full text see the BBC Trust website)

BBC THREE ON THE MOVE

On Tuesday 16 February 2016, BBC Three will switch from a linear broadcast channel to an online-first destination. The BBC says that the new service will feature brand new original British comedy, contemporary British drama, innovative entertainment, thought-provoking documentaries and distinctive current affairs programming made especially for BBC Three's 16-34 target audience. BBC Three has unveiled two new platforms: *The Best Of* - which will bring together original long-form programmes and a range of new content, including short form films and *The Daily Drop*, home to BBC Three's new stream of daily content including short-form videos, blogs, social media, image galleries, trending stories and daily updates from news and sport.

The VLV has said it has "serious concerns about the proposal to invest in developing online-first content. As a public service broadcaster, funded by the licence payer, VLV believes that content funded by the licence fee should be universally available on terrestrial television. The BBC needs to be careful that it is not creating a situation that strengthens the arguments of those who believe it should be funded by some form of pay-to-view."



CHANNEL 4 - WHAT NEXT?

As Lord Burns steps down as Chairman of Channel 4 after six years, the channel is under scrutiny by the DCMS, who are currently reviewing options for its future. There has been much speculation since a document that included privatisation as an option became public last year. VLV's key concern is that any straightforward privatisation of Channel 4 would undermine delivery of the broadcaster's remit, with news and current affairs as the most likely casualties.

However, the DCMS has said "The government has made no decisions regarding reform of Channel 4. We are looking at a range of options, including those put forward by Channel 4, to ensure the channel's future sustainability while maintaining its ability to deliver against its important remit."



The next few months will see a challenging period for the newly appointed Channel 4 Chairman **Charles Gurassa**, who joined in January 2016. He said Channel 4 has "a unique place in UK broadcasting", adding that he was looking forward to "exploring Channel 4's important contribution in a rapidly changing sector." He is also the non-executive Chairman of Genesis Housing Association, Deputy Chairman, EasyJet plc, Senior Independent Director of Merlin Entertainments plc and trustee of English Heritage and the Migration Museum. He is a former Chairman of Virgin Mobile plc. He had a long career in the travel industry including Chief Executive of Thomson Holidays and worked for British Airways, Tui and Thomas Cook.

Channel 4 is a unique institution being the only state/publicly owned broadcaster in the world that is solely commercially funded. Since its launch on 2 November 1982, it has retained its distinctiveness and stayed true to its remit, which was considerably strengthened in the Digital Economy Act in 2010. It has a more youthful profile than any other public service broadcaster and offers more variety in its programming content.

Any changes to its unique remit or operating model requires legislation to be passed through Parliament which could take up to two years. However, there are concerns that privatisation would necessarily require Channel 4's remit to be reduced, making the channel a purely

commercial entity run in the same way as ITV and Channel 5. In addition there would be a significant impact to the independent production sector in the nations and regions - given its publisher operating system. The process of any sell off would start with a preliminary consultation period which could last several months, followed by a parliamentary legislative process, lasting up to a year. The final part of the process would be a blind financial auction which would end with the transfer of ownership under a new broadcast licence.

Broadcasters and industry insiders are split when it comes to how the channel should operate moving forward. Luke Johnson, the former C4 Chairman, backs privatisation, whilst putting together a possible consortium to run it, along with Lord Grade, a former Channel 4 Chief Executive. Other former Channel 4 executives opposing the sell off include John Willis and Michael Jackson. PACT's John McVay is concerned there would be less emphasis on risk and innovation along with Greg Dyke, who believes privatising Channel 4 would destroy the broadcaster.



Outgoing Chairman Lord Burns said "What we have been keen to do at Channel 4 is to get into the world of joint ventures," at an 'exit interview' with the House of Lords communications committee. "The way the broadcasting industry is working, I suspect there is a lot of joint venture potential." Calling himself a 'great believer in shareholder companies' he said that broadcasting was unique and benefited from its ownership diversity. Lord Burns has condemned the government's plans to privatise Channel 4 as of 'little financial benefit', saying a sell-off of the state-owned, commercially funded broadcaster would neither raise much money nor improve the market, the only 'two possible reasons for privatisation.'

However, he was critical of the charter governing the BBC. "The charter is a very generalised document which doesn't set down terribly clearly what the BBC should be doing," he said. "The result is that they can talk themselves out of anything. The licence fee has served the BBC very well ... but we are moving into a world where switching off non-payers becomes increasingly possible and the licence fee is an anomaly."

SCOTLAND, PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING AND THE BROADCASTING LANDSCAPE

VLV co-hosted a free event on public service broadcasting in Scotland with RSA Scotland, CCPR and SMCA at Glasgow University on Wednesday 13 January 2016. There was a good turnout of about a 100 people, which included some VLV members whom it was great to see - on rather a cold, rainy day in Glasgow!



The afternoon comprised two panels of speakers representing academia, industry and VLV, as well as keynote speeches from Bill Matthews, BBC Trustee for Scotland and Ken MacQuarrie, Director of BBC Scotland.

There are a number of issues which PSB faces following devolution - representation of all the nations of the UK in network schedules, investment in the local economies of the nations, and output which informs audiences about issues and events in their own nation. These are particularly pressing for the BBC while it renegotiates its charter for the coming ten years – one which will have to reflect the seismic changes which have occurred in the identity of the UK's nations.

A key issue was whether Scottish audiences suffer from a deficit of content which is relevant to their lives and receive adequate coverage of political events within Scotland. When asked whether this was the case, the panel of speakers replied that it was not a significant problem in their opinion and no-one in the audience spoke up to disagree - but it remains a key policy issue for Scottish broadcasting and one of which the BBC is keenly aware.

Chairman of VLV, Colin Browne, was on the first panel of the day, alongside Professor Philip Schlesinger of the CCPR and Ofcom, Dr Lynn Whitaker, Dr Marina Dekavalla of the SMCA and David Hutchison of Glasgow Caledonian

University. Colin highlighted that broadcasting for Scotland sits within the wider public service broadcasting ecology of the UK, which is generally under threat with the raid on the BBC licence fee and Channel 4 privatisation on the horizon. He stressed that ideally there needs to be a charter which sets out the BBC's responsibility more clearly and reinforces the independence of the corporation and a strong Channel 4 alongside the BBC. Lynn Whitaker, VLV Trustee, raised the contentious issue of 'lift and shift' whereby English independent production companies have opened offices in Scotland to produce programmes such as *Question Time* for the BBC, thereby fulfilling production quotas for the nations; but some say they do not increase investment in the wider local economy.

In the second panel of the event we were provided some perspectives from the industry with Bobby Hain, Director of Channels STV Glasgow/Edinburgh, Richard Wilson of BBC Sport, Jo MacDonald of the MG Alba Board, Marcus Herbert, Head of Online, BBC Scotland and David Strachan who represents PACT in Scotland and is director of independent production company Tern TV. They all stressed the importance of having locally produced content for Scottish audiences and for more content to be commissioned from Scottish production companies.

The event ended with presentations by Bill Matthews, BBC Trustee for Scotland and Ken MacQuarrie, Director, BBC Scotland. Bill stressed that licence fee payers must be the focal point of the charter debate and that they want the BBC to do more, not less. He questioned how devolution will be codified in the new charter and suggested that any new structure for the BBC needs to allow populations in the nations to feed into the process of decision making within the BBC. He also acknowledged that news for Scotland needs to be more responsive to devolution and that BBC Scotland needs to work harder to engage younger audiences. Ken MacQuarrie added that BBC Scotland's proposals included one licence for all BBC services in Scotland which would make it easier to plan the £108 million budget in a more holistic fashion and help the BBC respond better to audience needs in Scotland.

All in all it was a very stimulating event and a great way for VLV to start 2016 – addressing one of the key issues which the BBC Charter Review will be considering. Thanks to all the organisations which partnered to make this important event possible. **Sophie Chalk**

PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING - FUTURE UNCERTAIN

The Voice of the Listener & Viewer Autumn Conference 2015, **Public Service Broadcasting – Future Uncertain**, could not have come at a more crucial time in the history of PSB in the UK.



Rona Fairhead, Chairman of the BBC Trust, outlined the two faces of the BBC, operating in two parallel worlds: one under intense media scrutiny and rivalry

and the other one where the public live with and love the BBC with 97% of people using the BBC for 18 hours a week. She pointed out that the current charter renewal consultation had caused an unprecedented response from the public who want a better, protected BBC and she acknowledged that there was opposition about changes, such as BBC Three moving to the iPlayer. With regard to funding, she said the public supports the principle of universality and prefer a funding model like the licence fee or a household levy.

Lord Burns, outgoing Chairman of Channel 4, spoke about the disruption to the channel caused by the current uncertainty over its future with the Government assessing its operating model. He pointed out that most of Channel 4's public service programming goes out at peak time and that the corporation is the only 'strong alternative' to the BBC as a public service voice.

Alan Davey, Controller of BBC Radio 3, talked passionately about the station and its diverse programming. He highlighted the fact that BBC Radio 3 'can take risks and clear the schedule for remarkable things.' His intention is to bring back 'slow radio', letting performances run in full rather than cutting them back to fit the schedule for which the channel has recently been criticised.



The afternoon session concluded with a 'wise people' panel chaired by Steve Hewlett with Toby Syfret, Enders Analysis;

Ilse Howling, Managing Director, Connected TV, Digital UK; Tim Suter, Managing Director, Perspective Associates and Will Wyatt, VLV Patron and former Director of BBC Broadcast, discussing what the future holds for broadcasters.

VIEWING FIGURES

Professor Sylvia Harvey produced these figures for a PSB Workshop in January 2016. The data is taken from Ofcom's *Communications Market Report 2015: 51*. The source was the Ofcom Digital Day 7 - day Diary 2014. The Digital Day study is based on a relatively small sample.

Table 1: Proportion of Watching Activities as a Percentage of Total Viewing Time, All Adults (16 plus) 2014

All adults (16+)	% of watching time
Live & recorded TV (69% + 16%)	85%
On-demand/catch-up (free) including iPlayer	5%
Download/streamed (paid for) including Netflix, iTunes, Blinkbox	3%
TV/Films on DVD, Blu-ray, VHS video	5%
Short video clips online including You Tube, News sites	2%

Table 2: Proportion of Watching Activities By Age for 'Paid For' Download or Streaming of TV/Films e.g. Netflix, iTunes, Blinkbox, 2014

Age group	% of watching time
16 - 24	6%
25 - 34	6%
35 - 44	3%
45 - 54	2%
55 - 64	2%
65 +	2%

Note: 'average time spent is the total average daily time spent watching media, including simultaneous activity'.

Table 3: Average Daily Amount of Viewing Time in Hours and Minutes by Age Group, 2014

Age group	Daily amount of watching
16- 24	4' 14"
25 - 34	3' 53"
35 - 44	3' 52"
45 - 54	4' 32"
55 - 64	4' 39"
65 +	4' 37"

Recent submissions

VLV submissions to the **BBC Trust on Nations and Regions** and to the **Puttnam Inquiry into the future of Public Service Broadcasting** are on VLV's website.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC Radio 6 Music has become the most-listened-to digital-only station in the UK. With 2.202 million listeners (from a previous record of 2.19m last quarter and 2.08m last year), the station reached both its own record listening figure as well as the highest listening figure a digital-only station has achieved in the UK since RAJAR began.

BBC Radio 4 Extra, which previously held the top spot, continues to be popular with audiences with 2.11 million listeners per week (from a record 2.201m last quarter and 1.72m last year). **All BBC Radio's weekly reach** over the period (21 September to 20 December 2015) was 34.95 million (35.10m last quarter and 34.80m last year) and a share of 53.5 per cent (53.3 per cent last quarter and 52.8 per cent last year). (Source BBC/RAJAR)

BBC Learning has announced a major commitment to schools through a series of *BBC Live Lessons* and the launch of *BBC Teach*. *Live Lessons* are interactive broadcasts that allow schools to bring the curriculum to life in a unique and innovative way. Building on the BBC's great legacy of schools programming, these *Live Lessons* will reinvent that experience, bringing it right up-to-date for the digital age. Pupils and teachers across the UK will be able to take part in the lessons wherever they may be, in real-time, as well as getting access to all the material transmitted after the event. Topics across the primary and secondary curriculum covered in 2016 will include, art, science and literacy.

How people watched TV over Christmas Connected TVs were the most popular devices to watch BBC iPlayer on over the 'festive fortnight' – with unique browsers on connected TVs up 32% from 2014. Connected TVs accounted for 38% of unique browsers, followed by 24% on tablets, 22% on computers and 17% on mobiles. Mobile and tablet usage still remained popular, with 391,000 app downloads throughout - peaking on Christmas Day when there were 90,000 downloads of the app. *EastEnders* delivered five of the top six most-requested episodes this year, with *The Apprentice Final* second and the top 'Christmas special' being *Mrs Brown's Boys*. The 'festive fortnight' includes BBC iPlayer data from 21 - 31 December 2015. (BBC)

BBCSPORT The BBC will be the exclusive free to air **Olympic broadcaster** in the UK for the next five Games. Discovery has committed to strike innovative partnerships across the continent to ensure that the Olympic Games remains accessible to as wide an audience as possible. The innovative deal means that the BBC will sub-licence (from Discovery) exclusive free-to-air audio-visual and non-exclusive radio rights to the 2022 and 2024 Olympic Games. In turn, Discovery will sub-licence (from the BBC) exclusive pay-TV rights in the UK to the 2018 and 2020 Olympic Games.

The **BBC and ICC** have announced a new four-year digital rights deal that will see the BBC Sport website cover all major ICC events, starting with immediate effect and going through to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019, which will be hosted by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

PEOPLE

Sir Nicholas Serota, Director of the Tate, will join the BBC Executive Board as a non-executive director from 1 August 2016. Sir Nicholas said "The BBC already showcases some of the very best of UK arts in a distinctive way and I am excited by Tony Hall's plan to take that to the next level by creating a more open BBC. I look forward to contributing to the future of the nation's most important cultural organisation at such a critical time for public service broadcasting."

Fields Wicker-Miurin OBE and **Neil Mendoza** have joined DCMS' board as non-executive members. Both have business and financial backgrounds.



The BBC has announced that **Charlotte Moore** has been appointed Controller, TV Channels and iPlayer, as part of a reorganisation that will offer a simplified and more co-ordinated strategy across BBC Television's

channel portfolio. In the newly created role, Charlotte - currently Controller of BBC One - will become the creative, editorial and strategic lead for BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Four and BBC iPlayer, ensuring the channels work in a complementary way while enhancing their distinctive positioning.



Andrew Board has been co-opted onto VLV's Board of Trustees. Andrew, nephew of VLV's founder Jocelyn Hay, is a longstanding member of VLV. He grew up in Penarth, South Wales and attended UCL gaining a joint honours degree in Economics and History. He lives in Cardiff


and has just taken early retirement after a career working for BT for nearly 33 years in the IT and telecommunications sector. He is very interested in Welsh current affairs, the impacts of devolution and the future of the BBC Charter. He is a member of the British Computer Society (BCS), a Fellow and former Chair of RSA Wales Cymru and a Member of Welsh Water Dwr Cymru, which is a not-for-profit public utility organisation. His interests include reading, music, tennis and competitive sailing in the Bristol Channel.

PUBLIC VOICE - VLV representing the interests of civil society

VLV has joined with the International Broadcasting Trust in re-forming **Public Voice**, the civil society coalition which had a huge influence over broadcasting policy for citizens in the early 2000s. It was instrumental in ensuring that when Ofcom was created, its work focused on the interests of citizens rather than just consumers. It also fed into the last Charter Review debate. VLV is on the steering committee of Public Voice, alongside Oxfam, the Disasters Emergency Committee, Media Trust and IBT. We will be working hard with Public Voice in the coming months to ensure that our interests, as citizens, are heard in the debate about public service broadcasting.

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Please refer to VLV when responding to advertisements. VLV 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. For display space please contact Sue Washbrook on 01474 338716.



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Keeping up to date with the BBC Charter Review

VLV will be sending out regular updates by email - so please ensure that Sue Washbrook has your up-to-date email address or else keep looking at the website at www.vlv.org.uk

Diary Dates

Tuesday 19 April 2016
VLV's 33rd Spring Conference
Public Service Broadcasting on a Precipice?
*The Geological Society,
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG
10.15 am - 3.30 pm*

David Abraham, Chief Executive,
Channel 4
Further details to be announced
There will also be a Members' Forum.

Tuesday 19 April 2016
Presentation of VLV's Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting 2015
The Awards presentation will take place at lunchtime during the Spring Conference

Wednesday 23 November 2016
VLV's 33rd Autumn Conference
*The Geological Society,
Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG
10.15 am - 3.30 pm*

VLV will be announcing other events over the next few months - watch email alerts and the website for details

VLV's Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting 2015

Thank you to all members for sending in your nominations. Voting papers are included in this mailing, or can be downloaded from the website.

Please can you send in your votes, using the enclosed voting forms and envelope - as soon as possible but at the latest by

Friday 26 February 2016



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