

SATURDAY 04 JANUARY 2025

SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m002696h)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 00:30 Bunk Bed (m000sh9m)

Series 7

8. Patrick Marber and Peter Curran grapple in the dark with the woes and wonders of life

The mechanics of déjà vu, and school friends who drank ink and licked sauce bottles for the benefit of others.

Produced by Peter Curran

A Foghorn production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002696k)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002696m)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

SAT 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m002696p)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SAT 05:30 News Briefing (m002696r)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002696f)

We can love our neighbour, and the stranger, as ourselves

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Warren Elf

Good morning, happy New Year and Shabbat shalom.

This new year has started with a great deal of turmoil, unrest and war in our world at present, with the overthrow of Assad and new leadership in Syria, war continuing in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, and many other conflicts around the world.

These conflicts spill over into our communities here in Britain and I continue to be amazed, and saddened, by the rhetoric and vitriol that can be generated through misinformation and misunderstanding that harms our relationships and community cohesion here.

The anger and fear felt by our fellow citizens in peace loving communities and the racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism and other prejudices that are so prevalent, have really affected community relations in the UK.

Thankfully there are lots of people working to improve things in our communities and society. We may be unable to affect what is going on elsewhere in the world but we can be decent and respectful to each other. We can listen to each other and try to understand what each other's fears, angers and concerns are about – and explain what ours are to others!

I really hope that 2025 will be a more peaceful and positive year. I pray for peace here and around the world. I pray that the injustices we see can be recognised and each one addressed, although repair may take a long time. I pray that we see the Divine and the humanity in each other and can establish better connections. I pray that we can join together to repair our world and work together, even when we have differences. I pray that, as it says in the book of Leviticus, we can love our neighbour, and the stranger, as ourselves.

Amen.

SAT 05:45 Something to Declare (m002695g)

How to Tune into Your Surroundings

Jack Boswell explores the Parisian tradition of flânerie, the art of strolling aimlessly through city streets, discovering beauty in the everyday.

Joining him is Dr Aimée Boutin, a French literature professor and flânerie expert, who explains its origins in 19th-century Paris and how urban renewal gave rise to this mindful, poetic practice. Aimée shares how the flâneur engages all the senses to experience the city, describing it as a kaleidoscope of sights, sounds, and stories waiting to be uncovered.

Jack also takes to the streets of north London with Adélie, a Parisian friend, to explore how this timeless concept resonates today. Together, they wander through bustling crowds, soak in festive lights, and reflect on the joys of slowing down. A chance

encounter with strangers highlights the connections that can emerge when we embrace the unexpected and open ourselves to the world around us.

This episode invites you to rediscover the simple, transformative act of walking - not to reach a destination, but to engage with your surroundings in a way that is both mindful and poetic.

Host: Jack Boswell
 Producer: Emma Crampton
 Senior Producer: Harry Stott
 Executive Producer: Sandra Ferrari
 Production Coordinator: James Cox
 Audio Supervisor: Tom Biddle
 Sound Editor: Alan Leer and Lizzy Andrews

A Message Heard production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 06:00 News and Papers (m0026mvs)

The latest news headlines. Including the weather and a look at the papers.

SAT 06:07 This Natural Life (m0026939)

Professor Kathy Willis

Martha Kearney meets Kathy Willis, Professor of Biodiversity at Oxford University, at Kathy's local stamping ground of Port Meadow, the protected common land in the heart of Oxford, to hear about how her love of the natural world has shaped her life.

Growing up in London, Kathy has always been someone who spends a lot of time outdoors - whether in city parks, rural campsites or cycle trips abroad. Her mother instilled in her a deep respect for nature, teaching her the local names of plants from a young age. Kathy shares how she carried on this passion into her degree, and later PhD in palaeobotany at Cambridge. She's since researched how ecosystems help protect us from climate change and floods, and more recently has been exploring the relationship between nature and health in her book, Good Nature.

Kathy chats with Martha about the scientific evidence about why interacting with nature really does make you feel better, from sight, smell, sound and the hidden sense - your microbiome. They wander around this special, wintery meadow close to where Kathy lives, with its glorious open views stretching into the distance, and reflect on the myriad of benefits it brings to both humans and wildlife.

Producer: Eliza Lomas

SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m0026mvv)

20 ancient barns in the Lake District are being restored thanks to a fund of just over 3 million pounds. Caz Graham joins an architect and a farmer to find out how the work is being done. Solomon is a Shorthorn bull, and he's a bull with a job title. He's the Department Bull. Owned by the Scottish Government, Solomon is one of a number of bulls available to small-scale crofters in the Highlands and Islands who want to choose a mate for their beef herds. We visit the Isle of Lewis to find out more. And the Derby Tup is a traditional Derbyshire folk play, performed in the winter months. We hear from a family keeping the tradition alive.

Presented by Helen Mark and produced by Chris Ledgard at BBC Audio Bristol

SAT 06:57 Weather (m0026mvx)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SAT 07:00 Today (m0026mvz)

Including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m0026mw1)

Sarah Beeny, Jarlath Regan, Marina Gibson, Russell Howard

Radio 4's Saturday morning show brings you extraordinary stories and remarkable people.

SAT 10:00 You're Dead to Me (m0026mw3)

Aristotle: Ancient Greece's greatest philosopher?

Greg Jenner is joined in ancient Greece by Professor Edith Hall and comedian Dan Schreiber to learn all about famous philosopher Aristotle and his world changing ideas. Born a doctor's son in the coastal settlement of Stagira, Aristotle would go on to revolutionise intellectual life in the west, writing on everything from theatre and the arts to politics, moral philosophy and zoology. After studying under Plato at his academy, Aristotle became a teacher himself, tutoring none

other than a young Alexander the Great in Macedon before returning to Athens to found his own school, the Lyceum. And yet this extraordinary life came to an end in exile, after he was banished from his beloved Athens. This episode charts Aristotle's incredible rise and fall, exploring his intellectual career and philosophical ideas alongside his friendships and romances, and asking whether despite his views on women and slavery he deserves the title of the greatest Greek philosopher.

If you're a fan of ancient academic rivalries, bloodthirsty kings, and incredible scientific discoveries, you'll love our episode on Aristotle.

If you want more Greek philosophers with Professor Edith, check out our episode on Pythagoras. And for more from Dan Schreiber, listen to our episode on Young Napoleon.

You're Dead to Me is the comedy podcast that takes history seriously. Every episode, Greg Jenner brings together the best names in history and comedy to learn and laugh about the past.

Hosted by: Greg Jenner
 Research by: Madeleine Bracey
 Written by: Emmie Rose Price-Goodfellow, Emma Nagouse, and Greg Jenner
 Produced by: Emmie Rose Price-Goodfellow and Greg Jenner
 Audio Producer: Steve Hankey
 Production Coordinator: Ben Hollands
 Senior Producer: Emma Nagouse
 Executive Editor: James Cook

SAT 10:30 Rewinder (m0026mw5)

This Feels Like a Punishment

Izzy wizzy Greg gets busy as this week's he's joined by a certain magician bear while searching through the BBC Archives. He digs out an argument between Sooty creator Harry Corbett and the BBC about whether Sooty should have a girlfriend. Did the little bear get his way?

As a new film version of Nosferatu hits cinemas, Greg goes vampire hunting. He tracks down some blood-sucking bats in the archive, and the various BBC presenters who've been bitten - or wanted to be bitten - by them.

One of Greg's highlights of 2024 was climbing the O2 venue in London with singing superstar Billie Eilish. This inspires him to look for other BBC presenters who've climbed tall buildings. Chief among them was John Noakes, Blue Peter's resident daredevil who, over the course of 12 years, climbed tens of thousands of feet, from Big Ben to Mount Etna, sometimes without a safety harness. Greg looks at some of Noakes's breathless climbing highlights.

And 60 years ago, Petula Clark's hit single Downtown went to number one in the States. She now has the longest career of any British entertainer ever, beginning when she was just nine years old during an air raid in London. Greg finds out more about Petula's extraordinary career, from that beginning to a seminal TV broadcast with Harry Belafonte, and the fact that she recorded Downtown in several different languages.

Producer: Tim Bano

An EcoAudio certified production.

SAT 11:00 The Future Seekers (m002695q)

As humans, we're drawn to the big questions: How does the universe work? What secrets does our planet hold? Even - why are we here? But these mysteries span billions of years - vast stretches of time that dwarf our short human lives.

So how can we understand timeless ideas with such limited time ourselves? And why ask a question when you know you're not going to live to see the answer?

Caroline Steel meets a group of people who spend their lives in two time zones. One, the normal heartbeat of humanity. The other, closer to eternity.

We meet Charles Cockell, an astrobiologist who spends a lot of time thinking about life on other planets. But his most exciting experiment lives in a wooden box under his desk. It's an experiment that will be bequeathed to future scientists, with a finish date in 2514. It'll help those scientists make observations that would not be possible in a single lifetime, but even that's not long enough for Charles. He has plans for an experiment that will continue for a billion years.

In Michigan, USA we meet Grace Fleming and a group of plant biologists tramping through snow under the cover of darkness, following a treasure map that was left for them 140 years ago. They're looking for a bottle of seeds that was buried by a 19th century scientist who knew he'd never get to see the results, which continue to be surprising and exciting today.

And in Queensland, Australia we meet Andrew White, a

quantum physicist who found himself in charge of a century old experiment that tells us something visceral and fundamental about the nature of deep time.

These are the future seekers - humans of the past and present attempting to transcend the limitations of their own lifetimes.

Presenter: Caroline Steel
Producer: Ben Motley

SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m0026mw7)
Mexico prepares for Trump 2.0

Kate Adie introduces stories from Mexico, Lebanon, Liberia and Tanzania.

Mexico's first woman president, Claudia Sheinbaum, is preparing for a potentially bumpy year, as Donald Trump returns to the White House with threats of tariffs and mass deportations. Will Grant looks at the challenges ahead in 2025.

On Saturday 4th January 1975, Jim Muir pulled up in Beirut, marking the beginning of a decades-long career reporting for the BBC from the Middle East. He recalls what the 'Switzerland of the Middle East' was like in the months before civil war gripped the country, and how it has changed over the years.

The Liberian warlord-turned-politician, Prince Yormie Johnson, recently died at the age of seventy-two. The BBC's former Africa Correspondent, Hilary Andersson, recalls meeting him when she was first starting out as a journalist.

Last year, Reha Kansara and her friends challenged themselves to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. While they made it to the foothills to fulfil their promise, they also discovered a few truths about the adage that it's the journey, not that destination that really matters.

Series producer: Serena Tarling
Production Coordinators: Katie Morrison & Sophie Hill
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

SAT 12:00 News Summary (m0026mw9)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

SAT 12:04 Money Box (m0026mwc)
Energy Costs and Private Schools VAT

Temperatures have fallen below zero in much of the UK this week, just as gas and electricity prices rose. From New Year's Day the price cap set by the regulator Ofgem on every unit of power we use will mean the price for heating, washing and cooking for a typical household will rise by just over one per cent. A typical bill will go up £21 a year to £1,738. But, that is in fact 10% or £190 lower than the price cap set a year ago. How are people coping with costs this winter?

From New Year's Day the fees private schools charge parents will be subject to VAT at 20%. Previously private school fees were exempt. The Independent Schools' Bursars Association has told Money Box that schools are raising fees from this term by between 13% and 18%, though some are absorbing the whole cost while others pass on the full amount raising fees by 20%. What impact will that have on schools and parents? The Treasury says pupils numbers at independent schools have remained steady since 2000, despite fees increasing by around 75% in real terms since then. We'll speak to Rudolf Elliott Lockhart - CEO of the Independent Schools Association.

From 1st January catching the bus could cost you 50% more. Single fares in England which had been capped at £2 have risen by a pound to a maximum of £3. What impact will that have on passengers?

And 'tis the season to be - taking things back. What are your refund rights?

Presenter: Paul Lewis
Reporter: Dan Whitworth
Researchers: Emma Smith, Catherine Lund and Eimear Devlin.
Editor: Jess Quayle

(First broadcast 12noon Saturday 4th January 2025)

SAT 12:30 The News Quiz (m002695x)
Best of The News Quiz 2024

A satirical smorgasbord of The News Quiz's best bits of the year. Covering international tensions, a UK general election, and of course the question on everyone's lips, what exactly was a 'Brat Summer'?

With Andy Zaltzman in the chair, full of whimsical animal metaphors and cricket stats, we'll hear highlights from the crème de la crème of British and international comedy and

journalism to dissect the news. It's a chance to return to, and revel in, some of 2024's funniest moments, starring Ian Smith, Lucy Porter, Geoff Norcott, Alasdair Beckett-King, Mark Steel, Ria Lina, Simon Evans and Zoe Lyons, amongst others.

Come digest a dramatic year of news, along with the leftover turkey, as we say goodbye to 2024, goodbye to 14 years of Conservative rule, goodbye to short-lived presidential hopeful Kamala Harris, and goodbye to Earth's temporary second moon.

Written and presented by Andy Zaltzman

Producer: Sam Holmes
Executive Producer: James Robinson
Production Coordinator: Jodie Charman

A BBC Studios Audio Production for Radio 4
An Eco-Audio certified Production

SAT 12:57 Weather (m0026mwf)
The latest weather forecast

SAT 13:00 News and Weather (m0026mwh)
The latest national and international news and weather reports from BBC Radio 4

SAT 13:10 Correspondents' Look Ahead (m0026963)
Looking Ahead to 2025

Jonny Dymond asks some of the BBC's best correspondents and editors to gaze into their crystal balls and predict what 2025 might have in store.

If 2024 was the year of elections, then 2025 will be the year the election winners try and deliver on their promises. Among them, British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer - what will Labour's priorities be this year? Also, how will Kemi Badenoch galvanise Conservatives in the face of Reform's growing momentum?

In the US, how will incoming president Donald Trump's second term differ to his first? Will he really follow through on threats to impose trade tariffs?

The panel also give their people and places to watch out for in the next 12 months.

Contributors:

Alex Forsyth, BBC Political Correspondent and presenter of BBC Radio 4's Any Questions.
Lyse Doucet, BBC Chief International Correspondent
Simon Jack, BBC Business Editor
Anthony Zurcher, North America Correspondent

Producer: Ben Carter
Sound engineer: James Beard
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

SAT 14:00 Air Ambulance (m0026900)
Welcome aboard Helimed 21, the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service, run by Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex.

Summer is the busiest time of year for KSS, and today is no exception.

Join Dr Kevin Fong with his fellow medics and pilots as they race to serious incidents across their nearly 3000 square mile patch. With unique access and using a suite of carefully tailored microphones, hear first-hand how medics and pilots at the cutting edge of their professions deal with the worst days of their patients' lives. Real events, real decisions, in real time.

After being trapped in his car for over an hour following a collision, patient Will is in a bad way. A South East Coast Ambulance paramedic who used to work for HEMS is first on scene. As Will's condition deteriorates despite her expert efforts, she calls her for the help of KSS. They rush to the scene and she passes the baton in the chain of survival. But Will is still going downhill - it's clear he's been critically injured. Even flying the emergency room service to him, as KSS does thousands of times each year, may not be enough to save his life.

When a case is this serious, every decision is a balance of benefits and risks, all with high stakes. From careful diagnosis of multiple serious injuries to delivering a blood transfusion, we hear how the KSS medical team weigh up the available choices in their attempt to save Will.

If you've ever seen an air ambulance whirring overhead and wondered where they're going - this is a story for you.

With thanks to Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex,

South East Coast Ambulance and Royal Sussex County Hospital.
Presenter: Dr Kevin Fong
Producer: Jen Whyntie
Executive Producer: Rami Tzabar
A TellTale Industries production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 14:45 The Archers (m002695z)
WRITER: Sarah McDonald Hughes
DIRECTOR: Kim Greengrass
EDITOR: Jeremy Howe

Helen Archer.... Louiza Patikas
Henry Archer.... Blayke Darby
Pat Archer.... Patricia Gallimore
Tony Archer.... David Troughton
Lee Bryce.... Ryan Early
Chris Carter.... Wilf Scolding
Neil Carter.... Brian Hewlett
Susan Carter.... Charlotte Martin
Rex Fairbrother.... Nick Barber
Emma Grundy.... Emerald O'Hanrahan
Joy Horville.... Jackie Lye
Khalil Malik.... Krish Bassi
Kirsty Miller.... Annabelle Dowler
Hannah Riley.... Helen Longworth
Lynda Snell... Carole Boyd

SAT 15:00 Normal Rules Don't Apply (m0026mwk)

Kate Atkinson is one of the UK's leading contemporary authors and this very special event is the latest in our occasional series, bringing together her remarkable writing and performance with classical music from the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

We worked with Kate to chose extracts from her extensive prose canon and matched those with suitable pieces of music to make an unforgettable evening at The Barbican in London, recorded for both BBC Radios 3 and 4.

This presentation for BBC Radio 4 is an edited version of the full concert, which will be broadcast on Radio 3 at a later date. Each extract is introduced and read by Kate Atkinson.

The chosen readings came from the following publications, written by Kate Atkinson:
Behind The Scenes at the Museum
A God In Ruins
The Void (taken from Normal Rules Don't Apply)
Transcription
Started Early Took My Dog

Music:
ERMANNIO WOLF-FERRARI Overture from "Il Segreto di Susanna"
GEORGE GERSHWIN (arr Simon Nathan) Someone To Watch Over Me from Oh, Kay! (sung by: Jamie Parker)
ANNA CLYNE Fractured Time
CHARLES WILLIAMS Devil's Gallop
GEORGE GERSHWIN: Waking the Dog (Promenade) from Shall We Dance

Conductor: Adam Hickox
Vocalist: Jamie Parker
Reader: Kate Atkinson MBE
Producer for BBC Symphony Orchestra: Ben Warren
Producers for Giddy Goat Productions: Steve Doherty and Paul Hughes

SAT 16:00 Woman's Hour (m0026mwm)

Weekend Woman's Hour: National Care Service, Miranda Hart on walking, Parenting adult children, Beth Moran on fostering

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting, has proposed "a new National Care Service", as part of the government's plan to shake-up adult social care with increased funding and an independent commission headed by crossbench peer Baroness Louise Casey. As adult social care is a predominantly female work force - and women make up the majority of people carrying out unpaid caring responsibilities - what impact could these changes have? Kylie Pentelov was joined by Melanie Williams, President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Helen Walker, Chief Executive of Carers UK.

On New Year's Day, Nuala McGovern explored all things women and walking in this special programme. She was joined by the comedian and author Miranda Hart to discuss how her battle with chronic illness gave her a new appreciation for getting outdoors and walking, following 10 years out of the spotlight with chronic fatigue.

Many people will have visited or been visited by their adult children over the holidays. Being a parent to adult children, as well as being the adult child, can be complicated. What are the pitfalls? How can we ensure that relationship stays strong? Clare McDonnell was joined by psychotherapist Dr Julia

Samuel and actor Helen Lederer to discuss.

Four women from Pembrokeshire in Wales are about to set off on an Atlantic rowing challenge that's been three years in the planning. They're set to break two world records along the way. 32-year-old Sophie Pierce will be the first person with cystic fibrosis to row any ocean and 70-year-old Janine Williams will be the oldest woman to complete this challenge. She's due to set a Guinness World Record. Along with Miyah and Polly, the women will spend 60 days together in a 10-metre-long ocean rowing boat to cross 3,200 miles unaided from Lanzarote to Antigua. Sophie and Janine spoke to Kylie on the day before they left for Lanzarote.

What's it like fostering in your forties? Author Beth Moran had three children in her twenties but decided to take up fostering once they flew the nest. Her new novel *It Had To Be You* is inspired by her experiences of fostering thirteen children in five years and she joined Clare to discuss the challenges her family faced.

New Dolly Parton musical *Here You Come Again* is packed with the biggest and most rhinestoned hits from the country legend, and is currently playing at the Riverside Studios in London before it heads on tour across the UK next month. Actress Tricia Paoluccio joined Clare to discuss what it's like becoming Dolly in the show – and gave a live performance in the studio.

Presenter: Kylie Pentelow
Producer: Annette Wells
Editor: Louise Corley

SAT 17:00 PM (m0026mwp)

Full coverage of the day's news.

SAT 17:30 Sliced Bread (m001wqdw)

Fitness trackers

Millions of us use fitness tracker watches to count how many steps we take each day - they also claim to tell us how we're sleeping and how stressed we are, as well as a host of other metrics. But how accurate are they - and are they the best thing since Sliced Bread? We've had loads of requests from you to look into fitness trackers. So with multiple watches on each arm, Greg's being put through his paces at Loughborough University under the watchful eye of Dr James Sanders, senior research associate in digital health for lifestyle.

PRESENTER: GREG FOOT
PRODUCER: TOM MOSELEY

SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m0026mwr)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SAT 17:57 Weather (m0026mwt)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0026mww)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m0026mwy)

Blossoms, Rowetta, Graham Fellows and Miranda Sawyer

Loose Ends is kicking off the year with a special recording at the Salford Lad's Club. If your New Year's resolution is to listen to music we've got you covered as Stuart Maconie will be joined by Stockport's finest, Blossoms, performing songs from their fourth UK number one album 'Gary'. We also have the powerhouse vocals of Rowetta, who will also talk about her time with the Happy Mondays and we have Graham Fellows, who celebrates 40 years as John Shuttleworth. Journalist Miranda Sawyer is the author of 'Uncommon People: Britpop and Beyond in Twenty songs'. She tells us about her 90's, and perhaps finally get to the bottom of who came up with the term 'britpop'.

Presenter: Stuart Maconie
Producer: Jessica Trean

SAT 19:00 Profile (m0026mx0)

Thomas Tuchel

He's been described by his new bosses at the Football Association as, "one of the best coaches in the world".

Thomas Tuchel has also earned a reputation as a "control freak", with "charming" yet "divisive" attributes.

Born in Krumbach, Bavaria in 1973 his football journey began as a youngster when his father coached him at his local club. After growing into a promising defender, a knee injury brought

his playing career to an end at the age of 25, but he'd already turned his eye to coaching.

Spells at Augsburg, Mainz, Borussia Dortmund, Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Bayern Munich followed. As did the honours, including a Champions League title.

But, as he now embarks on the international stage, Mark Coles has been talking with Thomas Tuchel's friends and colleagues to find out more about the man leading the Three Lions.

Production Team

Producers: Bob Howard and Drew Hyndman
Editor: Ben Mundy
Sound: John Scott
Production Co-ordinator: Maria Ogundele

SAT 19:15 This Cultural Life (m0026926)

Isabel Allende

Chilean author Isabel Allende became an international literary star after the publication of her 1982 debut novel *The House Of The Spirits*, an epic family saga set amidst violent political upheavals. Since then she has written 21 novels and five works of non-fiction, and has sold over 80 million copies worldwide.

Isabel Allende tells John Wilson about her upbringing in Santiago and how, after her parents split, her grandfather became a hugely influential figure in her life, encouraging her love of storytelling. She recalls reading the classic Middle Eastern folktales *The Thousand and One Nights* aged 14 and explains how the themes of love, magic and fantasy, inspired her own fiction later in life.

Isabel also discusses her relationship with Salvador Allende, her father's cousin, who served as President of Chile for three years until he died during the coup of 1973. Having worked as a journalist and broadcaster, she felt increasingly unsafe under the rule of the military junta led by General Pinochet and fought refuge with her family in Venezuela. It was during a 13 year exile from her homeland that she began writing *The House Of The Spirits*, initially as a series of letters to her elderly grandfather in Chile.

In 1992 Isabel Allende's daughter Paula tragically died aged 29 having fallen ill and been in a coma for a year. Isabel recalls how she channel her grief, and celebrated her daughter's life, in the bestselling memoir *Paula*.

Producer: Edwina Pitman

SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m0026mx2)

Upon the Education of the People

Sathnam Sanghera explores the social and emotional after-effects of the 1944 Education Act.

One of the most important and influential pieces of domestic legislation in modern British history, the 1944 Education Act was overseen by RA Butler, the Conservative Education Secretary within the coalition government. Against the backdrop of war and a growing call for social reform the Butler Act, as it was sometimes called, revolutionised secondary education by splitting schools into Technical, Secondary Modern and Grammar.

Sounds dry and discrete; technocratic. But education is heavily freighted: it's emotional and deeply personal – and speaks volumes about who we are.

"Upon the education of the people of this country," Benjamin Disraeli said, "the fate of this country depends." And the 1944 Education Act proves his words. It aimed to effect social mobility and change society. The roll call of its beneficiaries reads like the index of a cultural history of Britain after the war.

The Act aimed to better reflect the nature of individual children, their true potential – in that, it was Manichean, a thing of winners and losers. As such there is another side to its coin. For every one 'winner' there were approximately four 'losers': in the 1960s 80% of children did not pass the 11+. And with that, critics might argue, they were consigned and compartmentalised.

Sathnam Sanghera hears from those who experienced both sides of the 1944 Act, for whom education is also implicitly about social mobility and friendship, class and ambition, belonging and fairness – and the character of our country.

With Joan Bakewell, Geoff Dyer, Gary McCulloch, Diane Reay and Michael Rosen.

SAT 21:00 But First, This... (m001trdd)

Continuity announcers' voices are at the heart of Radio 4 - they introduce the programmes and bring us the news. But who are

they? What does it take to do their job - from introducing The Archers to reading the Shipping Forecast? And what happens on those, hopefully rare, occasions when things don't go according to plan?

Jane Steel, Viji Alles, Amanda Litherland and Alan Smith take a special look behind the scenes at BBC Radio 4, with contributions from more announcers than ever previously spotted in one place. Tim Harford from *More or Less* crunches the 'numbers of continuity'; and there's a special musical performance.

Featuring the voices of Neil Nunes, Charles Carroll, Caroline Nicholls, Chris Aldridge, Tom Sanders, Arlene Fleming, John Hammond, Neil Nunes, Lisa Costello, Mark Forrest, Andrew Peach, Tina Ritchie, Jim Lee, Andrew Crawford, Danielle Jalowiecka, Ron Brown and Al Ryan.

Producer and sound designer - Jack Soper
Executive producer - Katy Hubbard
Song - composed by Jake Yapp, pianist - Harry The Piano

SAT 22:00 News (m0026mx4)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 22:15 The Food Programme (m002694z)

Food Bank Nation

In the year 2000 there were barely any food banks in the UK but today there are nearly three thousand. So what's behind the sharp rise and how did it get to a point where the government says we have "a mass dependence" on food banks?

In this episode Jaega Wise tells the story of the food bank. She hears from those using the Bristol North West food bank. They talk openly about how the food bank helped turn their lives around. She also visits a "social supermarket" in south London where people on benefits are able to shop from donated stock cheaply.

Dr Andy Williams from Cardiff University discusses how the food bank model was imported from the United States where it had its roots in the Great Depression and Emma Revie of the Trussell Trust gives her view on why there has been such a surge in food bank usage.

Jaega also visits Middlesbrough where the former Prime Minister Gordon Brown is opening a "Multibank" - these are warehouses full of donated stock that includes food and other household goods. Gordon Brown talks about his ambition to open Multibanks all over the country to tackle the growing problem of food insecurity.

Presented by Jaega Wise

Produced for BBC Audio in Bristol by Robin Markwell

SAT 23:00 What? Seriously?? (m0026mrk)

Suits, Shells, and Survival

In this episode, Dara and Isy are joined by the astronaut Helen Sharman to learn about how humans learned to survive in space - with some diverting conversations about glitter, cat statues, hibernation, and shell suits.

What? Seriously?? is a new podcast which combines comedy with quirky history, hosted by Dara Ó Briain and Isy Suttie, who will unravel an extraordinary real-life tale each week with the help of a celebrity guest

Dara and Isy unearth stories that are definitely true, but also kind of unbelievable at the same time - the sort of stories that make you go 'What? Seriously??' when you hear them, but you resolve to tell them in the pub the first chance you get. The twist is that Dara and Isy have absolutely no idea how these strange-but-true tales will unfold and we'll all be trying to figure it out together – or Dara and Isy will just go off on funny flights of fancy that are tangentially related to the story. They will be drip-fed the nuggets of narrative by a special guest expert who might just know something about the subject.

Across the series they will be joined by I'm A Celeb winner Georgia Toffolo, the Aussie comedian Rhys Nicholson, the broadcaster Stuart Maconie, Master Chef star Louisa Ellis, Miles from The Traitors, the comedian Richard Herring, the astronaut Helen Sharman, and Slow Horses star Chris Chung.

'What? Seriously??' with Dara Ó Briain and Isy Suttie and special guest Helen Sharman.

Story compiled by Gareth Edwards and Dan Page.

Producer: Laura Grimshaw

Executive Producer: Jon Holmes

An unusual production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 23:30 Counterpoint (m002697z)

Series 38

Heat 1, 2025

(1/13)

The quest for Britain's musical mastermind of 2025 gets under way, with the first of this year's contests coming from London's Radio Theatre. Paul Gambaccini puts questions to three music lovers hoping to be in with a chance of becoming the 38th Counterpoint champion. The questions cover everything from Bach to Bob Marley, Puccini to Pet Shop Boys, classical ballet to Spandau Ballet. The competitors also have to select a topic on which to answer specialist questions, without having had any warning of the categories on offer.

Appearing in Heat One are
Antony Cruddas from Gosport in Hampshire
Charlotte Martyn from Bath
Rebecca Pasha from Buckinghamshire.

Counterpoint is a BBC Studios Audio production for Radio 4.

Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner
Producer: Paul Bajoria

SUNDAY 05 JANUARY 2025

SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m0026mx6)

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

SUN 00:15 Take Four Books (m002697x)

Rachelle Atalla

Presenter James Crawford speaks to the writer Rachelle Atalla about her new novel, *The Salt Flats*, and explores its connections to three other literary works. The books that Rachelle chose were: *Women With Men* by Richard Ford (1997); *Wake In Fright* by Kenneth Cook (1961); and *Oryx And Crake* by Margaret Atwood (2003).

Producer: Dom Howell
Editor: Annie Maguire
This was a BBC Audio Scotland production.

SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0026mx8)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0026mxb)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

SUN 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0026mxd)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SUN 05:30 News Briefing (m0026mxg)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m0026mxj)

The Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Wells, in Somerset.

Bells on Sunday comes from The Cathedral Church of St Andrew, Wells, in Somerset. The South West tower contains a peal of ten bells from three different founders, Mears & Stainbank, Abel Rudhall and John Taylor. They are the heaviest ringing peal of ten in the world. The tenor bell weighs just over fifty six and a quarter hundredweight and is tuned to the note of C. It is the fifth heaviest ringing bell in the world. We hear them ringing Stedman Caters.

SUN 05:45 In Touch (m0026902)

Living Through War: A Year On

Last year, we heard from two blind women about their experiences of living through the latest conflict between Israel and Hamas. In Touch has invited them back, just over a year on, to hear how their lives have been impacted since the war began. Dalal Al-Tajji is from Khan Yunis in the south of the Gaza Strip and Heather Stone lives in the northern area of Tel Aviv in Israel. They speak frankly about how their lives have changed dramatically over the past year and how they are dealing with the uncertainties of being blind amongst war.

Presenter: Peter White
Producer: Beth Hemmings
Production Coordinator: David Baguley

Website image description: Peter White sits smiling in the centre of the image and he is wearing a dark green jumper. Above Peter's head is the BBC logo (three separate white squares house each of the three letters). Bottom centre and overlaying the image are the words "In Touch" and the Radio 4 logo (the word 'radio' in a bold white font, with the number 4

inside of a white circle). The background is a bright mid-blue with two rectangles angled diagonally to the right. Both are behind Peter, one is a darker blue and the other is a lighter blue.

SUN 06:00 News Summary (m0026n30)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 06:05 Beyond Belief (m00268zd)

The Religion of Detection

Giles Fraser and guests hear from authors of detective fiction, Kate Charles and Martin Edwards, on the subtle ways they weave faith into the crime puzzles in their novels.

Why is religious detective fiction so popular in our increasingly secular society? Did the detective replace the priest as the one who looked into the mysteries of life and battled with good and evil? Why do religion and detective fiction share so many noble pursuits in common? And, what is it about the detective genre that lends itself to such deep ethical and spiritual questions?

To explore Giles is joined by:

James Runcie, author of numerous books, including *The Grantchester Mysteries*, a series of six detective novels featuring the clerical detective Sidney Chambers. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a member of both the Crime Writer's Association and The Detection Club.

Ausma Khan, author of the Blackwater Falls crime series and the founder of the Muslim Writers Index.

Dror Mishani the author of the Avraham Avraham detective series that has been turned into a TV series by David E. Kelley. He is a literary scholar, specialising in the history of crime fiction, and the head of the creative writing program at Tel Aviv University.

Producer: Alexa Good
Assistant Producer: Linda Walker
Editor: Tim Pemberton

SUN 06:35 On Your Farm (m0026n32)

Learning About Pigs

Do pigs have social competence? How do you reduce fighting in piglets? Can you predict tail biting using remote cameras?

These are some of the questions being answered by scientists at the pig research unit run by Scotland's Rural College, just outside Edinburgh. Experts in animal behaviour and welfare are conducting experiments at the unit aimed at finding practical solutions to some of the biggest challenges faced by the pig industry: how to improve welfare for farrowing sows, how to reduce antimicrobial use, and how to prevent tail biting breaking out.

Presented by Caz Graham
Produced by Heather Simons

SUN 06:57 Weather (m0026n34)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m0026n36)

The latest news headlines. Including a look at the papers.

SUN 07:10 Sunday (m0026n38)

A look at the ethical and religious issues of the week

SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m0026n3b)

Good Vibrations

Bill Bailey makes the Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of Good Vibrations. The charity holds music therapy sessions in prisons across the UK, which it says can often provide a catalyst for positive change, potentially reducing the risk of reoffending.

To Give:
- Freephone 0800 404 8144
- Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal. (That's the whole address. Please do not write anything else on the front of the envelope). Mark the back of the envelope 'Good Vibrations'.
- Cheques should be made payable to 'Good Vibrations'.
- You can donate online at bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4

Registered Charity Number: 1126493 (in Scotland SC048860). If you'd like to find out more about the charity's work visit [*https://www.good-vibrations.org.uk](https://www.good-vibrations.org.uk)
*The BBC is not responsible for content on external websites

SUN 07:57 Weather (m0026n3d)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m0026n3g)

The latest news headlines. Including a look at the Sunday papers

SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m0026n3j)

Lord for the Years: A tribute to Timothy Dudley-Smith

In August 2024 one of the 20th Century's most prolific hymnwriters died. Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith spent his life composing hundreds of hymns and poems, many of which have become firm favourites. In this celebration of his life and work, led by Pam Rhodes, we hear from his family, friends and collaborators.

The tribute features new recordings from The Diocese of Manchester Choral Scholars, directed by Andrew Earis and accompanied by Elin Rees, as well as recordings from All Souls Choir and Orchestra directed by Noël Tredinnick.

Producer: Katharine Longworth
Assistant Producer: Ciara Bryan
A BBC Audio North Production

MUSIC:

LORD FOR THE YEARS

The Diocese of Manchester Choral Scholars

I LIFT MY EYES TO THE QUIET HILLS

The Diocese of Manchester Choral Scholars

TELL OUT MY SOUL

Tune: GO FORTH

The Diocese of Manchester Choral Scholars

LORD FOR THE YEARS

The Orchestra, Choir and Congregation of All Souls Church

SAFE IN THE SHADOW OF THE LORD

The Diocese of Manchester Choral Scholars

GOD WHO FORMED THE MIGHTY OCEAN

Tune: CALON LAN

The Diocese of Manchester Choral Scholars

WHEN THE LORD IN GLORY COMES

The Orchestra, Choir and Congregation of All Souls Church

WE SING THE SONG OF CHRISTMAS

Composer: Lloyd Larson

The Diocese of Manchester Choral Scholars

HOLY CHILD, HOW STILL YOU LIE

The Orchestra, Choir and Congregation of All Souls Church

AS WATER TO THE THIRSTY

All Souls Orchestra, Helen-Jane Howells

TELL OUT MY SOUL

Tune: WOODLANDS

St Michael's Singers

SUN 08:48 A Point of View (m0026965)

The Best I Can Do

Sara Wheeler explains why every week for several decades - despite knowing nothing about art - she has called in to London's National Gallery to look at the same two paintings.

'This habit of mine,' writes Sara, 'started by accident when I moved to London forty years ago' when she first set eyes on Botticelli's 'Portrait of a Young Man' and van Eyck's 'Portrait of a Man.'

'I have come to realise,' says Sara, 'the extraordinary power of familiarity, close contact and regular attention.'

Producer: Adele Armstrong
Sound: Peter Boshier
Production coordinator: Gemma Ashman
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (m0026n3n)

Dominic Couzens on the Crossbill

A new series of Tweet of the Day for Sunday morning revealing personal and fascinating stories from some fresh voices who have been inspired by birds, their calls and encounters.

Crossbills are not born with crossed bills, not only that but as they develop their crossing bills, after their 27th day from hatching, their bills can cross either to the left, or cross to the right. It is a 50:50 split. A superb evolutionary adaption but as ornithologist Dominic Couzens explains, it means their diet is

limited to conifer seeds or nothing.. In Britain we have the common crossbill and the Scottish crossbill. Whether these are separate species or the same species, the argument continues.

Producer : Andrew Dawes, BBC Audio, Bristol
Studio Engineer : Ilse Lademann

SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m0026n3s)

The Sunday morning news magazine programme. Presented by Paddy O'Connell

SUN 10:00 Desert Island Discs (m0026n3x)

Mark-Anthony Turnage, composer

Mark-Anthony Turnage, composer, shares the eight tracks, book and luxury item he would take with him if cast away to a desert island. With Lauren Laverne.

SUN 11:00 The Archers Omnibus (m0026n41)

WRITER: Sarah McDonald Hughes
DIRECTOR: Kim Greengrass
EDITOR: Jeremy Howe

Helen Archer..... Louiza Patikas
Henry Archer..... Blayke Darby
Pat Archer..... Patricia Gallimore
Tony Archer..... David Troughton
Lee Bryce..... Ryan Early
Chris Carter..... Wilf Scolding
Neil Carter..... Brian Hewlett
Susan Carter..... Charlotte Martin
Rex Fairbrother..... Nick Barber
Emma Grundy..... Emerald O'Hanrahan
Joy Horville..... Jackie Lye
Khalil Malik..... Krish Bassi
Kirsty Miller..... Annabelle Dowler
Hannah Riley..... Helen Longworth
Lynda Snell... Carole Boyd

SUN 12:15 Profile (m0026mx0)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

SUN 12:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m00269el)

Series 82

Episode 4

The antidote to panel games pays a return visit to the Anvil Theatre in Basingstoke. Marcus Brigstocke and Henning Wehn take on Miles Jupp and Rachel Parris with Jack Dee in the chair. Colin Sell attempts piano accompaniment.

Producer: Jon Naismith
A Random production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 12:57 Weather (m0026n43)

The latest weather forecast

SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m0026n45)

Radio 4's look at the week's big stories from both home and around the world.

SUN 13:30 The Strange Death of Cultural Originality? (m002697q)

These days, when you turn on the TV or visit the cinema do you ever think, hang on, I'm sure I've seen this before? Maybe you've bought the latest crime thriller after seeing it in the bestseller lists and, 50 pages in, you're overcome with a weird feeling of déjà vu? And when you put the radio on in the car, does all the music sound, well, the same?

If so, don't worry. It's not just you. Something strange seems to be happening.

Statistics show that the number of top 20 highest grossing Hollywood films each year which are either sequels or spin-offs has risen from 25% to 50% in the past two decades.

In the 1960s, most TV shows were original formats. Today, a third are spinoffs or multiple broadcasts.

In music, the number of artists on the Billboard Hot 100 has been falling for some time, meaning the big established acts are getting more and more exposure while new acts struggle to break through.

Existing best-selling authors are becoming increasingly dominant in publishing sales.

So is it fair to say that cultural originality is in rather poor health?

Might it even be dead?

Ben Chu spends a lot of time thinking about economics, numbers and why the world works in the way it does. In this programme he's going to ask - if cultural originality is dead, who or what killed it?

A Tempo & Talker production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002695j)

Bristol: Stubborn plants, Wellbeing and Acers

What's the secret to growing Snowdrops? Which single plant or gardening activity instils a feeling of wellbeing in people? What are the do's and don'ts of planting Acers?

Kathy Clugston and a team of experts are in Bristol to answer gardening questions from a green fingered audience. Joining Kathy are garden designers Chris Beardshaw and Matthew Wilson, and house plants expert Anne Swithinbank.

Later in the programme, if you're unsure of what do with your garden during the winter months, Matthew Pottage has an extensive list of jobs and tasks to help you get ahead in the new year.

Producer: Daniel Cocker
Assistant Producer: Rahnee Prescod
Executive Producer: Carly Maile

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 14:45 Opening Lines (m0026n47)

Behind the Scenes at the Museum - Episode 1

John Yorke examines Kate Atkinson's 1995 Whitbread award-winning debut *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*. An epic tragicomedy, the novel tells the story of protagonist Ruby Lennox, who is born above a family pet shop in York in the early 1950s and grows up in post-war Britain. Through Ruby, the reader is transported back and forth through the centuries as she recounts the stories of four generations of her family from the 1800s to the mid-1990s.

In this episode, John looks at how a debut novel from a then-unknown author triumphed over literary giants like Salman Rushdie for the Whitbread accolade. Thirty years on, it remains a contemporary classic. So why, and how, does it work?

John Yorke has worked in television and radio for 30 years, and he shares his experience with Radio 4 listeners as he unpacks the themes and impact of the books, plays and stories that are being dramatised in BBC Radio 4's Sunday Drama series. As former Head of Channel Four Drama and Controller of BBC Drama Production, he has worked on some of the most popular shows in Britain - from *EastEnders* to *The Archers*, *Life on Mars* to *Shameless*. As creator of the BBC Writers Academy, he's trained a generation of screenwriters - now with over 70 green lights and thousands of hours of television to their names. He is the author of *Into the Woods*, the bestselling book on narrative, and he writes, teaches and consults on all forms of narrative - including many podcasts for R4.

Contributors:
Alex Clark, Literary Journalist and Broadcaster
Armelle Parey, Professor of Contemporary British Fiction at the University of Caen-Normandie
Lee Randall, Writer, editor and book festival programmer

Credits:
Audio archive clips from Book Club (BBC Sounds), A Good Read (BBC Sounds)

Producer: Lucy Hough
Executive Producer: Sara Davies
Readings: Clare Corbett
Sound: Sean Kerwin
Production Hub Coordinator: Nina Semple

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 15:00 Behind the Scenes at the Museum (m0026n49)

Episode 1

Ruby Lennox's family is ostensibly ordinary. But behind the scenes, secrets, lies and inexplicable coincidences are waiting to be found.

In Kate Atkinson's beguiling *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, the effervescent Ruby pulls at threads at to unravel a tragicomic story of family love, loss and heartbreak that spans a century. Starring Rosie Cavaliero, Kate O'Flynn and Samuel James.

Behind the Scenes at the Museum won the Whitbread Best Book of the Year in 1995, and is now dramatised by one of our

very best audio writers, Katie Hims, for BBC Radio 4. This is part one of three episodes.

In 1951 Ruby Lennox is grudgingly conceived to the chimes of midnight; chimes from the clock on the mantelpiece which once belonged to her great grandmother, Alice. The Lennox live above the shop in York, a city so steeped in history that real-life ghosts linger amongst the boxes of Trill and cat litter. We are flung back to 1919, and meet Ruby's grandmother Nell, a young woman, falling in love at the brink of war.

CAST

Ruby Rosie Cavaliero
Bunty Kate O'Flynn
George Samuel James
Nell Jessica Turner
Jack Nuhazet Diaz Cano
Frank Paul Adeyefa
Albert Ian Dunnett Jnr
Young Nell Shreya Lallu
Young Lilian Andi Bickers
Alice/Babs Ruth Everett
Jean-Paul Charlie Anson
Young Patricia Paige Brearley
Young Gillian Olive Connolly

Dramatist Katie Hims
Director Anne Isger
Production Co-ordinators Jenny Mendez and Maggie Olgiati
Sound Keith Graham, Ali Craig, Andy Garratt

A BBC Studios Audio Production for BBC Radio 4

KATIE HIMES

Katie has written extensively in audio drama including multiple leading adaptations for BBC Radio 4: Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, Edna O'Brien's *The Country Girls* and *The Martin Beck Killings* by Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo.

Katie was also lead writer on BBC's *Home Front* and other radio work includes *Black Eyed Girls* (winner of the BBC Audio Drama Award for Best Original Drama), *Lost Property* (winner of the BBC Audio Drama Award for Best Original Drama), *The Gunshot Wedding* (winner of *The Writer's Guild Best Original Radio Drama*) and *The Earthquake Girl* (winner of the Richard Imison Award).

In TV Katie is developing an original grounded sci-fi drama with Hooley Productions, and has episodic experience on BBC's long running series *Casualty*. In theatre, Katie is currently on attachment at the National Theatre. Her recent stage work includes a contemporary retelling of Kafka's *The Trial* which ran at The Unicorn Theatre in 2023 and received 4 and 5 star reviews.

SUN 16:00 Bookclub (m0026n4d)

Richard Osman

Presented by James Naughtie, BBC Bookclub speaks to the writer Richard Osman about his crime-fiction novel *The Thursday Murder Club*, which sold millions of copies, and has been made into a film.

SUN 16:30 Counterpoint (m0026n4g)

Series 38

Heat 2, 2025

(2/13)

Three more contenders line up to display their knowledge of music in all its varieties, with Paul Gambaccini asking the questions. They'll be expected to know about Pavarotti, Handel and Mussorgsky as well as Pink Floyd, the Supremes and Shania Twain. In the second round Paul will be giving them a choice of special musical topics on which they'll have to answer individual questions, without any advance notice of what the categories are going to be.

Taking part are:
Gareth Aubrey from Beddau in south Wales
Nicholas Brann from Wimbledon
Sue Bates from Leicestershire.

Counterpoint is a BBC Studios Audio production for Radio 4.

Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner
Producer: Paul Bajoria

SUN 17:00 Witness History (w3ct5yq0)

The end of the Irish marriage bar

Until 1973, married women in Ireland were banned from working in state jobs.

It was one of the longest lasting marriage bars in the world.

Rachel Naylor speaks to Bernie Flynn, who postponed her wedding and became one of the first married women in the public service.

Eye-witness accounts brought to life by archive. Witness History is for those fascinated by the past. We take you to the events that have shaped our world through the eyes of the people who were there. For nine minutes every day, we take you back in time and all over the world, to examine wars, coups, scientific discoveries, cultural moments and much more.

Recent episodes explore everything from football in Brazil, the history of the 'Indian Titanic' and the invention of air fryers, to Public Enemy's Fight The Power, subway art and the political crisis in Georgia. We look at the lives of some of the most famous leaders, artists, scientists and personalities in history, including: visionary architect Antoni Gaudi and the design of the Sagrada Familia; Michael Jordan and his bespoke Nike trainers; Princess Diana at the Taj Mahal; and Görel Hanser, manager of legendary Swedish pop band Abba on the influence they've had on the music industry. You can learn all about fascinating and surprising stories, such as the time an Iraqi journalist hurled his shoes at the President of the United States in protest of America's occupation of Iraq; the creation of the Hollywood commercial that changed advertising forever; and the ascent of the first Aboriginal MP.

(Photo: Bernie and Jimmy Flynn on their wedding day in 1973. Credit: Bernie Flynn)

SUN 17:10 On the Run (m0023pcs)

Running the Show

Writer, poet and runner Helen Mort continues on the trail of the history of running, asking why we run and what it has meant to humanity through the ages.

In this final episode she rounds the the corner into the 20th Century, and finishes by examining the role running plays in our life today. Helen explores how distance running became the sport we know today. She heads back to the races of one hundred years ago and finds out who took part, and who wasn't allowed to.

She heads into the heart of the 'running boom' of the 1970s, which saw the emergence of 'jogging' as a phenomenon and the mass participation of running we see today, including big city marathons. One major factor was the creation of the cushioned running shoe by Nike, and Helen talks to the company's first employee, who thought up the name of the iconic sports brand.

Helen charts the emergence of running in mass media, from adverts to cinema, and considers how narrative of running have changed. As she reaches the 21st century, Helen heads inside the mind of the modern runner and finds out about the psychology of running, its benefits and also its downsides. Thousands of people line to run a Parkrun each weekend, what does that tell us?

'Mass participation' still only reaches some however, and Helen also finds out about the movements to make running more inclusive which are gaining pace throughout the world.

Contributors:

Sabrina Pace-Humphreys, Author of Black Sheep: A Story of Rural Racism, Identity and Hope
Dr Sam Edwards, Loughborough University
Katie Holmes, Historian
Vybarr Cregan Reid, Author of Footnotes: Why Running Makes Us Human
Pro Steve Haake, Sheffield Hallam University
Jeff Johnson, early employee of Nike
Dr Peter Olusaga, Sheffield Hallam University

With thanks to Thor Gotaas, author of 'A Global History of Running', Dr Nathalie Hager, Matt Rimmer and the MyRaceKit North team.

Producer: Sam Peach

Readings by Nuhazet Diaz Cano

SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m0026n4l)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SUN 17:57 Weather (m0026n4n)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0026n4q)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m0026n4s)

John Gallagher

A selection of highlights from the past week on BBC radio

SUN 19:00 The Archers (m0026n4v)

David receives some interesting information, and Jolene makes a rash decision.

SUN 19:15 Illuminated (m0026n4x)

One Hundred Ways of Listening

Distracted, privatised, enchanted - do you ever think about how you listen? For the last 20 years, sound anthropologist Dr Tom Rice has been collecting different ways of listening from the world's leading sound experts. He's gathered more than 100 – some of these may be quite familiar, others will definitely surprise you.

We are at a critical moment when it comes to listening. The world is increasingly busy with sound, and it's placing more and more demands on our ears. There's an awareness that our culture and economic circumstances influence our perception, concern about growing pressures on our attention, and anxiety about our relationship to the environment. With the pace at which technology is developing, can we even be sure of what it is we're listening to?

We need to be skilful and agile listeners. By recognising the vast scope and extraordinary complexity of listening, we can develop our awareness and sharpen our perception, helping us to survive and even thrive in the complex sound world of the 21st century.

Contributors: Bernd Brabec, University of Innsbruck; Ruth Herbert, University of Kent and City University; Dylan Robinson, University of British Columbia.

Special thanks to: Michel Chion – semantic listening; Martin Daughtry – palimpsestic listening; Michael Gallagher, Jonathan Prior, Martin Needham and Rachel Holmes – embodied listening, expanded listening; Stefan Helmeich – soundstate; David Huron – ecstatic listening; James M. Kopf – anal listening; Pierre Schaeffer – acousmatic listening; Murray Schafer, David Toop – clairaudience; Kai Tuuri – critical listening.

Written by Tom Rice and Ben Lewis

Produced by Eve Streeter and Tom Rice

Sound design by David Thomas

Music by Max Walter

A Raconteur Studios production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 19:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001s5c6)

Have a Laugh

Laughter really is good medicine. From releasing pain-killing endorphins to improving your memory, laughter can have many benefits on your body and brain - it's even been shown to boost "gamma" brainwaves, which are associated with higher level brain processes, like learning and memory. In this episode, Michael shares a chuckle with cardiologist Professor Michael Miller from the University of Pennsylvania in the US to discuss how laughter can help your heart health, keep your blood vessels young, and be the antidote to stress. Meanwhile, our volunteer Manpreet enjoys the benefits of a glorious cackle.

New episodes will be released on Wednesdays, but if you're in the UK, listen to new episodes, a week early, first on BBC Sounds: [bbc.in/3zqa6BB](https://www.bbc.com/sounds/play/bbc-in/3zqa6BB)

Producer: Nija Dalal-Small

Science Producer: Catherine Wyler

Assistant Producer: Gulnar Mimaroglu

Trainee Assistant Producer: Toni Arenyeka

Executive Producer: Zoe Heron

A BBC Studios production for BBC Sounds / BBC Radio 4.

SUN 20:00 Feedback (m002693k)

Feedback Forum

Andrea Catherwood presents the programme that hears your views on BBC audio.

This week, the first ever Feedback Forum brings together groups of keen listeners who enjoy all kinds of speech content. Radio 4 loyalists, together with younger listeners who don't own radios, and who get all their content "on-demand", share what they like and dislike from BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds.

There's a lot of enthusiasm for some of the network's long running favourites. In Our Time has been devoured by young and old listeners, who admire the 85 year old presenter, Melvyn Bragg, for his "sassiness" and authority.

The Archers, with it's new timeslots, and podcast, generates strong emotions, with the sentencing of George Grundy

gripping the group.

The arrival of Emma Barnett on the Today programme brings praise for a more informal and youthful approach, but also some irritation with what one person says is too much ongoing enthusiasm for her new job.

Marianna Spring's library of content on conspiracies leads some in the group to consider their own listening, and there is a lively debate about whether a diet of pure "on-demand" content means algorithms pulling listeners into echo chambers.

2024 was a year of high audiences across all radio with Radio 4 attracting approaching 10 million listeners a week. But persuading the next generation to tune in is crucial to its long term future, so the production team ask some of the keen podcasters to try out some radio content. Find out if minds are changed in this special edition of Feedback.

Presenter: Andrea Catherwood

Producer: Marie Helly

Assistant Producer: Rebecca Guthrie

Executive Producer: David Prest

A Whistledown Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 20:30 Last Word (m002695n)

Jimmy Carter, Caroline Miller, Manmohan Singh, Jean Adamson

Kirsty Lang on

Former US President Jimmy Carter whose time in office between 1976 and 1980 was beset by economic and diplomatic crises.

Caroline Miller OBE, the former Chief Executive of Birmingham Royal Ballet who commissioned bold and experimental productions to great acclaim.

Former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh – considered to be the architect of the country's economic liberalisation.

Children's author and illustrator Jean Adamson, whose Topsy and Tim books sold over 25 million copies around the world.

Producer: Catherine Powell

Archive:

Outlook, BBC World Service, 1976; Jimmy Carter, BBC One, 1976; Jimmy Carter, Today, BBC Radio 4, 1976; Jimmy Carter sworn in as US President, BBC Radio Archive, 1977; Keeping Faith, BBC Radio 4, 1982; Chantry Dance Interviews Caroline Miller OBE, Chantry Dance, Uploaded to YouTube **12.06.2020**; Analysis, BBC World Service, 2004; Walk The Talk with Dr Manmohan Singh, NDTV, Aired February 2004, Uploaded to YouTube **26.12.2024**; BBC News, 1984; BBC News at Ten, 2008; BBC News at Six, 2008; PM Dr. Manmohan Singh's press conference, Sansad TV, Uploaded to YouTube **03.01.2014**; Topsy and Tim's Christmas Eve, CBeebies, 2014

SUN 21:00 Money Box (m0026mwc)

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m0026n3b)

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

SUN 21:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m0026mw7)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:30 on Saturday]

SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m0026n4z)

Ben Wright and guests discuss the political year ahead

Radio 4's Sunday night political discussion programme.

SUN 23:00 In Our Time (m002691y)

Slime Moulds

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss slime mould, a basic organism that grows on logs, cowpats and compost heaps. Scientists have found difficult to categorise slime mould: in 1868, the biologist Thomas Huxley asked: 'Is this a plant, or is it an animal? Is it both or is it neither?' and there is a great deal of scientists still don't know about it.

But despite not having a brain, slime mould can solve complex problems: it can find the most efficient way round a maze and has been used to map Tokyo's rail network. Researchers are using it to help find treatments for cancer, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, and computer scientists have designed an algorithm based on slime mould behaviour to learn about dark matter. It's even been sent to the international space station to help study the effects of weightlessness.

With

Jonathan Chubb
Professor of Quantitative Cell Biology at University College,
London

Elinor Thompson
Reader in microbiology and plant science at the University of
Greenwich

And

Merlin Sheldrake
Biologist and writer

Producer: Eliane Glaser

In Our Time is a BBC Studios Audio production

SUN 23:45 Short Works (m002695I)
The Other Daughter by Fiona Williams

"I found you on a rock under a waterfall when I was out
walking."

An original short story of Somerset, sea and mystery written by
Fiona Williams and read by Clare-Hope Ashitey.

It's a retelling of the North Somerset folk tale The Sea Morgan's
Baby, exploring ideas of difference and belonging.

Fiona Williams is the author of The House of Broken Bricks.
She holds a BSc (Hons) in Biological Sciences from the
University of Westminster and an MA with Distinction in
Creative Writing from Bath Spa University. She is the winner
of the 2021 Bridport Prize, Peggy Chapman-Andrews First
Novel Award. Originally from South-East London, she now
lives with her family on the Somerset Levels.

Produced for BBC Audio Bristol by Beth O'Dea.

MONDAY 06 JANUARY 2025

MON 00:00 Midnight News (m0026n5I)
The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

MON 00:15 Crossing Continents (m0026904)
The human cost of developing Cambodia's Angkor wonder

Tourists are flooding to Cambodia's "8th wonder of the world",
the ancient temple complex at Angkor. But the rapid expansion
of the site comes at a terrible cost, as tens of thousands of
people are ousted. The authorities call some "illegal squatters"
and claim others volunteered to leave. But human rights groups
say the evictions are forced, illegal and target families who've
worked the land for generations. Many say they're now debt-
ridden and struggling to survive. Jill McGivering travelled to
Angkor to meet those at the heart of the crisis.

Produced by Caroline Finnigan
Mixed by David Smith
Production Coordinator Gemma Ashman
Editor Penny Murphy

MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m0026mxj)
[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0026n53)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes
(m0026n55)**
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

MON 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0026n57)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

MON 05:30 News Briefing (m0026n59)
The latest news from BBC Radio 4

MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0026n5c)
Trust and Hope

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi
Warren Elf

Good morning.

Today is the Epiphany, which falls on the 12th day after

Christmas. Epiphany means 'revelation' and is the day when the
Magi – the wise men who visited the child Jesus, bringing their
gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

And today also celebrates the Birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the
last of the 10 human Gurus of the Sikh faith. Born in 1666 he is
known for creating the Khalsa, a community of committed
Sikhs who wore visible symbols of their faith and trained as
warriors. Today the Khalsa refers to the community of baptised
Sikhs who have undergone the Amrit initiation ceremony.

In Judaism, we have a similar immersion ceremony to the one
Jesus went through when he was baptised and the one that
members of the Khalsa undergo. Tevilah, immersion in a ritual
bath, called a Mikveh, or a natural confluence of water is
something that people undergo when they convert to Judaism or
before special occasions, such as the Sabbath or getting
married, or after periods of ritual impurity – which can be for a
variety of reasons.

Interestingly the word Mikveh is also from the same root as the
Hebrew word for hope or trust. This suggests that to be baptised
or to undergo Tevilah is about putting our trust in something
that we believe to be a source of hope for us, at that time and
throughout our lives.

So my prayer today is that I can trust enough and have hope that
faith, belief and the way we live our lives can give us the
confidence to find rituals and actions to enable us to work for a
better future, this year and always.

Amen.

MON 05:45 Farming Today (m0026n5F)
06/01/25 Bird numbers down around Lough Neagh, Scottish
whisky adapting to climate change, Robot dog

Bird counts reveal a drop in numbers around Lough Neagh -
could the algal blooms be to blame?

Whisky distilleries and producers are becoming more alive to
the fact that every stage of the whisky-making process is being
affected by the climate Scotland is experiencing.

Robot dogs sound like they are the stuff of science fiction, but
they are starting to be used in the countryside right now.

Presented by Helen Mark and produced by Beatrice Fenton.

MON 05:57 Weather (m0026n5h)
Weather reports and forecasts for farmers

MON 06:00 Today (m0026nj7)
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and
Thought for the Day.

MON 09:00 Sideways (m0026nj9)
25 years of the 21st Century

Episode 1

A panel of experts joins Matthew Syed to evaluate the first 25
years of the 21st century.

**MON 09:30 Art That Conquered the World: The Hay Wain
(m0021b8j)**
We have been making art for tens of thousands of years. But
very few of these many millions of images have become truly
famous.

Only a handful of artworks have entered popular culture, as
fridge magnets, greetings cards and biscuit tins – becoming
instantly recognisable all over the world.

Art historian Dr James Fox tells the story of one such painting,
John Constable's The Hay Wain.

For more than a century, The Hay Wain has been all around us.
It's been reproduced in magazines and on merchandise, in
cartoons and advertisements and featured on propaganda
posters and at protests. But why did it hit the big time?

Christine Riding of The National Gallery and the photomontage
artist and activist Peter Kennard contribute as James traces The
Hay Wain's progress through the artistic stratosphere to global
celebrity.

Producer: Julia Johnson
A TBI Media production for BBC Radio 4

MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0026njc)
Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to
inform, challenge and inspire.

MON 11:00 Footprints (m00261g4)

In August 2007, on an island off the west coast of Canada, the
remains of a human foot were found washed up on a beach.

Six days later, on another beach fifty miles away, a second foot
was found but, strangely, it doesn't match the first - they're
from different people.

The BBC's Celia Hatton travels to Vancouver to hear how more
than twenty further feet have been found in the area since then,
and to speak to the investigators and scientists who've worked to
uncover the mystery of why they started appearing.

MON 11:30 The Bottom Line (m0026nhj)

Decisions That Made Me: Dana Denis-Smith (Obelisk Support,
CEO)

Career clarity can be hard to find in the middle of a demanding
9 to 5, but sometimes getting away from it all for a while can
make you realise what you really want from work. For Dana
Denis-Smith, the world's highest mountain range did the trick.
She tells Evan Davis how it inspired her to turn her back on an
unfulfilling legal career, and later to start up her own company,
Obelisk Support, which champions the talents of mothers who
don't want to - or can't - return to work full time.

Production team:

Producers: Simon Tulett and Drew Hyndman

Editor: Matt Willis

Sound: Rod Farquhar

Production co-ordinator: Katie Morrison

MON 11:45 How to Read the News (m001v3f3)
Have you read paragraph 8?

When journalists tell stories, they rarely start at the beginning
but instead with the latest development. Context comes towards
the end. It's called the 'inverted pyramid'.

When scandal at the Confederation of British Industry hit the
newspapers and boss Tony Danker was dismissed, he
complained that articles didn't state right at the start that he was
not accused of the worst misconduct. If you didn't make it
much past the headlines, you might not realise that.

We discover why journalists write stories 'the wrong way up',
how that affects how we understand them, and how that might
change with new technology.

'How to Read the News' - this series is all about giving you the
tools to decode the news.

Presenter: Jo Fidgeon
Producer: Charlotte McDonald
Researchers: Beth Ashmead Latham, Kirsteen Knight
Editors: China Collins, Emma Rippon

MON 12:00 News Summary (m0026njf)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

MON 12:04 You and Yours (m0026njh)
News and discussion of consumer affairs

MON 12:57 Weather (m0026njc)
The latest weather forecast

MON 13:00 World at One (m0026njm)
Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

MON 13:45 Human Intelligence (m0026njp)
Disruptors: Socrates

The ancient Athenian Socrates encourages us to think about
what are the most important things in life and to bring real
clarity to the ideas, concepts and beliefs that we use every day.
He was persistent, brilliant, possessed of an intellectual
curiosity and rigour that few have matched. Naomi Alderman
explores the mind of this mercurial and fleeting figure – he has
left us with no written work and our only sense of him is
through the experiences and writings of others.

Special thanks to Dr Frisbee Sheffield, Associate Professor of
Classics at the University of Cambridge.

Produced by BBC Studios Audio in partnership with The Open
University.

MON 14:00 The Archers (m0026n4v)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

MON 14:15 Hennikay (m0026njx)

Series 2

4. Crudeletas in Omnibus

Bill Bailey stars as Guy Starling, a middle aged man who, after 45 years, and for reasons quite unknown to him, is suddenly revisited by his imaginary childhood friend, Hennikay.

Against all his better judgement and at Hennikay's insistence, Guy has gone back to his old school for their Old Boys Reunion dinner. He was sent away there when he was 11 years old and hated every minute of it. With its arcane rules, bizarre traditions and ingrained sense of petty snobbery, he has spent his entire adult life trying to outgrow the place. But now he is back, because Hennikay, his oldest friend, who he left behind went here, now wants to see what it was like.

When Guy went, Hennikay didn't go with him because he believed that imaginary friends weren't allowed at school. And he had to endure it alone. But as the evening progresses and he meets fellow old boys - Bennington, Parker and feared school bully, Duckworth - Guy realises that this wasn't the case and he wasn't as alone as he's always assumed he'd been.

In fact, as Hennikay discovers, the old school halls are ringing with the ghosts of the best friends that the Old Boys thought they'd left behind.

Bill Bailey returns for the second series of this warm, funny look at childhood, adulthood and some of the follies of modern life - where a man with a confused child in his head might just be the sanest person in the room.

Written by David Spicer

Guy: Bill Bailey
Hennikay: Max Lester
Duckwitt: Alistair McGowan
Parker: Paul Panting
Bennington: Julien Ball
Bingo: Edward Frowde
Lucy: Elizabeth Frowde

Producer: Liz Anstee
A CPL production for BBC Radio 4

MON 14:45 Marple: Three New Stories (m001g9n0)

Miss Marple's Christmas by Ruth Ware

Miss Marple's Christmas (Part 2)

Agatha Christie's iconic detective is reimagined for a new generation with a murder, a theft and a mystery where nothing is quite what it seems.

Miss Marple's Christmas by Ruth Ware
St Mary Mead's most insightful resident is visiting her friend Dolly Bantry for a traditional Christmas celebration, with nephew Raymond and his wife in tow. As the motley collection of guests get to know each other, the festive peace at Gossington Hall is about to be shattered.

Read by Georgie Glen
Abridged and produced by Eilidh McCreadie

Almost 50 years since the publication of Agatha Christie's last Miss Marple novel, 'Marple: Twelve New Stories' is a collection of ingenious stories by acclaimed authors who also happen to be Christie devotees.

MON 15:00 Great Lives (m0026njv)

Reginald D Hunter selects Eugene V Debs

Eugene Victor Debs, born 1855 in Indiana USA, was a railway worker, a trade unionist and a five time candidate for the presidency. He was imprisoned during the First World War for sedition. He'd urged resistance to the draft; President Woodrow Wilson called him a traitor to the nation, but Debs still ran for the presidency in 1920. His sentence was commuted the following year.

Reginald D Hunter is an American stand up based in the UK. His many credits include Have I Got News For You and Reginald D Hunter's Songs of the South. Last year at Edinburgh his show Fluffy Fluffy Beavers briefly became headline news. In studio with Reginald and presenter Matthew Parris is Professor Clive Webb, author of Vietdamned.

The producer for BBC Studios in Bristol is Miles Warde

MON 15:30 History's Heroes (m0026njx)

History's Youngest Heroes

History's Youngest Heroes: 5. St Francis of Assisi: Teen Rebel

A charismatic young man attracts a band of followers after denouncing his family fortune and devoting his life to the poor.

Nicola Coughlan shines a light on extraordinary young people from across history. Join her for 12 stories of rebellion, risk and the radical power of youth.

A BBC Studios Audio production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds.

Series Producer: Suniti Somaiya
Producer: Lorna Reader
Executive Producer: Paul Smith
Written by Alex von Tunzelmann
Commissioning editor for Radio 4: Rhian Roberts

MON 16:00 The Strange Death of Cultural Originality? (m002697q)

[Repeat of broadcast at 13:30 on Sunday]

MON 16:30 Rewinder (m0026mw5)

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:30 on Saturday]

MON 17:00 PM (m0026njz)

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0026nk1)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

MON 18:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m0026nk3)

Series 82

Episode 5

The godfather of all panel shows pays a visit to the City Hall in Sheffield. On the panel are Milton Jones, Lucy Porter, Miles Jupp and Tony Hawks, with Jack Dee in the umpire's chair. Colin Sell accompanies on the piano.

Producer: Jon Naismith
A Random production for BBC Radio 4

MON 19:00 The Archers (m0026ncp)

Brad has a confession to make, and there's backtracking at the Bull.

MON 19:15 Front Row (m0026nk6)

Nicole Kidman on Babygirl, Harlem Renaissance author Zora Neale Hurston's posthumous book on Herod

Presenter: Samira Ahmed
Producer: Corinna Jones

MON 20:00 The Briefing Room (m002693m)

Is the push for the electric cars in trouble?

Encouraging everyone to make the change to electric vehicles has been a major part of government green and industrial policy for some time now. The government has announced a consultation on how to speed up the transition to electric cars and fade out the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030. The last Government had extended plans to ban the sale of new petrol cars to 2035. There are targets, there are mandates and there is scepticism about how quickly the transition is really happening.

So, as we enter 2025, what is the state of the country's move from petrol to electric? How do we compare with other countries and what does it say about the British car industry?

Guests:
Ginny Buckley, Editor-in-Chief and founder of electrifying.com
Ian Henry, Owner and Managing Director of Auto Analysis and visiting Professor in Automotive Business Strategy at Royal Holloway, University of London
David Bailey, Professor of Business Economics at the Birmingham Business School.

Presenter: David Aaronovitch
Producers: Charlotte McDonald, Kirsteen Knight and Beth Ashmead Latham
Sound engineers: Rod Farquhar
Editor: Richard Vadon
Production Co-ordinator: Gemma Ashman

MON 20:30 BBC Inside Science (m002693p)

The Science of Laughter

Why do we laugh more when we're with others? Are humans the only animals that laugh? Does 'laughter yoga' actually do anything? We're delving into the neurobiology, evolutionary history, and health effects of a good old chuckle.

Live from the Hay Festival Winter Weekend, Marnie Chesterton is joined by laughter expert and neuroscientist, Professor Sophie Scott, and an expert in making people laugh, comedian Miles Jupp, in this side-splitting panel show.

Presenter: Marnie Chesterton
Producer: Ella Hubber
Editor: Martin Smith
Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

To discover more fascinating science content, head to bbc.co.uk/search for BBC Inside Science and follow the links to The Open University.

MON 21:00 The History Podcast (m0026nkb)

The Lucan Obsession - Omnibus 1

One winter's night, 50 years ago, a crime took place that obsessed the nation.

Lord Lucan is said to have killed the family nanny, attacked his wife and vanished.

Newspapers ran wild with lurid detail and it became a story hardwired into British culture.

Why did this case capture the British imagination, and spark one of the greatest unsolved mysteries of the 20th Century?

Historian Alex von Tunzelmann unpacks the story of our obsession, taking us into a dizzying world of high stakes gambling and exclusive London clubs, powerboat racing and pet tigers. It's also a dark realm of bankruptcy, gaslighting and stalking, and at its heart, a story with a violent and very tragic death.

Across the series she investigates the two mysteries at the centre of this story: was Lord Lucan the murder, and where on earth did he go?

Told and retold, the facts of the Lucan story have got lost. Alex finds herself in a hall of mirrors where truth and lies distort themselves into new myths and new mysteries. Was the truth obscured by booze and backhanders, class deference and journalist spin?

As she tries to get to the bottom of this case, she meets eyewitnesses from the '70s, people caught up in the crime, and those who just can't let it go. She unearths long forgotten tapes and letters, piecing together fragments of a legend to discover why the Lucan myth still holds such power.

Series contributors:
Algy Cluff, Pierrette Goletto and Mandy Parks
Journalists: Bob Strange and James Fox
Author: Laura Thompson
Crime writer: Claire McGowan
Police: Geoff Lewry, Richard Swarbrick and Jackie Malton
UK Missing Persons Unit: Louise Newell

Presenter: Alex von Tunzelmann
Series Producer: Sarah Bowen
Content Producer: Becca Bryers

MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m0026nkq)

In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

MON 22:45 Seaborne by Nuala O'Connor (m0026nkl)

Episode Six

Bestselling and award-winning Irish author Nuala O'Connor returns with the intimate and thrilling portrayal of the life of 18th-century pirate, Anne Bonny. Shortlisted for Novel of the Year at The An Post Irish Book Awards 2024.

1703, Kinsale, County Cork. Anne Coleman is the illegitimate child of a local lawyer and his maid; disguised as 'Anthony' to protect reputations, the mask suits Anne just fine. But, fixated on boats and the sea, she struggles to fit in, and her devoted mother fears for her fiercely independent and impulsive daughter.

When their secrets are exposed, the family emigrates to the new colony of Carolina, but this fresh start will bring devastating loss and stifling responsibilities. Lonely and transgressive, Anne finds comfort only with Bedelia, servant and intimate friend. However her craving for the sea-wandering life and a misjudged marriage to young Gabriel Bonny will compel Anne to take to the sea again, this time around the islands of the Caribbean, famous for plunder and piracy.

The Author

Nuala O'Connor is a novelist, short story writer and poet, and lives in County Galway with her family. She is the author of four previous novels and six short story collections. She has won many prizes for her short fiction including the Francis MacManus Award, the James Joyce Quarterly Fiction Contest and the UK's Short Fiction Journal Prize. Nuala's work has also been nominated for numerous prizes including the Edge Hill Short Story Prize, the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award and the International Dublin Literary Award.

Reader: Ayoola Smart

Author: Nuala O'Connor

Abridger: Rowan Routh

Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland Production for BBC Radio 4.

MON 23:00 Limelight (m001bent)

Exemplar - Series 1

Exemplar - Episode 2

A modern day thriller set in the North East of England. Starring Gina McKee as Jess, a lone wolf scientist with a troubled past whose passion for sound makes her the UK's leading audio forensic examiner. A mysterious voice note takes Jess on a hunt to find an old friend.

Exemplar: an audio recording made by a forensic analyst to recreate the precise audio conditions of a piece of evidence in a criminal or civil case.

Exemplar is based on an idea by leading sound designers Ben and Max Ringham, and written by Ben Ringham, Max Ringham and Dan Rebellato.

Jess Gina McKee

Maya Shvorne Marks

Aoife Fenella Woolgar

Judith Barbara Marten

Neil Don Gilet

Ellie Charlie Hardwick

Writers: Dan Rebellato with Ben and Max Ringham

Showrunner: Dan Rebellato

Audio forensic consultant: James Zjalic

Sound recordist: Alisdair McGregor

Studio assistant: Oyin Fowowe

Production coordinator: Darren Spruce

Sound design: Lucinda Mason Brown and David Chilton

Original music/Sound consultants: Ben and Max Ringham

Directors: Polly Thomas and Jade Lewis

Executive producer: Joby Waldman

A Reduced Listening production for BBC Radio 4.

MON 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00201yq)

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

TUESDAY 07 JANUARY 2025**TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m0026nkq)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 00:30 How to Read the News (m001v3f3)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Monday]

TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0026nkx)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0026nkz)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

TUE 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0026nl2)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

TUE 05:30 News Briefing (m0026nl4)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0026nl6)

The Harlem Globetrotters

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Warren Elf

Good morning and merry Christmas, to most of our Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters, who follow the Julian calendar.

Today is also Harlem Globetrotter's Day, celebrated every January 7th, marking a special moment for basketball fans and the wider community.

This day honours the Harlem Globetrotters, a team renowned for their incredible skills, showmanship, and positive impact across the globe. The date commemorates the team's first game in 1927, symbolizing their legacy in the world of basketball and beyond.

I remember well the hours I spent as a young boy trying to spin a basketball on my finger to imitate just one of the tricks they regularly displayed. I used to love watching them on TV, admiring their skill and talent, laughing at the pranks they played on court and the fun they created.

They gained fame for their unique blend of basketball talent and entertainment. Their performances were not just about winning games but also about breaking racial barriers and bringing joy through their comedic and athletic displays.

From their very beginning right through to their global tours and advocacy for social justice, the Harlem Globetrotters have left an indelible mark on sports and culture.

They have not only entertained millions but have also used their platform to promote equality and bring people together, making Harlem Globetrotter's Day a celebration of their lasting legacy.

I have never been tall enough or athletic enough to emulate them on the basketball court but today I pray that I can continue to use the skills I have, my care and love and my sense of humour to bring joy to others, to campaign for equality and social justice and to make a positive difference and contribution to those around me and our world.

Amen.

TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m0026nl8)

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

TUE 06:00 Today (m0026nbs)

News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

TUE 09:00 Sideways (m0026nbw)

25 years of the 21st Century

The Age of Mistrust

In this series, we're remembering some of the big events of this century and asking how they're shaping us. This programme is all about trust. Have we lost faith in institutions, politicians, even money? Some people say there is an onslaught of misinformation and a battle for truth. So who do we trust now?

Matthew is joined by Margaret MacMillan a historian and author, Rachel Botsman the author of three books on trust and Helen Margetts, a Professor of Society and the Internet at the University of Oxford.

Production team

Editor: Sara Wadeson

Producers: Marianna Brain, Emma Close, Michaela Graichen

Sound: Tom Brignell

Production Co-ordinators: Janet Staples and Katie Morrison

Archive

Steve Jobs launches the Apple iPhone, 2007

TUE 09:30 Living Without My Smartphone (m00209dl)

A group of teenagers agree to give up their smartphones for 5 school days. The phones are locked in a box, and our subjects pick up their old style "brick" phone instead. What's the best and worst of their smartphone free days? Can they cope, and what, if anything, do they, their parents and teachers notice? Rachel Burden has teenagers, and knows all about smartphone parenting. She joins our intrepid students throughout their week, and reflects upon the positives and negatives of a world where everyone can choose to be constantly connected.

Produced by Victoria Farncombe and Tim O'Callaghan

Mixed by Nicky Edwards

Edited by Clare Fordham

TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0026nc1)

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

TUE 11:00 Add to Playlist (m0026961)

Georgie Ward and Abel Selaocoe round off the series

Georgie Ward, composer and keyboard player to the stars, and

cellist and composer Abel Selaocoe, head to the Add to Playlist studio to add the final five tracks of the series. Together with Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe, this episode takes us from a reinterpretation of a Bob Marley classic to a Sinatra father-and-daughter 'novelty' song via a ground-breaking aunt-and-niece double-act from Tanzania.

Add to Playlist returns for a new series on 27 Feb 2025

Producer: Jerome Weatherald

Presented with musical direction by Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe

The five tracks in this week's playlist:

Redemption Song by the Kanneh-Masons

Cold Light by Ishmael Ensemble

The Feeling Begins by Peter Gabriel

Mapendo by The Zawose Queens

Somethin' Stupid by Frank and Nancy Sinatra

Other music in this episode:

Be the One by Dua Lipa, Live from the Royal Albert Hall

Emmanuele by Abel Selaocoe

No Volvere by The Gypsy Kings

Redemption Song by Bob Marley

Bloom by Holysses Fly

Somethin' Stupid by Robbie Williams and Nicole Kidman

TUE 11:45 How to Read the News (m001v3hm)

Whose agenda is it anyway?

In August 2023 the release of radioactive waste-water from Japan's damaged Fukushima nuclear plant was reported around the world. Yet Britain's Sellafield plant releases far more contaminated water every year without making the news. So why was the Fukushima story in the headlines?

We hear how Chinese state media seeded anti-Japan stories, and how their messages made their way into our mainstream media. What appeared as a public health story may really have been a geo-political spat.

TUE 12:00 News Summary (m0026nc6)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

TUE 12:04 You and Yours (m0026nc9)

News and discussion of consumer affairs

TUE 12:57 Weather (m0026ncf)

The latest weather forecast

TUE 13:00 World at One (m0026nck)

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

TUE 13:45 Human Intelligence (m0026pnp)

Disruptors: George Washington

Washington may be better known as a man of action rather than ideas. However, he gave the world one idea of huge power, an idea that was also about power. As a military General, Washington won the American War of Independence. Then, as the first ever US president, he helped establish a nation and guide it through its early life. And then he did something extraordinary – he voluntarily gave up his power and returned to his farm. The idea of the peaceful transfer of power has been at the heart of the American system ever since.

Special thanks to Dr Tom F Wright, Associate Professor in Rhetoric at the University of Sussex.

Produced by BBC Studios Audio in partnership with The Open University.

TUE 14:00 The Archers (m0026ncp)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

TUE 14:15 Drama on 4 (m0026ncv)

The Concierge (Part 1)

Joe (Sean Delaney) is the perfect right hand man, working hard to create a positive image of his rich Russian employer (Juris Zagars) and help him to avoid UK sanctions. But now Demidov's Ukrainian daughter-in-law is asking for Joe's help. Thriller by Simon Scardfield and Andrew Day.

JOE.....Sean Delaney

ALEX.....Steffan Cennydd

OKSANA Anastasiya Ador

PIOTR.....Juris Zagars

KIM.....Suzanne Packer
 STEF.....Rhys Parry Jones
 PHIL.....Sion Pritchard

Production co-ordinators.....Eleri Sydney McAuliffe and
 Lindsay Rees
 Sound designers.....Jonathan Thomas, Nigel Lewis and Catherine
 Robinson
 Assistant Producer.....Fay Lomas
 Director.....Emma Harding

A BBC Audio Wales production

TUE 15:00 Short Cuts (m0026ncz)
 Midnight

Josie Long presents short documentaries and audio adventures
 as the clock slips closer to midnight.

In the last Short Cuts on BBC Radio 4, we listen to radio waves
 after dark with the Shortwave Collective, tumble into a radio
 poem alongside a sleeping child, tune into a late night pirate
 radio station from the early 1960s, and raise a parting glass.

Curated by Axel Kacoutié, Eleanor McDowall and Andrea
 Rangecroft

Series Producer: Eleanor McDowall

Mix by Mike Woolley

Executive Producer: Alan Hall

A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 15:30 Beyond Belief (m0026nd2)
 Divine Comedy

Faith based comedy is growing in popularity. Why is religion
 such a good source for jokes? Is God funny? And, is there
 anywhere with religion that you just don't go?

Dillon Mapletoft, the writer and creator of hit comedy
 Everyone Else Burns, explains his fundamentalist Christian
 upbringing and the influence it had on him writing the coming-
 of-age sitcom about a Manchester family who are part of a
 puritanical Christian sect and doomsday cult.

To explore Giles Fraser is joined by Shazia Mirza, comedian
 and part of a female only Halal comedy tour, Shanny Luft,
 Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of
 Winconsin, and Ashley Blaker, a Jewish comedian and writer
 once described as "the UK's only Orthodox comedian".

Producer: Alexa Good
 Assistant Producer: Linda Walker
 Editor: Tim Pemberton

TUE 16:00 Beyond Burns (m0026nd6)

Alistair Heather takes listeners on a tour of Scotland's modern
 poetry of place revealing the Scots language is alive and thriving
 all the way from Dundee to the Orkney islands.

As a lover and champion of the Scots language Alistair has
 explored the length and breadth of Scotland all from his sofa by
 immersing himself in the poetry that comes from there. George
 Mackay Brown wrote of Orkney 'for the islands I sing'. That
 tradition of celebrating your place applies across the country
 from post-industrial Dundee through the work of Taylor Dyson
 up the east coast to Aberdeen with Shane Strachan and all the
 way back to the Orkney islands in the mesmerising work of sci-
 fi poet Josie Giles.

Alistair's tour concludes by taking a national perspective
 speaking to Scotland's outgoing national poet or 'Makar'
 Kathleen Jamie.

Written and presented by Alistair Heather
 Produced by Peter McManus
 A BBC Audio Scotland production for Radio 4

TUE 16:30 Illuminated (m00261v9)
 Stockport: Britain's Karaoke Town

The best stories have a certain WTF factor.. a weird little fact
 that draws you in...something you can't ignore because it's so
 contrary to what you previously thought.

So it was for Geoff Lloyd when he heard that the story that
 Karaoke was invented in Stockport, by a charismatic
 shopkeeper called Roy Brooke who claimed the Japanese
 adopted his discovery and marketed it around the world.

Geoff's a massive Karaoke fan and remembers his halcyon days
 in the 90s, judging karaoke competitions in the town with his
 friend Caroline Aherne, so he sets off on a quest to get to the
 bottom of this tale; a quest that sees him chat to Stockport
 hitmakers Blossoms, comedy writing legend Craig Cash and a
 Japanese academic said to have backed up Roy's crazy claim.

On the way he discovers a town so in love with Karaoke that it's
 home to the country's only dedicated league, a secretive world
 jam-packed with big voices and human drama. 12 pub teams
 meet every Monday for chance to be champions of the New
 Stockport Fun Karaoke League. But have some of the teams
 starting taking it too seriously and forgotten about the fun?

Will Geoff track down Roy Brooke and hear his side of the
 story and find out why Karaoke has taken root so strongly in
 Stockport?

Presenter: Geoff Lloyd
 Producer: Catherine Murray
 Additional recording by George Herd
 Production Co-ordination: Mica Nepomuceno
 Studio mix: Nat Stokes
 Executive Producer: Richard McLroy

Featuring Blossoms, Craig Cash, Professor Hiroshi Ogawa, and
 Matt Alt, author of Pure Invention: How Japanese Culture
 Conquered the World.

Special thanks to the Blossoms Bees and The Barnhouse teams
 and all the members of the New Stockport Karaoke Fun League

TUE 17:00 PM (m0026ndc)

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on
 breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0026ndh)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 18:30 Janey Godley: The C Bomb (m001wxtm)
 Series 2

1. Not Dead Yet

Despite her diagnosis of terminal cancer in 2021, Janey's
 defiantly not dead yet, and as hilarious as ever, even in the face
 of online haters who seem to think she's not dying quickly
 enough.

In this mix of stand-up and chat, Janey and her daughter and
 fellow comedian Ashley talk about why having cancer is like
 having an extramarital affair and what it's like to be told you're
 dying, and she takes to the stage to tell tales of loudmouths in
 hospital wards and the unlikely benefits of chemotherapy!

Janey shared her extraordinary life story in the first series -
 exposing all the abuse, poverty, and trauma she'd experienced in
 her trademark darkly comic style.

Now, with death chasing her down like a runaway bus, she's still
 compelled to get up onstage and fearlessly poke fun at every
 escapade, encounter and event she's experienced on her own
 journey with cancer, and make sure she goes out in the same
 way she's lived - with nothing left unsaid.

Recorded live in front of an audience in her hometown,
 Glasgow.

Produced by Julia Sutherland

A Dabster production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 19:00 The Archers (m0026ncg)

Harrison finds himself in a delicate situation, and Lily takes
 matters into her own hands.

TUE 19:15 Front Row (m0026nds)

Jesse Eisenberg & Kieran Culkin on their film A Real Pain,
 improving visual literacy in school, how Jerry Springer changed
 TV

Presenter: Tom Sutcliffe
 Producer: Paula McGrath

TUE 20:00 File on 4 Investigates (m0026nbv)

Current affairs documentary series investigating major issues at
 home and abroad.

TUE 20:40 In Touch (m0026ndz)

News, views and information for people who are blind or
 partially sighted.

TUE 21:00 Crossing Continents (m0026nf3)

South Korea: The Feminist Hunters

Why feminism has become a dirty word in South Korea. Being
 a feminist is now something that can only be admitted in
 private, thanks to a fierce backlash against feminism. Anti-

feminists accuse South Korean women who advocate for
 equality as being man-haters, worthy of punishment. Online
 witch-hunts - spearheaded by young male gamers - target
 women suspected of harbouring feminist views, bombarding
 them with abuse and demanding they be fired from their jobs.
 Jean Mackenzie investigates how these witch-hunts have
 silenced women, and asks what this means for the future of
 women's rights in a country where gender discrimination is still
 deeply entrenched.

Presenter: Jean Mackenzie
 Producers: John Murphy, Jake Kwon and Hosu Lee
 Mixed by: Neil Churchill
 Production co-ordinator: Gemma Ashman
 Editor: Penny Murphy

TUE 21:30 Illuminated (m0024cvm)

Reclusion

Are we ever really alone nowadays, what with the extraordinary
 velocity of contemporary social circulation, whether this be the
 madness of the crowds, or the relentless churn of social media?
 Does anyone really experience reclusion? A conscious choice to
 withdraw from the social realm. What would it be like?

For decades, Will Self lived his life as a very public figure. An
 acerbic satirist and giant man of letters he was constantly on the
 move, driven by his insatiable curiosity about the world. "I once
 flew to Scotland, climbed Ben Lomond, and flew back to
 London the same day".

In a series of powerful soliloquies, Self reveals how he's
 gradually withdrawn from the social realm. He began by
 abandoning acquaintances and remoter colleagues, then started
 cutting off friends, close colleagues, and eventually family.

"It's been over a year since I've read a newspaper report, looked
 at a news website, or heard more than a three-minute news
 bulletin. Most days I see only my wife and youngest child who I
 live with."

In this powerful piece of radio, Will Self reaches down to the
 very bottom of how the self is socially constructed – and then
 dismantles that scaffolding from around it, to see what's still
 standing.

A half-hour that will leave the listener feeling as if they've been
 staring at their reflection for so long in a mirror, that this image
 appears totally uncanny to them.

Presenter: Will Self
 Producer: Emily Williams

A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m0026nf6)

In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from
 a global perspective.

TUE 22:45 Seaborne by Nuala O'Connor (m0026nfc)

Episode Seven

Bestselling and award-winning Irish author Nuala O'Connor
 returns with the intimate and thrilling portrayal of the life of
 18th-century pirate, Anne Bonny. Shortlisted for Novel of the
 Year at The An Post Irish Book Awards 2024.

1703, Kinsale, County Cork. Anne Coleman is the illegitimate
 child of a local lawyer and his maid; disguised as 'Anthony' to
 protect reputations, the mask suits Anne just fine. But, fixated
 on boats and the sea, she struggles to fit in, and her devoted
 mother fears for her fiercely independent and impulsive
 daughter.

When their secrets are exposed, the family emigrates to the new
 colony of Carolina, but this fresh start will bring devastating
 loss and stifling responsibilities. Lonely and transgressive, Anne
 finds comfort only with Bedelia, servant and intimate friend.
 However her craving for the sea-wandering life and a
 misjudged marriage to young Gabriel Bonny will compel Anne
 to take to the sea again, this time around the islands of the
 Caribbean, famous for plunder and piracy.

The Author

Nuala O'Connor is a novelist, short story writer and poet, and
 lives in County Galway with her family. She is the author of
 four previous novels and six short story collections. She has
 won many prizes for her short fiction including the Francis
 MacManus Award, the James Joyce Quarterly Fiction Contest
 and the UK's Short Fiction Journal Prize. Nuala's work has also
 been nominated for numerous prizes including the Edge Hill
 Short Story Prize, the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year
 Award and the International Dublin Literary Award.

Reader: Ayoola Smart
 Author: Nuala O'Connor

Abridger: Rowan Routh
Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland Production for BBC Radio 4.

TUE 23:00 Now You're Asking with Marian Keyes and Tara Flynn (m0026nfh)
The Steamy Reading Question

Is your wife's bedtime reading a little on the raunchy side? Should you worry, if it is? Do you have a friend who never helps to organise your get-togethers? And ... what is love, anyway? Another superb slice of life served up by Radio 4's in-house agony aunts, Tara Flynn and Marian Keyes.

Each week Marian and Tara do their best to shed their particular brand of warmth, wit and wisdom onto listeners' questions with topics big and small.

Earlier series of Now You're Asking were welcomed by listeners and critics:

"Both are warm and kind enough to not only be funny but also offer genuinely thoughtful, if left-field, advice." (Miranda Sawyer, The Observer)

"Keyes and Flynn are my new favourite double-act." (Jane Anderson - Radio Times)

"I found their compassion endlessly soothing." (Rachel Cunliffe - The New Statesman)

Marian Keyes is a multi award-winning writer, with a total of over 30 million of her books sold to date in 33 languages. Her close friend Tara Flynn is an actress, comedian and writer. Together, these two friends have been through a lot, and now want to use their considerable life experience to help solve the biggest - and smallest - of the things that keep us awake at night.

We continue to be inundated with emails but everything gets read and we're always on the lookout for new questions, queries and conundrums to include on the show.

Got a problem you want Marian and Tara to solve? Email: marianandtara@bbc.co.uk.

Producer: Steve Doherty.
A Giddy Goat production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds

TUE 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002021r)
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

WEDNESDAY 08 JANUARY 2025

WED 00:00 Midnight News (m0026nfm)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

WED 00:30 How to Read the News (m001v3hm)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Tuesday]

WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0026nfr)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0026nfw)
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

WED 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0026nfz)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

WED 05:30 News Briefing (m0026ng2)
The latest news from BBC Radio 4

WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0026ng4)
Spread Joy

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Warren Elf

Good morning.

Did you know that today is National Joy Germ Day, a day to spread happiness?

The idea behind calling it "joy germ" was because germs spread from person to person so readily. So it seemed a good idea that happiness should also be highly infectious. And that's what National Joy Germ Day is all about!

The day suggests there are various ways that we can emit the joy bug, and today we are encouraged to utilise all of our energy

doing it. We can start by smiling and generally being nice to people.

There are so many things in the middle of winter, with shorter days, less sunshine, colder temperatures, that contribute to us feeling less happy, even sad, depressed and lethargic. We may have post-holiday season blues.

There are so many things to make us angry or afraid, worried or insecure, or feeling helpless.

Nachman of Bratzlav, a leading Chasidic Rabbi, said: There are those who suffer terrible distress and are unable to tell what they feel in their hearts, and they go their way and suffer and suffer. But if they meet someone with a laughing face, they can revive them with their joy. And to revive a person is no slight thing.

I always try to see the positive in any situation. I have faith that there is always hope and opportunity, although I recognise that they are sometimes difficult to see or feel. I believe it is always possible to bring respite and comfort where it is needed.

So my prayer today is that we can always bring happiness to the world around us. I pray that we can find ways to help those around us to see something positive, even in desperate situations; that we treasure and appreciate the good things and find ways to overcome the bad. I pray today I can spread some joy!

Amen.

WED 05:45 Farming Today (m0026ng6)
The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

WED 06:00 Today (m0026nbj)
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

WED 09:00 Sideways (m0026nbl)
25 years of the 21st Century

Episode 3

A panel of experts joins Matthew Syed to evaluate the first 25 years of the 21st century.

WED 09:30 In Dark Corners (m00272e5)
Series 2

The List

Journalist Alex Renton is shown a secret document, containing the names and addresses of people signed up to a paedophile group called the Paedophile Information Exchange, or PIE, which was active in the 1970s and 80s.

That's not all: weeks after getting the membership list Alex meets a contact who gives him bags full of documents, crammed with reports, contact details, letters.

As Alex starts following up on leads; detail of the criminal activities committed by some of PIE's members, and those connected with them, begins to emerge.

It's a lot to take in. Alex is not only a journalist, he's a survivor of child sexual abuse. All of this information about PIE; it feels like a heavy weight to carry. Are children still at risk?

Alex sets off on a dizzying journey into the dark history of the Paedophile Information Exchange and uncovers abuses committed by PIE's members: teachers, clergy, social workers, government advisors.

As Alex finds out more, he starts to wonder: where are all those hundreds of members now?

He meets the former deputy editor of Private Eye, journalist Francis Wheen: he has a long memory for news and a nose for stories that people in power want to keep secret. What does he know about PIE?

Archive credits: Newsnight, BBC, August 1983

Details of organisations offering information and support for victims of child sexual abuse are available at bbc.co.uk/actionline

Presenter: Alex Renton
Producer: Caitlin Smith
Researchers: Claire Harris and Marisha Currie
Executive producers: Gail Champion and Gillian Wheelan
Written by Alex Renton, Caitlin Smith, Jack Kibble White and Kirsty Williams
Sound designer: Jon Nicholls

Theme tune composed by Jeremy Warnmsley

WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0026nbp)
Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

WED 11:00 File on 4 Investigates (m0026nbv)
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Tuesday]

WED 11:45 How to Read the News (m001v3kv)
A Source Close to the Minister

When you read or hear that 'a source close to the minister' has told a reporter something, what can you read into that? Former Special Advisor Salma Shah and The Sun's Political Correspondent Noa Hoffman give us the lowdown on anonymous briefings at Westminster – how, where and why they happen – and pass on their tips for how we can interpret information when its source is secret.

Presenter: Jo Fidgeon
Producer: Charlotte McDonald
Researchers: Beth Ashmead Latham, Kirsteen Knight
Editors: China Collins, Emma Rippon

WED 12:00 News Summary (m0026nby)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

WED 12:04 You and Yours (m0026nc2)
News and discussion of consumer affairs

WED 12:57 Weather (m0026nc5)
The latest weather forecast

WED 13:00 World at One (m0026ncb)
Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

WED 13:45 Human Intelligence (m0026pnw)
Disruptors: Mary Wollstonecraft

Mary Wollstonecraft argued with passion and moral certainty in her great work, A Vindication of the Rights of Women. Naomi Alderman meets the first modern woman, who lived the ideas she espoused – travelling to revolutionary France, living unmarried to her lover, arguing, debating, persuading and showing, with the quality of her arguments, the justice of her own cause. She died tragically young, giving birth to her daughter Mary, known now as Mary Shelley, the author of Frankenstein.

Special thanks to Dr Corin Throsby, who teaches English at the University of Cambridge.

Produced by BBC Studios Audio in partnership with The Open University.

WED 14:00 The Archers (m0026ncg)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

WED 14:15 Drama on 4 (m0026ncl)
The Concierge (Part 2)

Yesterday, Joe was the perfect right-hand man to his rich Russian employer, Mr Demidov. Today, he's on the hunt for a missing person. Thriller by Simon Scardfield and Andrew Day, starring Sean Delaney and Juris Zagars.

JOE.....Sean Delaney
ALEX.....Steffan Cennydd
PIOTR.....Juris Zagars
STEF.....Rhys Parry Jones
KIM.....Suzanne Packer
BEAUTICIAN/RECEPTIONIST... Andi Bickers
CLERK... Artur Zai Barrera
CASHIER/MAKSYM... Sion Pritchard

Production co-ordinators.....Eleri Sydney McAuliffe and Lindsay Rees
Sound designers...Jonathan Thomas, Nigel Lewis and Catherine Robinson
Executive Producer... Emma Harding
Director.....Fay Lomas

A BBC Audio Wales production

WED 15:00 Money Box (m0026ncq)
The Money Box team invites listeners and a panel of experts to

discuss one personal finance topic in depth.

WED 15:30 The Artificial Human (m0026nct)
Can AI Solve A Murder?

Can you imagine how quickly Poirot could have solved a crime, if only he'd had access to AI software? Following a fictional murder case provided by real life police officer, Aleks and Kevin try to unravel how AI is already used in crime fighting, and what the cutting edge uses might be.

Ruth Morgan, Professor of Crime and Forensic Sciences, explains how the ability of AI to crunch huge volumes of data could lead to new forms of evidence being used in criminal trials. Aleks and Kevin also chat to Rudi Fortson KC about the legal ramifications of AI sourced evidence. Will it stand up in court? Is the UK judiciary ready for the influx of AI evidence? Or has it been used for years, without our knowledge?

Presenters: Aleks Krotoski and Kevin Fong
Producer: Emily Esson
Researcher: Juliet Conway
Mixed by: Tim Heffer and Sean Mullervy

WED 16:00 The Media Show (m0026ncy)

Topical programme about the fast-changing media world

WED 17:00 PM (m0026nd3)

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0026nd7)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

WED 18:30 ReincarNathan (m001fd1c)

Series 3

Bower Bird

Nathan Blakely was a popstar. But he was useless, died, and was reincarnated. The comedy about Nathan's adventures in the afterlife continues, starring Daniel Rigby, Ashley McGuire and guest-starring Sindhu Vee.

In episode two, Nathan is brought back to life as a Bower Bird on the Vogelkop Peninsula. In order to woo the Hen (Sindhu Vee), Nathan must build the most beautiful bower. But it turns out he's utterly uncreative. Can Nathan learn to speak his truth? And will he ever learn to do the right thing and make it back to human again?

Cast:

Ashley McGuire - Carol
Daniel Rigby - Nathan
Tom Craine - Mr Rafferty
Amy-Beth Hayes - Miss Plumpton
Henry Parker - Pablo
Freya Parker - The Quoll
Sindhu Vee - The Hen

Writers: Tom Craine and Henry Parker

WED 19:00 The Archers (m0026ndb)

Leonard faces an emotional day, and there's a surprise for Ben.

WED 19:15 Front Row (m0026ndg)

Asif Kapadia's dystopian film 2073, anthology comic marks 25 years since armed forces "gay ban" lifted, Nick Frost in Get Away

Presenter: Kirsty Wark
Producer: Fiona MacLellan

WED 20:00 Moral Maze (m0026ndl)

What should we do about inherited inequality?

In every species, including homo sapiens, the family is nature's way of passing inequality down the generations. The family gives us our genetic make-up and a large proportion of our training, education, socialisation and cultural attitudes. It may bequeath to us wealth or poverty. None of this is fair.

Should we get cross about silver spoons and livid about nepotism? We don't seem to. Inheritance tax is deeply unpopular (not just with farmers). And it's not merely money that tilts the scales when a child is born. There's the where and when of it, there's parental character and competence, there are genetic pluses and minuses. How should we, as a society, address the unfairness that results from inherited advantage? And how can we know whether it's made a difference? Everyone claims to want equality of opportunity. Some of us

want to measure our success by equality of outcome; the rest of us say 'dream on.'

Should we aim to eradicate or compensate for inherited inequality? Should we try to correct for the effects of genetic and environmental misfortune? Or should we just accept that, in the words of William Blake, 'Some are Born to sweet delight. Some are Born to Endless Night'?

Chair: Michael Buerk

Panel: Tim Stanley, Ash Sarkar, James Orr and Mona Siddiqui
Witnesses: Aaron Reeves, Ruth Porter, Will Snell, Edward Davies.

Producers: Dan Tierney and Peter Everrett.
Editor: Tim Pemberton

WED 21:00 The History Podcast (m0026ndq)

The Lucan Obsession - Omnibus 2

One winter's night, 50 years ago, a crime took place that obsessed the nation.

Lord Lucan is said to have killed the family nanny, attacked his wife and vanished.

Newspapers ran wild with lurid detail and it became a story hardwired into British culture.

Why did this case capture the British imagination, and spark one of the greatest unsolved mysteries of the 20th Century?

Historian Alex von Tunzelmann unpacks the story of our obsession, taking us into a dizzying world of high stakes gambling and exclusive London clubs, powerboat racing and pet tigers. It's also a dark realm of bankruptcy, gaslighting and stalking, and at its heart, a story with a violent and very tragic death.

Across the series she investigates the two mysteries at the centre of this story: was Lord Lucan the murderer, and where on earth did he go?

Told and retold, the facts of the Lucan story have got lost. Alex finds herself in a hall of mirrors where truth and lies distort themselves into new myths and new mysteries. Was the truth obscured by booze and backhanders, class deference and journalist spin?

As she tries to get to the bottom of this case, she meets eyewitnesses from the '70s, people caught up in the crime, and those who just can't let it go. She unearths long forgotten tapes and letters, piecing together fragments of a legend to discover why the Lucan myth still holds such power.

Series contributors:

Algy Cluff, Pierrette Goletto and Mandy Parks
Journalists: Bob Strange and James Fox
Author: Laura Thompson
Crime writer: Claire McGowan
Police: Geoff Lewry, Richard Swarbrick and Jackie Malton
UK Missing Persons Unit: Louise Newell

Presenter: Alex von Tunzelmann
Series Producer: Sarah Bowen
Content Producer: Becca Bryers

WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m0026ndt)

In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

WED 22:45 Seaborne by Nuala O'Connor (m0026ndy)

Episode Eight

Bestselling and award-winning Irish author Nuala O'Connor returns with the intimate and thrilling portrayal of the life of 18th-century pirate, Anne Bonny. Shortlisted for Novel of the Year at The An Post Irish Book Awards 2024.

1703, Kinsale, County Cork. Anne Coleman is the illegitimate child of a local lawyer and his maid; disguised as 'Anthony' to protect reputations, the mask suits Anne just fine. But, fixated on boats and the sea, she struggles to fit in, and her devoted mother fears for her fiercely independent and impulsive daughter.

When their secrets are exposed, the family emigrates to the new colony of Carolina, but this fresh start will bring devastating loss and stifling responsibilities. Lonely and transgressive, Anne finds comfort only with Bedelia, servant and intimate friend. However her craving for the sea-wandering life and a misjudged marriage to young Gabriel Bonny will compel Anne to take to the sea again, this time around the islands of the Caribbean, famous for plunder and piracy.

The Author

Nuala O'Connor is a novelist, short story writer and poet, and lives in County Galway with her family. She is the author of four previous novels and six short story collections. She has won many prizes for her short fiction including the Francis MacManus Award, the James Joyce Quarterly Fiction Contest and the UK's Short Fiction Journal Prize. Nuala's work has also been nominated for numerous prizes including the Edge Hill Short Story Prize, the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award and the International Dublin Literary Award.

Reader: Ayoola Smart
Author: Nuala O'Connor
Abridger: Rowan Routh
Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland Production for BBC Radio 4.

WED 23:00 Ahir Shah's Seven Blunders of the World (m0026ndm)

Episode 2

Inspired by an email from his 74 year-old father, comedian Ahir Shah introduces us to the The Seven Blunders of the World.

In 1925, Mahatma Gandhi published an article in the journal Young India, outlining what he called the 'Seven Social Sins'. They were wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, religion without sacrifice, and politics without principle.

One hundred years on, the world is a very different place (this was written on a computer, for crying out loud!). Yet, Ahir reckons Gandhi's century-old list of the great societal blunders still feels relevant today. Could they teach us anything going forward?

Join Ahir (and sometimes his dad, who started this whole thing), as he explores three more of these blunders through his trademark combination of philosophical inquiry, political vigour, and sweet gags.

Created and Performed by Ahir Shah

Additional material by Glenn Moore
Starring Meera Syal and Vikram Shah
Producers - Daisy Knight and Jules Lom
An Avalon production for BBC Radio 4

WED 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00202hh)

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

THURSDAY 09 JANUARY 2025

THU 00:00 Midnight News (m0026nf7)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

THU 00:30 How to Read the News (m001v3kv)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Wednesday]

THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0026nfb)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0026nfg)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

THU 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0026nfl)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

THU 05:30 News Briefing (m0026nfy)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0026nfv)

Time for Rest

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Warren Elf

Good morning.

Early January is the time that lots of travel companies offer special deals and discounts.

Holidays can create special memories and provide a welcome respite in the humdrum and busyness of everyday life.

My father was never one for going on holiday, so during school holidays we went on a variety of day trips, which was also fine

and normally fun. My first holiday was when I was 14 years old and my mother, sister and I went to Bournemouth, where my grandparents were living. We had a wonderful time - the weather helped.

A couple of years ago my wife and I decided we would take a winter break to try to escape the cold, wet and dark of this time of year at home. I have to say, it was a real tonic.

I suppose the whole concept of holidays is to recharge our batteries and give us relief from the monotony of everyday life, expand our horizons, maybe see new parts of the world or go to places we know we like.

I am aware that not everyone can afford to go away or is able to.

I also derive pleasure and benefit from the Jewish concept of the Sabbath. We celebrate Shabbat every week, from before sunset on Friday night to after sunset on Saturday night – 25 hours of time out, Menuchah (rest), time with family and community, special prayers and ideally 3 nice meals.

So I pray today that we may all find time for rest and special occasions in our lives, where we can escape our worries and problems and be re-energized. I pray we can also find ways to do this with family, friends or community.

Amen.

THU 05:45 Farming Today (m0026ng0)

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

THU 06:00 Today (m0026ng8)

News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

THU 09:00 Sideways (m0026ngb)

25 years of the 21st Century

Episode 4

A panel of experts joins Matthew Syed to evaluate the first 25 years of the 21st century.

THU 09:30 God Next Door (m00219dj)

James lives in Manchester and earns his living as a landscape gardener. Since he was a child he has believed himself to be God, and is on a mission to bring peace to the world. He is part of an organisation that runs community events, fitness sessions, games evenings and he shares his ideas at regular Q&A meetings with a group of people, including many who share his belief that he is a divine figure.

Over the last four years journalist Darryl Morris has been spending time with James and some of the members of the group, and attending some of the events they stage. He's trying to find out what it's like for James to live his life understanding himself to be God, what he is hoping to achieve, and what he offers those who consider themselves lucky enough to be among the first to recognise his presence.

Producer: Geoff Bird
Executive Producer: Jo Meek

An Audio Always production for BBC Radio 4

THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0026ngd)

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

THU 11:00 This Cultural Life (m0026ngg)

James Ivory

James Ivory formed the filmmaking company Merchant Ivory with producer Ismail Merchant and the writer Ruth Praver Jhabvala in 1961. The company went on to produce over 40 films and became synonymous with a particular sumptuous movie genre in the 80s and 90s, often adapted from literary classics. Merchant Ivory won awards and acclaim for A Room With A View, Howard's End, The Remains Of The Day and many more. In 2018, at the age of 89, James Ivory became the oldest ever winner of an Academy Award. Having been nominated three times previously for best director, he won the best adapted screenplay Oscar for the coming-of-age drama Call Me By Your Name.

Now 96 years old, James Ivory recalls his upbringing in Oregon, the son of a timber merchant. He says that seeing Gone With the Wind soon after the film had first been released in 1939 was a formative moment in his love of cinema. Having initially studied architecture, he enrolled at the University of California to study cinema and began making short films. It was during a

trip to India that he first became fascinated with the country and was introduced to the great Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray, who was a hugely influential figure. James Ivory also talks about the unique relationship he had with Ismail Merchant and Ruth Jhabvala whom he describes as his "life's partners".

Producer: Edwina Pitman

THU 11:45 How to Read the News (m001v40k)

How You Shape the News

Nicola Bulley's disappearance was one of the biggest UK news stories of 2023. Hundreds of people are reported missing every day in the UK; why did this case dominate the news for weeks? We chart how what started as a story for the local press quickly caught the attention of national TV crews and social media sleuths, with families making daytrips to look for clues. We learn about the role of the police, audiences and 'victim hierarchies'.

THU 12:00 News Summary (m0026ngj)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

THU 12:04 The Bottom Line (m0026ngl)

Evan Davis hosts the business conversation show, with insight from the people at the top.

THU 12:32 Sliced Bread (m0026ngn)

Greg Foot investigates the so-called wonder products making bold claims.

THU 12:57 Weather (m0026ngq)

The latest weather forecast

THU 13:00 World at One (m0026ngs)

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

THU 13:45 Human Intelligence (m0026pp4)

Disruptors: Martin Luther

Luther's vivid, wild words – powered by new printing technology – set in motion a chain reaction that split the Catholic Church, powered the Reformation and changed the world forever. Naomi Alderman meets this determined thinker.

Famously, Luther walked up to a church in a backwater town and nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the door. The son of a metal smelter, he knew how rough and dangerous life could be; and he was prepared to question, argue and openly insult powerful authorities in defence of his explosive theology.

Special thanks to Lyndal Roper, Regius Professor of History at the University of Oxford.

Produced by BBC Studios Audio in partnership with The Open University.

THU 14:00 The Archers (m0026ndb)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

THU 14:15 Drama on 4 (m0026ngv)

The Concierge (Part 3)

Whilst working for his rich Russian employer, Joe's always looked the other way when he had to. But now he finds himself in danger – and torn between conflicting loyalties. As he tries to unravel the mystery of the last few days, he'll realise how wrong he's been.

Thriller from Simon Scardifield and Andrew Day, starring Sean Delaney and Juris Zagars.

JOE...Sean Delaney
PIOTR...Juris Zagars
OKSANA...Anastasiya Ador
STEF...Rhys Parry Jones
KIM...Suzanne Packer
ALEX...Steffan Cennydd
ILYA...Artur Zai Barrera
AIR STEWARD... Andi Bickers

Production co-ordinators...Eleri Sydney McAuliffe and Lindsay Rees
Sound designers...Jonathan Thomas, Nigel Lewis and Catherine Robinson

Ukrainian translations... Irena Taranyuk
Directors... Emma Harding and Fay Lomas

A BBC Audio Wales production

THU 15:00 Ramblings (m0026ngx)

Clare's 25th Year! Bakewell with the RamSoc

This is Clare's 25th year of walking and talking on Ramblings! To mark this, ahem, milestone her first hike of 2025 is with a group of students from the University of Nottingham who are all members of the RamSoc (The Rambling and Hiking Society) which has just celebrated its 90th anniversary.

All of today's walkers are under the age of 25, so weren't even around when Clare first stepped out with the Ramblings microphone. It's joyful to know that walking in the great outdoors continues as a rich part of our culture with young people like Theo, Amy, and others leading the way...

They met in Bakewell, Derbyshire on a rainy, windy, wintery Sunday morning and set off on a circular hike taking in the grounds of Chatsworth House.

Producer: Karen Gregor
Presenter: Clare Balding

THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m0026n3b)

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

THU 15:30 Word of Mouth (m0026ngz)

Susie Dent's World of Words

Susie Dent joins Michael to talk about her lifelong fascination with words and their origins. It's a programme bringing some apricity, which is one of Susie's favourite words. Her love of language began when she was a child, then found expression in her passion for French and German and now in her work as a lexicographer, writer and language broadcaster.

Produced for BBC Audio Bristol by Beth O'Dea.
Subscribe to the Word of Mouth podcast and never miss an episode: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qtnz>

THU 16:00 The Briefing Room (m0026nh1)

David Aaronovitch and a panel of experts and insiders present in-depth explainers on big issues in the news.

THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (m0026nh3)

A weekly programme looking at the science that's changing our world.

THU 17:00 PM (m0026nh5)

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0026nh7)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

THU 18:30 Aurie Styla: Tech Talk (Omnibus) (m0026nh9)

1: Loading, Please Wait...

Stand-up comedian Aurie Styla, a 90s nerd, takes an autobiographical journey through the history of tech.

We begin in the early 90s, with the tinny sound of the Nintendo Game Boy and his first 13-inch television which only worked if asked very nicely, and he re-wired to show all the channels available - in total, four - proceeding through to mobile phones and the school playground black market for cooler ringtones.

Since the days of his first console, the Sega Master System – featuring the often frustrating Alex Kidd In Miracle World – Aurie has seen technology transform in a manner that would have been hard to believe in the 90s. This show charts his personal relationship with machines, looking at the past (computer games that you had to load from cassette tapes), the present (houses that are lit and warmed via apps on your phone, cars that drive themselves without you) and the future (AIs that tell you how to dress and what to eat for dinner, and superior intelligences that command your every move whether you want to object or not).

Technology has moved on rapidly, from being a fun sideshow to the bedrock of our understanding of human life. Aurie guides us through this landscape with infectious wit, taking time to remember the awkward interface of MSN Messenger while also negotiating the modern culture of having to check with a virtual assistant before you turn your lights off. A warm, human show about the way the world has become less and less warm and human, celebrating the march of tech while being appropriately terrified of it.

An Impatient production for BBC Radio 4

THU 19:00 The Archers (m0026nhd)

Harrison reaches a crossroads, and there's good news at Brookfield.

THU 19:15 Front Row (m0026nbg)

Review: Angelina Jolie's Maria, AL Kennedy's novel Alive in the Merciful Country, Architecton documentary

Presenter: Tom Sutcliffe
Producer: Claire Bartlett

THU 20:00 The Media Show (m0026ncy)

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Wednesday]

THU 21:00 Loose Ends (m0026mwy)

[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

THU 21:45 The Bottom Line (m0026nhj)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:30 on Monday]

THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m0026nhl)

In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

THU 22:45 Seaborne by Nuala O'Connor (m0026nhn)

Episode Nine

Bestselling and award-winning Irish author Nuala O'Connor returns with the intimate and thrilling portrayal of the life of 18th-century pirate, Anne Bonny. Shortlisted for Novel of the Year at The An Post Irish Book Awards 2024.

1703, Kinsale, County Cork. Anne Coleman is the illegitimate child of a local lawyer and his maid; disguised as 'Anthony' to protect reputations, the mask suits Anne just fine. But, fixated on boats and the sea, she struggles to fit in, and her devoted mother fears for her fiercely independent and impulsive daughter.

When their secrets are exposed, the family emigrates to the new colony of Carolina, but this fresh start will bring devastating loss and stifling responsibilities. Lonely and transgressive, Anne finds comfort only with Bedelia, servant and intimate friend. However her craving for the sea-wandering life and a misjudged marriage to young Gabriel Bonny will compel Anne to take to the sea again, this time around the islands of the Caribbean, famous for plunder and piracy.

The Author

Nuala O'Connor is a novelist, short story writer and poet, and lives in County Galway with her family. She is the author of four previous novels and six short story collections. She has won many prizes for her short fiction including the Francis MacManus Award, the James Joyce Quarterly Fiction Contest and the UK's Short Fiction Journal Prize. Nuala's work has also been nominated for numerous prizes including the Edge Hill Short Story Prize, the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award and the International Dublin Literary Award.

Reader: Ayoola Smart
Author: Nuala O'Connor
Abridger: Rowan Routh
Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland Production for BBC Radio 4.

THU 23:00 The Today Podcast (m0026nhq)

Amol and Nick's take on the biggest stories of the week.

THU 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00202my)

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

FRIDAY 10 JANUARY 2025

FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m0026nhs)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 00:30 How to Read the News (m001v40k)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Thursday]

FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0026nhv)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0026nhx)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

FRI 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0026nhz)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

FRI 05:30 News Briefing (m0026nj1)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0026nj3)

Respect, Care and Love

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Warren Elf

Good morning.

Today is the 10th day of the Hebrew month of Tevet. It is a fast day in the Jewish calendar from sunrise to sunset.

It commemorates the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylonia which culminated in many of the Jewish people being taken as exiles to Babylonia and later the Temple in Jerusalem being destroyed as well.

It is one of several days in the Jewish year when we remember events that have shaken and drastically affected the Jewish People.

The Temple was rebuilt, initially around 70 years later, but I believe that the first type of synagogues evolved in Babylonia, established by groups of exiles needing somewhere to meet and be Jewish together.

Being exiled from your homeland is something that many people around the world can identify with. Whether being forcibly removed or choosing to flee your country, escaping oppression or other adverse conditions, seems to be something that is affecting our world more and more – and it's not right or fair!

I am very aware of the command in Torah, mentioned in one form or another 36 times, that the stranger must be treated fairly, with respect and love. Concern for the stranger was considered a religious value of supreme importance and reads: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" and "You shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt".

This is regarded as the central principle of Torah and should not be ignored by any Jewish person, whatever their position or role in society.

So my prayer today is that I never forget what has happened in the past and learn from that - that we have a duty to respond favourably to everyone, whether our neighbour or a stranger. May I always show respect, care and love to all my fellow human beings.

Amen

FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m0026nj5)

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

FRI 06:00 Today (m0026nn9)

News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

FRI 09:00 Sideways (m0026nnc)

25 years of the 21st Century

Episode 5

A panel of experts joins Matthew Syed to evaluate the first 25 years of the 21st century.

FRI 09:30 A Year in the Life of the Swinging Sixties (m00224h7)

James Peak and Joan Bakewell find some incredible hidden BBC archive from 1963. Wait! Is that The Beatles? And Mary Quant? And Morecambe & Wise?

The Public Ear was a bold new arts show, broadcast on The Light Programme in 1963, which tried to make sense of all the amazing things that were happening in London and the UK in music, art, theatre, comedy, football, politics and feminism. Travel back in time for a Year in the Life of the Swinging Sixties, for archive unheard for these last 60 years - the precise moment that Beatlemania started and the National Theatre was founded, a time when broadcasters could ask people on the street who they'd drop a bomb on.

Joan Bakewell was there the first time around and puts these amazing archive finds into context.

With special thanks to Dame Joan Bakewell, Keith Wickham of

The Radio Circle, Helen Toland and Amy McGarrigue

Assistant Producer: Ruby Churchill
BBC Archive Curator: Liz Storey
BBC Archive Senior Curator: Carl Davies
Sound Design & Mixing: Neil Churchill
Written, produced & presented by James Peak
An Essential Radio production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0026nnf)

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

FRI 11:00 The Food Programme (m0026nnh)

Food and AI

How will Artificial Intelligence (AI) transform the food industry? Experts say it's already having an effect - whether through self-service checkouts or the algorithms that determine which recipes you see online or the way supermarkets are using it to predict the next big food trend.

Jaega Wise heads to the Waitrose Headquarters in Berkshire to find out how their product development team is using AI to inform which ingredients they stock on the shelves. She also talks to the firm Tastewise which makes software that calculates food trends by analysing social media and online menus.

A restaurant in Glasgow is already using embodied AI in the form of robots which serve their customers. Jaega witnesses the robots in action and finds diners are divided over their use. She also talks to consumer affairs journalist Harry Wallop about how supermarkets use our data and the futurist Tracey Follows who gives us her take on what might happen next in the world of AI. Jaega also hears the tipped top food trends for 2025.

Presented by Jaega Wise

Produced for BBC Audio in Bristol by Robin Markwell

FRI 11:45 How to Read the News (m001v3xn)

What you're not being told

Why don't journalists tell everything they know? One reason is privacy law. We hear from the lawyer who warned editors off publishing the name of Phillip Schofield's former lover, and speak to the chief lawyer for The Times and The Sunday Times who took the risk of naming a parliamentary researcher alleged to be spying for China.

Presenter: Jo Fidgen

Producer: Charlotte McDonald

Researchers: Beth Ashmead Latham, Kirsteen Knight

Editors: China Collins, Emma Rippon

FRI 12:00 News Summary (m0026nnk)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

FRI 12:04 AntiSocial (m0026nmm)

Adam Fleming helps you work out what the culture war arguments are really about.

FRI 12:57 Weather (m0026nnp)

The latest weather forecast

FRI 13:00 World at One (m0026nrr)

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

FRI 13:45 Human Intelligence (m0026ppb)

Disruptors: Malcolm X

While in prison, Malcolm X read furiously after lights-out and changed his entire life trajectory. Naomi Alderman looks at his extraordinary capacity for learning. Prominent as a black nationalist, skilled orator and remarkable organiser in the black freedom struggle in mid-20th century America, Malcolm X was, above all, a learner – a thinker prepared to change his mind. He left hustling behind for a Spartan, ascetic existence, dedicated to the cause.

Special thanks to Clarence Lang, Susan Welch Dean of the College of the Liberal Arts and Professor of African American studies at Penn State.

Produced by BBC Studios Audio in partnership with The Open University.

Presenter: Naomi Alderman

Executive editor: James Cook

Assistant producer: Sarah Goodman

Researcher: Harry Burton

Production coordinator: Amelia Paul

Script consultant: Sara Joyner

FRI 14:00 The Archers (m0026nhd)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

FRI 14:15 Limelight (m0026nmt)

Don't Listen to This

Don't Listen to This: Episode 3

By Anthony Del Col

Gripping psychological thriller, set in the world of competitive gaming (esports).

Cressida Yang, along with her former nemesis, Blu_Devil are trying to find out what happened to two esports players who died in mysterious circumstances. After attending the funeral of Lars Persson, they follow the scent of another lead. Which leads Blu_Devil to a place where she has to confront her difficult past.

Cressida Yang Sophie Wu
Blu_Devil Thaddea Graham
Park Nikesh Patel
Rooftop Jonny Weldon
Gerald Lee David K. S. Tse
Officer Patel Jaz Singh Deol
Beckett Knox Samuel James
Teammate Dan Foxdrop Wyatt
Warstrm Ian Dunnett Jnr

Production co-ordinator- Pippa Day
Assistant Technical Producer- Mike Etherden
Technical Producer and Sound Designer- Sharon Hughes
Director- Lorna Newman
Co-Producers- Nadia Molinari, Jessica Mitic, Lorna Newman

Thanks to Nimit Mankad, Anthony Wastella and Geoff Moore.

A BBC Studios Audio Production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 14:45 Something to Declare (m0026nnw)

Jack Boswell explores how other cultures handle the universal problems we face at home.

FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m0026nny)

Horticultural programme featuring a group of gardening experts.

FRI 15:45 Short Works (m0026np0)

The Third Wave

On New Year's Day 1919, more than 200 men returning home from the Great War were killed when HMV Iolaire struck rocks close to Stornoway Harbour. Iain Finlay Macleod's story marks the anniversary of one of Britain's worst maritime disasters.
Read by Daibhidh Walker
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

FRI 16:00 Last Word (m0026np2)

Weekly obituary programme telling the life stories of those who have died recently.

FRI 16:30 Echo (m002698h)

Elephants never forget.

Through the 1970s and 1980s, elephant populations were mercilessly persecuted. But one individual would rise to stardom.

Echo, the bold and fiercely loyal matriarch, was fitted with a radio collar by Cynthia Moss in 1974, embarking on a 50-year journey that has revolutionised not only our understanding of elephants but also that of wildlife research itself.

At the heart of Echo's world, where the lines between humanity and the animal kingdom blur, unearth the universal language of emotion.

Elephants remember, as should you.

Photo credit: Martyn Colbeck

Sound effects: ElephantVoices ethogram

FRI 17:00 PM (m0026np4)

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0026np6)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 18:30 The News Quiz (m0026np8)

Series 116

Episode 1

Topical panel quiz show, taking its questions from the week's news stories.

FRI 19:00 The Archers (m0026npc)

Writer: Shaun McKenna
Director: Peter Leslie Wild
Editor: Jeremy Howe

Ben Archer..... Ben Norris
David Archer..... Timothy Bentinck
Henry Archer..... Blayke Darby
Jolene Archer..... Buffy Davis
Kenton Archer..... Richard Attlee
Ruth Archer..... Felicity Finch
Leonard Berry..... Paul Copley
Harrison Burns..... James Cartwright
Justin Elliot..... Simon Williams
Brad Horrobin..... Taylor Uttley
Tracy Horrobin..... Susie Riddell
Khalil Malik..... Krish Bassi
Kirsty Miller..... Annabelle Dowler
Lily Pargetter..... Katie Redford
Fallon Rogers..... Joanna Van Kampen
Inspector Norris..... Bharti Patel
Scarlett..... Beatrice White

FRI 19:15 Screenshot (m0026npf)

Therapists

Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode explore how therapists have been portrayed on screen throughout cinema and television history.

Mark speaks to actor and writer Brett Goldstein about his Emmy nominated TV show, Shrinking.

Ellen speaks to Dr Orná Guralnik from the TV show Couples Therapy about what it's like conducting real therapy sessions on screen and what film and TV gets wrong about its depiction of therapy.

Produced by Freya Hellier
A Prospect Street production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m0026nph)

Topical discussion posing questions to a panel of political and media personalities.

FRI 20:50 A Point of View (m0026npk)

Weekly reflections on topical issues from a range of contributors.

FRI 21:00 Free Thinking (m0026npm)

Knowing when to stop

Do the means justify the end, as Sartre asked? When is an art work finished? From the frenzy of Bacchus to the moderation of Epicurus - how have Greek thinkers looked at life?
Christmas - a time for panto, over-eating and gaudy decorations - was your festive season overwhelming or excessive?

Campaigner Peter Tatchell, classicist Edith Hall, comedian Rob Newman and performer and suffrage historian Naomi Paxton join Shahidha Bari to discuss when enough is enough and knowing when to stop.

Producer: Lisa Jenkinson

FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m0026npp)

In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

FRI 22:45 Seaborne by Nuala O'Connor (m0026npr)

Episode Ten

Bestselling and award-winning Irish author Nuala O'Connor returns with the intimate and thrilling portrayal of the life of 18th-century pirate, Anne Bonny. Shortlisted for Novel of the Year at The An Post Irish Book Awards 2024.

1703, Kinsale, County Cork. Anne Coleman is the illegitimate child of a local lawyer and his maid; disguised as 'Anthony' to protect reputations, the mask suits Anne just fine. But, fixated

on boats and the sea, she struggles to fit in, and her devoted mother fears for her fiercely independent and impulsive daughter.

When their secrets are exposed, the family emigrates to the new colony of Carolina, but this fresh start will bring devastating loss and stifling responsibilities. Lonely and transgressive, Anne finds comfort only with Bedelia, servant and intimate friend. However her craving for the sea-wandering life and a misjudged marriage to young Gabriel Bonny will compel Anne to take to the sea again, this time around the islands of the Caribbean, famous for plunder and piracy.

The Author

Nuala O'Connor is a novelist, short story writer and poet, and lives in County Galway with her family. She is the author of four previous novels and six short story collections. She has won many prizes for her short fiction including the Francis MacManus Award, the James Joyce Quarterly Fiction Contest and the UK's Short Fiction Journal Prize. Nuala's work has also been nominated for numerous prizes including the Edge Hill Short Story Prize, the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award and the International Dublin Literary Award.

Reader: Ayoola Smart
Author: Nuala O'Connor
Abridger: Rowan Routh
Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland Production for BBC Radio 4.

FRI 23:00 Americast (m0026npt)

Join the Americast team for insights from across the US.

FRI 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00202td)

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament