

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2025

SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m0026w8w)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 00:30 The Ideas List (m0026w7d)

5. Fingerprints

Thirty years ago years ago, in March 1995, a fresh-faced Claudia Hammond arrived at the BBC for a job interview as a trainee science producer. It was a big opportunity so she prepared meticulously. She put together a comprehensive list of science and health stories, ready to pitch at the interview to show that she knew a good science story and would be perfect for the role.

Fast forward thirty years and Claudia, now an award-winning broadcaster and presenter of Radio 4's All in the Mind, is sorting through the drawer of recycled scripts, briefs and notes she keeps to re-use in her printer. Right at the bottom of the inches-thick pile she comes across the list of stories she'd prepared to pitch at that interview three decades earlier.

In this quirky, personal journey, Claudia revisits five ideas from her Ideas List to find out what happened next. She tracks each headline-grabbing story forward through the false-starts and dead ends, the surprises and successes. And she asks what each tale teaches us about the tortuous path of scientific progress.

In this episode Claudia picks up on a story about the FBI, the United States' domestic intelligence and security service. By the mid-1990s the FBI had 200 million fingerprint records, all kept on individual cards and stored in filing cabinets which took up an acre of floor space. Searching through these records could take so long that police were forced to release suspects before a match could be found.

The FBI's fingerprint system was clearly - and urgently - in need of digitisation so that it could be kept as computer records. But because each individual record needed a lot of computer memory, an acre of filing cabinets would simply be replaced by an acre of computer servers!

Enter Chris Brislawn from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico who devised a radical new data-compression system. He tells Claudia how he made the breakthrough using the mathematical theory of wavelets. This allowed the important information about a fingerprint to be separated from the unimportant information and, as a result, vastly reduce the file size.

And the system Chris invented is still used by the FBI today. As Craig Watson from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology attests, it was an example of the right idea at exactly the right time.

Producers: Florian Bohr and Jeremy Grange

SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0026w8y)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0026w90)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

SAT 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0026w92)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SAT 05:30 News Briefing (m0026w94)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0026w96)

Winnie the Pooh and Life

A reading and a reflection to start the day on Radio 4, with Jonathan Rea

SAT 05:45 Something to Declare (m0026w7v)

How to Laugh It Off

In this episode, Jack Boswell explores the Irish concept of "Craic"—a unique blend of humour, storytelling, and community that brings joy and resilience to everyday life.

Joining Jack is stand-up comedian Cat Anderson, who unpacks the elusive essence of Craic. Is it simply about having fun, or does it hold a deeper significance in Irish culture? She explains how Craic is woven into Ireland's rich history, serving as a way to find levity and connection even during the hardest times. Whether in a lively pub or a quiet gathering, Craic is about elevating shared moments with laughter and lightheartedness.

Jack also visits an Irish pub, microphone in hand, to hear firsthand from locals. Through stories and banter, the pub's patrons reveal how Craic fosters connections, builds community, and even helps navigate life's challenges with a smile.

This episode highlights how humour, vulnerability, and the art of storytelling can transform our social experiences, offering not only joy but also comfort during difficult times. Whether you're Irish or not, Craic offers a universal lesson - life is better shared with laughter.

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 (m00274q5)

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

SAT 06:07 Ramblings (m0026vsv)

Trees in Winter near Abergavenny

This is Clare's 25th year of making Ramblings and one thing she has always enjoyed is walking all year round, in any weather. No matter how windy, how cold or how wet she'll be out recording in the company of an equally weatherproof interviewee. Winter is her favourite season for a stroll and today she's found someone else who feels the same...

Richard Shimell's book, Trees in Winter, is about the healing properties of nature and walking especially during the coldest season. When the inclination for so many is to stay indoors, he's out drawing inspiration for his detailed and beautiful lino-cut prints of winter trees.

Although his book features many prints of Dartmoor trees, he now lives in Grosmont near Abergavenny in south Wales and this is where he leads Clare for a walk up the hill near his home. The Graig Sfyrdin, or just The Graig, is 423m/1388ft and is on the Three Castles walk. Clare and Richard had a wonderfully clear day with far-reaching views.

Find out more about Richard and his book on his website:
<https://richardshimell.co.uk>

Presenter: Clare Balding

Producer: Karen Gregor

SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m00274q7)

18/01/25 - Farming Today This Week: LAMMA machinery show, Climate advice on meat, Foot and Mouth

The Climate Change Committee is revising its advice on eating meat. In 2020, the committee - which is the government's advisor on climate change - recommended people cut their intake of beef, lamb and dairy produce by 20% by 2030 and by 35% by 2050, to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses produced by livestock in the UK. But now that could change, in the light of progress to reduce emissions though things like livestock breeding and new technologies on farm.

Farmers are being warned to be vigilant after Foot and Mouth disease has killed several buffalo in Germany. Back in 2001 an outbreak of Foot and Mouth in the UK caused the death of millions of animals, through disease and preventative culling. The UK has temporarily banned imports of German meat and dairy, as well as live cattle, sheep and pigs.

And we visit the the LAMMA machinery show - which took place at the NEC in Birmingham this week - to see some innovations in farm kit, and ask farmers whether they feel ready to invest right now.

Presented by Charlotte Smith

Produced by Heather Simons

SAT 06:57 Weather (m00274q9)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SAT 07:00 Today (m00274qc)

18/01/25 - Amol Rajan and Dharshini David

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

SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m00274qf)

Monty Don, Danny Gray, Eve Myles

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

SAT 10:00 You're Dead to Me (m00274qh)

The Arts and Crafts Movement: William Morris and his circle

Greg Jenner is joined in Victorian England by Dr Isabella Rosner and comedian Cariad Lloyd to learn all about the ethos, practitioners and creations of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Most people have heard of William Morris, one of the leaders of the Arts and Crafts movement that came to prominence in England in the last decades of the 19th Century. His abstract, nature-inspired designs still adorn everything from wallpaper and curtains to notebooks and even dog beds. And the company he founded, Morris & Co., is still going strong. But the history of this artistic movement, and the other creatives who were involved, is less well known.

Arts and Crafts, which advocated a return to traditional handicrafts like needlework, carpentry and ceramics, was a reaction to the Industrial Revolution and included a strong socialist vision: its practitioners wanted everyone to have access to art, and to be able to enjoy homes that were comfortable, functional and beautiful. This episode explores Morris and other creatives both in and outside his circle, including Edward Burne-Jones, May Morris, Gertrude Jekyll and Philip Webb. It looks at the ethos that inspired them, the homes and artworks they created, and asks how radical their political beliefs really were.

If you're a fan of groundbreaking artistic developments, gorgeous interior design, the intersection between art and politics, and Victorian interpersonal drama, you'll love our episode on the Arts and Crafts movement.

If you want more from Cariad Lloyd, check out our episodes on Georgian Courtship and Mary Wollstonecraft. And for more British artistic movements, listen to our episode on the Bloomsbury Group.

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: Jon Norman-Mason

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 What's Funny About ... (m00274qk)

A Bit of Fry and Laurie

In the first episode of a new series of What's Funny About... Peter Fincham and Jon Plowman are joined by comedy legends Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie to hear the story of how they made their breakout sketch series, A Bit of Fry and Laurie.

Stephen and Hugh talk about the beginnings of their partnership, and finding their place against the backdrop of alternative comedy. They explain their decision to, on the whole, avoid returning characters - a slightly unusual choice in the tradition of sketch programmes. And they unravel for us one of the great mysteries of modern comedy - the origins of "Soupy Twist"!

A Bit of Fry and Laurie is a BBC production, all clips written by Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie.

Producer: Owen Braben

An Expectation Entertainment production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 11:00 The Week in Westminster (m00274qm)

The Telegraph's Ben Riley-Smith assesses the latest developments at Westminster.

Following a ceasefire deal in Gaza and the Prime Minister's trip to Ukraine, Ben speaks to former Conservative Defence Secretary, Sir Ben Wallace, and the Labour peer, Baroness Ashton, formerly the EU's foreign policy chief, about how the imminent second Trump presidency is already shaping global geopolitics.

After another uncomfortable week for the Chancellor, Ben is joined by the Labour MP and chair of the Treasury Select Committee, Dame Meg Hillier, and former Conservative Treasury Minister, Sir Simon Clarke, to discuss the economic and fiscal outlook for the UK.

Tech entrepreneur, Matt Clifford, who also advises the Prime Minister on artificial intelligence, explains how AI will change the country in the week the government unveiled his AI Action Plan.

And, after the Government's decision to bring an early end to the Latin Excellence Programme, which funds the teaching of Latin in some state schools, Ben catches up with former Education Secretary, Sir Gavin Williamson, who introduced the policy, and Labour MP, Sarah Smith, who used to work in youth services and takes a special interest in education policy.

SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m00274pg)
Escaping the LA Fires

Kate Adie introduces stories from Los Angeles, Cambodia, Argentina, Nigeria and Washington DC.

The Los Angeles wild fires have left thousands of people homeless, and caused damage costing billions of dollars. Among those Angelenos who narrowly escaped disaster there is an overwhelming sense of relief - and, for some, a sense of guilt. BBC LA correspondent David Willis tells the story of his own close call.

Cambodia's 12th Century temple complex, Angkor Wat, is the world's biggest religious site and a huge tourist attraction. Authorities want to increase visitor numbers, which has led to locals living in the jungle around the site being evicted from their homes. Jill McGivering went to investigate.

Javier Milei was elected president of Argentina a little over a year ago, following an eccentric campaign in which he promised radical economic reform. Charlotte Pritchard visited a chewing-gum factory in Buenos Aires, to find out what business owners think of the progress the country is making so far.

In Nigeria we navigate the bustling urban sprawl of Lagos to find a wildlife sanctuary in an unlikely spot. It's the work of a local school teacher who wants to teach locals about conversation and the importance of biodiversity. Kirsty Lang paid a visit.

Washington DC is making preparations for Donald Trump's inauguration next week. As he enters the White House, the Republicans will control of all three branches of government. Paddy O'Connell looks back to his own time working in Washington, when American voters were seemingly much more willing to share support for both political parties.

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

SAT 12:00 News Summary (m00274qp)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

SAT 12:04 Money Box (m00274pd)
Child Trust Funds and Gilts

A senior MP has backed calls to start automatically paying out hundreds of millions of pounds to young adults if they haven't claimed government-backed child trusts funds by the time they turn 21. Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, who is also chair of parliament's Public Accounts Committee, says the move would help nearly half a million people born between 2002 and 2011 access one billion pounds of their own money that they don't even know about. The government says the idea would be complex and costly.

There has been a lot of talk on the news about gilts and the bond market. We're joined by Russ Mould, the investment director of AJ Bell, to explain what a gilt is and whether you can buy one?

There's less than three months left to boost your state pension by filling old gaps in your National Insurance record. At the moment people who have not yet reached pension age and those already on the new state pension can fill gaps in their record back as far as 2006. From this April that window will be shut. What should you do, if you think you've got gaps to fill?

And, the couple who boosted their income by more than a hundred pounds a week after listening to Money Box. Find out how they did it.

Presenter: Paul Lewis
Reporter: Dan Whitworth
Researchers: Eimear Devlin and Jo Krasner
Editor: Jess Quayle

(First broadcast 12pm Saturday 18th January 2025)

SAT 12:30 The News Quiz (m0026w87)
Series 116

Unconditional Discharge in Charge

This week on The News Quiz, Andy Zaltzman is joined by Nish Kumar, Sara Barron, Glenn Moore and Zing Tsjeng to unpack the week's new stories. The panel look into Donald Trump's unconditional discharge and his looming inauguration, as well as Keir Starmer's unleashing of AI, and Tulip Siddiq's resignation.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Cody Dahler, Christina Riggs, Mike Shephard and Ben Pope.
Producer: Rajiv Karia
Executive Producer: Richard Morris
Production Coordinator: Jodie Charman
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

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

SAT 12:57 Weather (m00274qr)
The latest weather forecast

SAT 13:00 News and Weather (m00274qt)
The latest national and international news and weather reports from BBC Radio 4

SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (m0026w8f)
Dr Luke Evans MP, Helen Morgan MP, Karin Smyth MP, Alex Wilson AM

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from Codsall Village Hall in South Staffordshire, with Conservative shadow health minister Dr Luke Evans; Liberal Democrat health spokesperson Helen Morgan; Labour's Karin Smyth who is a minister in the department for health and social care; and the Reform Party's Alex Wilson, a member of the London Assembly.

Producer: Paul Martin
Lead broadcast engineer: Phil Booth

SAT 14:00 Any Answers? (m00274qw)
Call Any Answers? to have your say on the big issues in the news this week.

SAT 14:45 The Archers (m0026w89)
Writer: Liz John
Director: Jessica Bunch
Editor: Jeremy Howe

Brian Aldridge.... Charles Collingwood
Helen Archer.... Louiza Patikas
Tom Archer.... William Troughton
Ruth Archer.... Felicity Finch
Neil Carter.... Brian Hewlett
Susan Carter.... Charlotte Martin
Justin Elliott.... Simon Williams
Miranda Elliott.... Lucy Fleming
Mick Fadmoor.... Martin Barrass
Rex Fairbrother.... Nick Barber
Joy Horville.... Jackie Lye
Adam Macy.... Andrew Wincott
Azra Malik.... Yasmin Wilde
Kirsty Miller.... Annabelle Dowler

SAT 15:00 Drama on 4 (m000mce0)
On a Lost Highway

By Ed Thomas

Remi wakes on a road with no memory of who she is or how she got there. A vivid exploration of identity and sanity from one of Wales' best living playwrights.

Rakie Ayola, Richard Harrington and Sian Phillips DBE lead the cast in this dark, immersive sonic fable about what it means to be human in 2020. It tells the story of Remi who must try to piece together the fragments of her mind, work out who she is... and what went wrong.

Part of Radio 4's season of drama celebrating some of the most significant writers working in radio with 12 original pieces. On a Lost Highway is also the first audio drama production recorded in BBC Wales' brand new headquarters in Cardiff's Central Square. Back in 1954 Dylan Thomas revolutionised the world of Radio Drama with the inaugural broadcast of Under Milk Wood. Now BBC Wales' brand new Dylan Thomas Audio Drama Studio aims to take the medium in new and exciting directions. Though it's been named in honour of the legendary Welsh poet, the studio looks to the future, not the past. The pace of change in audio is fast – podcasting has created a new frontier for audio innovation – and in their new home, BBC Audio Drama Wales aim to continue to push the evolution of

the form.

Ed Thomas is a playwright, director and producer whose award-winning work has been widely distributed to over 100 countries. Most recently, Ed wrote and co directed On Bear Ridge at the Royal Court in a highly successful co-production with National Theatre Wales starring Rhys Ifans and Rakie Ayola. Ed is the founder and creative director of film and TV production company Fiction Factory and co-creator of the TV series Hinterland. His plays have toured all over the UK, Europe, Australia and South America and translated into more than 10 languages.

Remi.... Rakie Ayola
The Lover.... Richard Harrington
Mother.... Sian Phillips
The Stranger.... Valene Kane
Johnny Grecco.... Ronan Summers

Directed by James Robinson
A BBC Cymru Wales Production

SAT 16:00 Woman's Hour (m00274qy)
Weekend Woman's Hour: Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Corridor care, Author Holly Bourne, AI and IVF, The Mare, Adwraith

The Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin is the Bishop of Dover and the Bishop in Canterbury - Britain's first black woman bishop. She's a trailblazer, who has been right at the heart of a changing nation for over 40 years. Despite discrimination due to her gender and ethnic minority background, Bishop Rose has never wavered from the call she received to enter ministry at the age of 14. She joined Nuala McGovern to discuss her memoir, The Girl from Montego Bay.

A Royal College of Nursing report, On the Frontline of the UK's Corridor Care Crisis, which came out this week, found that the situation in A&E is the worst it has ever been and that a lack of hospital beds means corridor care has been "normalised". One nurse described caring for a 95-year-old woman dying with dementia who had spent eight hours lying on a trolley in a crowded corridor next to a drunk person who was vomiting and being abusive. Others describe women having a miscarriage in side rooms. Professor Nicola Ranger, Chief Executive of the Royal College of Nursing joined Anita to discuss what is going on.

Holly Bourne, bestselling author of How Do You Like Me Now? and the Spinster Club series, is back with So Thrilled For You, her most personal novel yet. It's a story about four friends navigating motherhood, career ambition, and societal pressures, all unfolding during a sweltering summer's day at a baby shower. Holly joined Nuala and explained what inspired this book.

Can AI improve the success rates of women undergoing fertility treatment? Anita Rani discusses the impact of AI on IVF with Dr Cristina Hickman, an embryologist, co-founder of Avenues, and Chair of the Global AI Fertility Society, and Dr Ali Abbara, a Clinician Scientist at Imperial College London, and Consultant in Reproductive Endocrinology at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

Hermine Braunsteiner was the first person to be extradited from the US for Nazi war crimes. She was one of a few thousand women who had worked as a concentration camp guard and was nicknamed 'the Mare' by prisoners because of her cruelty; she kicked people to death. In 1964, Hermine's past was unknown: She was living a quiet existence as an adoring suburban housewife in Queens, New York when she was tracked down by a reporter from The New York Times who exposed her past. Angharad Hampshire, a Research Fellow at York St John University, joined Nuala to talk about The Mare, her novel based on Hermine's life.

The all-female, Welsh-language, post-punk trio Adwraith are the only band to have won the Welsh Music Prize twice, for their first two albums. They are about to release their third album, Solas, all about returning to their hometown in Carmarthen. Band members Hollie Singer, Gwenedd Owen and Gwen Anthony performed live in the studio.

Presenter: Anita Rani
Producer: Annette Wells
Editor: Rebecca Myatt

SAT 17:00 PM (m00274r0)
Full coverage of the day's news.

SAT 17:30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson (m00274r2)
The Rachel Reeves Chancellor One

The Chancellor reflects on her first six months in power and what lies behind her determination that she has "what it takes"

to "turn things around".

Producer: Daniel Kraemer

SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m00274r4)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SAT 17:57 Weather (m00274r6)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m00274r8)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m0027m0s)

Deacon Blue, Paul McKenna, Rachel Sermanni, Julie Wilson Nimmo, Jon Muq

This year the Scottish pop rock band Deacon Blue celebrates 40 years together. Not only is the band going strong – so is the marriage bringing together its lead vocalists Ricky Ross and Lorraine McIntosh. They both join Nihal Arthanayake to reflect on four decades of music-making.

Paul McKenna's career has taken him from radio DJ to stage hypnotist to self-help book author. His latest offering – *Power Manifesting* – explores how he's used manifesting to achieve his goals. He looks at how super-achievers praise this technique and explains how he uses the toolkit in day to day life.

Julie Wilson Nimmo is a star of Scottish TV classics like *Balamory*, *Chewin' The Fat* and *Scot Squad*. Her current role is slightly different as she and fellow actor and comedian husband Greg Hemphill set off to the Scottish islands to dip in their beautiful seas. Jules and Greg's Wild Swim sees the couple enjoy the invigoration of cold water swimming, along with chats about mental health, the menopause and much more.

Indie-folk pop singer-songwriter Rachel Sermanni shares music from her latest release – no way blues.

And singer-songwriter Jon Muq who was born in Uganda and has forged a career in Austin, Texas. He performs from his album *Flying Away*.

SAT 19:00 Profile (m00274nc)

Claudia Sheinbaum

She is the renowned scientist, who studied environmental engineering, and went on to hold the role of mayor of Mexico City during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Late last year, Claudia Sheinbaum made further history.

"For the first time in the 200 years of the [Mexican] Republic, I will become the first woman president of Mexico," she said before taking office.

Born in 1962, Claudia Sheinbaum's father was a chemical engineer and her mother, a biology professor. Both parents descended from Jewish immigrants from Europe who settled in South America.

She's enjoyed remarkably high poll ratings since taking office, but critics suggest she will live under her mentor's authoritarian shadow, and her biggest test is yet to come.

As Donald Trump gets ready to enter the White House for a second time, Claudia Sheinbaum has already had to respond to his suggestion to rename the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America.

So what lies ahead? Stephen Smith has been talking to her friends, colleagues and peers to find out more about Mexico's history-maker.

Production Team

Producers: Sally Abrahams and Bethan Ashmead

Editor: Ben Mundy

Sound: Neil Churchill

Production Co-ordinator: Maria Ogundele and Jack Young

Credits

SAT 19:15 This Cultural Life (m0026vse)

Robert Harris

Having worked as a BBC television journalist, and as political editor for the *Observer* newspaper, Robert Harris published his debut novel *Fatherland* in 1992. A counterfactual story set in the 1960s that imagines Nazi Germany had won the Second World War, the book was a global bestseller. Since then Robert Harris has written 15 novels, mainly historical fiction which

ranges from the ancient Roman politics of Pompeii and his Cicero trilogy, to the Restoration era manhunt of *Act Of Oblivion*, and Pulpal thriller *Conclave*. His most recent novel *Precipice* is about the romantic relationship between prime minister Herbert Asquith young socialite Venetia Stanley during the First World War.

Robert Harris tells John Wilson about how reading *The Origins of the Second World War* by the historian A. J. P. Taylor, as a teenager ignited his interest in looking at history from perspectives that challenge the accepted narratives. Later, reading both the fiction and non-fiction of George Orwell inspired him to attempt to make writing about politics into an art form, as Orwell had done in works including 1984.

Producer: Edwina Pitman

Archive used:

Did Hitler Cause The War?, BBC1, 9 July 1961

The Hitler Diaries, Newsnight, BBC2, 8 July 1985

Reading from *Fatherland*, Robert Harris

Reading from 1984, George Orwell, BBC Radio 4, 2 January 1984

Reading from *The Ghost*, Robert Harris

SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m00274rd)

Ronald vs Donald

Phil Tinline journeys back to 1984 to find out what the re-election of Ronald Reagan, an entertainer turned President, can tell us about a second Trump term in the White House.

Reagan cruised to victory 40 years ago with his now famous 'Morning in America' campaign, defined by his sunny optimism. Author and broadcaster Phil Tinline tells the story of that campaign and considers why it was successful. He compares the hopeful tone of 1984 to 2024 US Presidential election and the success of Donald Trump, asking whether brightness has been replaced by a darker tone.

The two Presidents are both former screen stars in their 70s, who gained the nomination by criticising the establishment and offering to be a fresh voice for change. Phil looks at the similarities, and also the differences, between the two Administrations, the leadership styles of the two, and their policy approaches.

Phil was in his early teens in the 1980s, watching the bizarre world of American Politics from the TV screen. He speaks to his daughter Polly who is now growing up with Washington dramas on social media, comparing their two experiences.

Featuring archive from the campaign trail and the defining moments around 1984, Phil considers the legacy of that victory today, comparing the two Presidents. He speaks to Washington insiders from the Trump and Reagan campaigns and also of Walter Mondale, Reagan's opponent.

Contributors:

KT MacFarland, former Deputy National Security Advisor to Donald Trump and speechwriter for the Reagan Administration
Jeffrey Lord, political commentator and former Reagan Administration staff member.

William Galston, Fellow of the Brookings Institution, Wall St Journal Columnist and Advisor to Democratic Candidates

Max Boot, historian and author of 'Reagan, His Life and Legend'

Sarah Vogel, author of 'The Farmers Lawyer'

And Polly Tinline

Thanks to J Hoberman, author of 'Make My Day: Movie Culture in the Age of Reagan', part of *Found Illusions*, a trilogy of books on Cold War Hollywood.

Presenter: Phil Tinline

Producer: Sam Peach

SAT 21:00 The Poetry Detective (m0024f63)

The Angry Penguins Hoax

"Dear Sir. When I was going through my brother's things after his death, I found some poetry he had written..."

80 years after his work was first published, Vanessa Kisuule investigates the incredible case of one of Australia's most celebrated poets. It's a story that begins with a mysterious letter and ends with a trial. And it takes us to the heart of some big questions in poetry: What makes a poem good? Who gets to decide that? And - whisper it - is some poetry just nonsense?

With Samela Harris, Michael Heyward, Stephen Orr, Maggie Nolan, David Brooks and Sam Riviere
Readings by Nuala Honan and Flynn Barnard

Produced by Mair Bosworth for BBC Audio

SAT 21:30 This Land (m0021w7r)

The filmmaker and writer Charlie Shackleton explores the rocky ground of the public domain through the contested history of a single song - Woody Guthrie's *This Land Is Your Land*.

One of the most famous odes to the public commons ever composed, Guthrie's *This Land Is Your Land* offers a playful rebuke to the 'big high wall' of private property. In this documentary of legal interruptions, Charlie explores the history of the song and asks how much of our shared cultural history is truly shared, and how much should be?

Featuring interviews with Joe Klein (Woody Guthrie's biographer), Jennifer Jenkins (from the Center for the Study of the Public Domain at Duke Law School) and Charlotte Vaughan (Senior Intellectual Property Counsel at BBC Legal) and archive of Nora Guthrie from *Songlines* in 2009 (presented by John Cavanagh and produced by Fiona Croall), Woody Guthrie from the BBC's *Children's Hour* in 1944, Pete Seeger from the 1968 documentary *Born for Glory* and 'Interview with Flora Robertson about Dust Storms in Oklahoma, August 5, 1940' courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Produced by Charlie Shackleton and Eleanor McDowall

A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 22:00 News (m00274rg)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 22:15 The Food Programme (m0026w7b)

What's this emulsifier doing in my food?

Emulsifiers are among the most common food additives found in ultra-processed foods (UPFs), a much-discussed category of foods commonly defined as those made using manufactured ingredients. They are often packaged and have a long shelf life. Research examining the impact of diets high in UPFs suggests higher rates of obesity and diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

However, discussions about labeling these foods as "ultra-processed" have also sparked debates about whether their negative effects are primarily due to their high fat, sugar, and salt content, or whether they stem from the effects of processing itself, particularly the additives they contain.

In this episode, Jaega Wise explores one of the most commonly used additives in UPFs—emulsifiers. She investigates how they work, what they do, their history, associated health concerns, and their potential future developments.

Featuring: Nicola Lando and Ross Brown from the online specialty cooking supplies company *Sous Chef*; Tim Spector, professor of epidemiology at King's College London and co-founder of the personalized health app *Zoe*; food historian Annie Gray; John Ruff, Chief Science Advisor at the Institute of Food Technologists; Professor Barry Smith at the University of London's Centre for the Study of the Senses; Professor Anvesha Sarkar, an expert in colloids and surfaces at Leeds University's School of Food Science and Nutrition; and Dr. Benoit Chassaing, a research director at The Institut Pasteur in Paris, who studies microbiota and the health impacts of certain emulsifiers.

Presented by Jaega Wise

Produced in Bristol for BBC Audio by Natalie Donovan

SAT 23:00 What? Seriously?? (m00274m9)

3. Guinea Pigs and the Mafia

Miles Asteri, star of *The Traitors* in 2024, joins Dara Ó Briain and Isy Suttie in this episode. They learn about the surprising connection between guinea pigs and the mafia - with some diverting conversations about seafaring science experiments, citrus fruits, and small furry animals.

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

The stories 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.

Across the series, Dara and Isy 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 Rhys Nicholson
Format co-developed by Dan Page. 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 (m0026v0m)
 Series 38

Heat 3, 2025

(3/13)

In the third heat of the 2025 series, Paul Gambaccini's questions cover everything from minimalism to Michael Jackson, the new Master of the King's Music and the pop songs inspired by Bach. One of today's trio of competitors will win a place in the semi-finals and take another step towards the 38th BBC Counterpoint title.

Appearing today are

John Gallagher from Warwickshire
 Liz Langley from Buckinghamshire
 Jonathan Brick from Hertfordshire

As well as demonstrating their musical general knowledge, they'll each have to choose a special category on which to answer individual questions in Round 2, with no prior warning of the choices.

Counterpoint is a BBC Studios Audio production for Radio 4.

Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner
 Producer: Paul Bajoria

SUNDAY 19 JANUARY 2025

SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m00274rj)
 The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4

SUN 00:15 Take Four Books (m0026v0k)
 Jonathan Coe

This week Take Four Books, presented by James Crawford, speaks to the award-winning writer Jonathan Coe about his new novel - *The Proof Of My Innocence* - and explores its connections to three other literary works. Jonathan's three influencing texts were: *The Pledge* by Friedrich Durrenmatt; *Good As Gold* by Joseph Heller; and *Unexplained Laughter* by Alice Thomas Ellis.

Producer: Dom Howell
 Editor: Annie McGuire
 This was a BBC AUDIO SCOTLAND production

SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m00274rl)
 The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m00274rn)
 BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

SUN 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m00274rq)
 The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SUN 05:30 News Briefing (m00274rs)
 The latest news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m00274pn)
 St Mary's Church in the village of Newton Valence, Hampshire

Bells on Sunday comes from St Mary's Church in the village of Newton Valence, Hampshire. Built on a Saxon site the Nave, Chancel and Tower are early English, dating from about 1300. In 2021 the old set of five bells were restored with the oldest bell preserved as a Service bell and the rest returned and the augmented to a peal of six bells. The Tenor weighs nine and three quarter hundredweight and is tuned to the note of G. We hear them ringing Westminster Surprise Minor.

SUN 05:45 In Touch (m0026v6s)
 Repairing your Perkins Braille; The Blind Professional Wrestler

Where do you go if you need to repair your Perkins braille? That is the type-writer like machine that allows braille to produce writing for school, work or leisure. Recent publicity that the UK's last certified visually impaired repairer of the Perkins, Alan Thorpe, is looking for an apprentice to continue his work, may have left the impression that there's no one else who can repair it for you. This is not the case. We speak to the

Royal National College for the Blind (RNC) about the repair service that they offer.

Peter White is rarely surprised by the different things blind people do for a living, but he was surprised by Just James, a blind professional wrestler. In Touch pays a visit to the World Association of Wrestling in Norwich to find out how James Jones developed his wrestling persona, how he goes about his fights as a blind person and to watch one of his shows. Will he win?

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 (m00274mj)
 The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 06:05 Beyond Belief (m0026v5m)
 Pharisees: a byword for hypocrisy?

The word hypocrite gets used with such regularity – and Jesus himself had form using the term.

How did the Pharisees become a byword for hypocrisy and is it fair? Was Jesus wrong about the Pharisees? Is the view of the Pharisees changing?

To discuss Giles Fraser is joined by Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt University and co-author of 'The Pharisees', James Alison a Catholic Theologian and Dr Stephen de Wijze, a philosopher and Senior Lecturer in Political Theory at Manchester University.

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

SUN 06:35 On Your Farm (m00274ml)
 Mick's Wood

The moving story of woodsman Mick Pointon, who found peace among his trees following a life-changing injury and the tragic loss of his daughter.

Anna Jones talks to Mick about coming to terms with disability, the trees which brought comfort and peace in the darkest of times, and how Mick's friends and family built an accessible, wheelchair-friendly path so the woodsman can return to his beloved wood.

Produced and presented by Anna Jones.

SUN 06:57 Weather (m00274mn)
 The latest weather reports and forecast

SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m00274mq)
 The latest news headlines. Including a look at the papers.

SUN 07:10 Sunday (m00274ms)
 A look at the ethical and religious issues of the week

SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m00274mv)
 The Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK

Colette Love makes the Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK. The charity has a support line offering expert advice to families affected by this rare condition.

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 'Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK'.
 - Cheques should be made payable to 'Prader-Willi Syndrome Association UK'.
 - You can donate online at [bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4](https://www.bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4)

Registered Charity Number England and Wales: 1155846, Scotland: SC053700. If you'd like to find out more about the charity's work, visit [*https://www.pwsa.co.uk](https://www.pwsa.co.uk)

*The BBC is not responsible for content on external websites

Producer: Katy Takatsuki

SUN 07:57 Weather (m00274mx)
 The latest weather reports and forecast

SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m00274mz)
 The latest news headlines. Including a look at the Sunday papers

SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m00274n1)
 Celebrating the Nicene Creed

At the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Poet and priest the Revd Dr Malcolm Guite celebrates and explores the Nicene Creed, in the year marking the seventeen hundredth anniversary of the Council of Nicaea in 325, which first formulated its beautiful, illuminating words. Malcolm is joined in leading worship by his colleague The Revd Canon Susanna Gunner, and other friends from the market town where he lives in Norfolk. The Nicene creed invites us into the mystery of God as Trinity, a communion of love. Producer: Philip Billson

SUN 08:48 A Point of View (m0026w8h)
 Trump, Washington and America First

As Donald Trump prepares to re-enter the White House, Mark Damazer reflects on America's leadership in the world.

Eavesdropping on a focus group recently, Mark tells us that the country's leadership was seen as 'a burden and a luxury - and a luxury they wanted to do without.'

'There was a time when large chunks of the world were grateful for American involvement...but gratitude is now more thinly expressed', he says. 'And Donald Trump well understands that.'

In this new world order, Mark argues, 'we have our work cut out to find a response.'

Producer: Adele Armstrong
 Sound: Peter Boshier
 Production coordinator: Liam Morrey
 Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (m00274n3)
 Trai Anfield on the Cattle Egret

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.

When it comes to reliability, for safari leader and wildlife photographer Trai Anfield the cattle egret is as reliable as it can get. Out on safari these miniature white cowboys are always hitching rides on buffalo, the contrast is a photographers dream and always provides a good day for her students.

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

SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m00274n5)
 The Sunday morning news magazine programme. Presented by Paddy O'Connell

SUN 10:00 Desert Island Discs (m00274n7)
 Harriet Wistrich, lawyer

Harriet Wistrich is one of the country's most prominent human rights lawyers. In 2016 she founded the Centre for Women's Justice and over the course of her career, she has won landmark victories in very difficult legal cases. She has helped women imprisoned after killing their abusers regain their freedom. She's also represented women seeking justice from the Metropolitan Police over their deployment of undercover police officers who have had relationships and children with female activists.

After studying PPE at Oxford, Harriet moved to Liverpool and began her career working in film and documentaries. She retrained as a lawyer in her early thirties and in 1990 co-founded the pressure group Justice for Women.

Harriet lives in London with her partner, the journalist Julie Bindel.

Presenter: Lauren Laverne
 Producer: Sarah Taylor

SUN 11:00 The Archers Omnibus (m00274n9)
 Writer: Liz John

Director: Jessica Bunch
Editor: Jeremy Howe

Brian Aldridge.... Charles Collingwood
Helen Archer.... Louiza Patikas
Tom Archer.... William Troughton
Ruth Archer.... Felicity Finch
Neil Carter.... Brian Hewlett
Susan Carter.... Charlotte Martin
Justin Elliott.... Simon Williams
Miranda Elliott.... Lucy Fleming
Mick Fadmoor.... Martin Barrass
Rex Fairbrother.... Nick Barber
Joy Horville.... Jackie Lye
Adam Macy.... Andrew Wincott
Azra Malik.... Yasmin Wilde
Kirsty Miller.... Annabelle Dowler

SUN 12:15 Profile (m00274nc)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

SUN 12:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m0026v98)
Series 82

Episode 6

Back for a second week at the City Hall in Sheffield, panellists Milton Jones, Lucy Porter, Miles Jupp and Tony Hawks compete with one another, with Jack Dee the unimpressed umpire. Piano accompaniment is provided by Colin Sell.

Producer: Jon Naismith
A Random production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 12:57 Weather (m00274nf)
The latest weather forecast

SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m00274nh)
Radio 4's look at the week's big stories from both home and around the world.

SUN 13:30 The Coming Storm (m00274nk)
S2: Inauguration - Bonus Episode

Over two series this podcast has followed a cast of characters who propelled Trump into the White House – twice. Many of them are now likely to take power and inject their reality-bending world views into America's health, security and intelligence infrastructure. Who are they and what do they believe?

There's Kash Patel, Trump's pick for FBI director. He was deeply embedded in the Russiagate saga. Several bit-part players in our episodes who've now been promised influence. Elon Musk of course.

And then there's Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Son of a murdered Senator, nephew of a murdered president, he believes many of America's three-letter agencies represent a threat to national health and security.

Presenter: Gabriel Gatehouse
Producer: Lucy Proctor

SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m0026w7x)
Postbag Edition: Barbican

What vegetables could I grow that aren't native to the UK? Are there any punk-ish plants that thrive in a hot and humid room? Which plant would make a great building structure?

Peter Gibbs and a team of gardening experts explore the various locations of the beautifully brutalist Barbican Centre in London, all while digging into the GQT postbag to answer your gardening conundrums.

Joining Peter are ethnobotanist James Wong, garden designer Juliet Sargeant and Head Gardener Matthew Pottage. Leading them around various locations is the Barbican Centre's Head Gardener Marta Lowcewicz.

Producer: Bethany Hocken
Assistant Producer: Rahnee Prescod
Executive Producer: Carly Maile

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 14:45 Opening Lines (m00274nm)
The Plague

John Yorke looks at Albert Camus' classic, *The Plague*. Published in 1947 it's often thought to be an allegory for the

Nazi occupation of Paris where Camus was living during the war. But the huge rise in its popularity during the pandemic speaks to the book's enduring appeal. A seemingly simple narrative is actually a complex and layered exploration of how man responds to tragedy and finds meaning in an essentially meaningless world. Professor Andrew Hussey and Dr Raj Persaud contribute their thoughts on how the book inspires them professionally and personally.

John Yorke has worked in television and radio for 30 years and shares his experience 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:
Andrew Hussey OBE, Writer and Professor of Cultural History, University of London
Dr Raj Persaud, Consultant Psychiatrist, author and broadcaster

Producer: Alison Vernon-Smith
Executive Producer: Sara Davies
Reader: Matthew Gravelle
Sound: Sean Kerwin
Production Hub Coordinator: Nina Semple

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 15:00 Behind the Scenes at the Museum (m00274np)
Episode 3

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 the final episode.

Ruby's growing up, and in doing so, she must unearth the ghosts of her past, that have lain buried for a lifetime.

CAST
Ruby Rosie Cavaliero
Bunty Kate O'Flynn
George Samuel James
Young Ruby Maddie Evans
Young Patricia Lauren Patel
Clive Ian Dunnett Jnr
Nell Jessica Turner
Older Patricia Jane Slavin
Alice Ruth Everett
Jean-Paul Charlie Anson
Bernard David Hounslow
Daisy Shreya Lallu

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 HIMS

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 Sjowall 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 Take Four Books (m00274nr)
Paul Theroux

The award-winning travel writer and novelist Paul Theroux talks to *Take Four Books* about his latest short story collection - *The Vanishing Point* - and explores three other works that have helped to shape his writing. Paul's choices were: *A Simple Heart* by Gustave Flaubert (1877); *Two Brothers* by V S Pritchett (1932); and *Riders In The Chariot* by Patrick White (1961).

Producer: Dominic Howell
Editor: Annie McGuire
This was a BBC Audio Scotland production

SUN 16:30 Counterpoint (m00274nt)
Series 38

Heat 4, 2025

(4/13)

Another three music lovers from around the UK compete for a place in the semi-finals, aiming to prove who's the musical mastermind of 2025. Along the way they face Paul Gambaccini's questions and will have to identify a wide variety of musical extracts, including a bossa nova adaptation of Mozart and an a cappella choir singing *Depeche Mode*. Each competitor will also have to pick a special subject on which to answer their own individual questions, with no advance warning of what the choice of categories will be.

Taking part today are
Jim Maginnis from Lurgan in County Armagh
Rob Mansfield from Brighton
Gill Morris from Eastbourne.

Counterpoint is a BBC Studios Audio production for Radio 4.

Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner
Producer: Paul Bajoria

SUN 17:00 Witness History (w3ct5yq5)
The world's first general purpose electronic computer

In 1946, one of the world's first electronic computers was unveiled in Philadelphia, in the USA.

It was called the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer, or ENIAC, and was initially designed to do calculations for ballistics trajectories.

It was programmed by six female mathematicians.

Rachel Naylor speaks to Gini Mauchly Calcerano, whose dad John Mauchly co-designed it, and whose mum, Kay McNulty, was one of the programmers.

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: Computer operators programming the ENIAC. Credit: Corbis via Getty Images)

SUN 17:10 The Verb (m00274ny)
TS Eliot Prize Readings - highlights of a year in poetry

Ian McMillan presents highlights from the TS Eliot Prize Readings - extraordinary poetry from 2024.

Poetry books featured :

Raymond Antroub 'Signs, Music' (Picador Poetry)
 Hannah Copley 'Lapwing' (Pavilion Poetry)
 Helen Farish 'The Penny Dropping' (Bloodaxe Books)
 Peter Gizzi 'Fierce Elegy' (Penguin Poetry)
 Gustav Parker Hibbett 'High Jump as Icarus Story' (Banshee Press)
 Rachel Mann 'Eleanor Among the Saints' (Carcaret Press)
 Gboyega Odubanjo 'Adam' (Faber & Faber)
 Carl Phillips 'Scattered Snows, to the North' (Carcaret Press)
 Katrina Porteous 'Rhizodont' (Bloodaxe Books)
 Karen McCarthy Woolf 'Top Doll' (Dialogue Books)

SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m00274p0)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SUN 17:57 Weather (m00274p2)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m00274p4)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m00274p6)

Claudia Hammond

What would you do if you were in the woods when you came across a cello full of bees? Well, if you're the cellist Dr Kate Kennedy you play it of course. Meanwhile, In Touch's Peter White climbs into the ring to learn about the world of pro-wrestling in Norwich. We'll also hear about the simple hand gesture that's led to threats against women in South Korea, as well as dissect the sociolinguistics of the 'Grundy' accent. Plus, you may be able to dance, or jive and perhaps you're having the time of your life, but do you know your English grammar? Josephine McDermott discovers a history of the BBC teaching English around the world that was under our noses the whole time, with the assistance of ABBA.

Presenter: Claudia Hammond

Producer: Anthony McKee

Production Coordinator: Jack Ferrie

SUN 19:00 The Archers (m00274p8)

The Carters debate the next step, and plans come together for Joy.

SUN 19:15 Illuminated (m00274pb)

Anger and Us

Siblings Sam and Bon Stone are angry. Sam directs her anger inwards while Bon's anger can be explosive. Through sharing parts of their lives with each other for the first time, they explore how we process anger and whether we can change it.

With contributions from Noel Ogunyan of Forrest Flowers (recorded at the New Cross Inn, London in November 2024) and Ronnie Turner, founder of The Anger Clinic.

Original music by Jennifer Walton

Produced by Sam Stone

A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 19:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001v3j8)

Be Kind

We could all use a little kindness in our lives. Surprisingly, a little altruism can actually have big benefits for our own health! Michael discovers that small acts of kindness can not only boost your mental health and improve your relationships but also boost the immune system. Dr Tristan Inagaki from the San Diego State University explains to Michael how her research has revealed that those performing acts of kindness had lower levels of systemic inflammation, which could reduce the risk of many major diseases. Meanwhile, our volunteer Sam enjoys finding ways to consciously incorporate kindness into his week.

Series Producer: Nija Dalal-Small

Science Producer: Catherine Wylor

Researcher: Sophie Richardson

Researcher: Will Hornbrook

Production Manager: Maria Simons

Editor: Zoe Heron

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

SUN 20:00 Word of Mouth (m0026vt0)

The Language of Genetics

Adam Rutherford joins Michael Rosen to make sense of the heavily-loaded and often unscientific language that we use to talk about genetics, inheritance, ancestry and race. Adam is a geneticist, science writer, and lecturer in Biology and Society at

University College London. His work tries to make sense of what our genes do (or don't) tell us about our similarities and our differences. He writes about this stuff in many of his books, including 'How To Argue With A Racist' and 'Where Are You Really From?'

Subscribe to the Word of Mouth podcast and never miss an episode: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qtnz>

Produced for BBC Audio Bristol by Becky Ripley

SUN 20:30 Last Word (m0026w81)

Tony Slattery, Rosalind Savill, Paddy Hill, Noreen Riols

Matthew Bannister on

The comedian and actor Tony Slattery. Sir Stephen Fry reflects on his friend's talent – and struggle with addiction and poor mental health.

Dame Rosalind Savill, the respected director who brought new audiences to the Wallace Collection in London.

Paddy Hill, one of six men wrongly convicted of carrying out pub bombings in Birmingham in 1974.

Noreen Riols, who helped to train S.O.E. agents for undercover work during the Second World War

Producer: Ed Prendeville

Archive:

Birmingham Six Case Reopens, BBC News, 1990; Release of the Birmingham Six, BBC News, 1991; Hard Talk, BBC, 2000; BBC Radio 4, 1974; Anti-IRA Marches, BBC News, 1974; Whose Line Is It Anyway? Theme Tune composed by Philip Pope; Whose line is it Anyway?, Season6 Episode 6, A Hatrick Production, C4 Television Corporation; Whose line is it Anyway?, Season7 Episode 1, A Hatrick Production, C4 Television Corporation; The Cambridge Footlights Revue, 20/05/1982; STEPHEN FRY:THE SECRET LIFE OF THE MANIC DEPRESSIVE, 23/08/2007; What's the Matter with Tony Slattery, 05/06/2020; Saturday Live, 31/08/2013; History: Secret Agent, 08/01/2001; Witness History, Secret Operations Executive, 05/09/2013; Masterclass Sèvres Porcelain, with Dame Rosalind Savill, Colnaghi Foundation, YouTube upload, 15/05/2020; The Wallace Collection, YouTube, upload, 01/10/2009; A Beautiful Thing: A Passion for Porcelain, BBC, 18/06/2013

SUN 21:00 Money Box (m00274pd)

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m00274mv)

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

SUN 21:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m00274pg)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:30 on Saturday]

SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m00274pj)

What will Donald Trump's second term mean for the UK? On the eve of his inauguration, Ben Wright and guests discuss

Radio 4's Sunday night political discussion programme.

SUN 23:00 In Our Time (m0026vs5)

The Battle of Valmy

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss one of the most consequential battles of recent centuries. On 20th September 1792 at Valmy, 120 miles to the east of Paris, the army of the French Revolution faced Prussians, Austrians and French royalists heading for Paris to free Louis XVI and restore his power and end the Revolution. The professional soldiers in the French army were joined by citizens singing the Marseillaise and their refusal to give ground prompted their opponents to retreat when they might have stayed and won. The French success was transformative. The next day, back in Paris, the National Convention abolished the monarchy and declared the new Republic. Goethe, who was at Valmy, was to write that from that day forth began a new era in the history of the world.

With

Michael Rowe

Reader in European History at King's College London

Heidi Mehrkens

Lecturer in Modern European History at the University of Aberdeen

And

Colin Jones

Professor Emeritus of History at Queen Mary, University of London

Producer: Simon Tillotson

Reading list

T. C. W. Blanning, *The French Revolutionary Wars, 1787-1802* (Hodder Education, 1996)

Elizabeth Cross, 'The Myth of the Foreign Enemy? The Brunswick Manifesto and the Radicalization of the French Revolution' (*French History* 25/2, 2011)

Charles J. Esdaile, *The Wars of the French Revolution, 1792-1801* (Routledge, 2018)

John A. Lynn, 'Valmy' (*MHQ: Quarterly Journal of Military History*, Fall 1992)

Munro Price, *The Fall of the French Monarchy: Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette and the baron de Breteuil* (Macmillan, 2002)

Simon Schama, *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution* (Penguin Books, 1989)

Samuel F. Scott, *From Yorktown to Valmy: The Transformation of the French Army in an Age of Revolution* (University Press of Colorado, 1998)

Marie-Cécile Thorat, *From Valmy to Waterloo: France at War, 1792-1815* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011)

In Our Time is a BBC Studios Audio Production

SUN 23:45 Short Works (m0026w7z)

My Mother Said My Name by Luiza Sauma

An original short story specially commissioned by BBC Radio 4 from the author Luiza Sauma. Read by Thalissa Teixeira.

The Author

Luiza Sauma was born in Rio de Janeiro and raised in London. She is the author of two novels 'Flesh and Bone and Water' (2017) and 'Everything You Ever Wanted' (2019), both published by Viking. 'Everything You Ever Wanted' was shortlisted for the Encore Award and recommended by Florence Welch's book club Between Two Books. Luiza's writing has been published in the Guardian, the Telegraph, the Independent and many others. She has an MA in Creative and Life Writing from Goldsmiths, where she won the Pat Kavanagh Award.

Writer: Luiza Sauma

Reader: Thalissa Teixeira

Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland Production for BBC Radio 4.

MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2025**MON 00:00 Midnight News (m00274pl)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4

MON 00:15 Crossing Continents (m0026v6x)

The Gambia: When migrants are forced to go home

Each year young people from the tiny West African nation of The Gambia try to reach Europe through "The Backway" - a costly, perilous journey over land and sea.

Many do not make it. In recent years, the EU has done deals with several North African nations to clamp down on irregular migration. Though human rights groups say the treatment of migrants can be brutal - allegations the authorities deny. But each year thousands of African migrants say they have no choice but to return home.

It can be a struggle to return. Some are traumatised by their experience and face stigma for having failed to reach Europe. Others are already planning to try again.

For Crossing Continents, Alex Last travels to The Gambia to find out what happens to migrants who've risked everything to get to Europe, but end up back home.

Reporter: Alex Last

Producer: Ellie House

Local producer: Frederic Tendeng

Sound mix: David Crackles

Production coordinator: Gemma Ashman

Series Editor: Penny Murphy

MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m00274pn)

[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m00274pq)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m00274ps)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

MON 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m00274pv)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

MON 05:30 News Briefing (m00274px)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m00274pz)

Mining for Cheese

A reading and a reflection to start the day on Radio 4, with Jonathan Rea

MON 05:45 Farming Today (m00274q1)

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside

MON 05:57 Weather (m00274q3)

Weather reports and forecasts for farmers

MON 06:00 Today (m00274s0)

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

MON 09:00 Start the Week (m00274s2)

Music and movement; mind and body

Music as Medicine is the latest work by the neuroscientist and best-selling author Daniel Levitin. In it he explores the healing power of music, and the cutting edge research which examines how sound affects the brain. The dance critic Sara Veale is interested in movement. In Wild Grace she tells the untold history of the extraordinary women who were the pioneers of modern dance. While Nwando Ebizie is a practitioner of both music and movement, and is interested in using the latest neurological studies in her art. She will perform the works, Solve et Coagula (arr. Mark Knoop) and All the Calm of a Distant Sea at the Southbank Centre, London (23rd January) as part of the BBC Radio 3 Unclassified concert.

Producer: Katy Hickman

MON 09:45 Café Hope (m00274s4)

Travel and chat

Douglas Fraser tells Rachel Burden how the community bus scheme in Glenfarg in Perthshire has helped with reconnecting people as well as providing transport.

Café Hope is our virtual Radio 4 coffee shop, where guests pop in for a brew and a chat to tell us what they're doing to make things better in big and small ways. Think of us as sitting in your local café, cooking up plans, hearing the gossip, and celebrating the people making the world a better place.

We're all about trying to make change. It might be a transformational project that helps an entire community, or it might be about trying to make one life a little bit easier. And the key here is in the trying. This is real life. Not everything works, and there are struggles along the way. But it's always worth a go.

You can contact us on cafehope@bbc.co.uk**MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m00274s6)**

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

MON 11:00 The Body Politic (m00274s8)

Pre-natal screening

The politics of the human body is at the centre of intense debate in the UK and beyond. Thanks to science, technology and a fast-moving political landscape, humans are increasingly able to intervene in the natural processes of life – how we are conceived, how we are born and how and when we die. But what are the limits to this intervention, how should we decide and who should decide?

Broadcaster and columnist Sonia Sodha gets behind divides and polarisation to discover nuance, complexity and compelling stories around the beginning and the end of human life.

In this episode we explore the dilemmas facing women in pregnancy as advances in genetic screening and testing offer information about the foetuses they're carrying. We travel to Denmark where a national screening programme has led to a big drop in the numbers of babies born with Down Syndrome. We talk to families with children with Down Syndrome, doctors and other experts about this controversial area of bio ethics and the societal consequences of individual choice.

MON 11:45 The History Podcast (m001z66b)

Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 1. The Escape

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera
Series Producer: John Murphy
Producer: Olivia Lace-Evans
Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)
Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison
Series Editor: Penny Murphy

MON 12:00 News Summary (m00274sb)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

MON 12:04 You and Yours (m00274sd)

News and discussion of consumer affairs

MON 12:57 Weather (m00274sg)

The latest weather forecast

MON 13:00 World at One (m00274sj)

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

MON 13:45 Human Intelligence (m00274sl)

Collectors: Sei Shōnagon

Naomi Alderman wonders at lady-in-waiting, writer and all-round entertainer Sei Shōnagon, who wrote *The Pillow Book* over a thousand years ago in the Japanese imperial court.

The Empress and her entourage lived in a closed world, glimpsed through half-shut blinds, while political machinations went on all around them. Poetry and wit were highly prized; and Sei Shōnagon was unmatched. In dark times, she picked out the beauty and absurdity in everyday life; and pulled together poetry, anecdote, essays and lists to create a whole new genre in Japanese – miscellany.

Special thanks to Naomi Fukumori, Associate Professor and Director of The Institute for Japanese Studies at The Ohio State University.

Excerpts from *The Pillow Book* translated by Meredith McKinney (Penguin Classics 2006).

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

MON 14:00 The Archers (m00274p8)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

MON 14:15 Hennikay (m00274sn)

Series 2

Episode 6 Abigail's... Partly

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.

Things are looking up for Guy Starling. His work is going well and his friendship with Marika is starting to blossom into romance. And even Hennikay, his imaginary, 11-year-old childhood friend, has stopped driving him mad.

However, for Hennikay, things aren't so straightforward. He

realises that at the age of 58, Guy is finally growing up. And growing away from him. Having been 11 years old all his life, Hennikay is happy in his immaturity but is wise enough to know that maybe it's time he left Guy to live in his grown-up world without him being around so much.

When Guy visits a new client called Abigail Finch, a bestselling writer of self-help books who in spite of being full of advice for other people lives a rather sad and lonely life, Hennikay decides she is someone that maybe could benefit from his friendship. And so for the first time, he leaves Guy to his own devices and introduces himself to Abigail. Who, not surprisingly, thinks she is finally having the nervous breakdown she always suspected was coming.

But then, being a writer, she decides to use her 'madness' to write her next book and her and Hennikay become ill-matched literary partners.

Bill Bailey is joined by guest star Monica Dolan in this warm, funny look at childhood, adulthood and some of the follies of modern life - where an invisible boy might be the one with all the answers.

Written by David Spicer

Guy: Bill Bailey
Hennikay: Max Lester
Marika: Elizabeth Carling
Patsy: Jessica Dennis
Abigail: Monica Dolan

Producer: Liz Anstee
ACPL production for BBC Radio 4

MON 14:45 Marple: Three New Stories (m001gj5x)

Miss Marple's Christmas by Ruth Ware

Miss Marple's Christmas (Part 4)

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
Dinner might have been ruined after Miss Marple unmasked a jewel thief, but the guests at Gossington Hall are spellbound as the intrepid detective reveals her working.

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 (m00274sq)

A N Wilson selects Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"I've chosen him because I think he was possibly the most interesting human being who has ever lived". A N Wilson

Born in the middle of the 18th century in Frankfurt, Goethe went on to become the pre-eminent figure in German literature. As well as writing plays and poetry (including *Faust*) he was a statesman, a scientist, an artist and a critic. Queen Victoria was a huge fan of his work and his philosophy, but his fame in this country subsequently suffered because of anti-German sentiment.

Joining A N Wilson in the nest of Goethe worshippers is Dr Charlotte Lee, Director of German at Cambridge.

She notes that Goethe's "immense charisma" was there physically as well. But was he a nice man? Wilson argues that we shouldn't even ask such questions of someone like Goethe. "I just don't feel asking whether he was nice or not gets you anywhere."

Presented by Matthew Parris and produced for BBC Studios Audio by Ellie Richold

MON 15:30 History's Heroes (m00274ss)

History's Youngest Heroes

History's Youngest Heroes: 7. The Visionary Julian of Norwich

In Norwich, a woman locks herself in a tiny cell for years. Despite limited contact with the outside world, she becomes one of the first women to write in the English language.

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.

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

MON 16:00 The Coming Storm (m00274nk)
[Repeat of broadcast at 13:30 on Sunday]

MON 16:30 PM (m00274sv)
Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m00274sx)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

MON 18:30 Just a Minute (m00274sz)
Series 94

1. A red phone called Kevin

Sue Perkins challenges Paul Merton, Laura Smyth, Julian Clary and Desiree Burch to speak for 60 seconds without repetition, deviation or hesitation. Subjects include shopping centres, snake oil, and a slip of the tongue.

Production Coordinator: Sarah Nicholls
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox
Producer: Rajiv Karia
An EcoAudio certified production.

A BBC Studios Audio Production for Radio 4.

MON 19:00 The Archers (m00274t2)
Vince hatches a plan, and alliances are tested for Stella.

MON 19:15 Front Row (m00274t4)
The Brutalist director Brady Corbet and star Adrien Brody, Sidney Poitier season at BFI

Presenter: Samira Ahmed
Producer: Ruth Watts

MON 20:00 Rethink (m0026vt2)
Rethink... political labels

At the last General Election Britain's traditional parties of left and right, Labour and the Conservatives, collectively amassed their lowest vote share ever - well under 60%. Three out of seven Brits voted for Reform UK, the Liberal Democrats, the Green Party or one of Britain's many regional or nationalist parties. Does this result suggest that British politics is now too complicated to be understood by the labels left and right?

In Europe, some new parties like the German Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance have been labelled both far left and far right. Many similar parties seem to be having success by suggesting that they're throwing off old political labels and offering something radically new in their place.

Studies say voters struggle to place policies along a left/right spectrum, and many don't define themselves along left/right lines. So how can we have a shared political sphere if we can't agree on terms? Are our political labels of left and right outdated? Are they due a rethink?

Presenter: Ben Ansell
Producer: Viv Jones
Editor: Clare Fordham
Contributors:

Sara Hobolt, Sutherland Chair of European Institutions at the London School of Economics and Political Science
Claire Ainsley, Director of the Project on Center-Left Renewal at the Progressive Policy Institute, and previously the Executive Director of Policy to Sir Keir Starmer
Giles Dilnot, Editor of Conservative Home and previously special advisor to James Cleverly at the Foreign Office and Home Office

MON 20:30 BBC Inside Science (m0026vt4)
UK AI & science-optimised pasta

Artificial intelligence is the big talking point of the week, with UK PM Sir Keir Starmer announcing a drive to unleash its full potential.

It's already being used in healthcare, but recent studies have exposed both strengths and weaknesses.

We're joined by Dr James Kinross, a surgeon and researcher at Imperial College London, to discuss the positives and the pitfalls.

Also this week, we talk all about what a Trump presidency might mean for science; why powerful winds are driving the deadly fires in LA – and anyone for science-optimised pasta? Marnie is helped by a physicist to make the perfect Cacio e Pepe.

Spoiler alert: Recipe below!

Presenter: Marnie Chesterton
Producers: Sophie Ormiston & Gerry Holt
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.

Science-backed Cacio e Pepe:

For two servings:
- 240 g pasta
- Black pepper
- 160 g pecorino cheese
- 4g corn starch in 40ml water

Dissolve the corn starch in water and heat until it forms a gel. Let this cool before combining it with the cheese and black pepper. Cook the pasta, then drain, keeping some of the water. Let it cool then mix the pasta with the sauce. Enjoy!

MON 21:00 Start the Week (m00274s2)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

MON 21:45 Café Hope (m00274s4)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m00274t6)
In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

MON 22:45 Turtle Diary by Russell Hoban (m00274t8)
Episode 6

In a tank of golden-green water at London Zoo, three giant sea turtles swim in futile circles. They are born to navigate, by some mysterious instinct, across thousands of miles of ocean - but these turtles are going nowhere.

Two isolated single people in their early 40s are both beset by 'turtle thoughts' and separately begin to conceive of a plan to return them to the sea.

William G is a divorced father, a junior assistant in a bookshop, he lives in a bedsit in Putney and has no idea where his two daughters are. Neaera H is a children's author and illustrator who has run out of ideas for her next book. Their diaries reveal the quiet sadnesses and dramas of their parallel lives and the shared enterprise that brings them together.

It's a story about hope and despair, loneliness and the heroic eccentricity of two individuals who feel compelled to act in a world which feels to both of them as if it is careering towards madness.

Turtle Diary is a modern classic, first published exactly 50 years ago. 2025 also marks the centenary of Russell Hoban's birth. One cover review calls Turtle Diary "life-saving"; novelist Max Porter said that it "has medicinal qualities. I only need to think about it and I'm in a better mood."

"This lovely human fable seems to me one of the best things of its kind - a fine and touching achievement." John Fowles

"Worth rejoicing in ... a banquet of whimsical delights. Each Russell Hoban book is surprising ... but you also know what you're getting, which is curiosity, wonder and a world-encompassing empathy." John Self, The Guardian

Russell Hoban was an American writer born in 1925. His works span many genres, including fantasy, science fiction, mainstream fiction, magical realism, poetry, and children's books. He lived in London from 1969 until his death in 2011.

Written by Russell Hoban
Read by Daniel Weyman and Katherine Parkinson
Abridged and produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

MON 23:00 Limelight (p0ctycls)
Exemplar - Series 1

Episode 4

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. Jess and Maya examine audio forensic evidence from a nightclub shooting.

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 from Ben and Max Ringham, and written by Ben Ringham, Max Ringham and Dan Rebellato.

Jess Gina McKee
Maya Shvorne Marks
Nish Gopaul Asif Khan
Danny Deka Walmsley
Sophie Fenella Woolgar

Writers: Ben and Max Ringham, with Dan Rebellato
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 (m00274th)
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025

TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m00274td)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 00:30 The History Podcast (m001z66b)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Monday]

TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m00274tg)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m00274tj)
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

TUE 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m00274tl)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

TUE 05:30 News Briefing (m00274tn)
The latest news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m00274tq)
Displaying God's Image

A reading and a reflection to start the day on Radio 4, with Jonathan Rea

TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m00274ts)
The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

TUE 06:00 Today (m00274zq)
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

TUE 09:00 Young Again (m00274zs)
22. Chiwetel Ejiofor

Kirsty Young asks BAFTA-winning actor Chiwetel Ejiofor what advice he would give his younger self.

Known for his iconic performances in 12 Years a Slave and the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Ejiofor reflects on a tragedy that shaped his childhood, being cast by Steven Spielberg when he was just 19, and making the move into directing. He also discusses the inspiration he found in the works of Shakespeare and learning to stop being a perfectionist.

A BBC Studios Audio production.

TUE 09:30 Inside Health (m00274wy)

Series that demystifies health issues, bringing clarity to conflicting advice.

TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m00274zv)

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

TUE 11:00 Screenshot (m0026w8c)

Time Travel

How does film and TV make time travel real? Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode take a quantum leap into the world of time travel and time loops on screen, from Back To The Future to Groundhog Day.

Mark speaks to theoretical physicist Sean Carroll about how movies like Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure and Interstellar have handled the science of time travel - and whether it really is just the stuff of fantasy. And he talks to Star Wars: The Last Jedi and Knives Out director Rian Johnson about the dramatic allure of playing with time, and about Rian's 2012 film Looper, which starred Bruce Willis as a criminal sent back to the past to be eliminated by his younger self.

Meanwhile, Ellen explores a sub-genre less concerned with mechanics and physics, and more with emotion and moral dilemmas - the time loop story. She speaks to Black Doves screenwriter Joe Barton about his time loop TV series The Lazarus Project. And film critic Anne Billson runs her through some examples of the genre she finds most - and least - captivating, from Palm Springs to About Time.

Produced by Jane Long

A Prospect Street production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 11:45 The History Podcast (m001z6hx)

Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 2. The Canary in the Coalmine

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera

Series Producer: John Murphy

Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)

Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison

Series Editor: Penny Murphy

TUE 12:00 News Summary (m00274zx)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

TUE 12:04 You and Yours (m00274zz)

News and discussion of consumer affairs

TUE 12:57 Weather (m0027501)

The latest weather forecast

TUE 13:00 World at One (m0027503)

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

TUE 13:45 Human Intelligence (m0027505)

Collectors: Denis Diderot

Naomi Alderman looks at the remarkable way Denis Diderot connected ideas and people. In 18th-century Paris, he edited one of the very first encyclopaedias: twenty-eight volumes with tens of thousands of articles on everything from the concept of liberty to cutting-edge medical research, the manufacture of silk stockings and a recipe for apricot jam. Diderot was the perfect man for the job – energised by veering from one subject to the next and undeterred by fierce opposition from the Church or even a government ban on the entire project.

Special thanks to Kate Tunstall, Professor of French and Sir Lindsay Owen-Jones Fellow in Modern Languages at Worcester College, University of Oxford.

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

TUE 14:00 The Archers (m0027412)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

TUE 14:15 This Thing of Darkness (m001v310)

Series 3

The Elephant in the Room

by Frances Poet with monologues by Eileen Horne

Part Two – The Elephant in the Room

Dr Alex Bridges is an expert forensic psychiatrist and psychotherapist, assessing and treating perpetrators of serious crime.

This gripping drama explores the psychological impact of murder on teenage perpetrators and follows the fortunes of participants in a Long Sentence therapy group.

How much do childhood experiences impact the mind of a murderer?

Dr Alex Bridges Lolita Chakrabarti

Anthony Lorn Macdonald

Finn Reuben Joseph

Twitch Brian Ferguson

Simon Shaun Mason

Donna/The Governor..... Karen Bartke

Dani Elysia Welch

Dead Elvis.....Andy Clark

Sound Design: Fraser Jackson

Series Consultant: Dr Gwen Adshead

Series format created by Lucia Haynes, Audrey Gillan, Eileen Horne, Gaynor Macfarlane, Anita Vettesse and Kirsty Williams.

Thanks to Victoria Byrne, Barlinnie Prison, Vox Liminis

Distant Voices Project and Prof Fergus McNeill.

Produced by Gaynor Macfarlane and Kirsty Williams

A BBC Scotland Production directed by Gaynor Macfarlane

TUE 15:00 The Gift (m0024w8r)

Series 2

2. Switched - Part 2

After discovering who she really is, Claire has decided to tell her side of the story.

It's the perfect gift for the person who already has everything. It promises to tell you who you really are, and how you're connected to the world. A present that will reveal your genetic past – but could also disrupt your future.

In the first series of The Gift, Jenny Kleeman looked at the extraordinary truths that can unravel when people take at-home DNA tests like Ancestry and 23andMe.

For the second series, Jenny is going deeper into the unintended consequences - the aftershocks - set in motion when people link up to the enormous global DNA database.

Reconnecting and rupturing families, uprooting identities, unearthing long-buried secrets - what happens after technology, genealogy and identity collide?

Presenter: Jenny Kleeman

Producer: Conor Garrett

Production Coordinator: Gill Huggett

Editor: Philip Sellars

Commissioning Executive: Tracy Williams

Commissioning Editor: Dan Clarke

The Gift is a BBC Studios Audio production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 15:30 Thinking Allowed (m0027507)

PLAYGROUNDS

After the Second World War, a vast experiment took place in which adventure playgrounds transformed bombsites and waste ground in the UK, creating opportunities for children, beyond the sanitised swing and see saw. Laurie Taylor talks to Ben Highmore, Professor of Cultural Studies, University of Sussex about the activists, charities and designers whose celebration of children's imaginative capacities re-invented the notion of play, from Northern Europe to North America. They're joined by Gabriela Burkhalter, an urban designer and political scientist in Basel, whose classic study of open air playgrounds saw them as a social laboratory for the city, as well as children. She recounts the forgotten history of playgrounds in the former German Democratic Republic and the culture of memory surrounding

the Shek Lei Playground in Hong Kong.

What remains of those post war playgrounds, in the here and now, and what can the astonishing ambition of those spaces tell us about the power of play?

Producer: Jayne Egerton

TUE 16:00 Dreaming of Connie Converse (m00268xb)

Poet Emily Berry explores the music and mystery of Connie Converse.

Connie Converse was ahead of her time. She began writing songs on guitar in New York City in 1949. She wrote of loneliness and rebellion, of ambition, judgement and desire -- in a manner rarely heard from women at that time: witty yet melancholy, defiant but ethereal.

Sitting somewhere between George Gershwin and Joni Mitchell, Connie Converse was a singer-songwriter before that phrase had currency. There was no one else like her.

Perhaps that's why she never really found an audience. She left New York City in 1961, moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan and gave up writing songs.

And then she disappeared.

At least, that's the way the story is often told.

In 1974 Connie Converse wrote letters to friends and family suggesting that she was leaving Ann Arbor to start afresh elsewhere. She drove away in her Volkswagen Beetle and was never heard from again.

There were apparent sightings over the years. A private investigator was no help. Her car was never found.

Almost everything we know about Connie Converse comes from a large filing cabinet, left behind at her brother's house after she drove away, but not thoroughly examined until his retirement many years later. It presents a carefully organised window onto Connie Converse's life: letters, pictures, essays, political activism, mementoes and recordings, all indexed and itemised. She wanted to disappear, but not without leaving a legacy.

In the filing cabinet was an explanatory letter, which begins: "Let me go."

Half a century later, many people can't let her go.

Her songs of wit and vulnerability were out of time in the 1950s but have found a listenership today. She's a cult artist of the streaming era.

Emily Berry dreams about Connie Converse in the company of biographer Howard Fishman, musician Emma-Lee Moss (formerly known as Emmy the Great) and poet Jack Underwood. Including extracts from an interview with Philip and Jean Converse by Dan Dzula and David Herman.

Includes Playboy of the Western World performed by Margot, Jo Equality Lampert, and Emma-Lee Moss. Recorded live at the Hum, Manhattan Inn, Brooklyn 2016. And Trouble performed by Jack Underwood.

Howard Fishman's biography of Connie Converse is called To Anyone Who Ever Asks: the Life, Music and Mystery of Connie Converse.

With grateful thanks to Dan Dzula.

Connie Converse photograph courtesy of the Musick Group / Heroic Cities LLC.

TUE 16:30 When It Hits the Fan (m0027509)

Who's in the news for all the wrong reasons? With David Yelland and Simon Lewis.

TUE 17:00 PM (m002750c)

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

TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002750f)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 18:30 Janey Godley: The C Bomb (m001xdgt)

Series 2

3. Motherhood, Marriage and George Clooney

Facing her own mortality, Janey finds herself reflecting on motherhood and how the pressures on women have changed.

She also speaks honestly about dealing with a terminal diagnosis within her relationship, but is challenged on claims of marital harmony by daughter Ashley.

However as she confesses to some of the mistakes she feels she made as a mother, she is met with compassion and understanding.

Also in this episode, as an atheist, she wonders how things might go at the pearly gates if she's been wrong this whole time - and explains how George Clooney saved the day.

Reflecting on the past with honesty, vulnerability and empathy for those who let her down, she continues to find humour and insight in both the darkness and the ridiculous.

A mix of stories told onstage to a hometown audience, and candid conversations with her daughter Ashely Storrie, recorded in the living room of the home they share.

Produced by Julia Sutherland
Featuring Ashley Storrie

A Dabster production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 19:00 The Archers (m00274wd)

It's a life-changing day for one resident, and a seed is planted for Emma.

TUE 19:15 Front Row (m002750h)

Anora director Sean Baker, Caryl Phillips new novel

Presenter: Samira Ahmed
Producer: Paula McGrath

TUE 20:00 Shadow of War - A Tainted Anatomy (m00274w0)

Anatomist and forensic anthropologist Professor Sue Black investigates how the actions of Nazi-sponsored anatomists continue to be felt today.

During World War Two, anatomists across Germany exploited the increased number of corpses to further their research. That included using the bodies of five British Prisoners of War who died in captivity. With no consideration for consent or medical ethics, these researchers were allowed to continue to use research material gained from unethical sources for decades after the end of the war.

Families are now grappling with learning the terrible truth about what happened to their relatives.

Why did this happen? Why was nothing done about it? And why has it taken so long to come to light?

Producer: Emily Esson
Audio mix: Fiona Johnstone
Executive Producer: Kate Bissell

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4.

TUE 20:40 In Touch (m002750I)

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

TUE 21:00 Crossing Continents (m002750n)

Death Marches: uncovering the truth beneath the soil

How a town in Poland – once in Germany - is discovering its troubling past.
80 years ago Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi extermination camp. Over 1.1 million people, mainly Jews, were murdered there. However, there is an aspect of those terrible days which is less well known and which 80 years later is still being uncovered and still resonating: the death marches.

As Soviet troops approached, in January 1945, SS soldiers at Auschwitz-Birkenau forced some 60,000 prisoners to march west, in freezing temperatures. Weak with hunger and disease, those who fell behind were shot.

This is the story of how eight decades on the search for the truth behind one of those death marches is being uncovered. For years the history of a death march passing through the once proud German community of Schönwald was hidden.

It is also the story of how descendants of the original inhabitants of Schönwald are having to confront the role some of their relatives may have played in the Nazi project, and how today's Polish inhabitants of the town, which is now called Bojków, are grappling with what happened on their streets.

Amie Liebowitz's own great-grandmother was murdered Auschwitz-Birkenau, while her great-aunt was rescued by the Soviet forces. She speaks to those on both sides – German and Polish – who are uncovering this history.

Presenter: Amie Liebowitz
Producer: John Murphy
Production co-ordinator: Gemma Ashman
Editor: Penny Murphy

Archive of Gita Stein from USC Shoah Foundation (1995)

TUE 21:30 The Bottom Line (m0026vsk)

A Four Day Week: Less Work for More People?

Evan Davis explores if working the traditional five day week could be replaced by working four, eight hour days. Could working more efficiently benefit employees and bosses? With Joe Ryle, director of the 4 Day Week Campaign, Claire Daniels, CEO of Trio Media and Jen Thompson, managing director of the Crate Brewery.

TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m002750q)

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

TUE 22:45 Turtle Diary by Russell Hoban (m002750s)

Episode 7

In a tank of golden-green water at London Zoo, three giant sea turtles swim in futile circles. They are born to navigate, by some mysterious instinct, across thousands of miles of ocean - but these turtles are going nowhere.

Two isolated single people in their early 40s are both beset by 'turtle thoughts' and separately begin to conceive of a plan to return them to the sea.

William G is a divorced father, a junior assistant in a bookshop, he lives in a bedsit in Putney and has no idea where his two daughters are. Neaera H is a children's author and illustrator who has run out of ideas for her next book. Their diaries reveal the quiet sadnesses and dramas of their parallel lives and the shared enterprise that brings them together.

It's a story about hope and despair, loneliness and the heroic eccentricity of two individuals who feel compelled to act in a world which feels to both of them as if it is careering towards madness.

Turtle Diary is a modern classic, first published exactly 50 years ago. 2025 also marks the centenary of Russell Hoban's birth. One cover review calls Turtle Diary "life-saving"; novelist Max Porter said that it "has medicinal qualities. I only need to think about it and I'm in a better mood."

"This lovely human fable seems to me one of the best things of its kind - a fine and touching achievement." John Fowles

"Worth rejoicing in ... a banquet of whimsical delights. Each Russell Hoban book is surprising ... but you also know what you're getting, which is curiosity, wonder and a world-encompassing empathy." John Self, The Guardian

Russell Hoban was an American writer born in 1925. His works span many genres, including fantasy, science fiction, mainstream fiction, magical realism, poetry, and children's books. He lived in London from 1969 until his death in 2011.

Written by Russell Hoban

Read by Daniel Weyman and Katherine Parkinson
Abridged and produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

TUE 23:00 Now You're Asking with Marian Keyes and Tara Flynn (m002750v)

The 'Functioning Alcoholic' Problem

Alcoholism and the idea of the 'functioning alcoholic' is one of the serious topics tackled by Marian and Tara in this final edition of series 4 - alongside ways to choose your battles with a petulant 11 year-old daughter, and a conundrum encountered by a listener getting an intimate email meant for someone else.

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.

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 for the next series.

Got a problem you want Marian and Tara to give you a hand with? 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 (m002750x)

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

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2025

WED 00:00 Midnight News (m002750z)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

WED 00:30 The History Podcast (m001z6hx)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Tuesday]

WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0027511)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0027513)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

WED 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0027515)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

WED 05:30 News Briefing (m0027517)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0027519)

Changing Human Behaviour

A reading and a reflection to start the day on Radio 4, with Jonathan Rea

WED 05:45 Farming Today (m002751c)

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

WED 06:00 Today (m00274vr)

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

WED 09:00 Sideways (m00274vt)

68. Bliss in Suffering

When David Wright went to Iraq as an 18-year-old soldier - he had no idea the battlefield would become a place where he'd enter deep states of bliss. For decades, David remained silent about the intense joy he experienced alongside the horrors of war.

Matthew Syed ponders the extraordinary possibility of experiencing joy while suffering and hears more about the remarkable potential of the brain to respond to trauma in unexpected ways. He discovers how others too, like actor Renu Arora, experienced something similar when she was hit by a bus - and considers how such stories might help us shift our perspective on pain.

With ex-soldier David Wright, actor/singer/writer Renu Arora, neuroscientist Dr Andrew Newberg, Director of Research at the Marcus Institute of Integrative Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University and Hospital in Philadelphia and Dr Steve Taylor, lecturer at Leeds Beckett University in transpersonal psychology and author of the book Extraordinary Awakenings.

Featuring an excerpt sung by Renu Arora from the RSC Enterprise performance recording of Anything Could Happen from The Magician's Elephant. Music by Marc Teitler and lyrics by Nancy Harris.

Presenter: Matthew Syed
Producer: Vishva Samani
Series Editors: Georgia Moodie and Max O'Brien
Sound Design and Mix: Daniel Kempson
Theme Music by Ioana Selaru
A Novel production for BBC Radio 4

WED 09:30 In Dark Corners (m00274vw)

Series 2

3. The Dirty Squad

Alex Renton tries to find out more about the notes scribbled in the margins of the PIE membership list. It looks like they were written by police, who were going door to door visiting the members listed in the document. But this active investigation appears to stop suddenly in 1985. Why?

Alex starts piecing together the police investigation into the Paedophile Information Exchange.

He discovers the PIE List was seized by the Metropolitan Police

in the late seventies and passed to a unit called the Obscene Publications Branch or as it was known internally 'the Dirty Squad'.

Presenter: Alex Renton
 Producer: Caitlin Smith
 Executive Producers: Gail Champion and Gillian Wheelan
 Story Consultants: Jack Kibble-White and Kirsty Williams
 Sound design: Jon Nicholls
 Theme Tune: Jeremy Warnsmley

Actor readings: David Hounslow and Samuel James.

Archive: Newsnight, 1983 BBC; Mary Whitehouse film archive, Huntly Film Archive 1964; Mastermind 1979, BBC.

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

WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m00274yy)

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

WED 11:00 Shadow of War - A Tainted Anatomy (m00274w0)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Tuesday]

WED 11:45 The History Podcast (m001z69t)

Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 3. The Break-In

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera
 Series Producer: John Murphy
 Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)
 Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison
 Series Editor: Penny Murphy

WED 12:00 News Summary (m00274w2)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

WED 12:04 You and Yours (m00274w4)

News and discussion of consumer affairs

WED 12:57 Weather (m00274w6)

The latest weather forecast

WED 13:00 World at One (m00274w8)

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

WED 13:45 Human Intelligence (m00274wb)

Collectors: Pamphila

Naomi Alderman examines the intelligence and sharp humour of an ancient Greek historian known as Pamphila of Epidaurus. She was a female historian working in a society that believed women were constitutionally unsuited to the rational and peculiarly masculine task of recording facts for posterity. She wrote thirty-three volumes of her famed Historical Commentaries from her home. She wrote for fun, organising her material in a free and easy mix, like 'embroidery'. We have none of her original writings, just reported fragments, but she gave us cultural history as we know it today, centuries ahead of time.

Special thanks to Edith Hall, Professor of Classics at Durham University.

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

WED 14:00 The Archers (m00274wd)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

WED 14:15 Drama on 4 (m000tcbb)

Endless Second

by Theo Toksvig-Stewart.

Unflinching drama about consent. Two students fall in love, but one drunken evening changes everything.

Starring Sam Otto (The State, Snowpiercer) and Louisa Harland (Derry Girls).

M Sam Otto
 W Louisa Harland

Technical Producer Martha Littlehailes
 Technical Producer Alison Craig
 Technical Producer Anne Bunting
 Technical Producer Mike Etherden
 Production Co-ordinator Gaelan Connolly
 Writer Theo Toksvig-Stewart
 Director Abigail le Fleming

THE PLAY

Endless Second was originally produced by Cut the Cord Theatre and directed by Camilla Güttler, starring Madeleine Gray alongside Theo Toksvig-Stewart. It opened at Theatre503 before transferring to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019 where it was shortlisted for the Holden Street Theatre Award and the Sit Up Award. The play then transferred to the Park Theatre and Pleasance Islington as part of their 'Best of the Fringe' seasons.

THE WRITER

Theo is a dyslexic writer and actor based in London. He was part of the BBC Writersroom Drama Room 2019/2020 and the Minack Emerging Playwrights Programme 2021. He was most recently commissioned by Applause as a South East Writer in residence. In 2020, he was commissioned by Warts and All Theatre to write an adaptation of Robyn Hood, developed with children in care in Wellingborough. His first play, An Opera from the East, was produced at Drama Centre London.

The proud son of lesbian parents, Theo is developing a number of television projects including a show based on his 'unconventional' upbringing.

WED 15:00 Money Box (m00274wg)

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 (m00274wj)

Will AI Eat Itself?

Listener Gordon is worried that as AI content spreads across the web there'll be proportionally less and less human content for the AI's to be trained on with the result their output will just get blander and blander.

He's right to be worried, Aleks and Kevin explore the phenomena of 'model collapse' the inevitable breakdown of an AI to give useful results if its training data is already AI produced. Speaking to NYU data scientist Professor Julia Kempe the pair discover that training on AI generated data also means a brick wall in terms of improving AI performance.

There is hope however according to Shayne Longpre of the Data Provenance Initiative the answer is to put humans back in the loop to curate the data for the AI's and teaching them what's good data from bad.

Presenters: Aleks Krotoski & Kevin Fong

Producer: Peter McManus

The Artificial Human is a BBC Audio Scotland production for Radio 4

WED 16:00 The Media Show (m00274wl)

Topical programme about the fast-changing media world

WED 17:00 PM (m00274wn)

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

WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m00274wq)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

WED 18:30 ReincarNathan (m001fwhs)

Series 3

Ant

Nathan Blakely was a pop star. 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 Ed Gamble.

In episode 4, Nathan is brought back to life as queen of a huge

leafcutter ant colony. The ants need to find food and, because he is utterly selfish, Nathan leads them on a perilous journey to get a bag of his favourite crisps from a nearby hotel. When will Nathan ever learn to do the right thing?

Cast:

Ashley McGuire - Carol
 Daniel Rigby - Nathan
 Tom Craine - Ant
 Hugh Dennis - Nathan's Dad
 Ed Gamble - Dec
 Henry Paker - Chef, Boy
 Freya Parker - Cassidy, the Maitre D and Nathan's mum

Writers: Tom Craine and Henry Paker

Producer: Harriet JAINE

Sound: Jerry Peal

Music Composed by: Phil Lephed

A Talkback production for BBC Radio 4

WED 19:00 The Archers (m00274ws)

Freddie faces an uncertain future, and Pip's evening takes a surprising turn.

WED 19:15 Front Row (m00274ww)

Music from Mary Chapin Carpenter, Merchant of Venice with a black Shylock

Presenter: Kate Molleson

Producer: Mark Crossan

WED 20:00 AntiSocial (m0026w7j)

"Masculine energy": Does the workplace need more of it?

When Mark Zuckerberg appeared on Joe Rogan's podcast last week he said that the corporate world has moved away from masculine energy and is "pretty culturally neutered." A culture that "celebrates aggression" can be positive, he claimed.

Does the workplace need more masculine energy? Do businesses need aggression and competitiveness to succeed?

Presenter: Adam Fleming

Producers: Josephine Casserly, Simon Tulett, Emma Close

Production coordinator: Janet Staples

Editor: Penny Murphy

WED 20:45 How They Made Us Doubt Everything (m001yy6j)

Talc Tales: 2. Never 100% clean

In the 1970s, a scientist discovers asbestos fibres in talcum powder. After Mineralogist Arthur Langer discovered asbestos fibres in the lungs of normal people in New York, he set out to investigate the source. How could people just going about their daily lives, not working directly with asbestos products, have been exposed? He started testing talcum powders and was surprised to find many products contained asbestos fibres. His findings made a splash in the newspapers, but how would industry respond?

Arthur's work put him on a list of 'antagonistic personalities', carrying out an 'attack on talc' at Johnson and Johnson headquarters – a major producer of talcum powder at the time. But internal company memos now reveal that Johnson and Johnson had been testing their talc supply for asbestos fibres in the early 1970s and they had been finding it as well. In the words of one internal memo: 'It should be cautioned, however, that no final product will ever be made, which will be totally free from respirable particles. We're talking about a significant reduction, but not a 100% clean-up.'

Presenter and Producer: Phoebe Keane

Sound mix: James Beard

Series Editor: Matt Willis

WED 21:00 Sideways (m0026bnw)

25 Years of the 21st Century

25 Years of the 21st Century: 2. The Age of Mistrust

Have we lost faith in institutions, politicians - and even money?

Some people say there is an onslaught of misinformation and a battle for truth. So who do we trust now?

In this series, we're remembering some of the big events of this century and asking how they're shaping us.

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

WED 21:30 Inside Health (m00274wy)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 on Tuesday]

WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m00274x0)
In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

WED 22:45 Turtle Diary by Russell Hoban (m00274x2)
Episode 8

In a tank of golden-green water at London Zoo, three giant sea turtles swim in futile circles. They are born to navigate, by some mysterious instinct, across thousands of miles of ocean - but these turtles are going nowhere.

Two isolated single people in their early 40s are both beset by 'turtle thoughts' and separately begin to conceive of a plan to return them to the sea.

William G is a divorced father, a junior assistant in a bookshop, he lives in a bedsit in Putney and has no idea where his two daughters are. Neaera H is a children's author and illustrator who has run out of ideas for her next book. Their diaries reveal the quiet sadnesses and dramas of their parallel lives and the shared enterprise that brings them together.

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Written by Russell Hoban
Read by Daniel Weyman and Katherine Parkinson
Abridged and produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

WED 23:00 Alison Spittle: Petty Please (m0026nf2)
Series 1

The Debs Disaster

In this new series for Radio 4, comedian Alison Spittle explores some of her longest and deepest held grudges. The kind of thing most people would be ashamed to still be thinking about 30 minutes later, let alone contemplating exacting retribution decades on.

15 years ago was meant to be the biggest, most romantic day of Alison's (at that point very young) life. The long-anticipated debs ball (or as the English and Americans like to call it - prom). But her date didn't show. And now Alison wants to find out why.

Written by Alison Spittle & Simon Mulholland
With Fíadhait Canning
Script edited by Joel Morris
Produced by Lyndsay Fenner

A Mighty Bunny Production for BBC Radio 4

WED 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00274x4)
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2025

THU 00:00 Midnight News (m00274x6)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

THU 00:30 The History Podcast (m001z69t)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Wednesday]

THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m00274x8)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m00274xb)
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

THU 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m00274xd)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

THU 05:30 News Briefing (m00274xg)
The latest news from BBC Radio 4

THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m00274xj)
Truly and Historic Moment

A reading and a reflection to start the day on Radio 4, with Jonathan Rea

THU 05:45 Farming Today (m00274xl)
The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

THU 06:00 Today (m00274xq)
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

THU 09:00 In Our Time (m00274xs)
Socrates in Prison

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Plato's Crito and Phaedo, his accounts of the last days of Socrates in prison in 399 BC as he waited to be executed by drinking hemlock. Both works show Socrates preparing to die in the way he had lived: doing philosophy. In the Crito, Plato shows Socrates arguing that he is duty bound not to escape from prison even though a bribe would open the door, while in the Phaedo his argument is for the immortality of the soul which, at the point of death, might leave uncorrupted from the 'prison' of his body, the one escape that truly mattered to Socrates. His example in his last days has proved an inspiration to thinkers over the centuries and in no small way has helped ensure the strength of his reputation.

With

Angie Hobbs
Professor of the Public Understanding of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield

Fiona Leigh
Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at University College London

And

James Warren
Professor of Ancient Philosophy at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Producer: Simon Tillotson

In Our Time is a BBC Studios Audio Production

THU 09:45 Strong Message Here (m00274xy)
Armando Iannucci and Helen Lewis decode the utterly baffling world of political language.

THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (m00274xx)
Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

THU 11:00 This Cultural Life (m00274xz)
Live magazine programme on the worlds of arts, literature, film, media and music

THU 11:45 The History Podcast (m001z6px)
Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 4. Who's Listening?

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera
Series Producer: John Murphy
Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)
Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison
Series Editor: Penny Murphy

THU 12:00 News Summary (m00274y1)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

THU 12:04 The Bottom Line (m00274y3)
Evan Davis hosts the business conversation show, with insight from the people at the top.

THU 12:32 Sliced Bread (m00274y5)
Greg Foot investigates the so-called wonder products making bold claims.

THU 12:57 Weather (m00274y7)
The latest weather forecast

THU 13:00 World at One (m00274y9)
Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

THU 13:45 Human Intelligence (m00274yc)
Collectors: Samuel Johnson

Samuel Johnson was living proof that a person can be extremely messy and disorganised but still do work of great worth. He compiled and almost single-handedly wrote an English dictionary that changed the language for good. 'Dictionary Johnson' established the spelling and meaning of many words; he looked at etymology; he poked fun and cracked jokes. He lived hand to mouth, writing for money, and helped establish the modern literary world.

Special thanks to Judith Hawley, Professor of Eighteenth-Century Literature at Royal Holloway, University of London.

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

THU 14:00 The Archers (m00274ws)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

THU 14:15 Drama on 4 (m00274yf)
Safe Space

Thaddea Graham stars in this comedy drama about one woman's fight for love and the ability to step outside her own front door.

Agoraphobia and panic disorder have left Paula housebound, but she's trying to make the best of it - despite a younger brother who would test the patience of a saint and a father who is smothering her with concern and cups of tea. She's content merely hitting the "snooze button" on her life - until she meets cool and fearless Niamh. Suddenly Paula is dreaming of big things, perhaps impossible things. Now she wants it all, love, laughs and adventures, but can she venture back into the world?

Inspired by writer Caitlin Magnall-Kearn's own experiences with panic disorder and agoraphobia, Safe Space tells the story of one Belfast woman's dealing with a mental health condition and trying to find love.

Paula ... Thaddea Graham
Niamh ... Vanessa Ifediora
Dad ... Jonjo O'Neill
Liam ... Matty Loane
Gerard ... Conor MacNeill
Ellen ... Kate Perry
Andy ... Sean Kearns
Other voices played by the cast

Written by Caitlin Magnall-Kearns

Sound Designer: David Thomas
Executive Producer: Keith Martin
Producer: Anna Hinds
Director: Celia de Wolff

A Fabel Radio production for BBC Radio 4

Details of organisations offering information and support with mental health or self-harm are available at bbc.co.uk/actionline

THU 15:00 Ramblings (m00274yh)
60-60-60 in the Southern Pentlands

Clare Balding is celebrating a listener's birthday today. Not something we've done before, but when we heard that Lynda Pettit was marking her 60th birthday by walking 60 different routes with 60 different people, and that the idea was partly inspired by Ramblings, well we just had to join in, especially as it's Clare's 25th year on Ramblings (double celebrations!). Lynda and several friends took Clare for a hike on the Stoney Path walk in the Pentland Hills near West Linton, about 20 miles south of Edinburgh.

They met outside The Gordon Arms Hotel on the A702 and went up into the southern Pentlands. It's a route that takes in the Old Roman road that heads up to Edinburgh; Stoney Path, also known as Thieves Road, an ancient droving track used by cattle reivers herding stolen livestock through the hills; and Baddingsill Reservoir. They also ascended Mount Maw, catching sight of a beautiful cloud inversion on the way. Views from the top stretched around 80 miles to a snow-capped Ben Lomond, Scotland's most southerly Munro.

Presenter: Clare Balding
Producer: Karen Gregor

THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m00274mv)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

THU 15:30 Word of Mouth (m00274yk)
Jackie Kay on the Scots language

Poet Jackie Kay has written a book in Scots: Coorie Doon: A Scottish Lullaby Story. She joins presenter Michael Rosen to talk about her love of the language and what it meant to her growing up.

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 Rethink (m00274ym)
Rethink... museums

The UK has many world-leading museums that inspire wonder and fascination in their visitors. Many were originally created to display artefacts from empire or house the collections of their wealthy Victorian founders but recent decades have seen museums finding innovative ways to challenge what a modern museum can be. However, in tough economic times many museums are facing serious challenges. The sector is having to make the case for why museums should receive public money when there's a lot less to go around. They are also facing criticism about who visits them, who curates them, and what objects they collect and display. What are museums for? Who are they for? And how can they teach us about our past whilst remaining relevant and exciting for today's visitors?

Presenter: Ben Ansell
Producer: Viv Jones
Editor: Clare Fordham
Contributors:
Sara Wajid, co-CEO of Birmingham Museums Trust
Tony Butler, Director of Derby Museums Trust
Stephen Bush, columnist and associate editor at the Financial Times

THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (m00274yp)
A weekly programme looking at the science that's changing our world.

THU 17:00 PM (m00274yr)
Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m00274yt)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

THU 18:30 POV (m001vc51)
Pilot

POV: You're listening to a brand new sketch show that takes the comics making brilliant videos for social media and gets them to write brand new audio-only sketches, mixing them all up with rich, immersive sound design.

Featuring Rachel Fairburn, Daniel Foxx, Matt Green, Rosie

Holt, Emma Jones, Kelechi Okafor & Vinny Thomas

Sound design by Rich Evans at Synebox Post

Produced by Ed Morrish

A Lead Mojo production for BBC Radio 4.

THU 19:00 The Archers (m00274yw)
Josh attempts to stir the pot, and Elizabeth considers her options.

THU 19:15 Front Row (m00274yy)
Presenter: Tom Sutcliffe
Producer: Claire Bartleet

THU 20:00 The Media Show (m00274wl)
[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Wednesday]

THU 21:00 Loose Ends (m0027m0s)
[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

THU 21:45 Strong Message Here (m00274xv)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m00274z0)
In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

THU 22:45 Turtle Diary by Russell Hoban (m00274z2)
Episode 9

In a tank of golden-green water at London Zoo, three giant sea turtles swim in futile circles. They are born to navigate, by some mysterious instinct, across thousands of miles of ocean - but these turtles are going nowhere.

Two isolated single people in their early 40s are both beset by 'turtle thoughts' and separately begin to conceive of a plan to return them to the sea.

William G is a divorced father, a junior assistant in a bookshop, he lives in a bedsit in Putney and has no idea where his two daughters are. Neaera H is a children's author and illustrator who has run out of ideas for her next book. Their diaries reveal the quiet sadnesses and dramas of their parallel lives and the shared enterprise that brings them together.

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Written by Russell Hoban
Read by Daniel Weyman and Katherine Parkinson
Abridged and produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

THU 23:00 The Today Podcast (m00274z4)
Amol and Nick's take on the biggest stories of the week.

THU 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00274z6)
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

FRIDAY 24 JANUARY 2025

FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m00274z8)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 00:30 The History Podcast (m001z6px)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Thursday]

FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m00274zb)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m00274zd)
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

FRI 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m00274zg)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

FRI 05:30 News Briefing (m00274zj)
The latest news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m00274zl)
The Need for Compliments

A reading and a reflection to start the day on Radio 4, with Jonathan Rea

FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m00274zn)
The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

FRI 06:00 Today (m002751f)
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

FRI 09:00 Desert Island Discs (m00274n7)
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Sunday]

FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002751h)
Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

FRI 11:00 The Food Programme (m002751k)
Investigating every aspect of the food we eat

FRI 11:45 The History Podcast (m001z6sh)
Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 5. All That Glitters

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera
Series Producer: John Murphy
Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)
Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison
Series Editor: Penny Murphy

FRI 12:00 News Summary (m002751m)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

FRI 12:04 AntiSocial (m002751p)
Adam Fleming helps you work out what the culture war arguments are really about.

FRI 12:57 Weather (m002751r)
The latest weather forecast

FRI 13:00 World at One (m002751t)
Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

FRI 13:45 Human Intelligence (m002751w)
Collectors: Charles Darwin

Darwin asked big questions. His theory of evolution transformed our understanding of life on Earth. But Naomi Alderman discovers that he did it by looking at small things and tiny changes that other people had overlooked. From earliest childhood, he'd been a collector – pocketing shells, coins, minerals, bits of pottery and roof tiles – and his travels on HMS

Beagle allowed him to amass a vast collection of specimens and observations that he and others would puzzle over for decades.

Special thanks to Dr John van Wyhe, historian of science at the National University of Singapore and the Director of The Complete Work of Charles Darwin Online.

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 (m00274yw)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

FRI 14:15 Limelight (m002751y)
Don't Listen to This

Episode 5

By Anthony Del Col

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

Cressida is shocked to discover the truth about Soji Sanada but together they must race to stop the killer and delete the remaining lethal cutscenes.

Cressida Yang Sophie Wu
Blu_Devil Thaddea Graham
Park Nikesh Patel
Rooftop Jonny Weldon
Soji Sanada.....Togo Igawa
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- Nadia Molinari
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 Why Do We Do That? (m0027520)
Why do we gossip?

It can be the source of drama that ruins reputations or simply keeps you entertained during your lunch break. But is gossip ingrained in our nature? Anthropologist Ella Al Shamahi digs into our evolutionary history to uncover the truth behind this age-old human habit. Joining her are Kelsey McKinney from the Normal Gossip podcast and anthropologist Dr. Nicole Hagen Hess, as they unravel the origins of this sometimes controversial behaviour. Could gossip be the social glue that binds us together, or is it just another weapon in our ongoing competition for status?

BBC Studios Audio
Producer: Emily Bird,
Additional production: Olivia Jani and Geraldine Fitzgerald
Executive Producer: Alexandra Feachem

FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m0027522)
Horticultural programme featuring a group of gardening experts.

FRI 15:45 Short Works (m0027524)
Feathertongue by Anthony Shapland

An original short story by Anthony Shapland. Two boys idle away the long days of late summer. Their games, dares and bets escalate and the power balance shifts as they lose control.

Anthony Shapland is from Bargoed, Wales. His short stories can be found in the anthologies (un)common, Lucent Dreaming and Cymru & I. Twice shortlisted for the Rhys Davies Short Story Award, he was chosen as one of the 2023 Hay Festival's Writers at Work. His debut novel A Room Above a Shop will be published by Granta in 2025.

Reader - Nathan Sussex

Sound by Catherine Robinson

Directed by John Norton
A BBC Audio Wales Production

FRI 16:00 Last Word (m0027526)
Weekly obituary programme telling the life stories of those who have died recently.

FRI 16:30 Sideways (m00274vt)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]

FRI 17:00 PM (m0027528)
Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002752b)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 18:30 The News Quiz (m002752d)
Series 116

Episode 3

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

FRI 19:00 The Archers (m002752g)
Writer: Katie Hims
Director: Pip Swallow
Editor: Jeremy Howe

Brian Aldridge.... Charles Collingwood
Ben Archer.... Ben Norris
Josh Archer.... Angus Imrie
Pip Archer.... Daisy Badger
Neil Carter.... Brian Hewlett
Susan Carter.... Charlotte Martin
Vince Casey.... Tony Turner
Emma Grundy.... Emerald O'Hanrahan
Joy Horville.... Jackie Lye
Zainab Malik.... Priyasasha Kumari
Elizabeth Pargetter.... Alison Dowling
Freddie Pargetter.... Toby Laurence
Lily Pargetter.... Katie Redford
Stella Pryor.... Lucy Speed
Fallon Rogers.... Joanna Van Kampen
Nelly.... Jill Baker

FRI 19:15 Screenshot (m002752j)
Mike Leigh

Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode celebrate the cinema of Mike Leigh with the man himself as well as the star of his new film, Marianne Jean Baptiste.

Ellen goes deep with Mike Leigh about his iconic filmography and why the upcoming Hard Truths is his first contemporary-set film in a decade.

Mark speaks to Marianne Jean-Baptiste who won the Oscar for starring in Mike Leigh's Palme d'Or winning film, Secrets & Lies. Mark also speaks to director of Anora, Sean Baker, about Mike Leigh's influence on his work.

Produced by Jane Long
A Prospect Street production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m002752l)
Topical discussion posing questions to a panel of political and media personalities.

FRI 20:50 A Point of View (m002752n)
Weekly reflections on topical issues from a range of contributors.

FRI 21:00 Free Thinking (m002752q)
Diaries and the day to day

From ancient Babylon to journaling today, politicians' jottings and the notes made by 18th-century writers like Mary Hamilton and Fanny Burney: curator Irving Finkel, literary historian Sophie Coulombe and political expert Michael Crick and join Matthew Sweet to discuss the way we measure our lives in diaries.

Producer: Luke Mulhall

FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m002752s)
In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from

a global perspective.

FRI 22:45 Turtle Diary by Russell Hoban (m002752v)
Episode 10

In a tank of golden-green water at London Zoo, three giant sea turtles swim in futile circles. They are born to navigate, by some mysterious instinct, across thousands of miles of ocean - but these turtles are going nowhere.

Two isolated single people in their early 40s are both beset by 'turtle thoughts' and separately begin to conceive of a plan to return them to the sea.

William G is a divorced father, a junior assistant in a bookshop, he lives in a bedsit in Putney and has no idea where his two daughters are. Neaera H is a children's author and illustrator who has run out of ideas for her next book. Their diaries reveal the quiet sadnesses and dramas of their parallel lives and the shared enterprise that brings them together.

It's a story about hope and despair, loneliness and the heroic eccentricity of two individuals who feel compelled to act in a world which feels to both of them as if it is careering towards madness.

Turtle Diary is a modern classic, first published exactly 50 years ago. 2025 also marks the centenary of Russell Hoban's birth. One cover review calls Turtle Diary "life-saving"; novelist Max Porter said that it "has medicinal qualities. I only need to think about it and I'm in a better mood."

"This lovely human fable seems to me one of the best things of its kind - a fine and touching achievement." John Fowles

"Worth rejoicing in ... a banquet of whimsical delights. Each Russell Hoban book is surprising ... but you also know what you're getting, which is curiosity, wonder and a world-encompassing empathy." John Self, The Guardian

Russell Hoban was an American writer born in 1925. His works span many genres, including fantasy, science fiction, mainstream fiction, magical realism, poetry, and children's books. He lived in London from 1969 until his death in 2011.

Written by Russell Hoban
Read by Daniel Weyman and Katherine Parkinson
Abridged and produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

FRI 23:00 Americast (m002752x)
Join the Americast team for insights from across the US.

FRI 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002752z)
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament