

**SATURDAY 06 JUNE 2009**

**SAT 19:00 D-Day Remembered (b00121w8)**  
Episode 1

On the day D-Day celebrates its 65th birthday, BBC4 comes from Normandy for an evening of discussion, reflection and recollection.

Host Fiona Bruce will be joined throughout the night by veterans and key figures from the worlds of history, politics and the arts to look at the legacy of D-Day and its emotional impact.

**SAT 19:15 News 44 (b00121wb)**  
D-Day

Series dealing with the news of the week of the D-Day landings in June 1944. Presented by Sue Lawley, with scripts by Nicholas Witchell, weather reports from Michael Cole, Fred Emery, Francine Stock and Tim Sebastian. This edition looks at the first secret landings in Normandy.

**SAT 19:30 D-Day Remembered (b0016m90)**  
Episode 2

On the day D-Day celebrates its 65th birthday, BBC4 comes from Normandy for an evening of discussion, reflection and recollection.

Host Fiona Bruce will be joined throughout the night by veterans and key figures from the worlds of history, politics and the arts to look at the legacy of D-Day and its emotional impact.

**SAT 19:45 D-Day: Turning the Tide (b0074q6k)**  
The extraordinary and moving story of D-Day, through the eyes of those who took part. Presenter Charles Wheeler, a Royal Marine in 1944 and a Normandy veteran, offers a personal perspective on the first 24 hours of operation Overlord. He interviews French civilians as well as British and German servicemen, who revisit the locations where they lost friends and experienced some of the most intense moments of their lives.

**SAT 20:35 D-Day Remembered (b0016m92)**  
Episode 3

On the day D-Day celebrates its 65th birthday, BBC4 comes from Normandy for an evening of discussion, reflection and recollection.

Host Fiona Bruce will be joined throughout the night by veterans and key figures from the worlds of history, politics and the arts to look at the legacy of D-Day and its emotional impact.

**SAT 20:50 D-Day: Secret Maps (b00121wd)**  
Historian Richard Holmes describes how tens of thousands of maps were created for the Allied invasion of Europe in 1944. The War Office made a plea for holiday postcards, which were sent in in their thousands to provide vital details on landmarks, building elevations and landscape details.

**SAT 21:20 D-Day Remembered (b0016m94)**  
Episode 4

On the day D-Day celebrates its 65th birthday, BBC4 comes from Normandy for an evening of discussion, reflection and recollection.

Host Fiona Bruce will be joined throughout the night by veterans and key figures from the worlds of history, politics and the arts to look at the legacy of D-Day and its emotional impact.

**SAT 21:35 D-Day to Berlin: Newsnight Special (b00121wg)**  
George Stevens's remarkable film is acclaimed by historians as the most important colour footage taken during the war. Milestones covered include the liberation of Paris, the link-up between the Russian and American armies on the River Elbe and the Allied capture of the Dachau concentration camp.

**SAT 22:35 Keep on Running: 50 Years of Island Records (b00kvd38)**  
Damian Lewis-narrated documentary telling the colourful story of Island Records, the Jamaican-founded record label built by maverick boss Chris Blackwell which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009.

The film features a rare, in-depth interview with Blackwell alongside contributions from former Island artists Grace Jones, Toots Hibbert, Amy Winehouse, Sly and Robbie, PJ Harvey, U2, Brian Eno, Spencer Davis, Yusuf Islam/Cat Stevens, the B52s, Kid Creole, Greg Lake, Ian Anderson, Trevor Horn, Paul

Weller, Richard Thompson and Keane.

News archive and rare performance footage are used to tell the story of the label - its part in bringing reggae music into the world; its expansion into progressive rock in the late 1960s; the rise of Bob Marley into a global star; and the label's reputation for consistently signing, producing and championing innovative acts from the UK and all over the world.

**SAT 00:05 Island at the BBC (b00kvd3b)**

Compilation of performances from the BBC archives of top Island Records artists, including Cat Stevens's Father and Son, Roxy Music's Do the Strand and Stir It Up by Bob Marley and The Wailers, plus tracks from Steel Pulse, U2, PJ Harvey, Baaba Maal and Amy Winehouse.

**SAT 01:05 Terry Jones's Barbarians (b00791nv)**  
The Primitive Celts

Terry Jones pieces together new archaeological evidence to reveal the startling truth about the Barbarians, in the process discovering how the Roman propaganda machine was able to pull off a great con-trick and turn their enemies into monsters fit for children's stories.

In 58 BC Julius Caesar invaded Celtic Gaul. He claimed it was to protect the northern borders of the Empire from these volatile people. But Terry discovers that Caesar's account was a smokescreen for a more sinister truth.

The Celts, according to Rome, were a warring and illiterate people. Yet Terry discovers that these people had mathematical know-how way beyond the Romans. They also had a society that, in stark contrast to Rome, was compassionate and protected the young and the weak, one built on an advanced and complex trading network that spread way beyond the borders of the Celtic world.

So why was Caesar so hell-bent on the destruction of these civilised people? The latest archaeological evidence has revealed that the Celtic world was built on vast deposits of gold, and the Celts were gold miners par excellence. The ambitious Caesar was in poverty and the rich, sophisticated Celts were there for the taking.

**SAT 02:05 How the Celts Saved Britain (b00kps7h)**  
A New Civilisation

Dan Snow blows the lid off the traditional, Anglo-centric view of history and reveals how the Irish saved Britain from cultural oblivion during the Dark Ages, in this provocative, two-part documentary.

Travelling back in time to some of the remotest corners of the British Isles, Dan unravels the mystery of the lost years of 400-800 AD, when the collapse of the Roman Empire left Britain in tatters.

In the first episode, Dan shows how in the 5th century AD Roman 'Britannia' was plunged into chaos by the arrival of Anglo-Saxon invaders. As Roman civilisation disappeared from Britain, a new civilisation emerged in one of the most unlikely places - Ireland. Within a few generations, Christianity transformed a backward, barbarian country into the cultural powerhouse of early medieval Europe.

This is a visually and intellectually stimulating journey through one of the least known chapters of British history.

**SAT 03:05 How the Celts Saved Britain (b00ktrby)**  
Salvation

Provocative two-part documentary in which Dan Snow blows the lid on the traditional Anglo-centric view of history and reveals how the Irish saved Britain from cultural oblivion during the Dark Ages.

He follows in the footsteps of Ireland's earliest missionaries as they venture through treacherous barbarian territory to bring literacy and technology to the future nations of Scotland and England.

**SUNDAY 07 JUNE 2009**

**SUN 19:00 North and South (b007e8yw)**  
Episode 4

The last in a four-part adaptation of Elizabeth Gaskell's feisty and passionate story, set across the social divides in the changing world of Victorian industrial society.

Thornton proves himself to be a philanthropic master but soon the mill is in financial difficulty. Margaret goes to live with her

aunt after a family bereavement. Will Thornton and Margaret meet again and finally acknowledge their love for one another? (2004)

**SUN 20:00 Everest ER (b0074svy)**

Documentary following a team of volunteer doctors caring for the climbers and Sherpas at Everest Base Camp in Nepal. Over the ten-week Everest season, they coordinate dramatic helicopter rescues and treat hundreds of climbers for altitude sickness and frostbite.

**SUN 21:00 Storyville (b001221f)**  
Blindsight

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Himalayas, this documentary follows the gripping adventure of six Tibetan teenagers on a climbing expedition up the 23,000 foot Lhakpa Ri, on the north side of Everest. A dangerous journey soon becomes a seemingly impossible challenge made all the more remarkable by the fact that the teenagers are blind.

Believed by many Tibetans to be possessed by demons, the children are shunned by their parents, scorned by their villages and rejected by society. Rescued by Sabriye Tenberken, a blind educator and adventurer who established the first school for the blind in Lhasa, the students invite the famous blind mountain climber Erik Weihenmayer to visit their school after learning about his conquest of Everest.

Erik arrives in Lhasa and inspires Sabriye and her students Kyila, Sonam Bhuntso, Tashi, Gyenshen, Dachung and Tenzin to let him lead them higher than they have ever been before. The resulting three-week journey is beyond anything any of them could have predicted.

**SUN 22:40 Storyville (b008s919)**  
Cannibals in the Andes: Stranded!

In October 1972, a student rugby team boarded a small plane in Montevideo to fly across the Andes for a long weekend of playing rugby and partying in Chile. But they never reached their destination as a storm brought their plane down in the high Andes, leaving the survivors stranded on a remote glacier.

Ill-equipped, with no food and little hope of rescue, the survivors faced extreme hardship and many life-or-death situations, including the agonising decision to eat the flesh of those killed in the crash to stay alive. Thirty years later, those that got down from the mountain relive their 72 days 'up there' to give this extraordinarily powerful, vivid and immediate account of human endurance and heroism.

**SUN 00:35 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (b00kvbny)**  
Simon Armitage goes on a journey to discover the language and landscape of our first great Arthurian romance, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. For JRR Tolkien, Gawain is 'a fairy tale for adults', but Armitage finds strong modern relevance in the trials of its strapping hero and a tale of do or die. A marvel of the imagination, Armitage argues that Gawain must take its place alongside Chaucer and Shakespeare at the head of the canon.

**SUN 01:35 Everest ER (b0074svy)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 today]

**SUN 02:35 Storyville (b001221f)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

**MONDAY 08 JUNE 2009**

**MON 19:00 World News Today (b00122b1)**  
The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.

**MON 19:30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015hgs)**  
Concerts

Round 1

Peteroc Trelawny is the host as 25 of the best young opera singers from around the world converge on the Welsh capital to compete for the coveted prize of BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2009.

Alongside Peteroc is vocal coach Mary King to guide us through the highs and lows of the night, while backstage Josie D'Arby meets the singers and catches up with the gossip.

In the opening round, competitors come from Canada, Latvia, Argentina, Bulgaria and Japan

Voting on the Audience Prize will close on Sunday 14th June at **11am**. Please do not call after this time as your vote won't be counted and you may be charged.

**MON 21:00 A Poet's Guide to Britain (b00122b3)**  
Louis MacNeice

Poet and author Owen Sheers presents a series in which he explores six great works of poetry set in the British landscape. Each poem explores a sense of place and identity across Britain and opens the doors to captivating stories about the places and the lives of the poets themselves.

Louis MacNeice was one of the big guns of British poetry in the 1930s and 40s but is less well known today. Sheers takes a stroll into one of his finest poems, called simply Woods, a brilliant evocation of one of the most English landscapes but also a poem that takes you into the life and mind of a fascinating poet.

MacNeice was born and brought up in Ireland until the age of nine, when soon after the death of his mother he was sent to school in England. His split identity was to become a major preoccupation for the rest of his life.

In Woods, the middle-aged MacNeice takes stock of who he has become, unsure that he taken the right path. It is wonderful lyrical, melancholic writing that makes a powerful case for the restoration of this poet's reputation

Includes contributions from poets Dannie Abse and Paul Farley as well as actress Jill Balcon, who knew MacNeice and was married to another great poet of the era, Cecil Day-Lewis.

**MON 21:30 The Sky at Night (b0015644)**  
Neighbourhood Watch

Containing trillions of stars, Andromeda is the largest galaxy in our neighbourhood. It is 2.5 million light years away, yet is still visible to the naked eye. Sir Patrick Moore and his guests unravel some of the mysteries in the star systems that surround us and look at the latest discoveries from our local galaxies.

**MON 22:00 Storyville (b00122b5)**  
Angels of Rio

Detective Bechara Jahlk is the most famous private eye in Brazil, specialising in 'corporate crime' and employing a team of young female agents.

This documentary follows the case brought to Jahlk's attention by a 68-year-old import-export entrepreneur, a divorced workaholic who suspects a link between his company and drug-trafficking in Rio's harbour and fears that his son Luiz might be involved. At 26 and loaded with cash, Luiz is a junior executive in his father's business and lives life in Rio's fast lane.

Discretion is paramount, so Jahlk sends in his 'angels' Natasha, Julia and Tania, armed with sophisticated surveillance equipment, to infiltrate Luiz's social network and uncover any criminal activity.

The agents quickly establish evidence of Luiz's drug use. In recorded conversations, some names pop up, giving the agents more leads to follow - Marcelo the drug courier, Claudio the drug dealer, former drug dealer-turned-agent Ze Carlos, right-wing extremist group the Integralistas and former torturer and policeman JC.

The investigation takes the agents into the favelas, undercover in Rio's port, to nightclubs, restaurants, motels and Sao Paulo and back, giving insights into the case, Luiz's life and contemporary Brazilian society.

**MON 23:00 D-Day Remembered (b00121w8)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

**MON 23:15 News 44 (b00121wb)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:15 on Saturday]

**MON 23:30 D-Day Remembered (b0016m90)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 on Saturday]

**MON 23:45 D-Day: Turning the Tide (b0074q6k)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:45 on Saturday]

**MON 00:35 D-Day Remembered (b0016m92)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:35 on Saturday]

**MON 00:50 D-Day: Secret Maps (b00121wd)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:50 on Saturday]

**MON 01:20 D-Day Remembered (b0016m94)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:20 on Saturday]

**MON 01:35 D-Day to Berlin: Newsnight Special (b00121wg)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:35 on Saturday]

**MON 02:35 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015hgs)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

**TUESDAY 09 JUNE 2009**

**TUE 19:00 World News Today (b00122n0)**

The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.

**TUE 19:30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015hyh)**  
Concerts

Round 2

In Cardiff, the competition heats up as the search goes on for the world's best young opera singer. In contention this time are singers from South Africa, Korea, England, Mexico and Russia.

Petroc Trelawny presents the coverage with special guests, broadcaster Penny Smith and acclaimed tenor John Mark Ainsley. There is expert analysis from Mary King and all the backstage action from Josie D'Arby

Voting on the Audience Prize will close on Sunday 14th June at **11am**. Please do not call after this time as your vote won't be counted and you may be charged.

**TUE 21:00 The Great British Sunday (b008x370)**

Comedian Sean Lock looks at what Sundays always meant to him - from hangovers to Jack Hargreaves, from Sunday school and stately homes to utter boredom.

**TUE 22:00 The Cult of... (b009099z)**  
Sunday Night

Poldark

Archaeology series unearthing the history and anecdotes behind cult British Sunday night drama series looks at Poldark. The programme reveals how rows about the adaption of Winston Graham's Poldark novels dogged the production behind the scenes. The author attempted to block production and the show ended after just two series with his refusal to allow the producers to create new storylines. Poldark was nonetheless a smash hit and its two main stars, Robin Ellis and Angharad Rees became known as TV's sexiest couple.

**TUE 22:30 Flight of the Conchords (b00122n4)**  
Series 2

Unnatural Love

When Bret and Jemaine go out nightclubbing with Dave, Jemaine accidentally goes home with an Australian girl. At first plagued by shame and self-doubt, he comes to care about her, much to Bret and Murray's annoyance. Can their love cross the racial divide?

**TUE 22:55 The Armstrong and Miller Show (b008fn10)**  
Series 1

Episode 6

Scratch beneath the surface of po-faced British respectability and you'll find a wealth of great characters. Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller star in a sketch show.

**TUE 23:25 Make 'em Laugh (b00122z5)**

When I'm Bad, I'm Better: The Groundbreakers

Six-part series chronicling over 100 years of American comedy, introduced by Billy Crystal and narrated by Amy Sedaris.

In the ongoing war against hypocrisy, conservatism, sentimentality, liberalism, extremism and complacency, it was always the comedian who led the first wave of attack. Rather than using risqué jokes and four-letter words simply to get a rise out of an audience, the most audacious comedians - from pioneers like Mae West and Moms Mabley to 1960s and 70s bad boys like Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor and George Carlin - invoked what the First Amendment of the American Constitution calls 'freedom of speech' to bring the biggest and most dangerous laughs to the American public.

**TUE 00:20 Storyville (b00122b5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 22:00 on Monday]

**TUE 01:20 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015hyh)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

**TUE 02:50 Make 'em Laugh (b00122z5)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 23:25 today]

**WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2009**

**WED 19:00 World News Today (b00122z7)**

The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.

**WED 19:30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015j14)**  
Concerts

Round 3

Winning BBC Cardiff Singer of the World is often a stepping stone to a major opera career. In this third qualifying round singers from Croatia, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine and Israel all seek to win the judges' approval.

Guiding us through the concert is Petroc Trelawny and his special guest, tenor Tom Randle. Mary King is on hand for expert commentary and Josie D'Arby talks to the singers about their hopes and fears

Voting on the Audience Prize will close on Sunday 14th June at **11am**. Please do not call after this time as your vote won't be counted and you may be charged.

**WED 21:00 Crisis at the Castle (b007rvyb)**  
Sudeley Castle

Documentary series following three aristocratic families struggling to hang on to their historic homes.

Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire is the home of the Dent-Brocklehurst family, made rich by the industrial revolution, but who have struggled to maintain Sudeley in recent years. Mark Dent-Brocklehurst inherited Sudeley in the 1960s but died soon during the restoration project, and now his widow Lady Ashcombe is handing it over to her children Henry and Mollie during troubled times.

**WED 22:00 In Concert (b0074sdn)**  
Cat Stevens

Singer-songwriter Cat Stevens, now known as Yusuf Islam, in concert from 1971. Includes many of his classic hits such as Moon Shadow, Wild World and Father and Son.

**WED 22:40 imagine... (b007gjxc)**  
Spring 2006

The Artist Formerly Known as Cat Stevens

Alan Yentob presents a documentary telling the story of Yusuf Islam - the singer/songwriter who captured the hearts of a generation in the 60s and 70s with songs like Moon Shadow and Morning Has Broken under the name Cat Stevens.

Yusuf explains that his hit songs were written to help him out of a spiritual depression, and that he shared with his listeners a quest for a deeper meaning to life. After a decade of flirting with religion he finally converted - after a near drowning incident off Malibu beach he promised to serve God if he was saved; he was and it was to the Koran he turned. Now one of Britain's foremost representatives of Islam, founder of a Muslim School paid for by his royalties, he has finally returned to the music he abandoned 23 years ago.

**WED 23:35 BBC Four Sessions (b007d8r4)**  
Yusuf Islam

Series of unique, intimate performances by some of the greatest legends and contemporary stars around.

The artist formerly known as Cat Stevens gives his first full concert in nearly three decades, in an exclusive BBC performance at the Porchester Hall, London. In an exotic Moroccan cafe-style set, he and his band treat the audience of friends, family and fans to songs from across his career, including classic tracks like Father and Son, Peace Train, Wild World and Where Do the Children Play.

**WED 00:35 Crisis at the Castle (b007rvyb)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

**WED 01:35 Batman (b008bxvt)**  
Series 1

The Purr-fect Crime

Superhero adventure series. Batman and Robin rush to protect Gotham City Museum, following a robbery masterminded by Catwoman. Drugging Robin with deadly Catacol, Catwoman lures the caped crusader into her lair, where he is confronted by a cunning cat-trap.

**WED 02:00 Batman (b008by9k)**  
Series 1

Better Luck Next Time

Fantasy adventure series. While the Caped Crusader tackles a troublesome tiger, Robin is left to face another feline form in the shape of Catwoman.

**WED 02:25 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015j14)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

**THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2009**

**THU 19:00 World News Today (b001239g)**

The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.

**THU 19:30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015j3b)**  
Concerts

Round 4

The opera world comes to Cardiff in search of the next classical singing sensation. Round four, and with their eyes on the prize are singers from Australia, Chile, USA, the Czech Republic and, representing Wales, local girl Natalya Romaniw.

Joining presenter Petroc Trelawny is celebrated bass-baritone Gerald Finley, with top vocal coach Mary King offering expert analysis and Josie D'Arby talking to the competitors in rehearsal

Voting on the Audience Prize will close on Sunday 14th June at **11am**. Please do not call after this time as your vote won't be counted and you may be charged.

**THU 21:00 Crisis at the Castle (b007rvmg)**  
Burton Court

Documentary series following three aristocratic families struggling to hang on to their historic homes. Burton Court in Herefordshire has been owned by Commander Robert Simpson and his wife Helen since the 1960s. In order to maintain it, Robert started a soft-fruit farm and Helen a costume and curio museum, but recently they haven't been making enough money to keep the house going. Their son Edward decides that the only option is to turn Burton Court into an upmarket wedding and function venue. With most of the family savings sunk into the project, can Edward make it succeed?

**THU 22:00 BBC One Sessions (b007cl28)**  
Amy Winehouse

Another chance to see a 23-year-old Amy Winehouse at Porchester Hall where, hot from her triumph at the 2007 Brits, she gave a special one-off concert. Crowned 2007's Best British Female, Amy performed songs from her Back to Black album and her 2003 Mercury Music Prize nominated album, Frank.

**THU 22:50 BBC Four Sessions (b0074qmj)**  
P J Harvey

Series of unique concerts featuring musicians from around the world. P J Harvey brings some real rock and roll to the intimate venue of LSO St Luke's in London, following the release of her solo album Uh Huh Her. She performs a set that includes hits such as Big Exit, Dress, The Letter and Shame.

**THU 23:50 The New Avengers (b0016bfy)**  
Series 2

Forward Base

In a flashback to April 1969, Typhoon Agatha is raging, sinking five ships, causing chaos and creating a new piece of coastline

near Toronto. In the present day (1977), Canadian intelligence receives a message and sets the New Avengers to uncover the truth about Agatha.

**THU 00:40 Crisis at the Castle (b007rvmg)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

**THU 01:40 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015j3b)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

**THU 03:10 The New Avengers (b0016bfy)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 23:50 today]

**FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2009**

**FRI 19:00 World News Today (b00124kd)**

The latest national and international news, exploring the day's events from a global perspective.

**FRI 19:30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015j54)**  
Concerts

Round 5

It's the fifth and final qualifying round in the international opera singing competition, with singers from New Zealand, Ireland, Italy, Andorra and Portugal taking part. Nerves will be frayed as all the competitors wait to see which five of them have been chosen to sing in the final.

Helping Petroc Trelawny second guess the jury on the likely finalists are soprano Rebecca Evans and vocal coach Mary King. Backstage, Josie D'Arby gets the reactions as the decisions come through

Voting on the Audience Prize will close on Sunday 14th June at **11am**. Please do not call after this time as your vote won't be counted and you may be charged.

**FRI 21:00 Crisis at the Castle (b007sgkl)**  
Kelburn Castle

Documentary series following three aristocratic families struggling to hang on to their historic homes. The Boyles have lived at Kelburn Castle on the Ayrshire coast since the 12th century and were once one of the wealthiest families in Scotland. The current occupant, Patrick Boyle, 10th Earl of Glasgow, believed that by creating a country park and opening up the castle for dinners and tours he could make Kelburn pay for itself, but he has lurched from one financial crisis to another.

**FRI 22:00 The Book Quiz (b00ktpwc)**  
Poetry Special

Kirsty Wark presents a special edition of the literary panel game, as she asks four teams of famous faces to test themselves against some demanding questions on all aspects of poetry. Guests include former Poet Laureate Andrew Motion, poet Brian Patten, actress Alice Eve and comedian Natalie Haynes.

**FRI 23:00 Flight of the Conchords (b00122n4)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 22:30 on Tuesday]

**FRI 23:25 Michael Wood on Beowulf (b00kpv23)**

Historian Michael Wood returns to his first great love, the Anglo-Saxon world, to reveal the origins of our literary heritage. Focusing on Beowulf and drawing on other Anglo-Saxon classics, he traces the birth of English poetry back to the Dark Ages.

Travelling across the British Isles from East Anglia to Scotland and with the help of Nobel prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney, actor Julian Glover, local historians and enthusiasts, he brings the story and language of this iconic poem to life.

**FRI 00:25 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (b00kvbny)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 00:35 on Sunday]

**FRI 01:25 A Poet's Guide to Britain (b00122b3)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 on Monday]

**FRI 01:55 Crisis at the Castle (b007sgkl)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

**FRI 02:55 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (b0015j54)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]