BBC 4 Listings for 14 – 20 July 2012

SATURDAY 14 JULY 2012

SAT 19:00 The Blue Planet (b0074mlf)

David Attenborough narrates a natural history of the oceans. This programme explores seasonal changes in the richest waters on Earth, where the annual cycle of the sun drives an explosion of life. Featuring an extraordinary variety of marine animals including seals, dolphins, jellyfish and the bizarre walking

SAT 20:00 Illuminations: The Private Lives of Medieval Kings (b01b4v8t)

Libraries Gave Us Power

Dr Janina Ramirez unlocks the secrets of illuminated manuscripts that were custom-made for kings, and explores the medieval world they reveal. In this episode, the story of the British Library's Royal Manuscripts collection reaches its end with the last great flowering of illumination, in the magnificent courts of the Tudors. She investigates astrological texts created for Henry VII, and unwraps his will - still in its original, extravagantly decorated velvet and gold cover. She hears music written for Henry VIII, which went unperformed for centuries, and reads love notes between the king and Anne Boleyn, written in the margins of a prayer book. Nina also visits Bruges, the source of many of the greatest manuscripts, where this medieval art form collided with the artistic innovations of the Renaissance

SAT 21:00 Mesrine (b01l1xw5)

Public Enemy No 1

Second part of the French thriller about the incredible and brutal story of France's most infamous and flamboyant gangster, Jacques Mesrine. Now back in France, Mesrine is finally in police custody and facing justice for his crimes. But his detention does not last long.

In French with English subtitles.

SAT 23:05 Wonders of the Solar System (b00rz5ys) Original Series

Professor Brian Cox visits some of the most stunning locations on earth to describe how the laws of nature have carved natural wonders across the solar system.

Brian descends to the bottom of the Pacific in a submarine to witness the extraordinary life forms that survive in the cold. black waters. All life on Earth needs water so the search for aliens in the solar system has followed the search for water.

Soaring above the dramatic Scablands of the United States. Brian discovers how the same landscape has been found on Mars. And it was all carved out in a geological heartbeat by a monumental flood.

Armed with a gas mask, Brian enters a cave in Mexico where bacteria breathe toxic gas and leak concentrated acid. Yet relatives of these creatures could be surviving in newly discovered caves on Mars.

But Brian's sixth wonder isn't a planet at all. Jupiter's moon Europa is a dazzling ball of ice etched with strange cracks. The patterns in the ice reveal that, far below, there is an ocean with more potentially life-giving water than all the oceans on Earth.

Of all the wonders of the solar system forged by the laws of nature, there is one that stands out. In the final episode of this series, Brian reveals the greatest wonder of them all.

SAT 00:05 Top of the Pops (b01kg4tv)

16/06/77

David 'Kid' Jensen looks at the weekly pop chart from 1977 and introduces John Miles, Hot Chocolate, Archie Bell and the Drells, the Foster Brothers, Queen, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Olivia Newton-John, the Muppets and Kenny Rogers.

SAT 00:45 Blink: A Horizon Guide to the Senses (b01kptcr)

Touch, sight, smell, hearing and taste - our senses link us to the outside world. Dr Kevin Fong looks back through 40 years of Horizon archives to find out what science has taught us about our tools of perception - why babies use touch more than any other sense, why our eyes are so easily tricked and how pioneering technology is edging closer to the dream of replacing our human senses if they fail.

SAT 01:45 Illuminations: The Private Lives of Medieval Kings (b01b4v8t)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 today]

SAT 02:45 The Blue Planet (b0074mlf)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 today]

SUNDAY 15 JULY 2012

SUN 19:00 Wainwright: The Man Who Loved the Lakes (b0074tfq)

Capturing the beauty of the English Lake District, a documentary which traces the life of writer and artist Alfred Wainwright, the eccentric Lancastrian who created a series of iconic fell-walking books which he hand-wrote, illustrated and published himself in the 1950s.

Celebrating the centenary of his birth, the film captures his passionate love affair with the Lakeland landscape and explores how his books have become guide-book classics for millions of

SUN 20:00 Roundhead or Cavalier: Which One Are You? (b01hr7k9)

In the middle of the 17th century, Britain was devastated by a civil war that divided the nation into two tribes - the Roundheads and the Cavaliers. In this programme, celebrities and historians reveal that modern Britain is still defined by the battle between the two tribes. The Cavaliers represent a Britain of panache, pleasure and individuality. They are confronted by the Roundheads, who stand for modesty, discipline, equality and state intervention.

The ideas which emerged 350 years ago shaped our democracy, civil liberties and constitution. They also create a cultural divide that influences how we live, what we wear and even what we eat and drink. Individuals usually identify with one tribe or the other, but sometimes they need some elements of the enemy's identity - David Cameron seeks a dash of the down-to-earth Roundhead, while Ed Miliband looks for some Cavalier

Featuring contributions from Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, AS Byatt, Julian Fellowes, Philippa Gregory, Anne Widdecombe and Clarissa Dickson Wright.

Are you a Roundhead or a Cavalier?

SUN 21:00 100 Years of the Palladium (b00wyn7s)

Cliff Richard, Bruce Forsyth, Michael Crawford and Andrew Lloyd Webber are among the stars sharing the gossip, glamour and behind-the-scenes shenanigans of the world's most famous theatre as it celebrates its 100th birthday.

SUN 22:00 Storyville (b01d24dm)

Knuckle: Bare Fist Fighting

Documentary which goes inside the secretive Traveller world a world of long and bitter memories. Filmed over twelve years, the film chronicles a history of violent feuding between rival families, using remarkable access to document the bare-fist fights between the Quinn McDonaghs and the Joyce clans, who, though cousins, have clashed for generations. Vivid, violent and funny, the film explores the need for revenge and the pressure to fight for the honour of your family name

SUN 23:30 Wainwright: The Man Who Loved the Lakes (b0074tfq)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 today]

SUN 00:30 Legends (b00fzv3y)

Roy Orbison - The 'Big O' in Britain

Roy Orbison was the best singer in the world. That's what Elvis Presley said, and he should know

To mark the 20th anniversary of Orbison's death, this programme celebrates the extraordinary talent of 'The Big O' and his relationship with his most loval and enduring fans, British musicians and the British public. Through a combination of interview and archive, it charts Orbison's career in Britain, from the sell-out tour with the Beatles that sky-rocketed him to international superstardom, right up to the collaboration with lifelong friend George Harrison on the Travelling Wilburys project in the late 1980s. Effortlessly cool, musically sophisticated, Orbison was a rock and roll legend, whose legacy continues to captivate both the listeners and performers of today.

SUN 01:30 Arena (b00hbi01)

Woody Guthrie

First transmitted in 1988, Arena presents a documentary programme exploring the life of Woody Guthrie, the travelling American singer-songwriter who paved the way for the likes of Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen

Born in Okemah, Oklahoma in 1912, Guthrie became a spokesman for a whole generation of downtrodden Americans during the 1930s, with poignant songs like Vigilante Man, Pastures of Plenty and the anthemic, This Land is Your Land.

SUN 02:40 100 Years of the Palladium (b00wyn7s)

[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

MONDAY 16 JULY 2012

MON 19:00 World News Today (b01kwy0t)

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

MON 19:30 Britain's Lost World (b00c6slr) Episode 1

Historian Dan Snow, naturalist Steve Backshall and wildlife enthusiast Kate Humble set out to solve some of the mysteries of St Kilda in Scotland's Outer Hebrides - the only British World Heritage Site nominated for both its extraordinary history and its wildlife.

Inhabited just 80 years ago St Kilda is now home to seabirds and seals, but these islands remain a place of mystery. When the St Kildans suddenly abandoned their homes, they left behind a place full of secrets and Dan. Steve and Kate travel to these farflung islands to find out just who were the strange and remarkable people, why did they leave, and whether St Kilda's amazing wildlife can survive in the modern world.

Steve collects food the St Kildan way by abseiling down a 400-foot cliff, Kate finds out how this season's baby puffins are getting on and Dan discovers the islands' Viking history. But when Steve and Dan set out to row to the island of Boreray, all does not go to plan.

MON 20:30 Nature's Microworlds (b0112s60) Galapagos

A visit to arguably the most famous archipelago on earth, the Galapagos. It's home to a myriad of bizarre and unique creatures endemic to these islands - but how did they get here and what is the key to these extraordinary islands that allows them to thrive? The programme reveals that this key holds not just the secret to life here, but also to how Darwin was able to leave with the ideas that would revolutionise biology.

MON 21:00 The Toilet: An Unspoken History (b01kxyhd) We each spend three years of our lives on the toilet, but how

happy are we talking about this essential part of our lives? This film challenges that mindset by uncovering its role in our culture and exploring the social history of the toilet in Britain and abroad - as well as exploring many of our cultural toilet

Starting in Merida, Spain, with some of the earliest surviving Roman toilets, we journey around the world - from the UK to China, Japan and Bangladesh - visiting toilets, ranging from the historically significant to the beautiful, from the functional and sometimes not-so-functional to the downright bizarre.

Leading our journey is Everyman figure, Welsh poet and presenter Ifor ap Glyn, who has a passionate interest in the toilet, its history and how it has evolved over the centuries, right up to the development of the current design. Finally, there's glimpse of the future and a possible solution to the global sanitation issues we now face.

MON 22:00 Guts: The Strange and Wonderful World of the Human Stomach (p07801ts)

What's really going on inside your stomach? In this one-off special, Michael Mosley offers up his own guts to find out. Spending the day as an exhibit at the Science Museum in London, he swallows a tiny camera and uses the latest in imaging technology to get a unique view of his innards digesting his food. He discovers pools of concentrated acid and metres of writhing tubing which is home to its own ecosystem. Michael Mosley lays bare the mysteries of the digestive system and reveals a complexity and intelligence in the human gut that science is only just beginning to uncover.

MON 23:00 The Joy of Motoring (b00hq385)

Tristram Hunt shows how motoring has gone from allowing us

BBC 4 Listings for 14 – 20 July 2012

to explore the beautiful English countryside to the present day of speed cameras, congestion charges and environmental issues Along the way, he looks at different cars through the ages that define a decade and a generation.

MON 00:00 Nature's Microworlds (b0112s60) [Repeat of broadcast at 20:30 today]

MON 00:30 Britain's Lost World (b00c6slr) [Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

MON 01:30 Rupture: Living with a Broken Brain (b01kpvwt)

In 2007 former Bond girl Maryam d'Abo suffered a brain hemorrhage. The experience inspired her to make a film on survivors of brain injuries, giving a sense of hope to those who are isolated from the disease. As she guides us through her personal journey of recovery, she talks to others who have suffered brain injury along the way: literary editor of the London Observer Robert McCrum, jazz guitarist Pat Martino, music producer Quincy Jones and many more. Alongside the testimony of eminent neurosurgeons, neurologists and neuropsychologists, their first-hand stories celebrate man's life force

Directed by Maryam's husband Hugh Hudson, who witnessed her illness, the film offers a unique insight into the fragility of the extraordinary human brain.

MON 02:40 The Toilet: An Unspoken History (b01kxyhd) [Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

TUESDAY 17 JULY 2012

TUE 19:00 World News Today (b01kwv0z)

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

TUE 19:30 Talking Landscapes (b0074m0f)

The Pembrokeshire Coast

Professor Aubrey Manning explores the Pembrokeshire coastline and its connections with the sea. He discovers castles and standing stones, as well as evidence of successive invaders who arrived by sea when the coastline was far from remote.

TUE 20:00 Britain Through a Lens: The Documentary Film Mob (b012p53d)

The unlikely story of how, between 1929 and 1945, a group of tweed-wearing radicals and pin-striped bureaucrats created the most influential movement in the history of British film. They were the British Documentary Movement and they gave Britons a taste for watching films about real life.

They were an odd bunch, as one wit among them later admitted. "A documentary director must be a gentleman... and a socialist." They were inspired by a big idea - that films about real life would change the world. That, if people of all backgrounds saw each other on screen - as they really were they would get to know and respect each other more. As John Grierson, the former street preacher who founded the Movement said: "Documentary outlines the patterns of interdependence'

The Documentary Film Mob assembles a collection of captivating film portraits of Britain, during the economic crisis of the 1930s and the Second World War. Featuring classic documentaries about slums and coal mines, about potters and posties, about the bombers and the Blitz, the programme reveals the fascinating story of what was also going on behind the camera. Of how the documentary was born and became part of British culture.

TUE 21:00 Immortal? A Horizon Guide to Ageing (b01kxxvs)

Is there any way to slow or even prevent the ravages of time? Veteran presenter Johnny Ball looks back over the 45 years that Horizon, and he, have been on air to find out what science has learned about how and why we grow old. Charting developments from macabre early claims of rejuvenation to the latest cutting-edge breakthroughs, Johnny discovers the sense of a personal mission that drives many scientists and asks whether we are really any closer to achieving the dream of immortality.

TUE 22:00 The Race that Shocked the World (b01ktf7y)

Daniel Gordon's documentary looks at the legacy of the men's 100-metre final at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, when gold medallist Ben Johnson tested positive for anabolic steroids and scandal reigned. For the first time ever, the eight athletes who

ran in that infamous race tell their story.

TUE 23:00 Timeshift (b0126vfd) Series 11

Hotel Deluxe

Timeshift invites you to make a reservation in the world of hotels for the super rich. The Savoy, the Ritz, the Dorchester the very names of Britain's grand hotels spell luxury around the world. The film charts how luxury hotels have met the needs of new forms of wealth, from aristocrats to rock stars and beyond, with comfort, innovation and, above all, service.

TUE 00:00 Talking Landscapes (b0074m0f)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

TUE 00:30 Britain Through a Lens: The Documentary Film Mob (b012p53d)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 today]

TUE 01:30 The Race that Shocked the World (b01ktf7v) [Repeat of broadcast at 22:00 today]

TUE 02:30 Immortal? A Horizon Guide to Ageing

[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

WEDNESDAY 18 JULY 2012

WED 19:00 World News Today (b01kwv14)

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

WED 19:30 Top of the Pops (b01kxyhb)

Jimmy Savile looks at the weekly pop chart from 1977 and introduces Dave Edmunds, Tony Etoria, Gary Glitter, Brotherhood of Man, Johnny Nash, Paul Nicholas, Carol Bayer Sager, the Stranglers, the Jacksons and Legs & Co.

WED 20:00 The Comet's Tale (b008d2x7)

Ancient civilisations thought comets were gods. They believed them to be bringers of life or harbingers of doom - strange, magical, mysterious things that moved through the sky, fiery streaks of light that tore across the heavens.

Isaac Newton was the first to make sense of comets and to him they were the key to unlocking the secrets of gravity - nothing to do with an apple. Hundreds of years later, a new breed of space missions are visiting comets, travelling millions of miles to touch down on these tiny balls of rock flying through space at 20,000 mph. The spectacular images we now have are showing us what comets are really made of, where they come from, and their often surprising influence on events on Earth.

What they reveal is that our ancestors may have been right all along and that comets and meteors really are like gods, or at least they can exert tremendous influence over our world. They have brought terrible destruction to the Earth and may one day do so again. But they also may have brought life itself to the planet.

WED 21:00 Girl with a Pearl Earring (b008m44c)

Screen adaptation of Tracy Chevalier's best-selling novel, inspired by the Johannes Vermeer painting of the same name. Set in mid-17th-century Delft, Holland, 17-year-old Griet is forced into servanthood when her father suffers an accident and becomes unable to work. She is taken on at the Vermeer household, where her presence immediately provokes hostility from members of the family - particularly the artist's wife and eldest daughter - when she starts to forge an understanding with her mysterious master.

WED 22:30 Secret Lives of the Artists (b0074pym) The Madness of Vermeer

Johannes Vermeer is one of our favourite painters, with his Girl with a Pearl Earring now deemed the 'Mona Lisa of the North'. But little is known about his life and for almost two centuries he was lost to obscurity.

Andrew Graham-Dixon, travelling to Vermeer's hometown of Delft and a dramatic Dutch landscape of huge skies and windmills, embarks on a detective trail to uncover the life of a genius in hiding

Renowned for painting calm and beautiful interiors, the real life of Vermeer was marred by crime and violence. His life was a bid to escape the privations of his family and yet even a glamorous marriage and artistic success failed to save him from the fate he dreaded more than any other.

WED 23:30 The Comet's Tale (b008d2x7) [Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 today]

WED 00:30 Borgen (b01b4v2h) Series 1

Danish drama series about the fight for political power - and the personal sacrifices and consequences this has for those involved on and behind the political stage.

Birgitte faces her first state visit, as the president of the former Soviet republic Turgistan comes to take over the chairmanship of an international board and announces his intention to invest one billion euros in Danish wind turbine technology. However, the simultaneous arrival of a renowned Turgistani poet and dissident places Birgitte in the middle of a significant, escalating conflict. She also faces conflict at home as her father becomes an unwelcome guest in the eyes of her husband.

WED 01:30 Top of the Pops (b01kxyhb)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

WED 02:00 100 Years of the Palladium (b00wvn7s) [Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 on Sunday]

WED 03:00 Secret Lives of the Artists (b0074pym) [Repeat of broadcast at 22:30 today]

THURSDAY 19 JULY 2012

THU 19:00 World News Today (b01kwy1c)

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

THU 19:30 BBC Proms (b01ky1kh)

Strauss and Sibelius

From the Royal Albert Hall, the BBC Philharmonic conducted by Juan jo Mena open the Proms on BBC Four with two of Richard Strauss's best-loved works - Also Sprach Zarathustra, with its spectacular musical sunrise, followed by his serene Four Last Songs, sung by the German soprano Anne Schwanewilms. Also on the programme is Sibelius's majestic Symphony No 7 and the UK premiere of Kaija Saariaho's Laterna Magica, her personal tribute to the films of Ingmar Bergman, Introduced by

THU 21:30 I Love Special Olympics (b01j0wnd)

As London 2012 gets under way, the Paralympic games are moving centre stage. But almost unknown to the millions who will watch the 2012 Olympics there is a third Olympic movement. The Special Olympics is for people with learning difficulties, and for the athletes, just taking part is a major achievement. This film follows a dancer with Down's syndrome, a judo fighter with autism, a bowler who has brain damage and a basketball player with Asperger's syndrome. As they prepare for the games, held in Leicester in 2009, they overcome their difficulties to compete on a world stage.

THU 22:30 The Race that Shocked the World (b01ktf7y) [Repeat of broadcast at 22:00 on Tuesday]

THU 23:30 The Toilet: An Unspoken History (b01kxvhd) [Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 on Monday]

THU 00:30 Nature's Microworlds (b01l2s60) [Repeat of broadcast at 20:30 on Monday]

THU 01:00 Immortal? A Horizon Guide to Ageing (b01kxxvs)

[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 on Tuesday]

THU 02:00 The Race that Shocked the World (b01ktf7y) [Repeat of broadcast at 22:00 on Tuesday]

Page 3 of 3

BBC 4 Listings for 14 – 20 July 2012

THU 03:00 I Love Special Olympics (b01j0wnd)

[Repeat of broadcast at 21:30 today]

FRIDAY 20 JULY 2012

FRI 19:00 World News Today (b01kwy1j)

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

FRI 19:30 BBC Proms (b01ky2gx)

Barenboim Conducts Beethoven Symphonies 1 and 2

A special night at the BBC Proms, as Daniel Barenboim embarks on his complete cycle of Beethoven symphonies, becoming the first conductor since Henry Wood in 1942 to perform all nine symphonies in a single Proms season. He begins the journey with Beethoven's First and Second Symphonies, performed by his acclaimed West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which famously brings together both Arab and Israeli musicians and which he describes as 'less an orchestra for peace' than 'an orchestra against ignorance'.

Throughout this symphony cycle, Barenboim pairs the revolutionary and visionary music of Beethoven with one of the great musical innovators of our time, Pierre Boulez, and here he presents the intricate and shimmering soundworlds of Boulez's Dérive 2.

Introduced by Suzy Klein.

FRI 22:05 Mark Knopfler: A Life in Songs (b00xz0zx)

Mark Knopfler is one of the most successful musicians in the world. During the past 30 years he has written and recorded over 300 songs including some of the most famous in popular music

In this in-depth documentary he talks about how these songs have defined him and how they have been influenced by his own life and roots. It features previously unseen photographs from his personal collection and comprehensive footage spanning his career from a struggling musician playing in pubs in Leeds in the 1970s, to the record-breaking success with Dire Straits and his world tour as a solo artist.

Looking back over the 25 years since he wrote the iconic Brothers In Arms album, the film takes an affectionate look at how this formidable, creative man has operated as a musician for three decades and how he continues to do so as a solo artist who is as much in demand as ever.

FRI 23:05 Later... with Jools Holland (b00y38fc)

Later Presents Mark Knopfler

Jools Holland introduces a one-off studio session from Dire Straits lead singer Mark Knopfler. Featuring songs from his debut solo album Golden Heart, plus Dire Straits hits like Sultans of Swing, Brothers in Arms and Romeo and Juliet. Guests include Irish musicians Donal Lunny, Mairtin O'Connor and Liam O'Flynn, Louisianna slide guitarist Sonny Landreth and Nashville steel guitarist Paul Franklin.

FRI 00:15 Seven Ages of Rock (b007rtpn)

What the World is Waiting For: Indie Rock

The journey through the history of rock music climaxes with a focus on British indie music.

Although once associated with social misfits seeking refuge from the bright processed pop then dominating the charts. The Smiths' first Top of the Pops appearance in 1983 paved the way for the hugely influential Madchester music scene.

However, it was the iconoclastic influence of Suede and intense media attention in the Blur v Oasis chart battles in the nineties that brought Britpop to a wider audience. Revealing interviews and rarely seen archive offers an insight into the story which ends with the recent reinvention of Indie by bands like The Libertines, Franz Ferdinand and The Arctic Monkeys.

FRI 01:45 Acoustic at the BBC (b0141mz1)

A journey through some of the finest moments of acoustic guitar performances from the BBC archives - from Jimmy Page's television debut in 1958 to Oasis and Biffy Clyro.

Highlights include:

Neil Young - Heart of Gold David Bowie - Starman Oasis - Wonderwall Donovan - Mellow Yellow Joan Armatrading - Woncha Come on Home Bert Jansch, Johnny Marr and Bernard Butler - The River Bank Joni Mitchell - Chelsea Morning Biffy Clyro - Mountains.

FRI 02:45 Mark Knopfler: A Life in Songs (b00xz0zx)

[Repeat of broadcast at 22:05 today]

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