

SATURDAY 28 AUGUST 2021

SAT 19:00 Treasures of Ancient Egypt (p01mv16n)
The Birth of Art

In a visual treat taking in Egypt's greatest historical sites, Alastair Sooke tells the story of ancient Egyptian art through 30 extraordinary masterpieces. Tracing the origins of Egypt's unique visual style, he treks across the Sahara and travels the Nile to find the rarely seen art of its earliest peoples. Exploring how this civilisation's art reflected its religion, he looks anew at the Great Pyramid, and the statuary and painting of the Old Kingdom. Sooke is amazed by the technical prowess of ancient artists whose skills confound contemporary craftsmen.

SAT 20:00 Our Coast (m000fjdk)
Series 1

County Down, Northern Ireland

This episode explores the County Down coastline between Belfast and Strangford Lough, all the way along the Ards Peninsula.

Adrian travels to the port of Belfast, home of the Titanic, to road test the largest hydraulic crane in the world and meet the incredible harbour pilots who invite him to help them park a 100-metre-long Dutch monster ship.

Mehreen goes kayaking on the turbulent waters of Strangford Lough to see how the dramatic currents of the UK's largest sea inlet is putting Northern Ireland at the forefront of renewable energy research worldwide.

Other highlights include Helen Skelton testing the freezing waters of the North Channel, considered to be one of the most dangerous swims in the world, and environmental scientist Tara Shine in Portaferry, helping release some injured seals back into the wild. And local comedian Shane Todd visits the oldest bespoke racing car factory in the world.

Finally, Adrian and Mehreen meet the real-life dire wolves from Game of Thrones who are attracting coach loads of tourists to the County Down coast.

SAT 21:00 Ordeal by Innocence (b09yswj5)
Series 1

Episode 1

Heiress Rachel Argyll is murdered at her family estate. Eighteen months later, as her widower prepares to marry again, the identity of the murderer is thrown in doubt.

SAT 22:00 Ordeal by Innocence (b09zg9dd)
Series 1

Episode 2

Calgary is determined to prove that Jack died an innocent man, but his alibi puts him in perilous danger of his own.

SAT 23:00 Ordeal by Innocence (b0b06rmw)
Series 1

Episode 3

The devastating events that led up to Rachel's murder are revealed, and the true identity of her killer is finally unmasked.

SAT 00:00 Storyville (b09fz33h)

Toffs, Queers and Traitors: The Extraordinary Life of Guy Burgess

It was a scandal that shook the British establishment to its roots. In June 1951, the government was forced to admit that two Foreign Office diplomats had disappeared. One of them, Donald Maclean, had slipped through their fingers three days before he was due to be questioned for passing secrets to the Russians. The other, Guy Burgess, was a total surprise. He was a charming, clever Etonian, with powerful friends everywhere. And lovers too - at a time when homosexuality was illegal, Burgess made no secret of his sexual tastes. He turned out to be the most flamboyant of a ring of privileged Cambridge students who had secretly joined the Communists in the 1930s, disgusted by their own government's policy of appeasing Hitler.

With the help of newly declassified documents, George Carey's film shows how the most celebrated spy ring of the 20th century grew out of the class system, sexual hypocrisy and the sheer incompetence of some people who then ran Britain.

SAT 01:30 Our Coast (m000fjdk)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 today]

SAT 02:30 Earth's Great Rivers (b0bx73pk)
Series 1

Amazon

This episode is a pioneering exploration of the latest discoveries concerning the Amazon - by far the greatest river on earth. It is the river of superlatives, flowing more than 4,000 miles from the Andes to the Atlantic. Its 1,100 tributaries drain the greatest river basin on the planet and along its incredible journey it collects and transports one-fifth of the world's fresh water. Its outflow into the Atlantic Ocean per second is greater than the next six rivers combined. It truly lives up to its mighty reputation.

Due to its enormous size, it still hides secrets - it truly is the mysterious river of myth and legend, and it really does have monsters living in it, like giant electric eels and botoes - the world's largest species of river dolphin. For most of its length, it is impossible to see into its murky waters. However, there are a few secret springs, bubbling with water as clear as gin, providing an unparalleled window into the Amazon's rich and spectacular underwater world.

One exclusive location is the Blue Lagoon, home to an anxious young couple - a newly discovered species of cichlid. These fish take their babies out for a swim in this natural aquarium bounded by an ominous underwater curtain of dark river water. Camera traps reveal some of the infamous predators lurking within, like freshwater stingrays and Amazon barracuda. Prowling nearby are giant electric eels capable of generating more than 500 volts, who give the cameraman a run for his money.

The team scoured the entire river system for its most beautiful locations. The rocky terraces of the Cristalino River were the perfect setting to try out float cams which enabled the team to join a family of giant river otters on a fishing foray. In Peru, there is a newly mapped Amazon tributary that boils! Scientists believe it is the longest stretch of thermal river in the world, creating a snake of steam over the canopy at dawn. The show joins shaman Juan Flores as he prays to the water spirits and makes medicine from the river's sacred waters and medicinal plants he collects from the jungle nearby.

Every year the Amazon floods on an almost unbelievable scale. Stretches of the river can rise by ten metres and the weight of so much water temporarily sinks the earth's crust by three inches! GPS drone technology reveals this gigantic transformation as never before, transporting viewers through the many vistas and atmospheres of the great river, capturing swathes of rainforest steaming in the dawn, and revealing the incredible expanse of the immense river which, in some places, stretches far beyond the horizon. It creates the Amazon's legendary flooded forests, home to the hoatzin, or stinkbird, so named for its particular and pungent smell - they feed on a diet of leaves and are basically flying compost heaps.

On the shores of the river town of Alter do Chao are some of the most beautiful white sand beaches in Brazil. Known as the Caribbean of the Amazon, it hosts a dolphin-themed carnival complete with hundreds of sequined dancers, spectacular floats and colourful processions. When all this water finally reaches the sea, it creates the last and newest secret world of the giant river, the Amazon reef. Spectacular drone footage captures the spectacle of the Amazon's fresh water floating over the surface of the ocean as a vast green cloud (which can cover more than a million square kilometres).

High-tech submarines allow cameras to reveal the wonders of the Amazon algal reef, not just packed with technicolour fish but also home to 'gardens' of giant sponges, many a thousand years old and a metre across. The sponges feed on the nutrients that the Amazon has collected on its incredible journey. No other river shapes the landscape, and even the ocean, in the way the Amazon can, and what is so fantastic is that it is still one of the few remaining healthy great rivers on earth.

SUNDAY 29 AUGUST 2021

SUN 19:00 imagine... (m000kycj)
2020

This House is Full of Music

In its first remote-access film, imagine... offers a unique and intimate portrait of an exceptionally gifted musical family in lockdown - the Kanneh-Masons. In 2016, cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason won BBC Young Musician award. In 2018, he released his debut album, and earlier this year his second album, Elgar, became a top ten hit. He achieved global fame when he performed solo at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in 2018 in front of a TV audience of two billion people worldwide.

But it doesn't stop there. His six siblings are also phenomenally talented musicians: three are former BBC Young Musician category finalists, and the eldest sibling, pianist Isata, has also presented for the Proms. Ever since lockdown began, the seven young prodigies, all aged between 10 and 24, have been isolated in their family home in Nottingham along with their parents, Stuart and Kadiatu, and Sheku and Braimah's flatmate, fellow Royal Academy of Music student Plinio Fernandes. Unable to perform publicly, the family decided to stage a vibrant and eclectic concert in the only place they can - their own home - and granted the BBC exclusive access using remotely operated fixed-rig cameras, with video messaging to capture interviews. Exploring both the family's music making and their family life, the programme culminates in a moving concert that is a testament to the power of music to carry us through the most difficult of times.

SUN 20:00 BBC Proms (m000z8b8)
2021

Carnival of the Animals with the Kanneh-Masons

Former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo joins star cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and his siblings at the Royal Albert Hall for a unique, dramatically staged performance of Saint-Saëns's much-loved Carnival of the Animals.

Katie Derham presents this special Prom for all the family, which also features a newly commissioned companion piece, Revel, by Daniel Kidane, including poems written and read by Lemn Sissay.

SUN 21:35 Talking Pictures (m000qs39)
Agatha Christie

As Kenneth Branagh prepares to unveil the latest version of Death on the Nile, Celia Imrie looks at how the classic murder mysteries of the great Agatha Christie have been treated by film-makers over the years.

Christie was the queen of crime on the page, but here we discover why that wasn't always the case on the big screen. Using a selection of BBC interviews and archive material, we piece together a tale of creative highs and lows, featuring Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple and many of the all-star acting heavyweights who helped turn some of the films into box office gold, proving in their own way that in the cinema, crime does pay.

SUN 22:05 The Pale Horse (m000f9xq)
Series 1

Episode 1

London in the early 1960s. Mark Easterbrook has everything a man could dream of - he's rich, successful and popular, with a beautiful wife and a perfect home. But scratch beneath the surface and he's still grief stricken by the loss of his first wife Delphine. When Mark's name is discovered on a list in a dead woman's shoe, everything starts to fall apart for him. Why did Jessie Davies die, and why was there a list of names hidden in her shoe? Detective Inspector Lejeune interviews Mark and mentions that the names Tuckerton and Ardingly were also on the list. Mark has a connection with Thomasina Tuckerton and David Ardingly, and Thomasina is also dead.

As Mark tries to work out why he is on the list and what it means, everything seems to lead back to the village of Much Deeping. His first wife, Delphine, visited the area on the day of her death. Much Deeping seems to be an idyllic English village, but it is also a place of old traditions, macabre rituals and strange beliefs, a place of witches, curses and spells. Jessie's employer Zachariah Osborne tells Mark that witchcraft played a part in Jessie's death, which Mark angrily rejects. But then he is sent a mysterious corn dolly. As more people named on the list are found dead, Mark starts to fear for his own life and sanity.

SUN 23:05 The Pale Horse (m000fk28)
Series 1

Episode 2

Mark is consumed with paranoia, fearful that his life is at risk and that the perpetrator is someone known to him. To make matters worse, Detective Inspector Lejeune seems increasingly suspicious of him. Mark determines to find a rational explanation for what has happened, which seems to lie in the ties between his first wife Delphine and the trio of 'witches' at Much Deeping.

SUN 00:05 The Mystery of Murder: A Horizon Guide (b0555v7v)

There are about 600 murders each year in the UK. So, what drives people to kill? Are some people born to kill or are they

driven to it by circumstances?

Michael Mosley delves into the BBC archives to chart scientists' progress as they probed the mind of the murderer to try to understand why people kill, and to find out whether by understanding murder we can prevent it.

SUN 01:05 imagine... (m000kycj)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 today]

SUN 02:05 Talking Pictures (m000qs39)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:35 today]

SUN 02:35 Rome Unpacked (b09m6bmp)
Series 1

Episode 2

Andrew Graham-Dixon and Giorgio Locatelli continue their exploration of Rome off the beaten track. In search of its Papal, Renaissance and Baroque history, they discover that it is visible all around them. In Rome, everything has been kept, from broken cooking pots from the time of the empire that piled up to form one of the city's hills to the gastronomy, art and architecture created not just by successive popes and Caesars but by ordinary Romans.

As well as marvelling at the mosaics in the 12th-century Basilica di San Clemente, Andrew takes Giorgio to its deepest basement and an ancient Roman schoolteacher's classroom. Then it is on to a true architectural and civic wonder - the vast Testaccio Slaughterhouse, where workers were once paid in offal which they took home and used as the basis of delicious dishes that are still sold in Rome today. Giorgio takes Andrew to his favourite Trippa stall to sample some of the best. Travelling to the Palazzo Colonna, Andrew in turn wants to show Giorgio just one painting - the Bean eater by Carracci, a Baroque masterpiece that makes an everyday subject extraordinary. Finally, together they discover Rome's Fascist architecture, which might have been destroyed anywhere else, but here remains standing in a city that houses all of its history. To understand the truth about the past, they argue, you have to taste all its layers - just like one of Giorgio's lasagnes.

MONDAY 30 AUGUST 2021

MON 19:00 The Joy of Painting (m000np0k)
Series 3

Emerald Waters

Bob Ross uses beautiful shades of green that burst forth in an exciting, realistic display of nature's wonder.

MON 19:30 Miss Marple (m000z8b0)
The Moving Finger

The Burtons move to the village of Lymston, which seems to welcome them with open arms. But dark undercurrents are at work. Adapted from the detective stories by Agatha Christie.

MON 21:00 Arena (p032kjgg)
Agatha Christie - Unfinished Portrait

Profile celebrating the centenary of the famous author Agatha Christie's birth. Looking at her life, her character and the key moments in her childhood that influenced her writing.

MON 22:05 The Great Detectives (m000z8b3)
Hercule Poirot and the Disappearing Novelist

With help from actor David Suchet, Nigel Williams profiles Agatha Christie's famous detective Hercule Poirot and examines the author's sensational ten-day disappearance.

MON 22:50 Witness for the Prosecution (m000z8b6)
Eminent barrister Sir Wilfrid Roberts returns to his chambers after illness, with strict instructions from his doctor not to take on any strenuous criminal cases. But he cannot resist the prospect of defending Leonard Vole, who has been accused of murdering a wealthy widow.

MON 00:45 Timeshift (b00ff170)
How to Write a Mills and Boon

What happens when a literary novelist tries to write popular romantic fiction? To mark 100 years of romance publishers Mills and Boon, literary novelist Stella Duffy takes on the challenge of writing for them.

Romantic fiction is a global phenomenon, and Mills and Boon are among the biggest names in the business. The company welcomes submissions from new authors, but as Duffy soon finds out, writing a Mills and Boon is harder than it looks.

Help is at hand from the publishers themselves, a prolific Mills and Boon author and some avid romance fans, as Duffy's quest to create the perfect romantic novel takes her from London to Italy on a journey that is both an insight into the art of romantic fiction and the joy and frustration of writing itself.

MON 01:45 Arena (p032kjgg)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

MON 02:45 The Great Detectives (m000z8b3)
[Repeat of broadcast at 22:05 today]

TUESDAY 31 AUGUST 2021

TUE 19:00 The Joy of Painting (m000nnzp)
Series 3

Mountain Summit

Snowy peaks point towards the heavens as American painter Bob Ross surrounds a scene in a happy gathering of landscape finery.

TUE 19:30 Canals: The Making of a Nation (b06823cv)
Geology

Liz McIvor discovers how carving up the landscape in order to build canals helped further our understanding of the earth below. The canal builders struggled with rocks. Without maps or geological surveys, construction often relied on guesswork. The Kennet and Avon had more than its fair share of problems. William Smith, a surveyor working on the connecting Somerset Coal Canal, discovered a way of ordering layers of rocks. He eventually created the first geological map of England and Wales - the so-called 'map that changed the world'.

TUE 20:00 The Good Life (p00bz2m)
Series 2

The Day Peace Broke Out

Sitcom about a couple who try to live self-sufficiently in Surbiton. Tom takes the law into his own hands when some of his leeks go missing.

TUE 20:30 Porridge (b00828g8)
Series 1

A Night In

Classic comedy series. Fletch and Godber reconcile themselves to a quiet evening in at Slade prison.

TUE 21:00 In Search of Sir Walter Scott (m000yrpz)
To mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott, author Damian Barr goes in search of the legacy and lasting influence of one of Scotland's great historical figures, novelists and poets.

From the huge Scott monument on Princes Street Edinburgh, to Smailholm Tower in the Borders, from Loch Katrine - the setting for his most famous poem - The Lady of the Lake - to Doune Castle, a setting which continues to inspire historical novelists to this day - Damian takes us on a personal journey to discover the truth about the man, his world and his work.

With contributions from world experts: professor Alison Lumsden, Aberdeen University; novelist James Robertson; author of Scott-land Stuart Kelly and Abbotsford curator, Kirsty Archer-Thompson.

In Search of Sir Walter Scott reveals the long lasting influence of Scott and his writing, his political campaigning and his role in creating a version of Scotland we are still living with today.

TUE 22:00 Ivanhoe (b00kz415)
Swashbuckling spectacular based on the novel by Sir Walter Scott. Ivanhoe the knight fights for the honour of King Richard, kidnapped in Austria, and saves a wealthy merchant who agrees to help raise the Lionheart's ransom.

TUE 23:45 Shakespeare in Italy (b01hpfh3)
Land of Fortune

Francesco da Mosto takes a look at Italy as the land of adventure and ambition - where fortunes are made and battles are fought.

Beginning in Venice with actor Ciaran Hinds, Francesco considers how his home town so renowned for its justice struck Shakespeare as the perfect setting for his disturbing tale of what happens to an outsider who goes against the law in The Merchant of Venice.

Heading south to Rome, Francesco discovers how in his great Roman plays Julius Caesar and Antony and Cleopatra, Shakespeare used this ancient city as a smokescreen to address the most burning political issues of his day while avoiding trouble with the Elizabethan censors. Francesco meets Shakespearean actor Mark Rylance, and also pops in to Rome's very own Globe to understand modern Italy's fascination with our English Bard.

Finally he travels from Naples to the beautiful Island of Stromboli, just off the north coast of Sicily, a magical setting for Shakespeare's final great masterpiece - The Tempest.

TUE 00:45 Canals: The Making of a Nation (b06823cv)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

TUE 01:15 Get Animated! BBC Introducing Arts (m000hqnp)
Plunge into exciting, strange and beautiful animated worlds with Radio 1 film critic Ali Plumb as he celebrates the new breed of animators whose short films include malicious toasters, cheeky Glaswegian pigeons, job-haunting ghosts and incredibly smelly fungi. Stylistically, the films include a beautiful pen and ink evocation of Manchester architecture, a super-real, digital recreation of the human body and all points between.

TUE 02:15 In Search of Sir Walter Scott (m000yrpz)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

WEDNESDAY 01 SEPTEMBER 2021

WED 19:00 The Joy of Painting (m000nwrn)
Series 3

Cabin Hideaway

Follow Bob Ross's easy painting method to recreate the splendour of a little farm home in a winter wonderland, complete with soft hills bedecked in purple.

WED 19:30 Canals: The Making of a Nation (b068c3zh)
Engineering

Liz McIvor tells the story of the early canal builders who struggled with the rugged terrain of England's Pennine hills. Creating a network of canals in this landscape was an uphill challenge - sometimes literally! But connecting the powerhouses of Yorkshire and Lancashire was a great prize at the time of the industrial revolution. What should the engineers do? Should they build over, under or around the hills? Who succeeded, and who struggled?

WED 20:00 Earth's Great Rivers (b0bwqng8)
Series 1

Nile

For a river that conjures up images of pyramids and pharaohs, the Nile turns out to be a truly surprising river that changes at every twist and turn of its journey. As its flows into increasingly arid latitudes on its journey north it becomes an evermore vital lifeline for animals and people, but only if they can conquer the challenges that this ever-changing river throws at them. The Nile's story begins in a spectacular, tropical mountain range - the Rwenzoris. Streams plunge from these snowy peaks creating wetlands on the plains below. Here they create a mobile water garden of papyrus reeds, home to one of the world's strangest birds - a shoebill stork. Though beautiful, clumps of reeds break up and float around creating a challenging environment for would-be fishermen. A stork's best way of finding prey is to form a rather strange alliance - wily shoebills follow hippos whose great bulk opens up fishing channels for them.

The Nile's headwaters create huge lakes in the equatorial heart of Africa - everything here is on a vast scale, especially Lake Victoria which is the size of Ireland. Here vast swarms of lakeflies sweep across its waters on a biblical scale, providing an unexpected feast for local people who trap the insects to make 'fly burgers'. It is not just Lake Victoria's immense size which makes it so dramatic. The vast lake has only a single exit channel of ferocious white water - the aptly named White Nile. People come from around the globe to tackle the rapids here

which are some of the most powerful and infamous in the world. A local heroine, Amina Tayona (a mum from a nearby village) is brave enough to ride them. Amina has learnt to kayak on these treacherous rapids - and now competes against international athletes.

The next stage of the Nile's great journey are the wild Savannah lands of Uganda and the awesome spectacle of one of the world's most powerful waterfalls, Murchison Falls. Here, valiant crocodile mothers try to defend their nest against hungry predators. Even though they are such fearsome predators - crocodiles have a weakness which other animals exploit. Watch as cunning Nile monitor lizards try to outwit an increasingly desperate Nile crocodile mother who faces a terrible dilemma. Further downstream is the setting for one of the episode's most surprising stories. Filmed for the first time using the latest camera-trap technology, cameras reveal strange goings-on at the abandoned country home of infamous and exiled dictator, Idi Amin. Its ruins are attracting new, wild guests. Many of Africa's big predators make their home here today.

In South Sudan, the Nile river slows and spreads out transforming into a huge wetland - the Sudd (Arabic for barrier). Half of its water is lost due to evaporation here and this is before the river embarks on its epic crossing of the Sahara - a desert the size of China. Every year, the dwindling Nile receives a massive, timely injection of water far to the east. In the Ethiopian highlands, the Nile's greatest tributary - the Blue Nile - is swelled by the wet season creating some of the most turbulent and dramatic seasonal waterfalls on Earth and forming a spectacular gorge which is nearly as deep as the Grand Canyon.

The Blue Nile is a river revered and used in a variety of incredible ways - from mass baptism ceremonies in the ancient Ethiopian city of Gondar to colonies of cheeky weaver birds who use the riverbank's reeds to build intricate nests. The Blue Nile replenishes the main Nile channel at the Sudanese capital city of Khartoum, the two become one and embark on the epic crossing of the Sahara. The miracle of the Nile is that it has allowed great civilisations to thrive in a desolate and arid region - today and throughout history. From the exotic city of Cairo, to the glories of ancient Egypt, breathtaking photography reveals the extent of the Nile's power to transport water from one part of world and deliver it to another, building and supporting life.

WED 21:00 H2O: The Molecule That Made Us (m000z8bd)
Series 1

Civilisations

Civilisations begins in the jungles of the Congo on the trail of a new theory that puts water at the centre of how humans first stood upright.

In Egypt and China, an investigation shows how civilisations were shaped by their relationship to the great rivers, and in Mexico we reveal how access to underground water changed humanity's footprint on the planet.

A new current is also explored, and at one of the largest ports on earth we learn how 'virtual water' has hidden the consequences of excess water use.

WED 21:55 Ocean Autopsy: The Secret Story of Our Seas (m000jy2l)

Two-thirds of our planet is covered in water, split into five distinct oceans, but in reality Earth's seas are part of one huge global water system - a system that has been instrumental in shaping our destiny for millions of years. Now, however, in the 21st century, it is mankind that is shaping the destiny of our oceans. In unprecedented ways, humans are changing our seas and the life within. The ocean bed, the currents, marine life, even the water itself is transformed by what we are putting into our oceans.

In this revelatory BBC Four documentary special, oceanographer Dr Helen Czerski and zoologist Dr George McGavin carry out an 'autopsy' on the ocean itself and reveal the startling changes it's undergoing. Moving the story beyond the well-known impact of discarded plastic on our seas, the autopsy will investigate the effects of high levels of life-threatening toxins on marine ecosystems and the invisible plague of micro- and nano-plastics saturating the water. The destiny of our oceans is on a knife edge and the window of opportunity to save them is rapidly closing.

But all is not lost. Along the way, George and Helen follow some surprising stories of hope as scientists uncover biodiverse ecosystems at the bottom of wind turbines that act as artificial reefs. George also visits the team at the Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project, a coastal wetland restoration initiative on the Essex coast twice the size of the City of London, that has been transformed into a nature reserve for rare and threatened birds and other wildlife using excavated soil from Crossrail.

Our precinct is the North Sea. Industry has polluted these

waters for longer than any other sea on the planet and, in the past 50 years, the North Sea has warmed twice as fast as the rest of the world's oceans. The unique levels of human impact provide oceanographers with a crystal ball for the future of ocean change. If it is happening in the North Sea now, scientists can predict where they will see it globally in the future.

Embedded with a team of leading researchers on board the Pelagia, a Dutch Oceanographic research vessel, Helen is on a mission to perform a comprehensive health check on the North Sea, using gas-sampling techniques to investigate a mysterious methane leak that may be caused by sea temperature rise. Understanding its origins could be critical to uncovering the human effects of global warming. The team will have to work for 48 hours straight on this 'floating laboratory' in the ocean.

They also carry out a survey of the North Sea to generate a comprehensive map of micro-plastic movement in our oceans. Ninety-nine percent of the plastic we dump in the oceans is missing, so the team wants to find out where it is all going. Starting off on the coastline, the team samples plastic on the surface, documenting where they find each piece and what it is. They also sample the depths of the sea for micro-plastics and discover marine fungi that could provide a possible solution - they might be 'eating' micro plastics.

Intercut with this survey, Dr George McGavin visits Utrecht University. Here, leading animal pathologist Lonneke IJsseldijk performs a necropsy (an animal autopsy) on a harbour porpoise to try to find out how and why it died. Lonneke believes the best way to understand what is in our oceans is to look inside the animals that live there. She looks for chemical fingerprints of human toxic pollutants hidden inside, like PCBs that were used in the building industry in the 1980s but which never break down.

Throughout this ocean autopsy, Helen and George find terrifyingly high levels of micro- and nano-plastics, rising sea temperatures changing the ocean ecosystems, and marine mammal life whose very existence is threatened by human toxic pollutants saturating the oceans at every level - the ocean floor, the life in the oceans and even the water itself. But they also find stories of hope, where nature may be able to repair itself if given a chance. What they discover is that it is not too late, but the window to action the change we need is closing quickly. If we can understand what is happening to our waters now, can we act to save them?

WED 23:25 Dive, Dive, Dive! (b00s96m9)

To the sound of pinging sonar, Robert Llewellyn ups periscope to discover why submarine movies have gripped us for over a century. He travels along the River Medway to find a beached Cold War Russian nuclear sub and then on to the abandoned WWII German U-boat pens on the French coast, recalling many of the real events that inspired these films.

From 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea to Das Boot and The Hunt for Red October, Llewellyn discovers that fear - and its antithesis, bravery - is the key, and he also reveals the unique role that Walt Disney played in promoting atomic submarines. Interviewees include director John McTiernan (The Hunt For Red October), Sir Christopher Frayling and screenwriter Michael Schiffer (Crimson Tide).

WED 00:25 Canals: The Making of a Nation (b068c3zh)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:30 today]

WED 00:55 Earth's Great Rivers (b0bwqng8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 today]

WED 01:55 Motherland (p09gvb8k)
Series 3

Episode 5

Amanda's PTA charity FUNraiser is doubling up as her birthday celebration, meaning everyone is dragged into a big event.

Mixing sponsored cycling with Anne's lethal cocktails results in a night of high drama and big revelations. Julia is ready to call time on her marriage to Paul and run off with builder Garry; Liz is thrown by the arrival of an unexpected visitor; and Meg rides high on her cancer all clear.

Meanwhile, Kevin's attempts to clear the air with Amanda just make everything worse, and a put-upon Anne finally loses her rag.

WED 02:25 H2O: The Molecule That Made Us (m000z8bd)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 today]

THURSDAY 02 SEPTEMBER 2021

THU 19:00 BBC Proms (m000z8c7)
2021

Beethoven's Second Symphony

The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra returns for their second Prom of the season under the baton of Principal Guest Conductor Ilan Volkov, with a programme that collides the old with the new.

A cutting-edge world premiere from contemporary American composer George Lewis, which blends a conventional symphony orchestra with innovative electronics, is paired with two dynamic works by Beethoven: the dramatic concert aria Ah! Perfido, sung by renowned soprano Lucy Crowe, and his hopeful Second Symphony.

Presenter Jess Gillam is joined by special guests Sheila Hancock and Kate Romano.

THU 20:40 Coast (b0314n53)
Series 5 Reversions

Gower to Anglesey

The team journeys along the south and west coast of Wales. Neil Oliver ventures out to Worm's Head, a snake of land reaching out of the Gower Peninsula. Further up the coast, he finds out about the quarrying heritage of Aberiddi and Porthgain.

Alice Roberts attempts to solve the riddle of the singing sands - what makes some very special British beaches whistle when you walk on them? Alice records the sounds of Porth Oer's beautiful beach to reveal its surprisingly musical secrets.

THU 21:00 Great Moments in Aviation (m000z8cf)
Romantic film drama. 1957. Bound for England, a woman with dreams of becoming a pilot falls for a fellow passenger. Will the secret he is harbouring destroy their affair?

THU 22:30 Face to Face (m000z8cm)
Jeanette Winterson

Author Jeanette Winterson talks to Jeremy Isaacs about her sexuality, her passionate love of language, writing about sex and her relationship with her parents.

THU 23:10 Porridge (b007b8zw)
Comedy. Detained at Her Majesty's pleasure, cellmates Fletcher and Godber become unwilling accomplices to an escape attempt in this cinema version of the popular BBC comedy.

THU 00:40 In Search of Sir Walter Scott (m000yrpz)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 on Tuesday]

THU 01:40 Ocean Autopsy: The Secret Story of Our Seas (m000jy2l)
[Repeat of broadcast at 21:55 on Wednesday]

FRIDAY 03 SEPTEMBER 2021

FRI 19:00 Cricket: Today at the Test (m000z8d2)
England v India 2021

Fourth Test: Day Two Highlights

Cricket highlights, from the Kia Oval in London, of the second day of the fourth Test between India and England.

FRI 20:00 BBC Proms (m000z8d6)
2021

Moses Sumney Meets Jules Buckley and the BBC Symphony Orchestra

Genre-defying Ghanaian-American musician Moses Sumney makes his Proms debut with conductor Jules Buckley and the BBC Symphony Orchestra as they perform new orchestral arrangements of tracks from his first two albums.

Moses Sumney describes his music as an amalgamation of soul, jazz, folk and experimental indie rock. Presented by Clara Amfo from the Royal Albert Hall, this Prom promises to be a unique trip through the multi-faceted music of this indefinable artist.

FRI 21:50 Sounds of the Seventies (b00lydy0)

Shorts

The Moody Blues, The Faces and David Bowie

Three vintage rock performances from the BBC archives, featuring The Moody Blues, The Faces and David Bowie originally recorded for It's Lulu, Sounds for Saturday and The Old Grey Whistle Test.

FRI 22:00 Top of the Pops (m000z8dd)

Simon Mayo presents the pop chart programme, first broadcast on 1 August 1991 and featuring Right Said Fred, Deacon Blue and Morrissey.

FRI 22:30 The Kinks at the BBC (b012ht1w)

The story of The Kinks, one of the UK's most important and influential bands, as told from the vaults of the BBC archive.

From their humble beginnings in north London, brothers Ray and Dave Davies, school friend Pete Quaife and local drummer Mick Avory exploded onto the music scene of early 1960s London.

From this series of unique archive performances, we learn that blues was their first love and Dave's signature guitar sound would go on to influence a generation of guitar players. As Ray's uniquely English songwriting style developed, the spectre of Ray and Dave's rocky fraternal relationship continually loomed in the background, through concerts for The Old Grey Whistle Test in the 1970s to appearances on Top of the Pops in the 1980s.

The inevitable band split came in 1996, and the BBC archive continues with Ray's reinvention as a solo artist with performances on the Electric Proms and up to the present day on Later... with Jools Holland. All the while, the brothers continue to tease and goad the press - and one another - with talk of a Kinks reunion.

FRI 23:30 The Bee Gees at the BBC... and Beyond (b04v8679)

Classic Bee Gees studio performances from the BBC and beyond including all the big hits, rare 60s performances from European TV, including a stunning I Started a Joke, a rarely seen Top of the Pops performance of World, the big hits of the 70s and some late performances from the 90s, with the brothers Gibb in perfect harmony.

FRI 00:30 Bros: After the Screaming Stops (m0001qyv)

A film charting Matt and Luke Goss's reunion 28 years on from when they were one of the biggest bands in the world. The Goss twins have hardly spoken and not played together since their split. With an incredibly fractured relationship and only three weeks to go until sell-out gigs at the O2 London, will they be able to put their history aside and come together as brothers to play the show of their lives?

FRI 02:00 Top of the Pops (m000z8dd)

[Repeat of broadcast at 22:00 today]

FRI 02:30 Motherland (m000w173)

Series 3

Episode 1

As a nit pandemic sweeps the school, Julia finds herself accused of triggering a second wave. Ostracised by the other mums, Julia needs to find a way back into their good books, so she throws a nit treatment party that brings everyone's drama (and headlice) into her home.

The party reveals that Anne has some big news, Meg is facing a crisis and Kevin has committed a terrible crime of passion. As Amanda super-spreads the gossip, Liz waits for news about a career move - will she beat that 17-year-old to a job in the local shoe shop?