

**SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER 2014****SAT 00:00 Midnight News (b04v5r94)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4. Followed by Weather.

**SAT 00:30 The Kingdom to Come (b04v5pg2)**

William Hague MP

In the last programme in this series of one-to-one conversations, Peter Hennessy, the historian, asks William Hague MP, First Secretary of State and Leader of the House of Commons, how the United Kingdom's constitution will change as a result of further devolution.

The hurried promises of further devolution made by political leaders during and immediately after the Scottish Referendum will fundamentally change how the United Kingdom is governed, with little opportunity for people to consider what this radical reform might mean or to discuss the constitutional implications.

This series explores the possible impact of further devolution on the United Kingdom's constitution. In each programme, Peter Hennessy invites his guests to draw on their different expertise in government, politics, the law and public ethics in considering questions of accountability, coherence and practicality. For example, would further devolution improve trust in politics? Is devolution practical unless it is accompanied by tax-raising powers? Is there a risk that varying degrees of devolution across the country could create an incoherent system? Would all citizens of the United Kingdom continue to enjoy equal rights? Would a federal constitution be viable? Are we heading towards the end of the United Kingdom?

Peter Hennessy's other guests in this series are Alistair Darling MP, former Chancellor of the Exchequer; Onora O'Neill (Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve), philosopher, chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and former BBC Reith lecturer; David Hope (Lord Hope of Craighead), former Deputy President of the United Kingdom's Supreme Court; and Robin Butler (Lord Butler of Brockwell), former Cabinet Secretary. Producer: Rob Shepherd.

**SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (b04v5r96)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (b04v5r98)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service. BBC Radio 4 resumes at 5.20am.

**SAT 05:20 Shipping Forecast (b04v5r9b)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**SAT 05:30 News Briefing (b04v5r9d)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (b04v5r9x)**

A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day, with the Rev Dr Stephen Wigley.

**SAT 05:45 iPM (b04v9n5v)**

'I was there when...'

'I was there when...' - The first IRA bomb, New Zealand earthquake, Charlie Chaplin getting a degree, Churchill's funeral and Gregory Peck buying a bicycle. Listener stories. Presented by Eddie Mair, Jennifer Tracey and special guest, Charlotte Green. Email iPM@bbc.co.uk.

**SAT 06:00 News and Papers (b04v5r9g)**

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

**SAT 06:04 Weather (b04v5r9j)**

The latest weather forecast.

**SAT 06:07 Open Country (b04v5fjt)**

Christmas Trees at Castle Howard

This week Caz Graham visits Castle Howard in Yorkshire.

Famous as the setting for 'Brideshead Revisited' the country estate has been gearing up for the festive period for months.

In the heart of the Howardian Hills, the estate has around 6,100 acres of farmland.

Much of the produce ends up in the farm shop on the estate.

There is also 2000 acres of woodland and at this time of year there is only one tree that people are after: Christmas Trees.

Caz meets Nick Cooke, the man in charge of making sure that the trees reach the customers in good condition and also responsible for supplying some of Yorkshire's largest towns with their towering Christmas trees. Caz discovers why the Howardian Hills are perfect for growing Christmas trees and gets an insight into what happens in the winter on a large country estate.

Presenter: Caz Graham

Producer: Martin Poyntz-Roberts.

**SAT 06:30 Farming Today (b04v95sq)**

Fishing

The EU have just negotiated their new fishing quotas. The quota for cod catches for 2015 will increase by 5% on last year - UK fishermen will also be allowed to catch 15% more prawns than last year and 15% more plaice in the North Sea, while the haddock catch has been increased by 6%. But in the Celtic Sea, fewer cod and haddock will be allowed to be caught and in the South West of England quotas for cod will be cut by 26% and haddock by 12%. Caz Graham goes to Scarborough to talk to ex fisherman and founder of the National Federation of Fishermen about the new deal. He says it is disastrous and an end of an era for fishing on the Yorkshire coastline.

Conservationists aren't happy about the deal which has been struck over quotas - The Marine Conservation Society tells Charlotte Smith that it is a missed opportunity and accuses the British government of ignoring the science and pandering to lobbying from the fishing industry. Farming minister George Eustice defends the deal and says it is scientifically based.

Anne Hornigold runs the Whitby Fishing School. She trains young people who want to enter in to the industry. She says that they will have to diversify from traditional fishing methods in order to keep making a living from the sea.

Presented by Caz Graham. Produced by Ruth Sanderson.

**SAT 06:57 Weather (b04v5r9l)**

The latest weather forecast.

**SAT 07:00 Today (b04v95sw)**

Morning news and current affairs. Including Yesterday in Parliament, Sports Desk, Thought for the Day and Weather.

**SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (b04v95sz)**

Jon Snow

Journalist Jon Snow joins Aasmah Mir and Richard Coles to discuss 25 years of being the face of Channel 4 News.

Also on the programme, Luke Simon was living in Thailand when the 2004 Tsunami struck. He lost his brother when the low lying island of Ko Phi Phi was subsumed by sea water. He tells us how life has moved on, about the power of sibling relationships and the charity he set up in his brother's name. The Oscar-winning song Let It Go (from the animated film Frozen) has captivated millions worldwide. It has already been translated into 41 foreign-language versions but not Welsh. 14 yr old Rebekah West set about righting that wrong. And in this season of goodwill we meet a man who was inspired to carry out one good deed a day for 2014. After losing a close family friend, Luke Cameron has spent the last year helping others which has inspired him to move away from a career in fashion to working for a charity.

We also hear from some of the cast of RSC's 'The Christmas Truce' on the football coaching they received from Aston Villa's Sean Verity as they re-enact the infamous Christmas Day football match between the Allies and the Germans. Plus the inheritance tracks of Alan Johnson MP, a Christmas Cracker from Miranda Hart and Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy gives us taster of her Christmas Poem.

Producer: Alex Lewis

Editor: Karen Dalziel.

**SAT 10:30 The Kitchen Cabinet (b04v953t)**

Series 9

Salisbury

Jay Rayner and the team are in Salisbury.

Answering questions on cooking and eating from our audience are food scientist Professor Peter Barham, restaurateur Henry Dimbleby, DIY food expert Tim Hayward, and Catalan inspired Scottish cook Rachel McCormack.

In the run up to Christmas Day, the panel discuss the tradition of curing hams, the indulgence of a midnight feast, prepping the Christmas dinner, and the long history of food preservation.

Food Consultant: Anna Colquhoun

Producer: Victoria Shepherd

Assistant Producer: Darby Dorras

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 11:00 The Week in Westminster (b04v95t6)**

Peter Osborne of The Daily Telegraph looks behind the scenes at Westminster.

This week he examines our representative democracy, what elected politicians do behind the scenes on our behalf, and what e-democracy can achieve. The editor is Marie Jessel.

**SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (b04v5r9n)**

The Heaviest Coffin

Story-telling from the world of news and current affairs. In this edition Shaimaa Khalil on the mood in Peshawar after the Taliban attack on a school in which more than a hundred children were killed, Barbara Plett-Usher smokes cigars and downs a rum or two with the Ladies Smoking Club of Havana as she learns how Cubans are reacting to the prospect of improved relations with the United States, Quentin Sommerville is on the Iraqi army frontline as it tries to stop the militants from Islamic State seizing strategic Anbar province, Malcolm Billings visits a little-known Anglican place of worship hidden away in a web of cobbled streets in Istanbul and Hugh Schofield's doing some seasonal research involving whisky and chocolate biscuits in a remote corner of central France.

**SAT 12:00 News Summary (b04v5r9q)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 12:04 Money Box (b04v9653)**

Hotel booking fraud - how it was done, More bad news for pension savers, and the HMV gift card that isn't

Link in a chain

We speak to a whistleblower who reveals how he unwittingly became a cog in the wheel of a fraud perpetrated on people who booked a hotel online.

When is HMV not HMV?

When it's the HMV that sells you a gift card in Northern Ireland and you try to use it in an HMV shop in England, which says 'that's not us'.

Sergeant's Parade

The IPB has looked at the AMCs on AUMs of DC pensions and said they some are not VfM (Value for Money). The report of the IPB's chair Carol Sergeant - ex BoE, ex FSA, ex LBG and chair of HMT's ISG on SFPs - audited the charges of workplace pension schemes and hopes those that charge more than 1% will consider whether their 407,000 members are receiving value for money.

**SAT 12:30 The News Quiz (b04v5r6r)**

Series 85

Episode 9

A satirical review of the week's news, chaired by Sandi Toksvig, who is joined by Rebecca Front, Bob Mills and Mark Steel, alongside regular panellist Jeremy Hardy.

**SAT 12:57 Weather (b04v5r9s)**

The latest weather forecast.

**SAT 13:00 News (b04v5r9v)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (b04v5r6w)**

Giles Fraser, Tessa Jowell MP, Norman Lamb MP, John Redwood MP

Jonathan Dimbleby presents political debate and discussion from the Hampton on Thames Community Centre in Middlessex with Dr Giles Fraser priest-in-charge at St Mary's Newington in South London, former Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, Tessa Jowell MP, the Liberal Democrat MP Norman Lamb who serves as Minister for Care and Support in the coalition government and the back bench Conservative MP John Redwood.

**SAT 14:00 Any Answers? (b04v5r9x)**

Sony, Social Care, Obesity

Sony's decision to cancel the cinema release of the film 'The Interview'; should social care be ring-fenced; and can obesity be

classed as a disability?

Any Answers? with Anita Anand, your say on the issues discussed on Any Questions?

**SAT 14:30 Saturday Drama (b04v9n00)**

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens.

A new version of the seasonal classic adapted for actors, the BBC Singers and the BBC Symphony Orchestra by Neil Brand and recorded before an audience in the BBC Maida Vale Studios.

Ebenezer Scrooge questions his ghostly guides and demands answers to the great questions we all face.

Director: David Hunter

Adapted for actors and orchestra by Neil Brand.

Music: The BBC Symphony Orchestra and BBC Singers.  
Conductor: Martin Andre. Producer: Ann McKay.

**SAT 16:00 Woman's Hour (b04v9n4t)**

Bette Midler, Women MPs, Anna Krien

The Divine Miss M - Bette Midler. What are the main political parties doing to increase the number of women MPs. Families with transgender children. Maddy Prior on her 45 year career in folk music. Anna Krien, winner of the William Hill Sports Book of the Year 2014. June Mottershead whose father founded Chester Zoo - their story inspired the TV series Our Zoo. The impact of losing contact with grandchildren.

Presented by Emma Barnett

Producer: Claire Bartleet  
Editor: Jane Thurlow.

**SAT 17:00 PM (b04v9n4w)**

Saturday PM

Full coverage of the day's news.

**SAT 17:30 1PM (b04v9n5v)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 05:45 today]

**SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (b04v5r2z)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**SAT 17:57 Weather (b04v5rb1)**

The latest weather forecast.

**SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (b04v5rb3)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (b04v9r5c)**

Nikki Bedi, David Jason, Jennifer Saunders, Joan Bakewell, Clive Rowe, Annie Eve, Johnny Sly

Clive catches up with Derek "Del Boy" Trotter, Detective Inspector Jack Frost, Granville and Pop Larkin... in fact, just with Sir David Jason.... a bona fide national treasure, about his new series 'Still Open All Hours'. Joan Bakewell DBE tells Clive of the pleasures of working for the second year in a row, with entertainer Frank Skinner, on Sky Arts 'Portrait of the Year'. Clive's co-host Nikki Bedi's guest is 'bloke in a frock', celebrated grande dame of pantomime Clive Rowe who makes his much-anticipated return to Hackney Empire this Christmas in Mother Goose. And in a similar vein, we feature a 'boy in a dress' - the Christmas TV adaptation of David Williams' children's novel stars Clive's guest Jennifer Saunders. With music from Johnny Sly who perform 'Peace of Mine' from their 'Lost Thoughts' EP, and from Annie Eve who performs 'Basement' from her album 'Sunday 91'.

Producer: Sukey Firth.

**SAT 19:00 From Fact to Fiction (b04w1b1r)**

Series 17

The Heebie Jeebies

'The Heebie Jeebies' by Marcy Kahan, the first in a new series in which writers respond to stories in the week's news.

In a week that started with the coffee shop siege in Sydney and the atrocities in Peshawar, and ended with Sony Pictures withdrawing a film after threats from hackers, Marcy Kahan's

drama reflects on the global climate of fear - in "The Heebie Jeebies".

Directed by Emma Harding.

**SAT 19:15 Saturday Review (b04v5rb5)**

V&A Cast Court, City of Angels, Big Eyes, Kureishi/Murakami/AN Wilson, Mapp and Lucia

London's V+A Museum has just reopened the Weston Cast Court, which houses life-size plaster casts of statuary and artefacts from around Europe. It includes the museum's largest items, can it draw their largest crowds?

Larry Gelbart's City of Angels is revived at London's Donmar Warehouse. A musical about the golden age of Hollywood, it garnered awards galore 25 years ago in its original run, will this production be a winner?

Tim Burton's new film Big Eyes is about 1960s housewife Margaret Keane whose paintings of waifs with enormous dark eyes were wildly commercially successful, but her husband claimed all the glory until she decided to make a break for fame in her own right.

Small Books: We look at 3 works of extremely short fiction. Hanif Kureishi, Haruki Murakami and AN Wilson all have stories to tell, that they feel are best-suited to new diminutive formats.

The BBC has remade EF Benson's Mapp and Lucia in sumptuous style; is it a new classic?

**SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (b04v9r5f)**

Peter and the Wolf

Sergei Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf has been recorded more often than any other piece of classical music - over 400 times in more than a dozen languages.

The narration has been spoken by everyone from David Bowie to Eleanor Roosevelt, Boris Karloff to Christopher Lee, Bill Clinton to Sting. The orchestras have been conducted by Leonard Bernstein, Leopold Stokowski, André Previn and countless others. It has helped introduce generations of children to the instruments of the orchestra and the concept of telling a story through music. But there have only been four recordings ever issued in the Russian language and none in any of the other Soviet languages.

In Russia, Peter has a completely different reputation.

Peter and the Wolf had its public premiere on 5th May 1936 at the Central Children's Theatre in Moscow, in front of an audience of 'Young Pioneers' dressed in their red ties.

Performances were preceded by talks on topics such as civil defence, national unity and the responsibilities of children to the Soviet State. Peter and the Wolf has radically changed its meaning since 1936. It's a musical work which everyone has heard of and most people know, but which has never been closely examined with the seriousness it deserves.

Christopher Frayling assesses the enduring appeal of this tale. Has it been ghettoised as 'children's music'? Why are celebrities queuing up to narrate it? Why does it have such a low reputation in Russia-and why does it have such a high reputation everywhere else?

Produced by Barney Rowntree and Nick Jones  
A Hidden Flack production for BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 21:00 The Once and Future King (b04v2s0z)**

The Candle in the Wind

Brian Sibley's dramatisation of T. H. White's classic retelling of the King Arthur story continues. Mordred uses Arthur's new laws against him and long-held secrets are forced out into the open.

Other parts are played by members of the cast.

Original music by Elizabeth Purnell  
Directors: Gemma Jenkins, Marc Beeby and David Hunter.

**SAT 22:00 News and Weather (b04v5rb7)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4, followed by weather.

**SAT 22:15 The Reith Lectures (b04v380z)**

Dr Atul Gawande: The Future of Medicine

The Idea of Wellbeing

The surgeon and writer Atul Gawande calls for a new focus on medical systems to ensure doctors work more effectively, alongside far greater transparency about their performance.

Speaking to an audience at the India International Centre in

Delhi, he describes the story of medicine over the last century through the prism of his own family. From a grandmother who died in rural India from malaria - a preventable disease - to the high-tech medicine of today. He argues that despite its scientific advances, medicine has failed to exploit its knowledge successfully. In both the developed and developing world doctors do not carry out basic procedures effectively and often do not act in the best interests of their patients. He calls for wide-ranging research into the systems by which medical care is delivered, alongside far greater transparency about performance.

The Reith Lectures are introduced and chaired by Sue Lawley and produced by Jim Frank.

**SAT 23:00 Counterpoint (b04v30zv)**

Series 28

The Final 2014

(13/13)

Many of us are familiar with the song 'Istanbul, not Constantinople' - but who recorded the original version? And which European city (definitely not Istanbul) is the home of the Gulbenkian orchestra?

The 2014 season of the wide-ranging music quiz comes to its climax, with Paul Gambaccini hosting the Final from BBC Maida Vale.

The three Finalists are from Derbyshire, London and Cheshire. Only one of them can take the 2014 Counterpoint champion's trophy, but with formidable performances in their respective heats and semi-finals it would be a bold prediction as to which of the three will triumph.

As well as answering general knowledge questions on music, the Finalists will also have to choose a special musical subject on which to answer individual questions, with no prior hint of what the available topics are going to be.

Producer: Paul Bajoria.

**SAT 23:30 The Echo Chamber (b04v2s13)**

Series 4

Michael Donaghy

Paul Farley remembers the poet Michael Donaghy with other poets ten years after his death. Greta Stoddart, Sean O'Brien and Don Paterson read his poems and read poems of their own that speak to their memory of the poet and teacher. Producer: Tim Dee.

**SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2014**

**SUN 00:00 Midnight News (b04vd4h1)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4. Followed by Weather.

**SUN 00:30 Comic Fringes (b04dh3xk)**

Series 10

Love and Orangutans by Romesh Ranganathan

A comic tale from Romesh Ranganathan, Best Newcomer nominee at 2014's Edinburgh Comedy Awards.

Short story series featuring new writing by leading comedians, recorded live in front of an audience at 2014's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Producer: Kirsteen Cameron.

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 2014.

**SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4h3)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (b04vd4h5)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service. BBC Radio 4 resumes at 5.20am.

**SUN 05:20 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4h7)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**SUN 05:30 News Briefing (b04vd4h9)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (b04vd68x)**

The bells of St Peter's Church, Congleton.

**SUN 05:45 Four Thought (b04v4sxb)**

Series 4

The Shadow of the Cold War

Jeffrey Sachs argues that many of today's global problems are hangovers from bad, ungenerous decisions at the end of previous conflicts.

Professor Sachs is one of the world's leading economists, and amongst the many governments he has advised over 30 years were Poland and Russia at the end of the Cold War.

In this very personal talk, recorded at McNally Jackson books in New York City, Professor Sachs describes how a stunned Russian Prime Minister, facing economic calamity and desperate for western support, was told instead by western governments that there would be no help forthcoming. And he argues that decisions like this - similar to those taken by the Entente powers at the end of the First World War which sowed the seeds of today's conflicts in the Middle East - are a large part of the explanation of Russian attitudes today, including in Ukraine.

The presenter is Amanda Stern.

Producer: Giles Edwards.

**SUN 06:00 News Headlines (b04vd4hc)**

The latest national and international news.

**SUN 06:05 Something Understood (b04vd68z)**

A Winter Solstice

This Sunday before Christmas falls on the Winter Solstice. The shortest day of the year is a turning point in the calendar that has been celebrated throughout history. There are examples of Winter Solstice Festivals to be found in most cultures and the need to celebrate on the darkest day seems universal.

Mark Tully examines the antecedents of the midwinter festival and explores the human need to celebrate the cold and dark with warmth and light. From Ancient Rome to downtown LA and from pagan Scandinavia to modern China, he presents a celebration of a Winter Solstice - with readings from the work of John Keats, Ruth Fainlight and Craig Childs and music by Monteverdi, Franz Schubert and the Vienna Klezmer Band.

The readers are David Holt, Francis Cadder and Lucy Briers.

Produced by Frank Stirling  
A Unique production for BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 06:35 On Your Farm (b04vd691)**

Comedy Farmer

Freda Bracecock is the Dame Edna of the farmyard and a much-loved legend in Shropshire farming. Despite years of hardship on her isolated farm, she's managed to keep going. She's lost her husband, her dairy herd and sometimes her marbles but she's always picked herself up and pressed on. Freda is an inspiration to the agricultural community. She's a respected stock woman; and sells produce and handicrafts at farmers' markets across the county. Now late in life, she's taken to the stage, touring the country to cheer up Britain's hard-pressed farmers. Sybil Ruscoe joins Freda as she entertains dairy farmers at Shrewsbury Cattle market.

**SUN 06:57 Weather (b04vd4hf)**

The latest weather forecast.

**SUN 07:00 News and Papers (b04vd4hh)**

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

**SUN 07:10 Sunday (b04vd693)**

First woman bishop, the Pope and Cuba, 60 years of Carols from Kings

Following the school massacre in Peshawar this week, Edward Stourton discusses the origins of the Pakistani Taliban and analyses what this latest atrocity means for the country with Dr Ayesha Siddiqi and Prof Iftikhar Malik.

The Rev Libby Lane will become the first female bishop of the Church of England when she is installed as bishop of Stockport in the New Year. Bob Walker has been to the diocese of Stockport to hear the views from the pews.

Following the historic move to restore diplomatic relations

between the US and Cuba, the programme explores the influential role the Pope and the Vatican played in the negotiations.

John Muir, the Scottish naturalist and founding father of America's National Parks, died 100 years ago on Christmas Eve. Mary Colwell from Radio 4's Shared Planet explores how his spirituality shaped his influential work in conservation.

Matt Wells reports from New York on the rebuilding of a Greek Orthodox Church at Ground Zero which was destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

And this year marks the 60th anniversary of the first TV broadcast of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from the chapel of Kings College, Cambridge. Trevor Barnes takes a look behind the scenes of this year's service.

Producers:  
Dan Tierney  
Peter Everett

Series producer:  
Amanda Hancox

Contributors:  
Rev Libby Lane  
Dr Ayesha Siddiqi  
Professor Iftikhar Malik  
John Allen  
Mary Colwell.

**SUN 07:55 Radio 4 Appeal (b04vd695)**

Opportunity International

Adjoa Andoh presents The Radio 4 Appeal for Opportunity International, a charity providing loans, savings and business training to nearly 5 million people - 84% of whom are women - in 24 developing countries. Registered Charity No 1107713  
To Give:  
- Freephone 0800 404 8144  
- Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal, mark the back of the envelope 'Opportunity International'.

**SUN 07:57 Weather (b04vd4hk)**

The latest weather forecast.

**SUN 08:00 News and Papers (b04vd4hm)**

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

**SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (b04vd697)**

Comfort My People, Says Your God

The last in our Advent series from Methodist College Belfast takes the promise of Isaiah 'A young woman shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel'. As Mary anticipates the fulfilment of that promise in the birth of Jesus, we reflect on the theme of 'waiting'. A selection of popular carols is sung by the award winning choir of Methodist College.

Led by: Rev Donald Ker  
Preacher: Canon Noel Battye  
Readings: Isaiah 7:10-15, Matthew 1:18-25

Music:  
1. Mary's Magnificat (Carter)  
2. Once in Royal David's City (Gauntlett, arr Stopford)  
3. How Far is it to Bethlehem? (arr Mack Wilberg)  
4. All Bells in Paradise (Rutter)  
5. Silent Night (Gruber, arr Chilcott)  
6. Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Mendelssohn, arr Willcocks)  
7. Christmas Blessing (Stopford)

Director of Music: Ruth McCartney  
Organist: Donal McCann.

**SUN 08:48 A Point of View (b04v66nl)**

Art: The Real Thing

In the last of his three talks on art Roger Scruton asks what constitutes real art, as opposed to cliché or kitsch.

He says we must ignore the vast quantities of art produced as commodities to be sold, in contrast to symphonies or novels that cannot be owned in the same way as a painting or a sculpture.

Real art has to have lasting appeal, he argues, and for that it needs three things: beauty, form and redemption. The production of such art, he says, takes immense hard work and attention to detail, but it can give meaning to our modern lives and show love in the midst of doubt and desolation.

Producer: Arlene Gregorius.

**SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (b04t0gsc)**

Saddleback

Tweet of the Day is the voice of birds and our relationship with them, from around the world.

Liz Bonnin presents the formerly widespread saddleback of New Zealand. It's loud, piping and whistling calls once resounded throughout New Zealand's forests, but now the saddleback is heard only on smaller offshore islands. This is a bird in exile. About the size of a European blackbird, saddlebacks are predominantly black with a rust-coloured saddle-shaped patch on their backs. In Maori culture this mark came from the demi-God Maui who, after trying to catch the sun, asked the saddleback to fetch water. The bird refused, so hot-handed Maui grabbed it and left a scorch mark on the bird's back. As well as this chestnut saddle, the bird has two bright red wattles at the base of its beak which it can dilate when it displays. It also has an extensive vocabulary and one of its calls has earned it the Maori name - "Ti-e-ke".

**SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (b04vd699)**

Sunday morning magazine programme with news and conversation about the big stories of the week. Presented by Paddy O'Connell.

**SUN 10:00 The Archers Omnibus (b04vd69c)**

Writer ..... Paul Brodrick  
Director ..... Marina Calderone  
Editor ..... Sean O'Connor.

**SUN 11:15 Desert Island Discs (b04vd69f)**

The Most Reverend Justin Welby

Kirsty Young's castaway for Christmas week is The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby.

Ordained as a priest in 1993, 19 years later he was appointed to lead the Anglican communion of over 77 million people spread across 167 countries. Hardly a front runner when the job vacancy came up he said that it would be "a joke" and "perfectly absurd" if he were appointed.

His faith has brought him high office but when he 'found God' at university, it gave him something a good deal more significant: a sense of much needed comfort after an often turbulent and uncertain childhood. Although his mother's side of the family provided stability, his father was an alcoholic and his childhood was punctuated by his parents' early divorce and significant money worries - one particular Christmas was spent hungrily staring out of the window as his father lay in bed all day.

He says, "When the church is working it is the most mind-bogglingly, amazingly, extraordinarily beautiful community on earth. It heals, it transforms, it loves, and it changes society."

Producer: Cathy Drysdale.

**SUN 12:00 News Summary (b04vd4hp)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 12:04 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (b04v3103)**

Series 62

Episode 5

The godfather of all panel shows pays a visit to The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury. John Finnemore and Graeme Garden are joined on the panel by Susan Calman and Tony Hawks, with Jack Dee in the chair. Colin Sell accompanies on the piano.

Producer - Jon Naismith.

**SUN 12:32 The Food Programme (b04vd69h)**

Christmas, food and being far from home

As we prepare to tuck into our festive family meal, Sheila Dillon uncovers the food stories of those who won't be home for Christmas with the help of food writer Joe Warwick.

**SUN 12:57 Weather (b04vd4hr)**

The latest weather forecast.

**SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (b04vd69k)**

Global news and analysis; presented by Mark Maddell.

**SUN 13:30 The Invisible Age (b04v328c)**

The Age Bomb

Old age is an increasingly long stage of life. There are nearly 1.5 million people in the UK aged 85 and over. By 2050 there will be 5 million in the UK alone.

Matthew Sweet tries to understand why society is still so reluctant to talk about ageing when - for many - the experience is a good one. He asks whether historical anxieties about population growth still overshadow contemporary discussions about the so called 'fourth-age' and if ageism will soon be regarded in the same way as discrimination on the basis of race or colour.

Matthew's many friendships with people in their 80s and 90s have hugely enriched his social life and, in this programme, he considers why such cross-generational relationships are so rare. He also asks what those over the age of 85 think about his generation's denial of the ageing process.

We explore the new territory that the 'oldest-old' inhabit - to ask about the perspective that age brings, to reflect on experiences and memories of a long life, and to discover what the 'oldest-old' would like to report back to those who are following behind.

Produced by Catherine Carr  
A Loftus production for BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (b04v5pgk)**  
Dalston

Eric Robson is in the chair for this week's programme from Dalston. Pippa Greenwood, Christine Walkden and Matthew Wilson join him to answer the audience questions.

Produced by Darby Dorras.  
Assistant Producer: Claire Crofton.

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

This week's questions and answers:

Q. I've got a five-year-old dwarf apple tree which is now leaning over and I'm wondering what kind of strap I can use to support it? We've tried rubber straps, but they've snapped.

A. Matthew suggests staking the tree quite low down so that it can flex and strengthen. Try a dead-anchor - this is four stakes driven into the ground around the root ball. Fix stout timber boards to the top of those stakes so that they hold the root plate in the ground. Or you can use an underground anchor system of wires and a ratchet. To start, you could just use a couple of stakes and make sure they are facing into the wind and then double up with a good quality rubber tie. Christine suggests using tights. Pippa suggests using really good quality rope threaded through a garden hose.

Q. How can you grow and keep Celeriac reliably.

A. Start it off in January, under heat, in as long a container as possible to minimise root disturbance, use a soil based material - a John Innes number two with 15% grit added. Make sure the plants are kept moist. Really good weed control is also important.

Q. Does the panel think it's an old gardeners' tale that putting soot on onion beds makes them grow better?

A. The panel think that it is a bit of a myth but if your soil is light, it can be useful to help the soil absorb more warmth.

Q. I have a Hydrangea Petiolaris on an east-facing wall and I'd like to grow something through it when it's passed its best. What would the panel recommend?

A. Matthew says make sure its well established before you grow something up it as anything vigorous would strangle it. Give it some love before planting through it. Annual mulching in spring or even a slow releasing fertiliser would help it. Pippa suggests foliar feeding as this stimulates extra root growth. Christine suggests planting a Clematis Alpina a couple of metres away and growing it horizontally into the Hydrangea so that you're not disturbing the roots.

Q. Last year I read about a Daphne that has a wonderful smell and flowers all year long. I bought six, gave four to friends and kept two for myself. The ones I gave away have flourished, but mine have died. I planted them in clay pots and watered well, but not too much. I put them against a west-facing wall. The leaves yellowed and dropped off. They died within a few weeks. What did I do wrong?

A. Daphnes like a humus rich woodland soil, so if you had light compost with high levels of coir they wouldn't have been happy. Daphnes also like neutral to acidic soil. They also like a degree of shade, so perhaps they got too warm. Daphnes are also prone to attack by spider mite.

Q. I've grown Aubergines in the greenhouse for many years

with success. This year the plants grew well in the house before I put them in the greenhouse at the end of May. Then they stopped growing despite no inclement weather or late frosts. The Tomatoes, Peppers and Cucumbers just grew normally but the Aubergine's roots just didn't develop properly. I gave a friend some of the plants to put in his greenhouse and he had the same problem.

A. Perhaps they got too damp or they had root rot or some kind of virus. Next year use a fresh packet of seeds and watch out for aphids and whitefly.

Q. How long does it take for grass turfs to break down? What can they be used for once broken down?

A. They take anything between six and twelve months to break down depending on the soil type and composition of the turf. Stack it turf to turf. If it's warm and moist break down will be faster. It can be used as potting compost or seed compost.

Q. I planted a weeping ash about eight years ago. One section is great and is six feet tall and weeping while the other half has gone straight up and is fourteen foot high. When can I cut the vertical part?

A. The trick is to get it out as soon as possible but it's never too late, it might just look a little odd and there will be a sizable wound. Wait until it's in leaf in the spring.

**SUN 14:45 The Listening Project (b04vd69m)**  
Sunday Omnibus

Fi Glover hears about being stared at because you look different, being persecuted because you behave differently, and being in love with the land you farm, in conversations from Scotland, Yorkshire and Wales, all in the Omnibus edition of the series that proves it's surprising what you hear when you listen.

The Listening Project is a Radio 4 initiative that offers a snapshot of contemporary Britain in which people across the UK volunteer to have a conversation with someone close to them about a subject they've never discussed intimately before. The conversations are being gathered across the UK by teams of producers from local and national radio stations who facilitate each encounter. Every conversation - they're not BBC interviews, and that's an important difference - lasts up to an hour, and is then edited to extract the key moment of connection between the participants. Most of the unedited conversations are being archived by the British Library and used to build up a collection of voices capturing a unique portrait of the UK in the second decade of the millennium. You can learn more about The Listening Project by visiting [bbc.co.uk/listeningproject](http://bbc.co.uk/listeningproject)

Producer: Marya Burgess.

**SUN 15:00 The Barchester Chronicles (b04vd69p)**  
Anthony Trollope's The Small House at Allington

Episode 1

Anthony Trollope's The Small House at Allington by Michael Symmons Roberts

The arrival of the handsome Adolphus Crosbie causes quite a stir at Allington, especially with Lily Dale, who lives at the Small House due to the benevolence of her rich uncle. Crosbie's ambitions to marry into high society are in danger of being dashed by the charming Lily, but can a straight-talking country girl ever be enough for him?

Music composed by David Tobin, Jeff Meegan and Julian Gallant.

Written by Michael Symmons Roberts  
Directed by Gary Brown  
Produced by Charlotte Riches

The Small House of Allington is the fifth instalment of The Barchester Chronicles, Anthony Trollope's much-loved series of witty, gently satirical stories of provincial life set within the fictional cathedral town of Barchester and the surrounding county of Barssetshire. With a focus on the lives, loves and tribulations of the local clergy and rural gentry, the canvas is broad and colourful, with a wonderful set of iconic characters whose lives we become intimately involved in as they grow up, grow old and fall in or out of love and friendship across the years.

**SUN 16:00 Open Book (b04vd69r)**  
Christmas Writings

Christmas, with all its tradition and rituals and emotion, has always provided a rich source of material for writers. In this programme Mariella Frostrup and her guests John Mullan and

Jessie Burton explore what it offers twentieth century novelists: from James Joyce and his argumentative Christmas lunch in A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man via Patrick Hamilton's bleak 1940's boarding house Christmas Eve in The Slaves of Solitude, to Bridget Jones, in the 1990s, having to return home to her family yet again - still single. And Jonathan Franzen discusses his prize winning book The Corrections which is all about a mother, Enid Lambert, trying to persuade her grown up children to come home for one last Christmas.

**SUN 16:30 The Echo Chamber (b04vd6mj)**  
Series 4

Solstitial

Paul Farley introduces a new poem called Tithonus for the year's midnight from Alice Oswald - a poem which lasts as long as dawn - and with music from nyckelharpist Griselda Sanderson. Producer: Tim Dee.

**SUN 17:00 Suppose I Lose It (b04v383w)**

Now in her 80s, one issue looms ahead for Joan Bakewell and others from her generation - the fear of dementia. She admits that she's becoming increasingly forgetful. Her home is decked with post-it note reminders to help her remember. But are the annoying lapses in memory, that characterise her daily life, just a normal part of ageing, or could they signal something more serious like dementia? As she herself says - 'suppose I lose it?'

In this programme, Joan asks what she might expect and how she should prepare if she receives the diagnosis.

Joan's search is spurred on by the news that her friend of many years, the actress Prunella Scales, has dementia. Over cups of tea at their home, Joan talks to Prunella and her husband, the actor Timothy West, about how her memory loss is affecting their lives.

Dementia is a growing problem for the nation. Over 800,000 now suffer from it and there's no available cure. It's a problem that the government has been prioritising through the National Challenge on Dementia, but as Professor Sube Banerjee, a lead author on the National Dementia Strategy, says there's still an immense amount that needs to be done.

Even hospitals struggle to cope with people with dementia. Being mostly old and frail, they make up a quarter of inpatients, yet the experience can be traumatising. They tend to leave hospital less capable than when they went in, and are often more confused and anxious.

So how will hospitals cope as the numbers with dementia spiral? Professor Harwood is one of those making a start, adapting Ward B47 at Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham and training staff to meet the complex needs of patients with dementia, which are only now starting to be understood.

One of the challenges of caring for dementia patients is that often their disease is so advanced that they can no longer make decisions about their medical treatment. What's more, few make their wishes known in advance. So geriatrician Professor Rowan Harwood often has to make a best guess, which can mean keeping patients alive longer than they might have wanted. Joan asks what she should do to prepare should she be diagnosed with dementia.

And what's more terrifying - living with dementia, or living in a society that fails to support those suffering with it. Several towns around the country are now addressing the ignorance and fear that can leave sufferers and their carers feeling isolated. The Crawley Dementia Alliance is bringing together schools, GPs, local businesses and transport services to make Crawley more 'dementia friendly'. And it is dementia sufferers themselves whose opinions lie at the heart of what happens here.

Producer: Beth Eastwood.

**SUN 17:40 From Fact to Fiction (b04w1b1r)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

**SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4ht)**  
The latest shipping forecast.

**SUN 17:57 Weather (b04vd4hw)**  
The latest weather forecast.

**SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (b04vd4hy)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (b04vd88t)**  
We find out which bit of the anatomy of a walrus is required for the ceremony of induction to the Royal and Ancient Society

of Polar Bears... Prunella Scales talks frankly about the impact of dementia ...there's 18th century verse from Clive James, and what happened when the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, met Sir Winston Churchill for tea.  
Join Gary O'Donoghue for Pick of the Week.

**SUN 19:00 The Archers (b04vd88w)**

Jill's up early and hears Johnny hammering on the door. A heifer has fallen into a ditch near the brook. Johnny helps Alistair and David rescue the heifer. Thanks to Johnny's quick reaction, she's only suffered a severe strain.

David and Alistair discuss Christmas. David's still hoping to get Josh a car. Alistair acknowledges that cashing in the shares in Brookfield has come at a good time. Shula wants to upgrade the riding school and he'd like to combine it with the surgery.

Despite his good deed, Johnny is uptight. Tom realises it's because Johnny failed his Maths and English exams. Johnny's annoyed. He really wanted some good news for his granddad.

Lilian is delivering Christmas cards. Helen updates her on Tony. He's making progress but it's slow. Helen feels bad that Lilian is off to rehearse Blithe Spirit. Tom thinks Helen should take the part back on. It would take her mind off things.

Helen interrupts a tense rehearsal to ask if she can resume her role. Lilian and Lynda are delighted.

Jill is cleaning mud from the carpet. David's worried it's too much for her. She's not well enough to be scrubbing floors. But as long as she calls this her home, Jill is determined to look after it.

**SUN 19:15 The Rest is History (b04vd88y)**

Series 1

Episode 2

Frank Skinner loves history, but just doesn't know much of it.

This comedy discussion show with celebrity guests promises to help him find out more about it.

With Victoria Coren Mitchell, Andy Zaltzman and historian in residence Dr Kate Williams

Frank and company navigate their way through the annals of time, picking out and chewing over the funniest, oddest, and most interesting moments in history.

Producers: Dan Schreiber and Justin Pollard

An Avalon production for BBC Radio 4 first broadcast in December 2014.

**SUN 19:45 Goodnight, Vienna (b04vd8gq)**

The Last Train, by Jo Baker

A multi-contributor series of specially-commissioned radio stories about this most beguiling of cities. To the outsider, Vienna can be a state of mind as much as an actual place.

Episode 1 (of 3): The Last Train by Jo Baker  
Vienna 1939. Leah is hurried through the streets by her mother to try and catch the last Kindertransport (the means by which thousands of children were evacuated from mainland Europe) out of the city.

Jo Baker was educated at Oxford and Queen's University, Belfast. She is the author of several novels, most recently 'Longbourn' in 2013. Jo lives in Lancaster.

Reader: Bryony Hannah

Produced by Jeremy Osborne  
A Sweet Talk Production for BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 20:00 Feedback (b04v66ng)**

Gwyneth Williams is in her fifth year as the controller of Radio 4 and has made her mark with various radical changes - including bringing a former Eastenders' producer to The Archers, cutting 12 minutes from You and Yours and bringing visualisation to a variety of Radio 4 programming.

For the final episode of this series, Feedback listeners speak directly to the Controller and give their views on the network. Loyal Archers Addicts ask how much free rein the editor should have when many listeners are unhappy with the programme's current direction.

Gwyneth is also asked whether there is a theme to the daily '12 o'clock slot' that has divided listeners, and whether 15 minute programmes are long enough to cover complex topics.

Radio 4's leap towards a dazzling digital future is also put under scrutiny as a listener asks whether radio programmes truly benefit from visual elements.

And how tight is her Radio 4 budget for programmes, given that even more cuts are coming soon?

Producer Will Yates  
A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 20:30 Last Word (b04v66nd)**

Mandy Rice-Davies, Dr Tim Black, Michel du Cille, Ian Player, Christopher Morris

Matthew Bannister on

Mandy Rice-Davies, the former showgirl who was involved in the Profumo Affair.

Dr Tim Black who built Marie Stopes International into one of the world's largest family planning organisations.

Michel du Cille - the award winning photographer who covered conflicts in Africa and Afghanistan.

Ian Player, the South African conservationist who built up the population of the white rhino

And Christopher Morris, the organist and publisher who launched the book Carols For Choirs.

**SUN 21:00 Money Box (b04v9653)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

**SUN 21:26 Radio 4 Appeal (b04vd695)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:55 today]

**SUN 21:30 In Business (b04v5gh9)**

For Ever and Ever

**FOR EVER AND EVER**

Britain's cathedrals have defined the landscape for more than 1000 years as places of worship, tourist attractions, and unrivalled architectural achievements. But what's their role in the 21st century? Peter Day hears about the business of running some of the country's most famous places.  
Producer : Sandra Kanthal.

**SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (b04vd4j0)**

Weekly political discussion and analysis with MPs, experts and commentators.

**SUN 22:45 What the Papers Say (b04vd8lb)**

George Parker of the Financial Times analyses how the newspapers are covering the biggest stories.

**SUN 23:00 The Film Programme (b04v5fjw)**

Angelina Jolie, Danny Elfman, Kevin Macdonald, Kon-Tiki

With Francine Stock.

Angelina Jolie reveals why she's planning to give up acting to concentrate on directing, and describes the moment she discovered that her neighbour Louis Zamperini was an Olympic athlete and ex-prisoner of war, and what it was like showing him her film about his life. Unbroken, just before he died.

Actor Pal Sverre Hagen, known as Norwegian's Ryan Gosling, reveals what it was like to recreate Thor Heyerdahl's epic voyage across the Pacific for the film Kon-Tiki, while Thor Heyerdahl Jr reveals what he thinks is wrong with the account of his father's famous adventure.

Composer Danny Elfman and director Kevin Macdonald share their memories of their first visit to the cinema.

**SUN 23:30 Something Understood (b04vd68z)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 06:05 today]

**MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2014**

**MON 00:00 Midnight News (b04vd4k2)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4. Followed by Weather.

**MON 00:15 Thinking Allowed (b04v3cxk)**

Butchers; Fat Gay Men

Fat gay men: Laurie Taylor examines a world in which men are doubly stigmatised - for their weight as well as their sexuality. Jason Whitesel, an Assistant Professor in Women's and Gender Studies at Pace University in the US, discusses a study which illuminates how such men negotiate and fight back against a gay culture which places them in an inferior and stigmatised position in the 'attractiveness' hierarchy. They're joined by Paul Simpson, a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Manchester, who has researched the marginality of older gay men on the gay 'scene'.

Also, the masculine world of the butchers. Dr Natasha Slutskaya, lecturer of Organization Studies at Brunel Business School, discusses a study into the values and meanings butchers ascribe to the 'dirty work' of meat production and sale.

Producer: Jayne Egerton.

**MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (b04vd68x)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

**MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4k4)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (b04vd4k6)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**MON 05:20 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4k8)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**MON 05:30 News Briefing (b04vd4kb)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (b04vddwl)**

A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day, with the Rev Dr Stephen Wigley.

**MON 05:45 Farming Today (b04vddwn)**

Campylobacter testing, poaching and coats for calves

The Food Standards Agency is offering farmers free tests for campylobacter in their chicken flocks. The bacterium is responsible for 280,000 cases of food poisoning a year, including up to 100 deaths. The tests - which involve swabs on the bottom of their boots - aims to raise awareness of campylobacter and improve biosecurity.

Patrols are being stepped up to target organised gangs who are illegally killing hundreds of deer across Devon. This is the peak time of year for poaching, as criminals cash in on the 5 million pound black market for venison. According to the National Wildlife Crime Unit there were more than 300 reported incidents last year. Exmoor is one of the worst hit areas for deer poaching in the country - Anna Varle has been out on patrol with the police.

Putting coats on winter born calves helps boost their growth rate. That's according to research carried out at Harper Adams University. Last winter, 40 beef calves were split into two groups - half of them had coats put on at two weeks old - and then both sets were monitored until they were weaned at 12 weeks. This year researchers are carrying out a similar trial at the university, but using dairy calves and putting the coats on straight after birth. Lucy Bickerton has been to see the calves in coats, and Simon Marsh who carried out the research on the beef calves last winter told her what they found.  
Presented by Caz Graham, produced by Sally Challoner.

**MON 05:56 Weather (b04vd4kd)**

The latest weather forecast for farmers.

**MON 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b040hjv)**

New Zealand Robin

Tweet of the Day is the voice of birds and our relationship with them, from around the world.

Sir David Attenborough presents the New Zealand robin. The toutouwai or New Zealand robin may share a name with the more familiar European robin, but it is a very different bird to the robin redbreast we know so well. Although about the same size with the same perky upright stance, the New Zealand robin is appropriately enough nearly all-black, with a pale belly and a white splash just above the bill, but no trace of red. Three subspecies exist; one in north Island, one in South Island, and another in Stewart Island. And like their British counterparts,

who they are not closely related to at all, can become quite tame and friendly to humans. The song is very varied and each male has a repertoire of around two dozen different notes.

**MON 06:00 Today (b04vddwq)**

Morning news and current affairs. Including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**MON 09:00 Start the Week (b04vddws)**

Hedonism

Tom Sutcliffe discusses hedonism, from the ultra-hedonists in ancient Greece to the seasonal impulse to indulge. Tom's joined by RSC artistic director Greg Doran who's looking at hedonism in Shakespeare, from Toby Belch to Falstaff; by Prof Julia Twigg who assesses hedonism and asceticism in the contemporary world; by writer Zoe Cormier who's explored the science of hedonism and the hedonism of science; and by Kurt Lampe from Bristol University on the philosophical hedonists of Cyrene, an ancient city in modern day Libya.

Producer: Simon Tillotson.

**MON 09:45 Book of the Week (b04vdgpw)**

Stories in the Stars

Episode 1

A seasonal reading for clear and frosty nights, when the skies sparkle with thousands of dots forming half remembered, almost traceable shapes. These are the stories behind the names and shapes of the constellations that pattern the night sky.

Stories In The Stars by Susanna Hislop is read by a range of voices and accents from around the country and the globe. It might be one of the stories that the great Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy assigned to them in his masterwork that became known as the Almagest, or it might be a personified first person narration from the constellation Chameleon having a grumble about the number of different names and imagined shapes assigned to him over the millennia.

From Greco-Roman mythology to the lives of the eighteenth century astronomers, this is a delightful miscellany which gives us a reason to step outside, look up and wonder at the magic lantern show above us.

Readers: Susanna Hislop, Maggie Steed, Noma Dumezweni, Colman Domingo

Episode One:

Susanna Hislop introduces us to the cartographers who first mapped the night sky. Corvus, the Crow and Cancer, the Crab offer different perspectives.

Abridged, directed and produced by Jill Waters  
A Waters Company production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (b04vdgpy)**

Monica Grady on Space Exploration; Cerys Matthews; Inequality in the Workplace

Space exploration with Monica Grady, Professor of Planetary and Space Sciences. Songwriter and singer Cerys Matthews on her new song book, Hook Line and Singer. We look at the case of a pregnant woman in Ireland who is clinically brain-dead but being kept on a life support machine to keep her baby alive. Dr Jude Browne from the University of Cambridge looks at quotas for women, why they are an effective but blunt tool and explores other ways to address inequality in the workplace. And archive material of Jane Bown, the Observer photographer who died at the weekend.

Presenter: Jane Garvey  
Producer: Lucinda Montefiore.

**MON 10:45 15 Minute Drama (b04vdgq0)**

The Skool Days of Nigel Molesworth

Hail St Custards

Everyone's favourite anarchic skoolboy, Nigel Molesworth gives a guided tour of the complete and utter shambles that is St Custards, the finest educational establishment this side of Dotheboys Hall.

Imelda Staunton stars as Nigel Molesworth, the Curse of St Custards, in this fresh adaptation of the notorious Gorilla of 3B's guide to skool life for tiny pupils and their parents.

Aided by best friend Peason and thwarted by everyone from Grabber the skool bully to Wandsworth the skool dog, Nigel Molesworth teaches us the ins and outs of skool life - including how to avoid lessens and how to build your own H-bomb.

Molesworth ..... Imelda Staunton  
Peason ..... Sophie Thompson  
Grabber ..... Jack Farthing  
Prudence ..... Jessica Brown Findlay  
Headmaster ..... Patrick Barlow  
Radio Announcer ..... Lewis Macleod

Adapted by Patrick Barlow and George Poles from the books by Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Searle, with additional material by Abigail Wilson.

Director: Patrick Barlow

Producer: Liz Anstee

A CPL production for BBC Radio 4 first broadcast in December 2014. .

**MON 11:00 Six Weeks to Save the World (b04vdbq)**

Dr Wright took the decision to volunteer in the fight against Ebola after the United Nations warned that the world has just 60 days to get the virus under control or face an "unprecedented situation for which we don't have a plan" The report, issued by the organisation's health arm, said the virus was "running faster than us and it is winning the race."

The UN identified the opening of Ebola Treatment Centres and more effective community containment as key to success and in Bradford where Dr Wright is director of the Institute for Health Research, it was a rallying call that saw him immediately volunteer. He worked in southern Africa in the early 1990's, when HIV was endemic and has continued to visit. He has been asked to lead the new treatment centre being set up in Moyamba, Sierra Leone, by Doctors of the Word.

His audio diary starts where he did: at the York army barracks where he and other NHS volunteers spent nine days last month (November) preparing for the task ahead. Much of the training was in a military hangar converted to an Ebola treatment centre and heated to African temperatures so they could get used to wearing the protective suits. It is once they reach Freetown that the reality really hits home:

"It is our first full day here - the size of the task ahead of us is rapidly becoming clear and it all feels quite daunting. We've got three weeks to set up a fully functioning Ebola treatment centre, which is like a mini hospital," he says. Many decisions need to be made in a very short space of time:

The Royal Engineers need input on building the facilities. A lab is needed because without being able to properly test people there is no way to separate Ebola cases from Malaria and TB patients. Six sea containers of medical equipment have to be ordered, including drugs and protective suits and additional staff must also be recruited to provide round the clock care.

"One of the most unsettling aspects of Freetown is the lack of physical contact. No one touches each other. Instead we go through this virtual mime with our arms. We're pretending to hug each other and you realise how human contact is such a fundamental part of how we demonstrate our friendship: when its suddenly removed it creates a great sense of loss."

At present the Moyamba treatment centre is little more than a patch of cleared ground, with a planned opening date in mid-December. It will start with just ten patients and gradually build up to full capacity at a 100. Key to Dr Wright's role will be introducing interventions necessary to get correct diagnosis in the community and safe transport to the centre, to limit the spread of the virus. All trade at the junction has been put on hold until the spread of Ebola can be brought under control.

His recordings will include his dealings with local chiefs and managers from the radio station in Moyamba: health messages and greater awareness will be key areas he hopes to target. The official Ebola death toll has risen to 5,420 out of 15,145 cases according to the World Health Organisation, although the true figures are thought to be higher. In Moyamba the present lack of a treatment centre has led local Chiefs to set up makeshift isolation facilities in schools.

"This is a double edged sword," says Dr Wright: "potentially they're doing the right thing by isolating them, but they have to make sure they're looked after and I'm anxious about the care they're getting. A lot of people are also getting misdiagnosed and we need to sort this out - lots of them will be presenting with malaria so we don't want them misdiagnosed when they could be saved with simple medicines.

"One of the concerns with all of this is that we have this European army of clinicians going out all dressed up in scary protective equipment and it could be very alienating. So we have to do this in partnership and radio will be key out there. As will working with the chiefs on things like road checkpoints and house to house visits. There are a lot of unknowns."

Professor Wright will be working alongside Chris Bulstrode, Emeritus Professor at Oxford University, who has also been

recording his experiences. His decision to go was one that caused concern for his wife Dr Vickie Hunt:

"I think its a very worthwhile thing to do, but I didn't expect you to be offered a nine month contract. I do worry about the quarantine when you come back. You are supposed to be solitary and my main concern is that, just say, you got Ebola and I was quarantined as well, I'd be horrified to think we'd passed anything to our grandchildren."

**MON 11:30 Start/Stop (b04vdlp8)**

Series 2

Christmas

Hit comedy about three marriages in various states of disrepair. Starring Jack Docherty, Kerry Godliman, John Thomson, Fiona Allen, Charlie Higson and Sally Bretton.

This week the three couples are inevitably preparing for Christmas...With all the bitterness and twistedness this time of year brings. Offensive presents. Boastful Christmas cards. And sledging accidents. What more could you possibly ask for?

Barney.... Jack Docherty  
Cathy .... Kerry Godliman  
Fiona ..... Fiona Allen  
Evan ..... John Thomson  
David ..... Charlie Higson  
Alice ..... Sally Bretton  
Producer ..... Claire Jones.

**MON 12:00 News Summary (b04vd4kg)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 12:04 Home Front (b04vdbns)**

22 December 1914 - Phyllis Marshall

Amidst a surge in drunken soldiers in town, a more refined visitor arrives at the Harbour station.

Written by: Shaun McKenna  
Directed and produced by: Lucy Collingwood  
Sound: Martha Littlehales  
Editor: Jessica Dromgoole.

**MON 12:15 You and Yours (b04vdbnv)**

Pop Up Shops, Home Care Costs, Party Wall Disasters

Pop up shops began as a fun way to add interest to the high street. While they may not compete with the big retail hitters for sales, they're now managing to generate real business clout and making shopping local and small increasingly attractive.

The average cost of home care for elderly and disabled people is rising and set to rise even further as Councils countrywide are putting cutbacks in place. But one London Council says it's going to scrap charges altogether for home care next year. They say they will make the savings elsewhere. What does this mean for service users? And why can't every council follow suit?

And we talk to the homeowner faced with a huge bill when a neighbour chose a surveyor to examine their party wall. What are the pitfalls in building an extension when you share a wall and how can they be avoided?

**MON 12:57 Weather (b04vd4kj)**

The latest weather forecast.

**MON 13:00 World at One (b04vdbnx)**

Analysis of current affairs reports, presented by Edward Stourton.

**MON 13:45 Food for Thought (b018g6wz)**

Series 2

Yoko Ono

Yoko Ono discusses the virtues of vegetables with journalist Nina Myskow .

Although reluctant to let even the tiniest piece of inferior confectionery pass her lips, artist and musician Yoko Ono reveals why she finally fell in love with one particular food. She explains that one of husband, John's pleasures was chocolate and how it came to comfort her.

A long time devotee of macrobiotics, Yoko tells Nina about the experiences that shaped her tastes: from a Japanese diet low in animal fat to the years, during World War II, when she was evacuated from Tokyo. She made rice and miso soup for her siblings, longed for butter and was forced to barter for food.

Odd then perhaps that several years later she would go on a

forty day fast with John Lennon.  
She explains why.

Yoko also shares her passion for fish and chips, as well as Korean pickles. And how did she make John eat sushi?

Producer: Tamsin Hughes  
A Wise Buddah production for BBC Radio 4.

**MON 14:00 The Archers (b04vd88w)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

**MON 14:15 Pilgrim by Sebastian Baczkiewicz (b04vdnzb)**  
Series 6

Jackson's Mill

by Sebastian Baczkiewicz. A new series of dark fantasies featuring William Palmer, the immortal wanderer. Pilgrim discovers that an old friend is being haunted by a malevolent spirit. Meanwhile, homeless people are disappearing from a local shelter.

1 of 4

CAST  
Pilgrim ..... Paul Hilton  
Morgan ..... Justin Salinger  
Hartley ..... Matthew Tennyson  
Liam ..... Shaun Mason  
Karen ..... Bettrys Jones  
Gabriel ..... Paul Heath  
Gaynor ..... Jane Slavin  
The Girl ..... Agnes Bateman

Directed by Marc Beeby

**MON 15:00 Brain of Britain (b04vdcnc1)**  
Brain of Brains 2014

Russell Davies chairs the general knowledge contest of champions, held every three years, featuring the Radio 4 'Brain of Britain' champions for 2012, 2013 and 2014. This year the highest-scoring runner-up in any of the last three Finals also joins them.

A close contest is guaranteed, between four of Britain's most competitive quiz brains: Mark Grant, Barry Simmons, David Stainer and Ray Ward.

The special contest launches the brand new season of 'Brain of Britain' which begins in earnest next week.

Producer: Paul Bajoria.

**MON 15:30 The Food Programme (b04vd69h)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:32 on Sunday]

**MON 16:00 Midwives to Be (b04vf6z9)**  
It's one of the most popular degree courses in the country. If you've managed to secure a place at King's College London to study midwifery, you've beaten 17 other applicants to secure the place.

Sarah Taylor has been following the September 2014 intake of BSc Midwifery students who are studying at King's College London. Less than half of them are straight from school, some arrive on the course having already studied something completely different. Other members have finally got a place to study midwifery after doing their time as Health Care Assistants and studying via the access course route.

It's a really diverse student group and of the 99 student midwives, just one is male. The students share their stories of what motivated them to apply for the course, how hard it was to get on and how they are coping with the first term. It's an intense student experience - twelve hour shifts in hospital alongside lots of lectures to help them get up to speed with everything they need to know to support women in labour.

Presented and produced by Sarah Taylor.

**MON 16:30 Beyond Belief (b04vdngf)**  
TS Eliot's Religious Poetry

Ernie Rea and guests discuss the enduring appeal of TS Eliot's religious poetry.

It's 50 years since TS Eliot died. His later work, most notably the Four Quartets, is informed by a Christian Faith which became one of the pillars which sustained his life. How religious is his poetry? And what does it have to say to a society which many feel has lost its Christian moorings?

Ernie is joined by Lyndall Gordon, author of *The Imperfect Life of T S Eliot*; the Rt Rev the Lord Harris, former Bishop of Oxford; and Roz Kaveney, poet, and critic and author of a series on Eliot for the *Guardian* newspaper.

Producer: Rosie Dawson.

**MON 17:00 PM (b04z6b04)**  
Full coverage and analysis of the day's news.

**MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (b04vd4kl)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 18:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (b04vdngk)**  
Series 62

Episode 6

Back for a second week at The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, regulars Barry Cryer and Graeme Garden are joined on the panel by Susan Calman and Tony Hawks, with Jack Dee in the chair. Piano accompaniment is provided by Colin Sell.

Producer - Jon Naismith.

**MON 19:00 The Archers (b04vdnkp)**  
Fallon and Emma have prepared the refreshments table at Borchester Community Centre. Emma takes George to the Grotto, where George tells Father Christmas they've moved house. Fallon takes Father Christmas a cuppa and realises it's PC Burns. She also realises he must have recommended them for this event, and is grateful. Learning he's no longer with Justine, she suggests he might enjoy Blithe Spirit on Boxing Day. But he has already bought a ticket. Kate is back from South Africa. She wants to hear about Phoebe's end of term parties but Phoebe is content with listening to her music. Kate loves the underfloor heating in Jennifer's kitchen. It's great for her yoga. Jennifer wishes she'd known sooner that Kate has become vegan. What is she going to have for Christmas dinner now?

Kate tries to make plans for when they have the house to themselves tomorrow. Phoebe doesn't care what they do, but doesn't need child-minding. Jennifer tells Kate that Phoebe is still very sensitive. She needs time.

Phoebe notices an iPad and is pleased it's for her. But she just wants things back the way they were with Roy. Kate tells her that Nolly and Siphó are planning a lovely Christmas. And so are they - just the two of them, together.

**MON 19:15 Front Row (b04vdnkr)**  
Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones; Renee Fleming; Billie Whitelaw remembered

Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones talk to John Wilson about their new film *The Theory of Everything* about the physicist Stephen Hawking; soprano Renée Fleming on her new album *Christmas in New York*; Billie Whitelaw remembered by former theatre critic Benedict Nightingale; and Adam Smith considers the dark side of Christmas films.

Producer Jerome Weatherald.

**MON 19:45 15 Minute Drama (b04vdgq0)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:45 today]

**MON 20:00 The Invisible Age (b04vdnkt)**  
The Living Archive

What's it really like to be old? This programme is dedicated to conversations with the over 85s about the great turning points in their lives. Presenter Matthew Sweet describes his friends in their 80s and 90s as a "living archive". The "fourth generation" is not only a fast-growing feature of modern Britain, it's a portal to our collective past.

How does it feel to know about something that the culture has forgotten? What happens when your friends and family pass on and you are left? Matthew Sweet talks to people aged over 85 in a quest to find out not only about their lives but also how life has changed around them. We meet some of Britain's 14,000 centenarians - they are part of a growing trend, with demographers predicting that, by 2114, a million Britons alive will have received their telegram from the Queen.

And Matthew travels back to his home town of Hull where, as a six year old, he liked nothing more than spending time with his elderly neighbours. He meets one of these neighbours, who, unbeknown to Matthew at the time, is eminent political theorist Professor Bikhu Parekh, now Baron Parekh. Matthew also talks to Mary Urwin whose father knew Florence Nightingale, and Bridgette Paterson who once played with the von Hindenburg children in the German President's Palace.

Produced by Hermeet Chadha  
A Loftus production for BBC Radio 4.

**MON 20:30 Crossing Continents (b04v59h7)**  
The Knights of New Russia

Russian support for the separatists in eastern Ukraine doesn't all come directly from the Kremlin. The rebellion there may be stoked, and armed, by Vladimir Putin - but it's also become a personal cause for young Russian volunteers recruited by a variety of nationalist and far-right groups. Many say they're motivated by their Orthodox faith - and their dream to restore Novorossiia, or New Russia, the territory which encompassed eastern Ukraine under the Tsarist Empire. Passionate members of re-enactment societies, they've spent their weekends reliving Russia's historic battles. But now they're fighting - and sometimes dying - for real, in what they see as a test of their own, and Russia's, "manhood". Tim Whewell has gained rare access to the weird, shadowy world of Russia's radical nationalists. He travels with volunteers from the grand old imperial capital, St Petersburg, to the chaotic, muddy battlefields of eastern Ukraine - and reveals a movement whose leaders have become increasingly influential in Putin's Russia - but is now in danger of becoming an embarrassment to the Kremlin.  
Producer: Dina Newman.

**MON 21:00 Shared Planet (b04v3811)**  
Sharing Our Lives with Wolves

Few creatures have infiltrated our psyche as much as wolves. They haunt our imagination and appear in our stories, myths and legends. They are at once the embodiment of the devil and of the wild, enough dog that we relate to them, but also rugged, unpredictable and wild. They roam vast, untamed landscapes and then appear in our midst, hunting sheep and spreading fear. Our relationship has been so conflicting that they were almost eradicated from the earth by the end of the 19th Century. But since being protected they are slowly coming back in both Europe and America. Are we now able to live with them? Do we want to? Monty Don explores the enigma that is the wolf and looks at how our attitudes have shaped their destiny.

**MON 21:30 Start the Week (b04vddws)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**MON 21:58 Weather (b04vd4kn)**  
The latest weather forecast.

**MON 22:00 The World Tonight (b04vdqpk)**  
In-depth reporting and analysis from a global perspective presented by Ritula Shah

On the programme tonight: details of the bin lorry accident in Glasgow; the Tunisian election results; global cyber threats; the impact of low oil prices in Venezuela.

**MON 22:45 Book at Bedtime (b04vdqpm)**  
The Diary of a Provincial Lady

EM Delafield - The Diary of a Provincial Lady

E M Delafield was great friends with Margaret Mackworth, 2nd Viscountess Rhondda, and became a director of *Time and Tide* magazine. When the editor "wanted some light 'middles', preferably in serial form, she promised to think of something". And so it was, in 1930, that her most popular and enduring work *The Diary of a Provincial Lady* was written. It has never been out of print.

The Diary of a Provincial Lady charts the day-to-day life of a Devonshire-dwelling lady and her attempts to keep her somewhat ramshackle household from falling into chaos.

Husband Robert, when he's not snoozing behind *The Times*, does everything with grumbling reluctance. Her children are gleefully troublesome. A succession of tricky servants invariably seem to gain the upper hand. And if her domestic trials are not enough, she must keep up appearances - particularly with the maddeningly patronising Lady Boxe, with whom our Provincial Lady eternally (and unsuccessfully) endeavours to compete.

This largely autobiographical novel substituted the names of "Robin" and "Vicky" for her own children, Lionel and Rosamund.

Abridged by Libby Spurrier  
Read by Claire Skinner

Produced by Joanna Green  
A Pier production for BBC Radio 4.

**MON 23:00 Good Omens (b04knthd)**

Episode 1

The demon Crowley is tasked with the delivery of a baby to St Beryl's hospital, initiating a chain of events that will lead to Armageddon. But things don't quite go to plan.

With a cast led by Peter Serafinowicz and Mark Heap, this is the first ever dramatisation of Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman's Good Omens.

According to the Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, the world will end on a Saturday. A Saturday quite soon, on Radio 4.

Events have been set in motion to bring about the End of Days. The armies of Good and Evil are gathering and making their way towards the sleepy English village of Lower Tadfield. The Four Horsepersons of the Apocalypse - War, Famine, Pollution and Death - have been summoned from the corners of the earth and are assembling.

Witchfinder Sergeant Shadwell and his assistant Newton Pulsifier are also en route to Tadfield to investigate some unusual phenomena in the area, while Anathema Device, descendant of prophetess and witch Agnes Nutter, tries to decipher her ancestor's cryptic predictions about exactly where the impending Apocalypse will take place.

Atlantis is rising, fish are falling from the sky; everything seems to be going to the Divine Plan.

Everything that is but for the unlikely duo of an angel and a demon who are not all that keen on the prospect of the forthcoming Rapture. Aziraphale (once an angel in the Garden of Eden, but now running an antiquarian bookshop in London), and Crowley (formerly Eden's snake, now driving around London in shades and a vintage Bentley) have been living on Earth for several millennia and have become rather fond of the place. But if they are to stop Armageddon taking place they've got to find and kill the one who will be the one bring about the apocalypse: the Antichrist himself.

There's just one small problem: someone seems to have mislaid him...

Crowley ..... Peter Serafinowicz  
Aziraphale ..... Mark Heap  
Sister Patricia Prattle ..... Tracy Wiles  
Dagon ..... Ben Crowe  
Mr Young ..... Simon Jones  
Ligur ..... Neil Maskell  
Warlock ..... Rudi Goodman  
Agnes Nutter ..... Josie Lawrence  
Sister Grace Voluble ..... Marcella Riordan  
Sister Mary Loquacious ..... Louise Brealey  
Hastur ..... Phil Davis  
Policeman ..... Terry Pratchett  
Policeman ..... Neil Gaiman  
Young Anathema ..... Lily-Rose Aslandogdu

Adaptation and sound design by Dirk Maggs.

Producer: Heather Larmour

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2014.

**MON 23:30 Good Omens (b04vdqpp)**

Episode 2

Realising they have been protecting and corrupting the wrong child, Aziraphale and Crowley set out to discover what happened to the real son of Satan.

With a cast led by Peter Serafinowicz and Mark Heap, this is the first ever dramatisation of Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman's Good Omens.

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Crowley ..... Peter Serafinowicz  
Aziraphale ..... Mark Heap  
Marie ..... Tracy Wiles  
Dagon ..... Ben Crowe  
Agnes Nutter ..... Josie Lawrence  
Shadwell ..... Clive Russell  
Madame Tracy ..... Julia Deakin  
Prout ..... Ben Crowe  
Newton Pulsifer ..... Colin Morgan  
Anathema Device ..... Charlotte Ritchie  
Raven Sable ..... Paterson Joseph  
Mary Hodges ..... Louise Brealey  
Ami ..... Christy Meyers  
Elvis The Cook ..... Mitch Benn  
Blenkinsop ..... Paul Stonehouse  
Tomkins ..... Theo Maggs  
Wethered ..... Tom Alexander  
Jane Garvey ..... Herself  
Adam ..... Adam Thomas Wright  
Pepper ..... Hollie Burgess  
Wensleydale ..... Bobby Fuller  
Brian ..... Lewis Andrews

Adaptation and sound design by Dirk Maggs.

Producer: Heather Larmour

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2014.

**TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER 2014****TUE 00:00 Midnight News (b04vd4ll)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4. Followed by Weather.

**TUE 00:30 Book of the Week (b04vdgppw)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 on Monday]

**TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4ln)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (b04vd4lq)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**TUE 05:20 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4ls)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**TUE 05:30 News Briefing (b04vd4lv)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (b04vdy0r)**

A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day, with the Rev Dr Stephen Wigley.

**TUE 05:45 Farming Today (b04vdy0t)**

Pig farmers are being warned to step up bio-security after a highly infectious disease was found to have arrived in Europe. Asian-American Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea - PED - has wiped out an estimated 8.5 million pigs in America since May last year. It's now been detected in Ukraine. Organisations are rolling out contingency plans in the UK soon.

Around 31 pubs across the UK close each week. Yet according to the real ale group Camra, 69% of pub-goers believe that a well-run pub is as important to rural life as a post office, local shop or community centre. Well many rural pubs are now finding niche ways to draw in custom and make them stand out from the rest - and for one in rural Gloucestershire - the Salutation Inn at Ham - this has meant rearing their own pigs.

Not everyone looks forward to Christmas. For some farmers it can be an extremely stressful time, especially for those living in very isolated areas. There are several helplines and advice services available for farmers to call, if they feel it's getting too much. The Farming Community Network keeps its lines open every day, and says with changes to the Common Agricultural Policy, this could be a difficult year.

**TUE 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b04t0htz)**

Hyacinth Macaw

Tweet of the Day is the voice of birds and our relationship with them, from around the world.

Sir David Attenborough presents the hyacinth macaw of the Brazilian Pantanal. Raucous ear-piercing screeches are produced by one of the most beautiful parrots in the world, flying high over the marshy wetlands of the Pantanal. As their name suggests they are a rich cobalt blue, with sulphur-yellow eye rings with a massive bill and long elegant tail-feathers streaming behind them in flight, making them our longest parrot. Popular as captive caged birds, they are now endangered in the wild and legally protected in Brazil. They feed on palm nuts, including those of the acuri palm which are so hard that even the macaw's powerful bill can't break into them, until they've first passed through the digestive tracts of cattle.

**TUE 06:00 Today (b04vdy0w)**

Morning news and current affairs. Including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**TUE 09:00 The Long View (b04vdy0y)**

Documenting the Self: Victorian Diaries and 21st-Century Social Media

Jonathan Freedland compares the current fashion for recording the details of our lives in digital photos and on social media with the 19th century obsession with keeping a diary.

Producer Mohini Patel.

**TUE 09:30 Witness (b04wmy4c)**

The Making of Kind of Blue

Drummer Jimmy Cobb recalls playing with Miles Davis on the album that changed jazz for ever. Kind of Blue was recorded in just two sessions at 30th Street Studios in New York City in 1959.

**TUE 09:45 Book of the Week (b04vdy10)**

Stories in the Stars

Episode 2

A seasonal reading for clear and frosty nights, when the skies sparkle with thousands of dots forming half remembered, almost traceable shapes. These are the stories behind the names and shapes of the constellations that pattern the night sky.

Stories In The Stars by Susanna Hislop is read by a range of voices and accents from around the country and the globe. It might be one of the stories that the great Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy assigned to them in his masterwork that became known as the Almagest, or it might be a personified first person narration from the constellation Chameleon having a grumble about the number of different names and imagined shapes assigned to him over the millennia.

From Greco-Roman mythology to the lives of the eighteenth century astronomers, this is a delightful miscellany which gives us a reason to step outside, look up and wonder at the magic lantern show above us.

Readers: Susanna Hislop, Noma Dumezweni, Paul Copley, Colman Domingo

Episode Two:

Orion is one of the most famous and recognisable figures in the night sky. Close by Taurus gallops across our night sky.

Abridged, directed and produced by Jill Waters  
A Waters Company production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (b04vdy12)**

Margaret Rope's Stained Glass; Betsy Tobin

Listener, Mark Stewart on why he wants to raise the profile of stained glass artist Margaret Rope. Civil Partnerships for heterosexual couples. What support is there for young people experiencing domestic violence in relationships? Betsy Tobin on her novel Things We Couldn't Explain - and the history of virgin births. Leather, or the artificial alternative pleather, is in fashion. Dai Rees from the London College of Fashion gives his views on how to wear it and how to look after it.

Presented by Jane Garvey  
Produced by Jane Thurlow.

**TUE 10:45 15 Minute Drama (b04vdy14)**

The Skool Days of Nigel Molesworth



A Tour of the Cages

Molesworth and his friend Peason explain the different types of masters and how best to deal with them.

Imelda Staunton stars as Nigel Molesworth, the Curse of St Custards, in this fresh adaptation of the notorious Gorilla of 3B's guide to school life for tiny pupils and their parents.

Aided by best friend Peason and thwarted by everyone from Grabber the school bully to Wandsworth the school dog, Nigel Molesworth teaches us the ins and outs of school life - including how to avoid lessons and how to build your own H-bomb.

Molesworth ..... Imelda Staunton  
Peason ..... Sophie Thompson  
Grabber ..... Jack Farthing  
Prudence ..... Jessica Brown Findlay  
Mr Metcalf-Walker ..... Lewis Macleod

Adapted by Patrick Barlow and George Poles from the books by Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Searle, with additional material by Abigail Wilson.

Director: Patrick Barlow

Producer: Liz Anstee

A CPL production for BBC Radio 4 first broadcast in December 2014.

**TUE 11:00 Shared Planet (b04vdy2q)**  
Pit Stops and Stopovers

The Amur Falcon and the Swan Goose are both migrating birds. These birds, like many other migrating birds, need to rest, feed and refresh en route. Some journeys are thousands of miles and rich feeding habitat is disappearing for development. Wetlands, estuaries and coastlines are often the focus of industrial expansion, tourism and new housing, yet they are also the places most needed by migrating waders. Inland there are problems too as water bodies, scrub and insect rich grasslands are quickly taken over for agriculture and urban development. What can be done? In Nagaland in north-eastern India the Amur falcon has recently congregated at a newly built reservoir to feed on the rich insect life that it supports. Hundreds of thousands, millions even, of these small birds of prey come together for a few days and in the past have been heavily hunted and trapped for food. Yet local people, encouraged by NGOs and the churches, have decided to let the birds be. In America the migrating monarch butterfly is being helped by people planting nectar rich flowers and protecting the trees they like to roost in. Some of the challenges are huge, others easy to solve. Monty Don explores the trials of migration.

**TUE 11:30 The Voices of... (b04vdyz3)**  
Elly Stone

Elly Stone - a modest 87 year old New Yorker ("born and dragged up"), whose sublime voice will forever be associated with the songs of Belgian chanteur Jacques Brel - talks about her life in music.

In My Childhood, Song for Old Lovers, The Old Folks and Carousel she brings a new perspective to Brel's familiar emotional intensity and piercing social commentary.

20 years after her stage retirement, she offers a rare insight into her life and what music has meant to her - in a quiet New York studio, out on the streets of her bustling city and at Sardi's, the famous theatre restaurant.

Running through Elly's own story - from troubled childhood, through Broadway success, to marriage, motherhood and mid-life epiphany - there's a musical counterpoint that can be traced in the songs she famously made her own in the musical revue Jacques Brel's Alive and Well and Living in Paris.

Producer: Alan Hall

A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4 first broadcast in December 2014

**TUE 12:00 News Summary (b04vd4lx)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 12:04 Home Front (b04vdzy5)**  
23 December 1914 - Sylvia Graham

The Christmas tea for the Belgian Wounded doesn't go entirely to plan.

Written by: Shaun McKenna  
Directed and produced by: Lucy Collingwood  
Sound: Martha Littlehailes

Editor: Jessica Dromgoole.

**TUE 12:15 You and Yours (b04vdzy7)**  
Call You and Yours

Call You & Yours: what would you do to ease the pressure on A&E units; 25% of people who attend ought not to - could charging people who don't need to use it be the answer?

**TUE 12:57 Weather (b04vd4lz)**  
The latest weather forecast.

**TUE 13:00 World at One (b04vdzy9)**  
Analysis of current affairs reports, presented by Mark Maddell.

**TUE 13:45 Food for Thought (b018g3m6)**  
Series 2

David Sedaris

Over takeaway sushi in his London kitchen, American essayist and humorist David Sedaris talks to Nina Myskow about being greedy, good at dieting - for his regular book tours - and how he stopped wanting to eat the condiments after he gave up smoking drugs.

David's large, idiosyncratic family must play some part in his obsession with second helpings. From a thrifty father who hoarded titbits and clipped money-off coupons for the weekly grocery shop to a mother who spent hours in conversation with her six children around the dinner table, he still worries that there'll never be enough.

His boyfriend orders for him in restaurants and cooks elaborate meals like rabbit in mustard and cream sauce but he still relishes the thought of a huge hamburger called the 'Widow-maker' and a side order of spinach that comes in a dish the size of a mixing bowl.

"The hard thing about being on a diet is getting off of it" he explains, before recounting the unpleasant side effects of some French pharmacy diet pills he took, in order to get into his 'tour pants.' Eating on tour can be difficult so he orders supper at each venue and takes a bite in between signing books.

He also tells Nina about his love of Mr Whippy ice cream, sticky toffee pudding and why eating chocolate is like eating drain cleaner.

What would he choose for his last meal on earth? A comforting dish his mother used to make.

Producer: Tamsin Hughes  
A Wise Buddah production for BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 14:00 The Archers (b04vdknp)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

**TUE 14:15 Drama (b011jv85)**  
The Big Broadcast

The Big Broadcast

Words and music by Neil Brand

It's 1932, and the Chicago Beefsteak's Hour of Charm is the most successful programme on Midwest US radio. Tonight's live broadcast stars famous husband and wife team of composer/lyricists Grant Thornhill and Jean Forsythe. Gambling Grant is in debt to gangster Brannigan but a new song might just save the day.

BBC Singers  
Margaret Cameron, Charles Gibbs,  
Olivia Robinson, Stephen Jeffes

Director: David Hunter.

**TUE 15:00 The Kitchen Cabinet (b04v95t3)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:30 on Saturday]

**TUE 15:30 Character Studies with Alexander McCall Smith (b04vdzye)**  
Alexander McCall Smith explores the work of writers and their popular characters from literature, drama and comedy.

With contributions from Mark Haddon, Lee Hall, William Boyd, Helen Fielding and Adil Ray he examines the process of generating character and how creations such as Billy Elliot and Bridget Jones came into existence and infiltrated our lives.

Hilary Mantel explains the method of reimagining real life characters and McCall Smith offers insights into his own creation Precious Ramotswe and whether she's now part of public ownership.

Throughout the programme McCall Smith reveals that characters can be as enticing, vibrant and tangible as real people, allowing us to reflect on the world around us and accompany them on their journeys.

Some of the material was broadcast previously as part of Radio 4's Character Invasion.

**TUE 16:00 Word of Mouth (b04vdzyf)**  
Ebola: How should we talk about it?

Michael Rosen talks to Oxfam's media officer on Ebola, Ian Bray, about the language we use about the disease, both in this country and in Liberia, where he's been based. Michael also asks linguists Louise Sylvester and Laura Wright about the words we've used though history to describe disease and plague, and what they tell us about changing attitudes to sickness. Producer Beth O'Dea.

**TUE 16:30 Great Lives (b04vdzyh)**  
Series 35

Brian Eno on Lord Young of Dartington

Brian Eno has worked with David Bowie, David Byrne and U2 but his choice of Great Life is not a rock star but the sociologist Lord Young of Dartington. Michael Young wrote the Labour Party's 1945 election manifesto, researched slum clearance in the East End of London, set up the Consumers' Association, coined the word "meritocracy", co-founded the Open University and planned the colonisation of Mars.

With the help of Michael's son Toby, Brian considers the life and work of one of the architects of post-war Britain.

Producer: Julia Johnson

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 2014.

**TUE 17:00 PM (b04vdzyk)**  
Full coverage and analysis of the day's news.

**TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (b04vd4m1)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 18:30 Cabin Pressure (b04vf25d)**  
Series 5

Zurich, pt 1

One of the most popular radio sitcoms of the past ten years bows out with a special double episode. As Martin decides whether to take his new job, is this the end for MJN Air? And just what has Arthur painted on the side of the van?

With the show titles running alphabetically from the first ever episode - "Abu Dhabi" through to this double finale "Zurich" - the cast and crew of MJN Air discover that whether it's choosing an ice-cream flavour, putting a princess in a van or remembering your grandmother's name, no job is too small, but many, many jobs are too difficult.

With special guests including Anthony Head and Timothy West.

Written by John Finnemore  
Produced and Directed by David Tyler

A Pozziive production for BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 19:00 The Archers (b04vf25g)**  
Phoebe rejects Roy's Christmas gift to her, a tablet. Kate had got in first and bought Phoebe an iPad. Besides, declares Phoebe, Roy will never have enough money to buy her forgiveness.

As stung Roy tries to leave, he is confronted by angry Kate. She can't believe he would come visiting unbidden, and upset Phoebe like that. Roy pleads his side of the story, and begs Kate to talk Phoebe round. After all, Kate is hardly a role model herself. Kate refuses. Adam tells Roy to keep his pecker up His sister always speaks before she thinks. Roy promises he'll try.

Lynda's technical rehearsal has been a disaster. Roy offers to do a double shift at Grey Gables on Christmas Eve, so that she can squeeze in another rehearsal. She's very grateful. Roy's fine with it; it's not as if he has anything better to do.

Adam is not looking forward to the party with the Borchester Land board, and more specifically Charlie Thomas. Kate detects a frisson, but Adam brushes it off.

At the party, Adam receives a very generous Secret Santa gift - an engraved hipflask. Charlie showers him with compliments about his work. But when Charlie suggests they go on to a club in town, Adam declines. Maybe another time.

**TUE 19:15 Front Row (b04vklb0)**

Unbroken, Young Fathers, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Miranda Richardson

Unbroken is Angelina Jolie's second film as director. Starring British actor Jack O'Connell it tells the story of US Olympian Louis Zamperini who was captured during WW2 and sent to a Japanese prisoner of war camp. Mark Eccleston reviews.

Mercury Prize winners Young Fathers discuss the origins of the band and why they strive to avoid simple classification.

Miranda Richardson discusses her role with Anna Chancellor in a new TV version of Mapp and Lucia.

At an exhibition of his photographs in London, dance star Mikhail Baryshnikov explains how smuggled European magazines inspired his love of photography when he was growing up in 1960s Russia.

**TUE 19:45 15 Minute Drama (b04vdy14)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:45 today]

**TUE 20:00 Terror and the Oxygen of Publicity (b04vf2qh)**

The Islamic State has been described as one of the most brutal terrorist organisations currently fighting in the Middle East and one with the most sophisticated (social) media strategy. Much of their expansion is not happening on the ground but online through videos, magazines and blogs they publish.

In 'Terror and the Oxygen of Publicity' Gordon Corera, the BBC Security Correspondent, examines the jihadists' social media strategy, the attempts to combat it, and how media organisations tread the fine line of giving publicity to terrorists and reporting the news.

The Producer is Anna Meisel.

**TUE 20:40 In Touch (b04vf36m)**

Blind Dating

Peter White is joined by Tony Shearman, who finds himself dating again after a long-term relationship and opera singer Denise Leigh, who is now happily married following an earlier divorce.

The three share their experiences of dating, some with disastrous consequences and others more successful.

**TUE 21:00 All in the Mind (b04vf36p)**

Hypnotism; Automatic Writing; Magic and Memory

A show with a touch of magic, as Claudia discovers how magicians and conjurers use the power of our own beliefs as well as the power of suggestion, to perform their tricks.

Professor Chris French, Head of the Anomalistic Psychology Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London, describes his latest study where a fake psychic bends keys using "psychokinetic" energy. Belief in the paranormal and the influence of others who claim to have seen the key bend, both affect what we see and remember.

And the use of hypnosis in science and medicine. Former President of the Section for Hypnosis and Psychosomatic Medicine at the Royal Society of Medicine, Dr Peter Naish, describes how this altered brain state is providing a useful new tool for researchers investigating how our brains function, as well as clinicians treating patients in the NHS.

Claudia visits the hypnosis unit at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College, London, and finds out about a unique study that has volunteers, hypnotised, in a brain scanner while "thoughts" are inserted in their brains. The result: automatic writing. Just like Caravaggio, 400 years ago, painted St Matthew, inspired and directed by an angel as he wrote the Bible, volunteers in this study are told "an engineer" is inserting thoughts into their heads and controlling their hand movements as they write. Dr Quinton Deeley, Dr Eamonn Walsh and Dr Mitul Mehta tell Claudia how their research is shining light on our brains and the nature of thought and consciousness.

Producer: Fiona Hill.

**TUE 21:30 The Long View (b04vdy0y)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**TUE 21:58 Weather (b04vd4m3)**

The latest weather forecast.

**TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (b04vf435)**

In-depth reporting and analysis from a global perspective.

**TUE 22:45 Book at Bedtime (b04vf437)**

The Diary of a Provincial Lady

EM Delafield - The Diary of a Provincial Lady

E M Delafield was great friends with Margaret Mackworth, 2nd Viscountess Rhondda, and became a director of Time and Tide magazine. When the editor "wanted some light 'middles', preferably in serial form, she promised to think of something". And so it was, in 1930, that her most popular and enduring work The Diary of a Provincial Lady was written. It has never been out of print.

The Diary of a Provincial Lady charts the day-to-day life of a Devonshire-dwelling lady and her attempts to keep her somewhat ramshackle household from falling into chaos.

Husband Robert, when he's not snoozing behind The Times, does everything with grumbling reluctance. Her children are gleefully troublesome. A succession of tricky servants invariably seem to gain the upper hand. And if her domestic trials are not enough, she must keep up appearances - particularly with the maddeningly patronising Lady Boxe, with whom our Provincial Lady eternally (and unsuccessfully) endeavours to compete.

This largely autobiographical novel substituted the names of "Robin" and "Vicky" for her own children, Lionel and Rosamund.

Abridged by Libby Spurrier

Read by Claire Skinner

Produced by Joanna Green

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 23:00 Andrew O'Neill: Pharmacist Baffler (b04vf439)**

Episode 2

Comedian Andrew O'Neill looks at what makes up our sexual identity and why some people are so offended by homosexuality.

What lies underneath their hostility and what other sorts of sexuality there might be?

Andrew is a married, heterosexual transvestite. As such he totally confuses some people who assume he's gay, offends some who can't cope with the outfits and baffles people who aren't sure what he's all about.

Written and performed by Andrew O'Neill with Stephen Carlin.

Producer: Alison Vernon-Smith

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2014.

**TUE 23:30 Good Omens (b04vf43c)**

Episode 3

Aziraphale consults Agnes's prophesies in the hunt for the antichrist, the Witchfinder Army send Newt to Tadfield, and the Horsepersons of the Apocalypse continue to be summoned.

With a cast led by Peter Serafinowicz and Mark Heap, this is the first ever dramatisation of Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman's Good Omens.

Events have been set in motion to bring about the End of Days. The armies of Good and Evil are gathering and making their way towards the sleepy English village of Lower Tadfield. The Four Horsepersons of the Apocalypse - War, Famine, Pollution and Death - have been summoned from the corners of the earth and are assembling.

Witchfinder Sergeant Shadwell and his assistant Newton Pulsifer are also en route to Tadfield to investigate some unusual phenomena in the area, while Anathema Device, descendant of prophethood and witch Agnes Nutter, tries to decipher her ancestor's cryptic predictions about exactly where the impending Apocalypse will take place.

Atlantis is rising, fish are falling from the sky; everything seems to be going to the Divine Plan.

Everything that is but for the unlikely duo of an angel and a demon who are not all that keen on the prospect of the forthcoming Rapture. Aziraphale (once an angel in the Garden

of Eden, but now running an antiquarian bookshop in London), and Crowley (formerly Eden's snake, now driving around London in shades and a vintage Bentley) have been living on Earth for several millennia and have become rather fond of the place. But if they are to stop Armageddon taking place they've got to find and kill the one who will be the one bring about the apocalypse: the Antichrist himself.

There's just one small problem: someone seems to have misled him...

Crowley ..... Peter Serafinowicz  
Aziraphale ..... Mark Heap  
Major Pulsifer ..... Ben Crowe  
Agnes Nutter ..... Josie Lawrence  
Anathema Device ..... Charlotte Ritchie  
Newton Pulsifer ..... Colin Morgan  
Shadwell ..... Clive Russell  
Madame Tracy ..... Julia Deakin  
Lopez ..... Mitch Benn  
Blake ..... Theo Maggs  
Wasabi Computer ..... Andy Secombe  
Carmine Zuigiber ..... Rachael Stirling  
Chalk ..... Harry Lloyd  
Death ..... Jim Norton  
International Express ..... Ron Cook  
Anforth ..... Nicholas Briggs  
Nick Grimshaw ..... Himself  
Martha Kearney ..... Herself  
Neil Sleat ..... Himself  
Adam ..... Adam Thomas Wright  
Pepper ..... Hollie Burgess  
Wensleydale ..... Bobby Fuller  
Brian ..... Lewis Andrews

Adaptation and sound design by Dirk Maggs.

Producer: Heather Larmour

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2014.

**WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2014**

**WED 00:00 Midnight News (b04vd4n3)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4. Followed by Weather.

**WED 00:30 Book of the Week (b04vdy10)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 on Tuesday]

**WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4n5)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (b04vd4n7)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**WED 05:20 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4n9)**

The latest shipping forecast.

**WED 05:30 News Briefing (b04vd4nc)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4.

**WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (b04vf6t9)**

A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day, with the Rev Dr Stephen Wigley.

**WED 05:45 Farming Today (b04vf6tc)**

Welsh TB, Vet at Christmas, Dairy at Christmas

With the latest on the TB eradication programme in Wales, and hearing about a vet's working Christmas, Anna Hill presents the Christmas Eve edition of Farming Today.

Dr Christianne Glossop, the Chief Veterinary Officer in Wales, calls for full compliance by Welsh farmers with the TB-eradication programme. This is in the light of a farmer who was convicted of falsifying documents relating to bovine TB tests has had his appeal against conviction turned down by the High Court.

Like all livestock farmers, vets work every day of the year, and Christmas can be even busier than other times of the year, because many farms are calving and lambing. Molly McKay from Norfolk Farm Vets shows Anna what her working Christmas is like.

And it's not just vets who'll be working on Christmas day. Lucy Bickerton joins Rob Harrison, the NFU's dairy board chairman, for morning milking on his farm in the Cotswolds.

Presented by Anna Hill and Produced by Mark Smalley.

**WED 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b04t0lwc)**  
House Wren

Tweet of the Day is the voice of birds and our relationship with them, from around the world.

Sir David Attenborough presents the house wren found across the New World. Having one of the largest ranges of any songbird in the New World, the migratory house wren occurs anywhere from their breeding grounds in Canada and North America, to their wintering grounds from Central America to Chile. The male house wren's song is a torrent of trills delivered at full volume from his territory of shrubs, low trees and ferny banks. Diminutive he may be but he's feisty and is known to drag other birds' eggs or chicks from a nest-hole he wants for himself. In parts of North America, house wrens are a significant cause of nest failure in some other species of songbirds.

**WED 06:00 Today (b04vf6tf)**

Morning news and current affairs. Including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**WED 09:00 Midweek (b04vf6th)**

Barbara Dickson; Mike McShane; Dr Sarah Coombes; Giles Abbott

Libby Purves meets singer Barbara Dickson; actor Mike McShane; medic Dr Sarah Coombes and storyteller Giles Abbott.

Dr Sarah Coombes is a consultant with the Ambulance Service of New South Wales (ASNSW). She appears in a new series of Helicopter Heroes Down Under which follows British medics and pilots working in Australia. She is in charge of recruiting new doctors for ASNSW as well as attending emergency calls - covering around 7 million people in a 300-400 km radius. Helicopter Heroes Down Under Series 2 is on BBC1.

Barbara Dickson OBE is a Scottish singer and actor. Her new album, *Winter*, includes 11 of her favourite seasonal songs; such as *Silence of the Dawn* by ABBA's Benny Andersson. Her hits include *Another Suitcase in Another Hall* and she has appeared in stage shows including *Blood Brothers* and *John, Paul, George, Ringo... and Bert*. *Winter* is released by Chariot Records. Barbara will be touring the UK in 2015.

Mike McShane is an American actor, writer and comedian. He is currently in the Stephen Sondheim musical *Assassins*, which explores the history of American would-be presidential assassins and those who succeeded - from John Wilkes Booth to Lee Harvey Oswald. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Mike joined the army at 18 before taking up acting at San Francisco State University. He appeared on TV shows such as *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* and played *Friar Tuck* in the 1991 film *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*. *Assassins* is at the Menier Chocolate Factory, London.

Giles Abbott is a professional storyteller. He will be touring his new show, *Tongues of Flame*, based on the life of British explorer, writer and translator, Richard F Burton. Giles started storytelling in 1999 in response to his sudden and serious, but not total, sight loss the year before. Formerly resident storyteller for the Chelsea Community Hospital School, Giles is a trained voice teacher. *Tongues of Flame* is touring.

Producer: Paula McGinley.

**WED 09:45 Book of the Week (b04vf6tk)**  
Stories in the Stars

24/12/2014

A seasonal reading for clear and frosty nights, when the skies sparkle with thousands of dots forming half remembered, almost traceable shapes. These are the stories behind the names and shapes of the constellations that pattern the night sky.

*Stories In The Stars* by Susanna Hislop is read by a range of voices and accents from around the country and the globe. It might be one of the stories that the great Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy assigned to them in his masterwork that became known as the *Almagest*, or it might be a personified first person narration from the constellation Chameleon having a grumble about the number of different names and imagined shapes assigned to him over the millennia.

From Greco-Roman mythology to the lives of the eighteenth century astronomers, this is a delightful miscellany which gives us a reason to step outside, look up and wonder at the magic lantern show above us.

Readers: Noma Dumezweni, Jessica Gunning, Colman

Domingo

Episode Three:  
A Unicorn – the constellation Monoceros is as likely to exist as Father Christmas.

Abridged, directed and produced by Jill Waters  
A Waters Company production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (b04vf6tm)**

First women in the family to go to university

A couple of years ago we, we did a series about the first woman in the family to go to university. Jane Garvey catches up with two of them, Emma James and Charmaine Dixey, to hear what impact studying for a degree has made on their lives and career choices.

Approaching the anniversary of Benazir Bhutto's assassination, Christina Lamb talks about her close relationship with Pakistan's former Prime Minister.

Listener Karel Lush explains her fondness for tribute bands as she takes us on a '70's night out.

Plus a Christmas cracker from ALISON STEADMAN and your stories of spending Christmas not necessarily with family but with friends and neighbours.

Presented by Jane Garvey.  
Producer Beverley Purcell

Guest: Christina Lamb.

**WED 10:40 15 Minute Drama (b04vf6z5)**

The Skool Days of Nigel Molesworth

Lessons and How to Avoid Them

Molesworth's efforts to explain the best way to bunk off class are thwarted by the fact all the masters seem to have disappeared.

Can he and Peason find the missing teachers in time to avoid their lessens?

Imelda Staunton stars as Nigel Molesworth, the Curse of St Custards, in this fresh adaptation of the notorious Goriller of 3B's guide to skool life for tiny pupils and their parents.

Aided by best friend Peason and thwarted by everyone from Grabber the skool bully to Wandsworth the skool dog, Nigel Molesworth teaches us the ins and outs of skool life - including how to avoid lessens and how to build your own H-bomb.

Molesworth ..... Imelda Staunton  
Peason ..... Sophie Thompson  
Grabber ..... Jack Farthing  
Prudence ..... Jessica Brown Findlay  
Headmaster ..... Patrick Barlow  
Latin Master ..... Lewis Macleod

Adapted by Patrick Barlow and George Poles from the books by Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Searle, with additional material by Abigail Wilson.

Director: Patrick Barlow

Producer: Liz Anstee

A CPL production for BBC Radio 4 first broadcast in December 2014.

**WED 10:55 The Listening Project (b04vf6z7)**

Lily and Matilda - Best Friends

Fi Glover with friends who had their share of disagreements through primary school and were about to start new schools on opposite sides of town when this conversation was recorded.

This conversation was first broadcast on R4 on 22/11/2013.

The Listening Project is a Radio 4 initiative that offers a snapshot of contemporary Britain in which people across the UK volunteer to have a conversation with someone close to them about a subject they've never discussed intimately before. The conversations are being gathered across the UK by teams of producers from local and national radio stations who facilitate each encounter. Every conversation - they're not BBC interviews, and that's an important difference - lasts up to an hour, and is then edited to extract the key moment of connection between the participants. Most of the unedited conversations are being archived by the British Library and used to build up a collection of voices capturing a unique portrait of the UK in the second decade of the millennium. You can learn more about The Listening Project by visiting

bbc.co.uk/listeningproject

Producer: Marya Burgess.

**WED 11:00 One Day in Winter: Driving Home for Christmas (b04wgsmt)**

Each year nearly 15 and a half million people travel home for the festive period. Just a few of them share their stories as they head home.

Long journeys, short journeys, each trip is for a reason and each trip will trigger a multitude of emotions.

This programme captures those feelings: from the excitement of Christmas that never seems to leave us, the feeling of relief of making it to a safe haven after a difficult year, the feeling of uncertainty and fear of how Christmas will play out, the feeling of stress from the actual journey. Tension levels increase depending on the weather and traffic conditions and the kids in the back of the car gradually getting more and more bored, chiming 'Are we nearly there yet?' every five minutes.

The great Christmas getaway is always wildly anticipated but often fraught and highly stressful: are all the kids in the car, is the snow going to come, will we get caught in a jam?

Feelings and emotions galore as travellers make their journeys home.

Producer: Martin Poyntz-Roberts

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2014.

**WED 11:30 David Sedaris: The Santaland Diaries (b04vf7nc)**

David Sedaris wasn't always an award-winning writer and satirist. For two consecutive Christmases in the early 1990s, he was a Christmas elf at Santaland in the famous New York department store, Macy's. These are hilarious extracts from his diaries at the time.

"My costume is green. I wear moss-colored velvet breeches, an emerald smock, and a stocking cap decorated with spangles. This is my work uniform. My elf name is Crumpet, and I was allowed to chose it myself, which is something."

The Santaland Diaries drew David's writing to the attention of America and the World. He hasn't read them out loud for nearly twenty years - but has agreed to read them once more for BBC Radio 4.

The original recording of the story, made for Morning Edition on America's National Public Radio (NPR), has been aired every Christmas since it was first broadcast. A very much shortened version was also recorded by David for Radio 4 in 1996.

Crumpet, the little elf in the perky green cap, is re-born - and you'll never hear Billie Holiday in the same way ever again.

Writer/Performer: David Sedaris

Produced by Steve Doherty  
A Giddy Goat production for BBC Radio 4.

**WED 12:00 News Summary (b04vd4nf)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**WED 12:04 Home Front (b04vf7nf)**

24 December 1914 - Joe Macknade

It's Christmas Eve and one keen young man has an appointment to keep.

Written by: Shaun McKenna  
Directed and produced by: Lucy Collingwood  
Sound: Martha Littlehales  
Editor: Jessica Dromgoole.

**WED 12:15 You and Yours (b04vf7nh)**

Why are there so many unwanted dogs?

In the UK, almost anybody can breed and sell dogs. At any time, thousands of them are for sale online.

Each year, more than 100,000 strays are collected by councils and more than 7000 of them are put to sleep.

Winifred Robinson looks at why the market for dogs is producing so many unwanted animals.

Winifred visits Dogs Trust Manchester to see how stray animals are assessed and judged to be safe for rehoming. Author and animal behaviour expert John Bradshaw explains what dogs

need from humans, and how science has changed our understanding of successful training.

Editor of Dogs Today, Beverley Cuddy, explains how breeding and selling could be improved, and how other countries approach dog welfare. We also hear from the founders of the Open Paw training programme in Berkeley, California.

And Winifred visits Ralph, a lurcher who survived a fire at Manchester Dogs Home in September 2014, to see how he's getting on with his new family.

Presenter: Winifred Robinson  
Producer: Joel Moors

(Photo: Dawn Bishop from Dogs Trust Manchester, Winifred Robinson, Gypsy the poodle).

**WED 12:57 Weather (b04vd4mh)**  
The latest weather forecast.

**WED 13:00 World at One (b04vf7q4)**  
Analysis of current affairs reports, presented by Mark Mardell.

**WED 13:45 Food for Thought (b0368fwm)**  
Series 3

Mary Portas

At breakfast at her favourite local cafe, retail guru Mary Portas remembers fighting for scraps as the fourth child in a large Irish family in the 1970s.

As the Government's 'Queen of Shops', she tells Nina Myskow how her passion for the local High Street came from losing her mother at the age of 16, and needing to provide for herself and her younger brother.

Over porridge and a flat white, Mary contemplates the emotion and experiences behind her love of good food and a full fridge. With another young mouth to feed, who does the cooking now in her household?

And she talks about the relationship between food and sex, and admits to a love of fine wine and cheap chocolate.

Producer: Rebecca Maxted  
A Wise Buddah production for BBC Radio 4.

**WED 14:00 The Archers (b04vf25g)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 14:15 Drama (b04vf8dr)**  
Big Broadcast

Culture

Words and Music by Neil Brand

It's 1933 and Radio Station WKAZ Chicago delivers live radio every week from its theatre. Today, however, the Dusenbergs Hour of Charm is threatened by the disappearance of its sponsor. The arrival of a new owner heralds a new high-culture focus much to the dismay of the regular crew.

Singers  
Helen Neeves, Vanessa Heine, Edward Saklatvala, John Ward

Director: David Hunter.

**WED 15:00 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (b04vf8dt)**  
Live from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge

Hymn: Once in Royal David's City (desc. Cleobury)  
Bidding Prayer read by the Dean  
A Babe is Born (Mathias)  
First lesson: Genesis 3 vv 8-19 read by a Chorister  
Remember, O Thou Man (Ravenscroft)  
Adam Lay Ybounden (Ledger)  
Second lesson: Genesis 22 vv 15-18 read by a Choral Scholar  
One Star, at Last (Maxwell Davies)  
In Dulci Jubilo (Praetorius)  
Third lesson: Isaiah 9 vv 2, 6-7 read by a Representative of the Cambridge Churches  
Sussex Carol (arr. Willcocks)  
Hymn: Unto us is born a Son (arr. Willcocks)  
Fourth lesson: Isaiah 11 vv 1-3a, 4a, 6-9 read by a Representative of the City of Cambridge  
A Spotless Rose (Howells)  
There Is No Rose (Medieval)  
Fifth lesson: Luke 1 vv 26-38 read by a Representative of the sister College at Eton

Gabriel's Message (arr. Pettman)  
Joys Seven (arr. Cleobury)  
Sixth lesson: Luke 2 vv 1-7 read by the Chaplain  
Lullaby (Birtwistle)  
In The Bleak Midwinter (Holst)  
Seventh lesson: Luke 2 vv 8-16 read by the Director of Music  
L'adieu des Bergers (Berlioz)  
Hymn: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (arr. Willcocks)  
Eighth lesson: Matthew 2 vv 1-12 read by the Vice-Provost  
De Maria Virgine (Rütti - newly commissioned)  
Ding, Dong, Merrily on High (arr. Wilberg/Stevens)  
Ninth lesson: John 1 vv 1-14 read by the Provost  
Hymn: O come, all ye faithful (arr. Willcocks)  
Blessing  
Hymn: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (desc. Cleobury)

Organ voluntaries:  
In dulci jubilo (BWV 729) (Bach)  
Symphony No. 6 in g minor Finale: Vivace (Widor) [broadcast on Radio 3 on Christmas Day only]

Director of Music: Stephen Cleobury  
Organ Scholar: Douglas Tang  
Producer: Philip Billson

For many people around the world, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, live from the candlelit Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, marks the beginning of Christmas. It is based around nine Bible readings which tell the story of the loving purposes of God. They are interspersed with carols old and new, sung by the world-famous chapel choir who also lead the congregation in traditional Christmas hymns.

**WED 16:30 The Media Show (b04vf8dw)**  
ABC President Paul Lee; Monty the penguin; filming Arctic wolves; John Sergeant on John Freeman.

US entertainment group ABC has brought such classics as Desperate Housewives and Grey's Anatomy to TV. As president since 2010, Paul Lee is responsible for all development, programming and scheduling. He joins Steve to discuss the enduring popularity of Modern Family, the importance of diversity in the commissioning process, and how research into the Great Depression, of all things, has influenced recent dramas on ABC.

BBC2's natural history offering this Christmas, The Snow Wolf Family and Me, is promising an intimate portrait of Arctic wolves. The presenter wildlife filmmaker Gordon Buchanan explains how with a small crew he got up close and personal with a pack of wild wolves in the Arctic. With them, Caroline Hawkins, filmmaker and creative director at Oxford Scientific Films. They discuss whether Gordon's back to basics, hands-on approach is a turning point in a genre that has become increasingly reliant on high-tech gadgetry.

John Lewis' Monty the Penguin Christmas advert has made the humble penguin the surprise media sensation of the year. The two-minute tale of a boy and his imaginary feathered friend has driven up sales of penguin toys and all-important John Lewis brand awareness. Ewen Brown, the producer of Monty the Penguin explains what is involved in making an ad with viral potential and why the penguin stole the public's hearts.

The journalist, diplomat and Labour MP John Freeman has died at the age of 99. He was perhaps best known for his interviews with public figures like Martin Luther King and Tony Hancock for BBC television series Face to Face. He was renowned for his persistence and direct approach as an interviewer. Former political editor and correspondent John Sergeant talks about his style and legacy.

Producer: Katy Takatsuki.  
Editor: Karen Dalziel.

**WED 17:00 PM (b04vf8dy)**  
PM at 5pm - Paddy O'Connell with interviews, context and analysis.

**WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (b04vd4nk)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**WED 18:15 Christmas With... (b04vf8f0)**  
Damien Trench - Christmas Eve

Christmas is finally here and yet there's still room for things to go wrong. But don't worry renowned cookery writer Damien Trench is on hand to offer survival tips, recipes and insights into how he copes so that the only hiccup you encounter on Christmas Day are merely of the gastric variety.

**WED 18:30 Cabin Pressure (b04vf959)**  
Series 5

Zurich, Part 2

One of the most popular radio sitcoms of the past ten years bows out with a special double episode. In this second and concluding part, as the crew embark on a race against time, just what is Gerti's secret? And will it be happy ever after for Carolyn and Herc?

With the show titles running alphabetically from the first ever episode - "Abu Dhabi" through to this double finale "Zurich" - the cast and crew of MJN Air discover that whether it's choosing an ice-cream flavour, putting a princess in a van or remembering your grandmother's name, no job is too small, but many, many jobs are too difficult.

Starring Stephanie Cole as Carolyn Knapp-Shappey, Roger Allam as 1st Officer Douglas Richardson, Benedict Cumberbatch as Captain Martin Crieff and John Finnemore as Arthur Shappey.

With special guests including Anthony Head and Timothy West.

Written by John Finnemore  
Produced and Directed by David Tyler

A Pozzitive production for BBC Radio 4.

**WED 19:00 The Archers (b04vf95c)**  
Carol urges Jill to take things a bit easier, and consider her own needs more. The doctor has given Jill the all clear over her chest pain, but Carol sees it as a symptom of a greater heartache. She feels Jill is not reconciled to the idea of Brookfield being sold.

At the Nine Lessons and Carols service, Pat becomes tearful. She doesn't know what she'd do if she lost Tony. Jill reassures her. Tony will pull through. He has people who love him, and everyone is praying for him. Comforted, Pat heads home.

Carol gives Jill flowers for Phil, and suggests she has a quiet moment at his grave.

Pat is very down, and matters aren't made any better when Johnny presents the family with a Christmas tree. He hadn't realised there was a Bridge Farm tradition, this year disrupted by Tony's injury. But Tom relents and encourages Johnny to go ahead. He's sure Dad would still want them to have a tree.

Pat discovers them in the middle of cheerful decorating, and at first is taken aback. But she has to admit it's lovely. She gives Johnny the honour of putting John's pig at the top of the tree - the finishing touch.

**WED 19:15 Front Row (b04vf7nm)**  
John Kander on Cabaret, The Scottsboro Boys and Chicago

Kirsty Lang talks to John Kander, composer of Cabaret, New York New York and Chicago and one half of Broadway partnership Kander and Ebb.

87 year old John Kander discusses The Scottsboro Boys, his final work with lyricist Fred Ebb, which is currently a hit in London's West End.

How he and Ebb discovered Liza Minnelli, and why Judi Dench remains his favourite Sally Bowles (Cabaret) on stage.

**WED 19:45 15 Minute Drama (b04vf6z5)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:40 today]

**WED 20:00 Pass the Turkey Twizzlers (b04vf95h)**  
Has the middle class obsession with organic, artisan and locally sourced food gone too far?

Lucy Kellaway hosts an argumentative dinner party where all the debates are about food. Her guests are the columnist India Knight, the presenter of Radio 4's The Food Programme Sheila Dillon and the author of Bad Science Ben Goldacre.

Producer: Mark Turner.

**WED 20:45 Four Thought (b04vf95m)**  
Series 4

Art, Design and Politics

Paola Antonelli explores the politics in art and design.

The curator of design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, Paola uses examples from a recent exhibition to show how curatorial decisions can be extremely political, and to examine the role of museums and curators in stimulating political debate and discussion.

The programme is presented by Amanda Stern, from McNally

Jackson Books in New York City.

Producer: Giles Edwards.

**WED 21:00 Frontiers (b04vf95r)**  
Virtual Therapy

"e-Therapy" has come a long way since the (slightly tongue in cheek) days of ELIZA, a very early attempt at computer based psychotherapy. ELIZA was little more than an algorithm that spotted patterns in words and returned empty, yet meaningful-sounding questions back at the user.

All sorts of e-therapies are now available to help low-moderate level mental health issues.

But could Virtual Reality technology bring the next great leap in our understanding of mental processes, and, in turn, be the basis of future psychotherapies? Quentin Cooper meets some of the researchers trying to find out.

**WED 21:30 Midweek (b04vf6th)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**WED 21:58 Weather (b04vd4nm)**  
The latest weather forecast.

**WED 22:00 The World Tonight (b04vf95x)**  
In this special edition of the programme, we examine the future of the National Health Service. Can better care in the community end the 'crisis' of full hospitals and overwhelmed Accident and Emergency services. Opinion polls suggest that voters see the NHS as one of the most important political issues in the UK, so it will be a key issue in the 2015 General Election. But is anyone prepared to pay more? Presented by Ritula Shah.

**WED 22:45 Book at Bedtime (b04vf960)**  
The Diary of a Provincial Lady

EM Delafield - The Diary of a Provincial Lady

E M Delafield was great friends with Margaret Mackworth, 2nd Viscountess Rhondda, and became a director of Time and Tide magazine. When the editor "wanted some light 'middles', preferably in serial form, she promised to think of something". And so it was, in 1930, that her most popular and enduring work The Diary of a Provincial Lady was written. It has never been out of print.

The Diary of a Provincial Lady charts the day-to-day life of a Devonshire-dwelling lady and her attempts to keep her somewhat ramshackle household from falling into chaos.

Husband Robert, when he's not snoozing behind The Times, does everything with grumbling reluctance. Her children are gleefully troublesome. A succession of tricky servants invariably seem to gain the upper hand. And if her domestic trials are not enough, she must keep up appearances - particularly with the maddeningly patronising Lady Boxe, with whom our Provincial Lady eternally (and unsuccessfully) endeavours to compete.

This largely autobiographical novel substituted the names of "Robin" and "Vicky" for her own children, Lionel and Rosamund.

Abridged by Libby Spurrier  
Read by Claire Skinner

Produced by Joanna Green  
A Pier production for BBC Radio 4.

**WED 23:00 The Lach Chronicles (b04vf964)**  
Series 2

Home on the Range

Lach was the King of Manhattan's East Village and host of the longest running open mic night in New York. He now lives in Scotland and finds himself back at square one, playing in a dive bar on the wrong side of Edinburgh.

His eccentric night, held in various venues around New York, was called the Anthoot. Never quite fitting in and lost somewhere lonely between folk and punk music, Lach started the Antifolk movement. He played host to Suzanne Vega, Jeff Buckley and many others. He discovered and nurtured lots of talent including Beck, Regina Spektor and the Moldy Peaches - but nobody discovered him.

In this episode, Lach recalls the genesis of his career and - ultimately - his independent life. Always an outsider, his young rejection of aspiration and fledgling discoveries of Messrs

Bruce and Bob led Lach to a salvation he still holds dear.

Producer: Richard Melvin  
A Dabster production for BBC Radio 4 first broadcast in December 2014.

**WED 23:15 Mission Improbable (b01p4254)**  
Series 1

Splash!

A brand new series of high octane mini-adventures, written by and starring The Boom Jennies - Anna Emerson, Lizzie Bates and Catriona Knox.

When cub reporter Jane arrives in Tintagel to get an interview with Cornwall's oldest whelk fisherman, her long-suffering companions could be forgiven if they were a little reluctant to tag along. Not a bit of it. Spinster-in-waiting Lucy has her eye on Jane's septuagenarian man of the sea, and zoo assistant Amelia has her mind fixed on dolphins. But as they head out into the bay to intercept the aged shellfish gatherer, the speed of Amelia's rowing sets them on a very different course - one of world records, mountainous seas and near misses with oil tankers.

Will Jane get her story? Will Lucy catch the man of her dreams? Will Amelia remember to take the lens cap off her binoculars? All these questions will be answered before their plucky rowing boat spies land once more.

Jane ..... Catriona Knox  
Lucy ..... Lizzie Bates  
Amelia ..... Anna Emerson  
Bill ..... Paul Ryan

Written by Anna Emerson, Lizzie Bates and Catriona Knox  
Audio production by Matt Katz

Produced by Dave Lamb and Richie Webb  
A Top Dog Production for BBC Radio 4.

**WED 23:30 Midnight Mass (b04vf968)**

A Venetian-style First Mass of Christmas with splendid Gabrieli motets and Palestrina's Missa Hodie Christus Natus Est (Today Christ is Born) make for a very special atmosphere as the Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrates the First Mass of Christmas live from Westminster Cathedral. The vibrant sounds of traditional sackbuts and cornets played by the virtuoso English Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble will echo and re-echo around the cathedral exploiting its unique spacial properties. The service closes with the resplendent brass and organ voluntary: Hodie Christus Natus Est by Heinrich Schutz. The renowned choir of Westminster Cathedral is directed by Master of Music Martin Baker and the organ is played by the Assistant Master of Music Peter Stevens. Cathedral Administrator: Canon Christopher Tuckwell; Precentor: Fr Alexander Master. Producer: Clair Jaquiss.

#### THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER 2014

**THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4pm)**  
The latest shipping forecast.

**THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (b04vd4pp)**  
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**THU 05:20 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4pr)**  
The latest shipping forecast.

**THU 05:30 News Briefing (b04vd4pt)**  
The latest news from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (b04vfcz)**  
A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day, with the Rev Dr Stephen Wigley.

**THU 05:45 Farming Today (b04vfczf)**  
Away in a Manger - Farmyard Nativity

For a special Christmas morning programme, Farming Today joins farmers, children and parishioners for the annual Bittadon nativity staged in a barn at a dairy farm.

Church Farm nestles between Dartmoor, Exmoor and the Devon coast and has been in the Houlton family for three generations. They produce milk, butter and traditional clotted Devon cream.

Each year after the afternoon milking on a night just before Christmas; the Houltons are joined by 300 people for a nativity play in one of their barns.

Children, animals and local parishioners keep the spirit of Christmas alive by re-enacting the Christmas story where it all began - it a lowly cowshed.

Produced by Sybil Ruscoe.

**THU 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b04t0ly5)**  
Christmas Shearwater

Tweet of the Day is the voice of birds and our relationship with them, from around the world.

On Christmas Day, Sir David Attenborough presents the Christmas shearwater. 2000km south of Hawaii the highly marine Christmas shearwater is at home over the Central Pacific seas, tirelessly riding the air-currents, skimming wave-crests and hugging the contours of the sea looking for food. They rarely come to land as adults, but when they do, it is to return to their place of birth on remote oceanic islands to breed. Here they form loose colonies, laying a single white egg which is incubated for around 50 days. Inhabiting these far flung inaccessible islands means little is known about their biology, but that remoteness gives them protection from land based predators.

**THU 06:00 Word of Mouth (b04v382j)**  
First Words: How do children develop language?

Michael Rosen finds out about the first sounds, words and phrases that babies recognise and learn to say. He talks to author Tom Chatfield and his 15-month-old son, and to linguists Laura Wright and Kriszta Szendroi.  
Producer: Beth O'Dea.

**THU 06:30 Open Book (b04vd69r)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Sunday]

**THU 07:00 The Reunion (b04w5nn9)**  
Wallace and Gromit

Wallace and Gromit - created by Bristol-based animation company Aardman - have entertained millions, made their Plasticine stars national treasures, won multiple Oscars and boosted sales of Wensleydale cheese.

Sue MacGregor is joined by Aardman founders Peter Lord and David Sproston, producer Carla Shelley, ex-manager Mary Lowance and Wallace and Gromit creator Nick Park - as well as the two stars themselves - to recall four decades of comic craft and innovation at Aardman that have left an indelible impression on British cultural life.

Aardman came to prominence with their Plasticine man Morph and went on to create classics, such as Creature Comforts which pioneered the use of real-life interviews as the voices of Aardman's eccentric animal kingdom.

Wallace and Gromit remain firm favourites. Wallace, the eccentric inventor from Wigan who loves cheese, and his silent but very well-read associate, quietly saving the day with a range of facial expressions that have brought comparisons with the great silent star Buster Keaton.

A collaboration with American producers Dreamworks led to the big-budget feature film Chicken Run. And few who saw it will ever forget Wallace's moonlit transformation in The Curse of the Were Rabbit.

Yet there have also been moments of real-life drama, like the huge fire that destroyed many character models, original drawings and sets.

As our guests reveal how they created these extraordinary films and characters, they reflect on the ups and downs of their experiences and look forward to the next chapter of Aardman, Wallace and Gromit, Shaun The Sheep and those characters waiting in the wings.

Produced by David Prest and Peter Curran  
A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4.

**THU 08:00 All the Christmases (b04wgt8l)**

Dylan Thomas' A Child's Christmas in Wales remains one of his most enduring and characterful works. In the year of the poet's Centenary, Cerys Matthews takes us on a new musical journey through the memories and characters of Swansea's Christmas past.

**THU 09:00 Christmas Service (b04vfczk)**

Christmas morning worship from Portsmouth Cathedral celebrates the season with members of the naval community, many of whom worship at the Cathedral. That includes several younger members of the cathedral choir who are from naval families whose parents are frequently on the other side of the world serving on ships in situations of danger or conflict. Leader: The Dean of Portsmouth, the Very Reverend David Brindley  
Preacher: The Chaplain of the Fleet, the Venerable Ian Wheatley  
Director of Music: David Price  
Sub Organist: Oliver Hancock  
Producer: Clair Jaquiss.

**THU 09:45 Book of the Week (b04vfzcm)**

Stories in the Stars

25/12/2014

A seasonal reading for clear and frosty nights, when the skies sparkle with thousands of dots forming half remembered, almost traceable shapes. These are the stories behind the names and shapes of the constellations that pattern the night sky.

Stories In The Stars by Susanna Hislop is read by a range of voices and accents from around the country and the globe. It might be one of the stories that the great Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy assigned to them in his masterwork that became known as the Almagest, or it might be a personified first person narration from the constellation Chameleon having a grumble about the number of different names and imagined shapes assigned to him over the millennia.

From Greco-Roman mythology to the lives of the eighteenth century astronomers, this is a delightful miscellany which gives us a reason to step outside, look up and wonder at the magic lantern show above us.

Readers: Jessica Gunning, Paul Copley, Maggie Steed, Colman Domingo

Episode Four:

A telescope – Telescopium – is given as a gift. Libra balances things out.

Abridged, directed and produced by Jill Waters  
A Waters Company Production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (b04vfzcp)**

Kirsty Young, Adil Ray and the Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Jenni and Jane join forces for a special Christmas morning celebration where they will turn the tables on Kirsty Young, asking her about her favourite Christmas music, chat to Adil Ray about writing and starring in the Citizen Kahn Christmas Special and to Charles Collingwood, better known as Brian Aldridge in The Archers. Diana Henry will be doing the food, with cocktails mixed by Kay Plunkett-Hogge. In this extended edition of Woman's Hour Jane and Jenni will be reporting back from a dog walk in the park, the Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin will be talking about Christmas in the House of Commons and we'll have music from super cool choir, Urban Voices Collective.

**THU 10:45 15 Minute Drama (b04vfzcr)**

The Skool Days of Nigel Molesworth

Wizz for Atomms

Tired of masters skipping lessons to visit the new under-matron, Prudence, the Headmaster has banned everyone in school from visiting the infirmary.

But Grabber, the skool bully, has fallen for her and orders Molesworth to help him out.

Imelda Staunton stars as Nigel Molesworth, the Curse of St Custards, in this fresh adaptation of the notorious Goriller of 3B's guide to skool life for tiny pupils and their parents.

Aided by best friend Peason and thwarted by everyone from Grabber the skool bully to Wandsworth the skool dog, Nigel Molesworth teaches us the ins and outs of skool life - including how to avoid lessons and how to build your own H-bomb.

Molesworth ..... Imelda Staunton  
Peason ..... Sophie Thompson  
Grabber ..... Jack Farthing  
Headmaster ..... Patrick Barlow  
Radio Announcer ..... Lewis Macleod

Adapted by Patrick Barlow and George Poles from the books by Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Searle, with additional material by Abigail Wilson.

Director: Patrick Barlow

Producer: Liz Anstee

A CPL production for BBC Radio 4 first broadcast in December 2014.

**THU 11:00 Woman's Hour (b04vklf)**

Kirsty Young, Adil Ray and the Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Jenni and Jane join forces for a special Christmas morning celebration where they will turn the tables on Kirsty Young, asking her about her favourite Christmas music, chat to Adil Ray about writing and starring in the Citizen Kahn Christmas Special and to Charles Collingwood, better known as Brian Aldridge in The Archers. Diana Henry will be doing the food, with cocktails mixed by Kay Plunkett-Hogge. In this extended edition of Woman's Hour Jane and Jenni will be reporting back from a dog walk in the park, the Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin will be talking about Christmas in the House of Commons and we'll have music from super cool choir, Urban Voices Collective.

**THU 11:30 Music on Hold (b04vflsd)**

Each of us spends 43 days of our whole lives on hold. That's far too many hours listening to Greensleeves or Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

Despite being in an age of emails and social media, people are still turning to customer service lines for support and are still having to listen to music on hold. It's supposed to be designed to calm the listener but often only incenses them more in time for when they speak to a customer service representative.

Isy Suttie knows the wrath of angry callers, having worked in several call centres herself, and feels their pain. So she has decided to do the noble thing and compose the ultimate on hold music to end their suffering.

Isy will ring up experts for help – what instruments? What tempo? What genre? And why? She'll take all of their advice on board to create something that will both reassure and entertain callers while they wait so those 43 days will be a pleasure and not a chore.

Produced by Emily Smallman

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 2014.

**THU 12:00 News Summary (b04vd4pw)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 12:04 Home Front (b04vj0y1)**

25 December 1914 - Dorothea Winwood

At St Jude's Vicarage, not everyone's feeling the festive spirit.

Written by: Shaun McKenna  
Directed and produced by: Lucy Collingwood  
Sound: Martha Littlehales  
Editor: Jessica Dromgoole.

**THU 12:15 Pick of the Year (b04vj0y3)**

Pick of the Year 2014

Can a year's worth of radio be condensed into less than an hour? Lynne Truss does, with the help of a nightingale singing to a cello. An elephant tickling some ivories. A Mongolian thunderstorm throws listeners right across the kitchen, and we will learn the meaning of friendship, being from Yorkshire, and growing chrysanthemums.

Tweet of the Day: Great Bustard (Radio 4, 4th February)

Outlook: Poets, Cartoonists and Elephants (World Service, 18th May)

Journey of a Lifetime: Wrestling With the Future (Radio 4, 15th September)

The Life Scientific: Sue Black (Radio 4, 25th February)

5Live Sport: Hillsborough Untold Stories (Radio 5Live, 14th April)

Between the Ears: Skylarking (Radio 3, 5th July)

Short Cuts (Radio 4, 1st April)

Chrysanthemum (Radio 4, 8th April)

The Listening Project: Kizzy and Emma - Friendship on Four Wheels (Radio 4, 12th November)

Soul Music: Myfanwy (Radio 4, 22nd April)

The Ballads of the Great War (Radio 2, 11th November)

John Finnemore's Souvenir Programme (Radio 4, 20th November)

Singing with the Nightingales (Radio 4, 19th May)

Tom Wrigglesworth: The Well of Loneliness (Radio4, 16th December)

Bunk Beds (Radio 4, 2nd April).

**THU 12:57 Weather (b04vd4py)**

The latest weather forecast.

**THU 13:00 News (b04vj15r)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 13:15 Voices of the First World War (b04n67xq)**

The Christmas Truce

There are now no living veterans of WW1, but it is still possible to go back to the First World War through the memories of those who actually took part. In a unique partnership between the Imperial War Museums and the BBC, two sound archive collections featuring survivors of the war are brought together for the first time. The Imperial War Museums' holdings include a major oral history resource of remarkable recordings made in the 1980s and early 1990s with the remaining survivors of the conflict. The interviews were done not for immediate use or broadcast, but because it was felt that this diminishing resource that could never be replenished, would be of unique value in the future. Among the BBC's extensive collection of archive featuring first hand recollections of the conflict a century ago, are the interviews recorded for the 1964 TV series 'The Great War', which vividly bring to life the human experience of those fighting and living through the war. Dan Snow narrates this new oral history, which will be broadcast in short seasons throughout the commemorative period.

Programme 10 - The Christmas Truce

In the last of the series for 1914, veterans of the First World War recall the few hours of impromptu ceasefire on 25th December 1914, when German and British troops mingled and played football in No Man's Land on the Western Front. Drawing on the recollections of soldiers in the oral history collection of the Imperial War Museum and the BBC archive. Narrated by Dan Snow.

**THU 13:45 Food for Thought (b018gylx)**

Series 2

Carlos Acosta

In a rehearsal studio at the Royal Opera House, over an impromptu picnic of tostones (fried plantains) and moros y cristianos (rice with black beans), dancer Carlos Acosta recalls a lifetime of counting the carbs, and his blessings, during a successful career in ballet.

From the food ration in his native Cuba, to the abundance of sugar on the island that left him with an explicable sweet tooth, Carlos tells Nina about stealing mangoes as a boy to fund trips to the cinema. He also explains how, arriving in Europe as a teenager, he had to adapt his tastes, his attitudes and his body. He eats a steak before each performance and avoids carbohydrates after six o'clock, despite the fact that he dances for over eight hours almost every day of the week.

Eating well is crucial to Carlos' livelihood and eating badly could end his career but the Royal Ballet's principal guest artist still chows down on ice cream, chicken korma and gets drunk, occasionally. He also tells Nina where you can get the perfect mojito.

Producer: Tamsin Hughes

A Wise Buddha production for BBC Radio 4.

**THU 14:00 The Archers (b04vf95c)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

**THU 14:15 Drama (b04vj0y5)**

Big Broadcast

Snow

Words and Music by Neil Brand

It's 1933, Christmas Eve, and Radio Station WKAZ Chicago's promise to deliver its last Hour of Charm programme from its theatre is threatened by a snowstorm which has trapped a handful of staff in the building. But the festive show must go on.

Singers

Helen Neeves, Vanessa Heine, Edward Saklatvala, John Ward

Director: David Hunter.

**THU 15:00 HM The Queen (b04vj15t)**

The Queen's Christmas message to the Commonwealth and the nation, followed by the national anthem.

**THU 15:05 News (b04vj15w)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 15:15 Desert Island Discs (b04nvqg1)**

Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown

Kirsty Young's guest is former Royal Navy test pilot Captain Eric 'Winkle' Brown - the programme's 3000th edition.

The Fleet Air Arm's most decorated pilot, his life reads like a handbook in beating the odds.

Landing on a flight deck is acknowledged as one of the most difficult things a pilot can do. Eric Brown has held the world record for the most flight deck landings - 2,407 - for over 65 years. He was one of only two men on his ship, HMS Audacity, to survive a German U-boat bombing.

In a long and remarkable life he has witnessed first-hand momentous events in world history, from the Berlin Olympics in 1936 to the liberation of the Belsen concentration camp.

Flying, he believes, is in his blood. He originally climbed into the open cockpit of a Gloster Gauntlet as a child to sit on his father's knee. Thirty years later he would pilot Britain's first ever supersonic flight.

He says: "It's an exhilarating world to live in. There's always that aura of risk - you come to value life in a slightly different way."

Producer: Paula McGinley.

**THU 15:56 Radio 4 Appeal (b04vd695)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:55 on Sunday]

**THU 16:00 Cells and Celluloid: A Science and Cinema Special (b04vj1x8)**

When Science Meets Cinema

The Film Programme's Francine Stock and Adam Rutherford from BBC Inside Science join forces for a special Christmas day programme celebrating science in the movies. Francine meets Paul Franklin, the special effects wizard behind blockbuster *Interstellar*, and discovers how he worked with theoretical physicist Kip Thorne to create the most detailed simulation of a black hole ever produced. But can Hollywood ever really be faithful to science and should it be? Professor Sidney Perkowitz, one of the authors of *Hollywood Chemistry*, considers what happens when physics gets warped by cinema. Christopher Frayling explores the scientist on screen, from Frankenstein to Dr Strangelove; and can science save celluloid? Adam visits the archives of British Film Institute to uncover the science behind film preservation. Adam and Francine subject themselves to a psychological experiment that tracks their eye movements as they watch a film on the big screen.

**THU 17:00 With Great Pleasure (b04vj1xb)**

With Great Pleasure at Christmas 2014

Ian Hislop, star of *Have I Got News for You* and editor of *Private Eye*, chooses the pieces of writing that mean the most to him, with the help of readers Jim Broadbent and Tamsin Greig. It's a special Christmas edition of *With Great Pleasure* recorded in front of an audience at the BBC Radio Theatre.

Robyn Stapleton joins them to sing *My Love is like a Red Red Rose* by Robert Burns. She's BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year.

Ian's choices range from poems that form part of his own family's Christmas tradition, such as *The Oxen* by Thomas Hardy, to newer works by Carol Ann Duffy, and extracts from plays he loves such as *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth. There are satirical pieces by Craig Brown and Spike Milligan, and sound archive recordings of comedy from Peter Cook, Alan Bennett, Danny Kaye, Mitchell & Webb and Flanders and Swann. Producer Beth O'Dea.

**THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (b04vd4q0)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 18:15 Christmas With... (b04vj1xd)**

Damien Trench - Christmas Day

Cookery writer Damien Trench invites listeners into his home for a special Christmas helping of tips and recipes for surviving Christmas intact.

**THU 18:30 My Teenage Diary (b04vj1xg)**

Series 6

Lucy Worsley

Rufus Hound is joined by the historian Lucy Worsley, whose

diaries reveal that she was swottier than the average teenager. While her friends were out at parties, Lucy was curating her collection of rocks, and gardening.

Produced by Harriet Jaine

A Talkback production for BBC Radio 4.

**THU 19:00 The Archers (b04vj1xj)**

Emma relishes Christmas in their new home with her family all around. Joe and Eddie treat everyone to a rendition of carols before dozing off and snoring loudly. Emma and Ed break the wishbone and talk about their plans for a simple wedding - a homespun affair in the summer, not like Tom and Kirsty's. Ed surprises the children by making snow on Christmas Day. He has borrowed a snow machine from the bloke doing the Young Farmers' ski party.

Lunch at Brookfield is a more sombre affair, with much reflection and reminiscing on this being the last Christmas at the farm. Jill expresses how lucky she is to have her family round one table. Later Jill finds Phil's sixpence in her Christmas pudding.

Elizabeth confides in Shula that Roy has sent a text wishing her a merry Christmas. She wishes he would leave her alone. Elizabeth just wants to put the year behind her.

Jill has important news for David. She is sorry but she can't leave Phil or Ambridge. David wishes there was something he could say to change her mind, but realizes there isn't. David assures Jill that he understands her decision.

**THU 19:15 Front Row (b04vj6gv)**

Sir Alan Ayckbourn

In conversation with Kirsty Lang, Sir Alan Ayckbourn discusses his long and prolific career that has seen him, at the age of 75, premiere his 78th play - *Roundelay*.

Sir Alan is one of this country's most celebrated playwrights. His ability to write and stage his tales of British middle-class domestic disharmony in ever more inventive ways has endeared him to a national audience. However, with his plays performed worldwide, he has a devoted international audience as well.

He talks to Kirsty Lang about Scarborough, his adopted home, his love of event theatre, and his belief in theatre's power to connect people - whether they want to be connected or not.

**THU 19:45 15 Minute Drama (b04vfzcr)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:45 today]

**THU 20:00 Thinking Allowed (b04vj6gx)**

Rituals at Christmas

Customs at Christmas and beyond. It may be best not to invite a sociologist for Xmas - they're liable to spend their time chronicling, even questioning your seasonal rituals. In this festive programme, Laurie Taylor looks at the ever shifting nature of our habits, practices and customs; changes in our lives which have been detected and discussed in previous editions of *Thinking Allowed*. Is our concept of romantic love as timeless as we often presume? How did bathrooms evolve from luxurious Victorian rooms to classless and clinical spaces? Do contemporary constructions of sophisticated drinking downplay the risks of middle class alcohol consumption? In what ways has the elevator changed the status associated with the top and bottom floors of homes and buildings? And when did consumerism cease to be about the satisfaction of mere wants as opposed to the indulgence of hedonistic pleasures? *Thinking Allowed* subjects the trivial, the everyday and the taken for granted to entertaining sociological scrutiny.

Producer: Jayne Egerton.

**THU 20:30 In Business (b04vj6gz)**

The Business of Kindness - Revisited

The Business of Kindness - Revisited  
Random acts of kindness can help businesses grow in surprising ways. Peter Day talks with one woman who explains how the generosity of others has made all the difference to her company. Henrietta Lovell, the Rare Tea Lady, started her firm just before becoming seriously ill. Through the kindness of strangers she has managed to return to health and run a prosperous company. She is now a great advocate for spreading the idea that kind gestures are an important force in the way we conduct our personal and professional lives.

Producer: Sandra Kanthal.

**THU 21:00 All the Christmases (b04wgt8l)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:00 today]

**THU 22:00 Wireless Nights (b04l0pwh)**

Series 3

BBC Philharmonic Presents...

Jarvis Cocker brings his award winning series *Wireless Nights* to Salford, forming part of this year's BBC Philharmonic Presents... series, a celebration of orchestral music in its many different forms.

In front of a studio audience, Jarvis Cocker and the BBC Philharmonic weave tales of insomnia, nocturnal inspirations and dark imaginings from the world of classical music - against the backdrop of a President embroiled in the Vietnam War. There's also a special performance from Jarvis himself.

Jarvis tells stories of an insomniac German Count who supposedly had Bach compose his *Goldberg Variations* as a sleeping aid, and a wired President Nixon listening to Rachmaninov in the small hours when he felt the urge to go on a bizarre excursion in the presidential limo.

He also conjures up music that came in dreams and revelations - from Stravinsky's wild visions in the *Rite of Spring* to Schumann's once forgotten *Violin Concerto*, which apparently re-emerged during a séance many years after the composer's death.

Maxime Tortelier conducts the BBC Philharmonic led by Yuri Torchinsky. Anthony Marwood plays solo violin and Peter Donohoe plays solo piano. The programme was recorded on 1 October.

Producers: Laurence Grissell & Neil McCarthy.

**THU 22:45 Book at Bedtime (b04vjb5w)**

The Diary of a Provincial Lady

Episode 4

E M Delafield was great friends with Margaret Mackworth, 2nd Viscountess Rhondda, and became a director of *Time* and *Tide* magazine. When the editor "wanted some light 'middles', preferably in serial form, she promised to think of something". And so it was, in 1930, that her most popular and enduring work *The Diary of a Provincial Lady* was written. It has never been out of print.

The *Diary of a Provincial Lady* charts the day-to-day life of a Devonshire-dwelling lady and her attempts to keep her somewhat ramshackle household from falling into chaos.

Husband Robert, when he's not snoozing behind *The Times*, does everything with grumbling reluctance. Her children are gleefully troublesome. A succession of tricky servants invariably seem to gain the upper hand. And if her domestic trials are not enough, she must keep up appearances - particularly with the maddeningly patronising Lady Boxe, with whom our Provincial Lady eternally (and unsuccessfully) endeavours to compete.

This largely autobiographical novel substituted the names of "Robin" and "Vicky" for her own children, Lionel and Rosamund.

Abridged by Libby Spurrier

Read by Claire Skinner

Produced by Joanna Green

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4.

**THU 23:00 The Infinite Monkey Cage (b04vjb5y)**

The Infinite Monkey Cage Christmas Special

Brian Cox and Robin Ince are joined by Brian Blessed, astronaut Chris Hadfield, bible scholar Professor Francesca Stavrakopoulou and the Reverend Richard Coles for a very special festive edition of the show. They'll be taking their own unique look at the Christmas story and the history of the bible and asking whether the Christmas story and your view of humanity changes once you've look back at earth from the heavens themselves.

Producer : Alexandra Feachem.

**THU 23:30 Good Omens (b04vjb60)**

Episode 4

Newt and Anathema try to decipher Agnes's cryptic riddles; Aziraphale and Crowley receive visits from the Angelic and Demonic authorities, and Adam begins to formulate some plans.

With a cast led by Peter Serafinowicz and Mark Heap, this is the first ever dramatisation of Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman's *Good Omens*.

Events have been set in motion to bring about the End of Days. The armies of Good and Evil are gathering and making their way towards the sleepy English village of Lower Tadfield. The Four Horsepersons of the Apocalypse - War, Famine, Pollution and Death - have been summoned from the corners of the earth and are assembling.

Witchfinder Sergeant Shadwell and his assistant Newton Pulsifer are also en route to Tadfield to investigate some unusual phenomena in the area, while Anathema Device, descendent of prophetic and witch Agnes Nutter, tries to decipher her ancestor's cryptic predictions about exactly where the impending Apocalypse will take place.

Atlantis is rising, fish are falling from the sky; everything seems to be going to the Divine Plan.

Everything that is but for the unlikely duo of an angel and a demon who are not all that keen on the prospect of the forthcoming Rapture. Aziraphale (once an angel in the Garden of Eden, but now running an antiquarian bookshop in London), and Crowley (formerly Eden's snake, now driving around London in shades and a vintage Bentley) have been living on Earth for several millennia and have become rather fond of the place. But if they are to stop Armageddon taking place they've got to find and kill the one who will bring about the apocalypse: the Antichrist himself.

There's just one small problem: someone seems to have misled him...

Crowley ..... Peter Serafinowicz  
Aziraphale ..... Mark Heap  
Agnes Nutter ..... Josie Lawrence  
Anathema Device ..... Charlotte Ritchie  
Newton Pulsifer ..... Colin Morgan  
Shadwell ..... Clive Russell  
Madame Tracy ..... Julia Deakin  
Hastur ..... Phil Davis  
Ligur ..... Neil Maskell  
Melatron ..... Nicholas Briggs  
Adam ..... Adam Thomas Wright  
Pepper ..... Hollie Burgess  
Wensleydale ..... Bobby Fuller  
Brian ..... Lewis Andrews  
Corrie Corfield ..... Herself

Adaptation and sound design by Dirk Maggs.

Producer: Heather Larmour.

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2014.

#### FRIDAY 26 DECEMBER 2014

##### **FRI 00:00 Midnight News (b04vd4r2)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4. Followed by Weather.

##### **FRI 00:15 Christmas Meditation (b04vjh7f)**

Famous for his 10 Second Sermons, comedian Milton Jones offers witty and winsome thoughts on the spirit of Christmas at the conclusion of the day's festivities.

##### **FRI 00:30 Book of the Week (b04vfczm)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 on Thursday]

##### **FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4r6)**

The latest shipping forecast.

##### **FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (b04vd4r8)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

##### **FRI 05:20 Shipping Forecast (b04vd4rb)**

The latest shipping forecast.

##### **FRI 05:30 News Briefing (b04vd4rd)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4.

##### **FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (b04vjh7h)**

A spiritual comment and prayer to begin the day, with the Rev Dr Stephen Wigley.

##### **FRI 05:45 Farming Today (b04vjh7k)**

Ten years on from the hunting ban

Ten years on since hunting with dogs was banned in England and Wales, Farming Today explores what the ban has meant for

both sides of the debate. Sybil Ruscoe visits the Bicester with Whaddon Chase hunt where she meets huntsmen Patrick Martin and his pack of hounds as they prepare to go out for a days hunting. Pro-hunt supporters, such as Patrick, would like to see the Hunting Act repealed by government, however anti-hunt campaigners are calling for tighter regulations. Sybil hears from the League Against Cruel Sports about the changes they would like to see and questions the RSPCA on the high profile prosecutions they have brought forward since the ban was enforced.

Presented by Sybil Ruscoe and produced by Lucy Bickerton.

##### **FRI 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b04f0lzb)**

Wandering Albatross

Tweet of the Day is the voice of birds and our relationship with them, from around the world.

Sir David Attenborough presents the wandering albatross of the South Atlantic Ocean. On the windswept South Georgian Islands, a stiff breeze is ruffling the grass tussocks as a Wandering Albatross is billing and coo-ing to its mate. These huge seabirds, mate for life and can live for 50 years (or more). Longevity is vital for a species which produces only one chick every two years. The chocolate brown youngster takes to the air nine months after hatching, the longest pre-fledging period of any bird, but when it does, it breaks another record, as adults have the longest wingspan of any living bird, which can reach over 5metres.

##### **FRI 06:00 Archive on 4 (b04v9r5f)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Saturday]

##### **FRI 07:00 Today (b04vjh7m)**

Morning news and current affairs. Including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

##### **FRI 09:00 Desert Island Discs (b04vd69f)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:15 on Sunday]

##### **FRI 09:45 Book of the Week (b04vjh7p)**

Stories in the Stars

26/12/2014

A seasonal reading for clear and frosty nights, when the skies sparkle with thousands of dots forming half remembered, almost traceable shapes. These are the stories behind the names and shapes of the constellations that pattern the night sky.

Stories In The Stars by Susanna Hislop is read by a range of voices and accents from around the country and the globe. It might be one of the stories that the great Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy assigned to them in his masterwork that became known as the Almagest, or it might be a personified first person narration from the constellation Chameleon having a grumble about the number of different names and imagined shapes assigned to him over the millennia.

From Greco-Roman mythology to the lives of the eighteenth century astronomers, this is a delightful miscellany which gives us a reason to step outside, look up and wonder at the magic lantern show above us.

Readers: Colman Domingo, Paul Copley, Maggie Steed

Episode Five:  
Virgo - The Maiden points towards Spring. Canis Major is leader of the pack.

Abridged, directed and produced by Jill Waters  
A Waters Company production for BBC Radio 4

##### **FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (b04vjh7r)**

Young men's attitudes to women; Plus-size exercise kit; Ellen White and the female charismatics

As women in their thirties as well as their twenties now out earn men, what does the new generation of men really think about living with alpha women? Join Sheila McClennon and her male guests to hear what they have to say.

For many of us our New Year's resolution will probably be the same as it was last year...to get fit and do more exercise. And this probably means a trip to a sportswear retailer, but what if you're not the average size woman? When you get to the larger sizes there seems to be very little on offer. With growing concern about obesity, and more people encouraged to do exercise why isn't more sportswear aimed at larger women?

With nearly 18 million followers, the Seventh-Day Adventist Church is one of a number founded by a woman. Ellen White,

had visions upon which the church's teachings are based. These include a number of health messages forbidding followers to smoke tobacco or drink alcohol whilst also encouraging them to avoid meat and salt. Her writings are still adhered to today, and in Adventist communities in America, followers of the religion have been proven to live longer than the average American. Sheila discovers more about Ellen White and other notable female charismatics.

##### **FRI 10:45 15 Minute Drama (b04vjh7t)**

The Skool Days of Nigel Molesworth

Fun with Scrumms

As the school term comes to an end, Molesworth must find a way to survive the perils of the playing field and the wrath of skool bully Grabber if he's to have any hope of tucking into some Christmas turkey.

Imelda Staunton stars as Nigel Molesworth, the Curse of St Custards, in this fresh adaptation of the notorious Goriller of 3B's guide to skool life for tiny pupils and their parents.

Aided by best friend Peason and thwarted by everyone from Grabber the skool bully to Wandsworth the skool dog, Nigel Molesworth teaches us the ins and outs of skool life - including how to avoid lessens and how to build your own H-bomb.

Molesworth ..... Imelda Staunton  
Peason ..... Sophie Thompson  
Grabber ..... Jack Farthing  
Prudence ..... Jessica Brown Findlay  
Headmaster ..... Patrick Barlow  
Chief Prune ..... Lewis Macleod

Adapted by Patrick Barlow and George Poles from the books by Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Searle, with additional material by Abigail Wilson.

Director: Patrick Barlow

Producer: Liz Anstee

A CPL production for BBC Radio 4 first broadcast in December 2014.

##### **FRI 11:00 Music to Save Grimethorpe (b04vjh7w)**

Ian McMillan, Yorkshire poet and broadcaster, was born and brought up near Grimethorpe, home of one of the most famous brass bands in the world - Grimethorpe Colliery Brass Band. He knows and loves their music, and understands their importance to the local community. In this programme, he celebrates brass band music, revels in its power and precision and explores it's meaning in a world where coal-mining has all but disappeared. Throughout the twentieth century, the local brass band was a badge of pride for British industry that sat at the very centre of the community. Grimethorpe Colliery Brass Band was founded in 1917 and paid for by the pit to offer miners a hobby. After the mine shut, its fight to survive inspired the 1995 film *Brassed Off*, starring Ewan McGregor and Tara Fitzgerald.

Through thick and thin, Grimethorpe Colliery Band have toughed it out and remained one of the world's best known brass bands. The band manager Nigel Dixon and trustees have committed to staying involved as long as they can and have turned attention to trying everything they can to save Grimethorpe.

To hear them strike up, there is no other sound like it and this programme is filled with their wonderful, rich, colourful, emotional sounds.

Ian McMillan meets members of the band, sits in on rehearsals, and finds out how they fight to survive financial catastrophe. He talks to the community as the band push on with their work of funding music education in the local school so that children can learn instruments for free and, for one or two, offer the potential to change their lives too, in the same way most of the current Grimethorpe band first started out.

Produced by Bob Dickinson  
A Sparklab production

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 2014.

##### **FRI 11:30 Count Arthur Strong's Radio Show! (b04vjh7y)**

Arthur in Pantoland?

Count Arthur is saved from the seemingly simple task of writing his Christmas cards by a call from the Vicar. An invitation to star in the local pantomime gets Arthur excited about possible return to the stage.

Count Arthur Strong - one time Variety Star, now sole proprietor and owner of Doncaster's Academy of Performance - is a show business legend, raconteur, and lecturer



extraordinaire. All false starts and nervous fumbling badly covered up by a delicate sheen of bravado and self-assurance, and an expert in everything from the world of entertainment to the origin of the species, everyday life with Arthur is an enlightening experience.

This episode was the first return of the long running series as a seasonal special and was produced by John Leonard and Mark Radcliffe. The show features Count Arthur and his erstwhile protégé Malcolm (Terry Kilkelly), surrounded by a host of regular characters created by his Radio Repertory Company - Mel Giedroyc, Alastair Kerr and Dave Mounfield. Dave, who played amongst others the much-loved characters Jerry and Geoffrey, sadly died in March 2020. His final Count Arthur recordings were two Christmas specials recorded in Autumn 2019, the first of which aired on Christmas Day 2019 and the second is yet to air. The 2020 hybrid return of the ever-popular family friendly sitcom is dedicated to Dave's memory.

A Komedia Entertainment production for BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 12:00 News Summary (b04vd4rg)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 12:04 Home Front (b04vjh80)**

26 December 1914 - Isabel Graham

The Grahams plan a quiet harmonious Boxing Day.

Written by: Shaun McKenna  
Directed and produced by: Lucy Collingwood  
Sound: Martha Littlehales  
Editor: Jessica Dromgoole.

**FRI 12:15 You and Yours (b04vjh82)**

The big brands that try to be a force for good

Is corporate charity work all about looking good rather than doing good?

Peter White presents a special edition assessing some of the causes taken up by big brands including:

The bank promising to teach everyone about technology, the baker funding breakfast clubs for school children and the high street cobbler actively recruiting convicted criminals.

We examine the progress of a plan to improve the safety of clothing factories supplying UK high streets following the deaths of over a thousand workers in Bangladesh.

And we hear from a former 'big oil' employee who now advises other firms on corporate responsibility.

Presenter: Peter White  
Producer: Jon Douglas.

**FRI 12:57 Weather (b04vd4rj)**

The latest weather forecast.

**FRI 13:00 World at One (b04vjh84)**

Analysis of current affairs reports, presented by Mark Mardell.

**FRI 13:45 Food for Thought (b00mjk5v)**

Series 1

Joan Rivers

Journalist Nina Myskow discovers how attitudes to food, shape and affect individual lives.

Over tea and chocolate tart in a suite at The Ritz, comedian Joan Rivers recounts a lifetime of self-loathing and fear of being fat. She recalls the shock of discovering she wasn't beautiful, her mother's advice on dinner parties and an extraordinary daily diet of vitamin pills, low calorie ice cream sandwiches and cereal with whipped cream.

The producer is Tamsin Hughes, and this is a Wise Buddha production for BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 14:00 The Archers (b04vj1xj)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

**FRI 14:15 Drama (b04vklq9)**

Blithe Spirit

In a first for Radio 4, Ambridge's Queen of Am Dram, Lynda Snell, brings a ghostly chill to this year's Christmas Production as she directs and stars in Coward's classic wartime comedy. Joined by Julian Rhind-Tutt, Eleanor Bron, Michael Cochrane

and other members of THE ARCHERS cast, Lynda finds much sympathy with the eccentric medium Madame Arcati and her efforts to conjure some seasonal high spirits. Novelist Charles Condomine is researching a book about a fake medium. But has he bitten off more than he can chew when his dead wife is summoned from beyond the grave?

Adapted and directed by Sean O'Connor.

**FRI 15:45 King Albert's Book (b04vjh86)**

Episode 2

King Albert's Book was a tribute to the Belgian King and people, published by subscription in December 1914.

The book was the idea of Hall Caine, a novelist and playwright of the late Victorian and Edwardian eras, to raise money for the Daily Telegraph Belgium fund. He invited princes, statesman, churchmen, authors, political activists, artists and composers to present their view of the tragedy that had befallen Belgium in the preceding months of war.

Contributors include Winston Churchill, Thomas Hardy, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Bernhardt, Emmeline Pankhurst and Rudyard Kipling. The result is an extraordinary snapshot of a moment in time and the passions aroused by the conquest of Belgium and the resistance led by King Albert.

As the book was being prepared in the Autumn of 1914, no one knew how the tragedy of the First World War would unfold - there was still hope that it would all be over fairly swiftly. What seemed to be a heroic defence of a sovereign state was the primary concern of the book's contributors, little knowing how long the conflict would continue and how the greater tragedy of the war would supersede this event.

In the second episode, narrated by the writer and producer Paul Dodgson, there is a poem by Thomas Hardy, a statement of support from Emmeline Pankhurst, and the writer Arnold Bennet remembers his first trip to the Continent.

Readers: Kenneth Cranham, Tim McMullan and Harriet Walter.  
Pianist: Kevin Matthews

Narrated and Produced by Paul Dodgson  
A Pier production for BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 16:00 Last Word (b04vjh88)**

In a special edition of Last Word, Matthew Bannister talks to obituary editors from around the UK about the nature of their work

Matthew Bannister and a group of obituary editors from around the UK gather to compare notes and discuss why the world of the obituary writer is very often an uplifting one.

Producer: Neil George.

**FRI 16:30 A Good Read (b04kbl8c)**

Jeremy Paxman and Mary Beard

Jeremy Paxman and Mary Beard argue heatedly and entertainingly about the books they love, with presenter Harriet Gilbert acting as referee.

Jeremy's choice is Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk by Ben Fountain: a rollercoaster of a novel that's been called the Catch-22 of the Iraq War.

The Return of Martin Guerre by Natalie Zemon Davis is classicist Mary Beard's recommendation. It's a depiction of French peasant life that's been described as even greater than the film of the same story.

Travels with my Aunt, a genuinely funny novel by Graham Greene, is Harriet Gilbert's contribution.

Producer Beth O'Dea.

**FRI 16:55 The Listening Project (b04vj16z)**

Kiki and Faith - Dreams of Daddy

Fi Glover introduces a conversation between sisters who are still at primary school reflecting on the alcohol-related death of their father with extraordinary perceptiveness and wisdom. The sisters were supported through their loss by the charity Children and Families in Grief, and their counsellor and their mother sat in on the recording.

This conversation was first broadcast on R4 on 15/10/2014.

The Listening Project is a Radio 4 initiative that offers a snapshot of contemporary Britain in which people across the UK volunteer to have a conversation with someone close to them about a subject they've never discussed intimately before.

The conversations are being gathered across the UK by teams of producers from local and national radio stations who facilitate each encounter. Every conversation - they're not BBC interviews, and that's an important difference - lasts up to an hour, and is then edited to extract the key moment of connection between the participants. Most of the unedited conversations are being archived by the British Library and used to build up a collection of voices capturing a unique portrait of the UK in the second decade of the millennium. You can learn more about The Listening Project by visiting [bbc.co.uk/listeningproject](http://bbc.co.uk/listeningproject)

Producer: Marya Burgess.

**FRI 17:00 PM (b04vj171)**

PM at 5pm- Eddie Mair with interviews, context and analysis.

**FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (b04vd4rl)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 18:15 Christmas With... (b04vj173)**

Ed Reardon

It's Boxing Day in Ed Reardon's House and we find Ed making a toast in celebration of another successful year for the Reardon Family. Yes, you read correctly, Ed is surrounded by his wonderful family. Not only that but he's up there amongst the best writers in the world and his Boxing Day lunch is joined by Jaz Milvain, one of the best directors in the world. Yes, Jaz and Ed are riding high and Ed and his gorgeous wife and kids are happy.

But this, after all, is Ed Reardon's Week and all is not as it seems as Ed is visiting Christmas long past. In 2014 he only has Elgar and a rather disappointing Millennium Cracker to keep him company. Still, there's always something good on the telly.....

Written by Andrew Nickolds and Christopher Douglas  
Produced by Dawn Ellis.

**FRI 18:30 Dead Ringers (b04vj175)**

Series 13

Episode 1

The impression show takes a look at all the shows that come out around Christmas time and are given that extra festive cheer: Crimewatch and Embarrassing Bodies. Who doesn't want to see a crime scene brightened up with tinsel and fake snow? And a pustulating sore that looks like a snowman?

Starring Jon Culshaw, Jan Ravens, Duncan Wisbey, Lewis MacLeod, Debra Stevenson.

Producer: Bill Dare.

**FRI 19:00 The Archers (b04vj177)**

Peggy unveils the new Jack Woolley Remembrance window in the church. She remembers Jack's friends - Dan, Walter, Tom - and when she mentions her own son Tony her voice cracks. Pat comments on how vibrant the window looks even in the winter light. Peggy feels that the window is the only good thing that has come out of winding up Jack's estate. She becomes philosophical about focusing more on the present than planning for the future.

Peggy visits Tony in hospital. She is stunned when he manages to speak, and brought to tears when Tony tells her he loves her. It's the opening night of Blithe Spirit. As nervous Susan struggles into her costume, Helen teases Fallon about her flowers from Harrison. Lynda's beads keep catching and one minute before curtain up, Susan's zip bursts. Susan unwittingly turns this into a comedy routine onstage - with Lynda watching in horror at her 'hammy' performance.

After the show, Harrison congratulates proud Susan, who gleefully paraphrases Lynda's own words: "There ain't no small parts, only small actors". Meanwhile, Harrison also congratulates Fallon. They share a moment - and a kiss - under the mistletoe.

Pat happily reports to Helen that Tony is speaking. They embrace at this brilliant news and wish each other a happy Christmas.

**FRI 19:15 Front Row (b04vj179)**

The Art of Book Cover Design

John Wilson explores the art of book cover design and meets artist Suzanne Dean, who has been responsible for more Booker-winning covers than any other designer. Writers Ian McEwan, Tom McCarthy and Audrey Niffenegger discuss the art that represents their words and Telegraph books editor Gaby Wood provides a reader's perspective on what makes a book stand out in a bookshop. As more of us than ever read books on e-

readers, is beautiful design the key to the survival of the physical book?

**FRI 19:45 15 Minute Drama (b04vjh7t)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:45 today]

**FRI 20:00 21st Century Mythologies (b04wy810)**

Omnibus, Part 1

In 1954, the French critic and semiotician Roland Barthes began a series of essays in which he analysed the popular culture of his day. He called his essays "Mythologies." In this series of witty talks, the acclaimed writer and critic Peter Conrad delivers a series of 21st Century Mythologies in a French accent of the mind. Conrad ranges over the defining effluvia of our era, from the Cronut, to the Shard, to the Kardashians. Today he looks at the ubiquitous home of piri piri chicken, Nandos.

**FRI 20:50 A Point of View (b04vj17c)**

Monarch's Message

David Cannadine reflects on the history of the Queen's Christmas message. Following the success of the first broadcast in 1932 by the Queen's grandfather, King George V, "what had begun as a one-off innovation" soon "became an invented tradition".

"There can be no doubt," says Cannadine, "it brought the King closer to his subjects than had been true of any monarch who had gone before him."

Producer: Sheila Cook.

**FRI 21:00 Home Front - Omnibus (b04vj17f)**

22-26 December 1914

This week, the Grahams host a family Christmas and Folkestone's yuletide festivities don't go entirely to plan.

Story-led by: Katie Hims

Written by: Shaun McKenna

Consultant Historian: Professor Maggie Andrews

Music: Matthew Strachan

Sound: Martha Littlehailes

Directed and produced by: Lucy Collingwood

Editor: Jessica Dromgoole.

**FRI 21:58 Weather (b04vd4rs)**

The latest weather forecast.

**FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (b04vj17h)**

In-depth reporting and analysis from a global perspective.

**FRI 22:45 Book at Bedtime (b04vj17k)**

The Diary of a Provincial Lady

EM Delafield - The Diary of a Provincial Lady

E M Delafield was great friends with Margaret Mackworth, 2nd Viscountess Rhondda, and became a director of Time and Tide magazine. When the editor "wanted some light 'middles', preferably in serial form, she promised to think of something". And so it was, in 1930, that her most popular and enduring work The Diary of a Provincial Lady was written. It has never been out of print.

The Diary of a Provincial Lady charts the day-to-day life of a Devonshire-dwelling lady and her attempts to keep her somewhat ramshackle household from falling into chaos.

Husband Robert, when he's not snoozing behind The Times, does everything with grumbling reluctance. Her children are gleefully troublesome. A succession of tricky servants invariably seem to gain the upper hand. And if her domestic trials are not enough, she must keep up appearances - particularly with the maddeningly patronising Lady Boxe, with whom our Provincial Lady eternally (and unsuccessfully) endeavours to compete.

This largely autobiographical novel substituted the names of "Robin" and "Vicky" for her own children, Lionel and Rosamund.

Abridged by Libby Spurrier

Read by Claire Skinner

Produced by Joanna Green

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 23:00 Great Lives (b04vdzyh)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:30 on Tuesday]

**FRI 23:27 Good Omens (b04vj119)**

Episode 5

The Four Horsepersons of the Apocalypse assemble and set off for Lower Tadfield, while Aziraphale finds himself inhabiting a most unexpected host body.

With a cast led by Peter Serafinowicz and Mark Heap, this is the first ever dramatisation of Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman's Good Omens.

Events have been set in motion to bring about the End of Days. The armies of Good and Evil are gathering and making their way towards the sleepy English village of Lower Tadfield. The Four Horsepersons of the Apocalypse - War, Famine, Pollution and Death - have been summoned from the corners of the earth and are assembling.

Witchfinder Sergeant Shadwell and his assistant Newton Pulsifer are also en route to Tadfield to investigate some unusual phenomena in the area, while Anathema Device, descendent of prophetess and witch Agnes Nutter, tries to decipher her ancestor's cryptic predictions about exactly where the impending Apocalypse will take place.

Atlantis is rising, fish are falling from the sky; everything seems to be going to the Divine Plan.

Everything that is but for the unlikely duo of an angel and a demon who are not all that keen on the prospect of the forthcoming Rapture. Aziraphale (once an angel in the Garden of Eden, but now running an antiquarian bookshop in London), and Crowley (formerly Eden's snake, now driving around London in shades and a vintage Bentley) have been living on Earth for several millennia and have become rather fond of the place. But if they are to stop Armageddon taking place they've got to find and kill the one who will bring about the apocalypse: the Antichrist himself.

There's just one small problem: someone seems to have mislaid him...

Crowley ..... Peter Serafinowicz  
Aziraphale ..... Mark Heap  
Agnes Nutter ..... Josie Lawrence  
Anathema Device ..... Charlotte Ritchie  
Newton Pulsifer ..... Colin Morgan  
Madame Tracy ..... Julia Deakin  
War ..... Rachael Stirling  
Famine ..... Paterson Joseph  
Pollution ..... Harry Lloyd  
Death ..... Jim Norton  
Big Ted ..... Mitch Benn  
Scuzz ..... Mark Benton  
Pigbog ..... Arsher Ali  
Greaser ..... Ben Crowe  
Tyler ..... Andy Secombe  
Mrs Omerod ..... Marcella Riordan  
Julia ..... Tracy Wiles

Adaptation and sound design by Dirk Maggs.

Producer: Heather Larmour.

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2014.

**FRI 23:55 The Listening Project (b04vj11e)**

Claudia and Isabella - Sisterly Heirarchy

Fi Glover hears a conversation between sisters Claudia and Izzy, recorded when Claudia was 11 and Izzy 10; they're close, but Claudia will always be the older sister.

This conversation was first broadcast on R4 on 30/11/2012.

The Listening Project is a Radio 4 initiative that offers a snapshot of contemporary Britain in which people across the UK volunteer to have a conversation with someone close to them about a subject they've never discussed intimately before. The conversations are being gathered across the UK by teams of producers from local and national radio stations who facilitate each encounter. Every conversation - they're not BBC interviews, and that's an important difference - lasts up to an hour, and is then edited to extract the key moment of connection between the participants. Most of the unedited conversations are being archived by the British Library and used to build up a collection of voices capturing a unique portrait of the UK in the second decade of the millennium. You can learn more about The Listening Project by visiting [bbc.co.uk/listeningproject](http://bbc.co.uk/listeningproject)

Producer: Marya Burgess.