

**SATURDAY 09 DECEMBER 2023****SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m001t36z)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 00:30 The Years by Annie Ernaux (m001t2yd)**

Episode 5

Considered by many to be the iconic French memoirist's defining work, *The Years* is a narrative of the period 1941 to 2006 told through the lens of memory, impressions past and present, cultural habits, language, photos, books, songs, radio, television, advertising and news headlines.

Annie Ernaux invents a form that is subjective and impersonal, private and collective, and a new genre – the collective autobiography – in order to capture the passing of time.

At the confluence of autofiction and sociology, *The Years* is 'a Remembrance of Things Past for our age of media domination and consumerism' (New York Times), a monumental account of twentieth-century French history as refracted through the life of one woman.

'One of the best books you'll ever read.'

— Deborah Levy, author of *Hot Milk*

'The author of one of the most important oeuvres in French literature, Annie Ernaux's work is as powerful as it is devastating, as subtle as it is seething.'

— Edouard Louis, author of *The End of Eddy*

'Ravishing and almost oracular with insight, Ernaux's prose performs an extraordinary dance between collective and intimate, "big" history and private experience. *The Years* is a philosophical meditation paced as a rollercoaster ride through the decades. How we spend ourselves too quickly, how we reach for meaning but evade it, how to live, how to remember – these are Ernaux's themes. I am desperate for more.'

— Kapka Kassabova, author of *Border*

Born in 1940, Annie Ernaux grew up in Normandy, studied at Rouen University, and later taught at secondary school. From 1977 to 2000, she was a professor at the Centre National d'Enseignement par Correspondance. In 2017, she was awarded the Marguerite Yourcenar Prize for her life's work. In 2022, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Alison L. Strayer is a Canadian writer and translator. Her translation of *The Years* was awarded the 2018 French-American Translation Prize in the non-fiction category. She lives in Paris.

Written by Annie Ernaux

Translated by Alison L Strayer

Read by Sian Thomas

Abridged by Jill Waters with Mark Kilfoyle

Produced by Jill Waters

A Waters Company production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m001t379)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m001t37k)**

World Service

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**SAT 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m001t37t)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 05:30 News Briefing (m001t380)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m001t386)**

A reflection and prayer to start the day with the Revd Dr Craig Gardiner, a tutor at Cardiff Baptist College.

Good morning. The other day my family were waiting in a long queue of Christmas traffic edging towards the ever-changing greens and reds and ambers of the lights.

My passengers were already on their smart phones so I asked them when traffic lights were invented. It was actually today, back in 1868, in Westminster. Those lights were really a modified system of railway signals during the day, with red and green gas illuminations shining through the night, instructing the traffic to stop and wait.

The traffic on our journey didn't like delays, but few of us do like waiting, especially in this internet age when we are used to downloading, messaging and getting all sorts of things to happen

now...like discovering when traffic lights were invented.

Indeed, even as my traffic lights turned green, I was urging those in front of me to 'get a move on, quick.' Waiting seems to be such a waste of time. But it need not be so.

These weeks before Christmas, known in the church as Advent, are when Christians prepare for the birth of Jesus, knowing it is imminent, but that it hasn't happened yet, and so we are told to wait. But this waiting has a purpose. If Christmas promises 'joy to the world', then these days of anticipation offer us an opportunity to pause amidst life's busy traffic. This is our chance to stop long enough to think about what would truly bring us joy.

Each of us might answer that question rather differently, but stopping and waiting for the answer, might at least remind us, that happiness is not always found in moving quickly up the queue or rushing through our lives.

God of all waiting,

Who welcomes our pause,

help us to discover joy in the delays,

and wonder in the waiting we encounter today,

as we stop,

even for a minute,

that we might be filled with your presence

Amen

**SAT 05:45 New Storytellers (m001p7lk)**

Out at Sea, Out of Mind

Take a deep dive into the sonic realms of the sea. With natural soundscapes recorded beneath the surface, this is a journey of discovery into how important sound is for all sea creatures - from whales, dolphins, and porpoises, to the smallest invertebrates, sound is an essential part of their being.

Since the discovery that whale song can be heard across entire oceans, many researchers have been exploring how human-produced sounds and frequencies may affect communication among the mammals. But as we on the surface can't hear the sounds beneath the sea, we can be oblivious to the devastating effects some of these noises can have on underwater life. As humans we bring to the vast arena of the oceans much louder sounds than would occur naturally on the evolutionary scale - shipping, sonar used for underwater navigation, and the loud seismic gun testing blasts produced when surveying the ocean bed for oil and gas.

Do we need to start listening to our oceans?

With contributions from: Professor Volker Deecke, marine pollution consultant Tim Deere-Jones, researchers Sarah Dickson, Jordan Burgess, Jo Garrett, and writer Jay Richardson.

This series of *New Storytellers* features the winners of this year's Charles Parker Prize 2023 for the Best Student Radio Feature. *Out at Sea, Out of Mind* was produced by recent University of Sunderland MA Radio, Audio and Podcasting student Lottie Steele and the feature is, in the words of the judges, "skilfully creative" and "expertly montaged so that there is a great sense of flow". And they admired the "beautiful use of sound and music. A shocking and important programme."

Producer: Lottie Steele

A Soundscape production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 06:00 News and Papers (m001t966)**

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

**SAT 06:07 Open Country (m001t32t)**

Unearthing the past at Vindolanda

At the major Roman site of Vindolanda, just south of Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland, excavations have unearthed artefacts from nearly two thousand years ago. In this programme, archaeologist Rose Ferraby visits the site and asks what we can learn about the people who lived here and the kind of lives they led. She hears about the five thousand pairs of shoes which were left behind by the departing Romans, from marching boots to baby's booties, with another 30-40,000 more pairs believed to still lie buried on the site - along with several tonnes of pottery, ceramics and animal bones.

At Vindolanda's sister site, Magna, archaeological work is being directly affected by climate change. The peat bog on which it sits is drying out, exposing ancient structures to the air. It's a race against time to find out as much as possible and to preserve the past in the face of the changing climate.

Produced by Ruth Sanderson

**SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m001t96b)**

09/12/23 Farming Today This Week: COP28 food and

agriculture; Food as a public good; Snow

Food security is a public good and the Government should use England's post Brexit environmental payment system to incentivise it; so say MPs on the Environmental Audit Committee in a report out this week.

This year food and farming has been on the official COP agenda for the first time. It's taken 28 years but tomorrow will see a full day of the COP dedicated to food and farming, a 'game changer' according to the hosts in Dubai.

It's been a difficult week for many farmers, with torrential rain and heavy snowfalls, especially in Cumbria. Andrea Meanwell farms in the Howgills and has a herd of Belted Galloway cattle. She went out to find them when the snow came down, and had to go on foot when the diesel in her all terrain vehicle froze.

Presented by Charlotte Smith and produced by Beatrice Fenton.

**SAT 06:57 Weather (m001t96h)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 07:00 Today (m001t96m)**

Including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m001t96r)**

David Gandy, Sam Heughan, Catrin Finch, Lucy Worsley

From an animal loving Billerica boy to international supermodel turned designer - David Gandy has been the face of some of the worlds biggest brands.

The Scottish actor Sam Heughan is internationally famous for playing Highland warrior Jamie Fraser in *Outlander* but is also an award-winning businessman and bestselling author.

And the Queen of Harps, Catrin Finch, not only a classical harp virtuoso, she's also a collaborator who exemplifies musical freedom and knows a thing or two about music's healing powers.

Plus the Inheritance Tracks of historian and broadcaster Lucy Worsley.

Presenters: Nikki Bedi and Huw Stevens

Producer: Ben Mitchell

**SAT 10:00 Your Place or Mine with Shaun Keaveny (m001t96w)**

Rob Auton: Reykjavik, Iceland

Iceland offers Shaun the opportunity to enjoy a cold drink in a thermal spa, while gawping at the Northern Lights and listening to Sigur Rós. Comedian and writer Rob Auton paints a beautiful picture of the world's most northerly capital, but is it all too much for Shaun? Resident geographer, historian and comedian Iszi Lawrence is on hand to advise, crampons at the ready.

Your Place Or Mine is the travel series that isn't going anywhere. Join Shaun as his guests try to convince him that it's worth getting up off the sofa and seeing the world, giving us a personal guide to their favourite place on the planet.

Producers: Sarah Goodman and Beth O'Dea.

Your Place or Mine is a BBC Audio production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds.

**SAT 10:30 The Kitchen Cabinet (m001t970)**

Series 42

Wigan

Jay Rayner and his panel of culinary experts answer questions from Wigan.

Joining Jay are food writers Nisha Katona, Sophie Wright, food historian Dr Annie Gray, and chef Rob Owen Brown.

The panel discusses a variety of culinary dilemmas, from when to use white or black pepper to what to do with creamed artichokes. The panelists also discuss their favourite food misnomers, and the all important question - what makes a pie a pie?

Jay chats to Bakery Manager Eric Scrivens of Galloways Bakers about why Wigan residents are self proclaimed "Pie Eaters". He also invites the managing director of Uncle Joe's Mint Balls, John Winnard MBE, to discuss the popularity of mint sweets around the world.

Senior Producer: Dan Cocker

Assistant Producer: Dulcie Whadcock  
Executive Producer: Hannah Newton

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 11:00 The Week in Westminster (m001975)**

Radio 4's weekly assessment of developments at Westminster

**SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m001979)**

Hope and disillusion in South Africa

Kate Adie introduces dispatches from South Africa, Syria, the Netherlands and Germany.

Fergal Keane reported from South Africa during the country's difficult transition to democracy after the end of apartheid. He revisits some familiar neighbourhoods and reflects on what happened to the hope and ambition that gripped the country at the time.

Four years after Islamic State was defeated in Syria, thousands of children whose parents supported the group, are living in camps and detention centres with their mothers. Poonam Taneja met some of the children with uncertain futures, still hoping for a return to a normal life.

The Dutch far-right populist leader Geert Wilders swept to a surprise victory in parliamentary elections last month, but there is still no guarantee he will become prime minister. Housing, immigration and the cost of living dominated the election campaign. Anna Holligan spoke to voters in the seaside suburbs of The Hague.

Germany's plans for its much-vaunted 'green energy transition' are in deep water after a ruling by the country's constitutional court blew a 60 billion euro hole in the project's finances. Meanwhile German voters are questioning the cost of going green. Bob Howard was in Bremen.

Series producer: Serena Tarling  
Production coordinator: Gemma Ashman  
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

**SAT 12:00 News Summary (m001tbfq)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 12:04 Money Box (m001t97g)**

Teenage Scam Ads and Mortgage Overpayments

Teenagers are being bombarded on social media with promotions for financial products they might not understand and that are usually too risky or dangerous for them to invest in. The MP Robin Walker, who chairs the Commons Education Select Committee, wants to see financial education for 16-18 year olds strengthened. The Department for Education told us "Financial literacy within citizenship is compulsory for 11-16-year-olds in the national curriculum, so young people are taught about the importance of personal budgeting, savings, money management and calculating interest."

Figures indicate an increasing number of homeowners are making overpayments on their mortgages, to take the sting out of new interest rates. More than £21.3 billion was overpaid in the first ten months of this year - up more than 14% from the same period last year. But how much do you need to overpay, to make a difference?

The new project where people can get loans at zero interest to help with the cost of electricity, gas, and heating oil. We visit Ballyhackamore Credit Union in East Belfast to see how it works.

Presenter: Paul Lewis  
Reporters: Dan Whitworth, Sandra Hardial and Eimear Devlin  
Researcher: Jo Krasner  
Editor: Jess Quayle

(First broadcast 12pm, Saturday 9th Dec 2023)

**SAT 12:30 The Now Show (m001336)**

Series 63

Episode 6

Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis present the week via topical stand-up and sketches. Featuring Geoff Norcott looking at the proposal of a Minister for Men, Harriet Kemsley on Kim Jong Un's pleas to North Korea, and an original song from Peter Rugman.

The show was written by the cast with additional material from Adrian Gray, Miranda Holms, Rajiv Karia, Cameron Loxdale and Laura Major.

Voice Actors: Daniel Barker and Chiara Goldsmith.

Producer: Rajiv Karia  
Production Coordinator: Katie Baum

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4

**SAT 12:57 Weather (m001t97j)**

The latest weather forecast

**SAT 13:00 News and Weather (m001t97l)**

The latest national and international news and weather reports from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (m001t349)**

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Esther McVey MP, Lisa Nandy MP, Richard Tice

Alex Forsyth presents political discussion from St Matthew's Church in Burnley with the journalist Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Minister for the Cabinet Office Esther McVey MP, Shadow Minister for International Development Lisa Nandy MP and the leader of Reform UK Richard Tice.

Producer: Camellia Sinclair  
Lead broadcast engineer: Liam Juniper

**SAT 14:00 Any Answers? (m001t97n)**

Call Any Answers? to have your say on the big issues in the news this week

**SAT 14:45 The Planet Earth Podcast (m001t97q)**

7. Planet Earth Pioneers

As the natural world faces unprecedented pressures, who are the conservation heroes working on the front line to protect our most precious species? Mike Gunton hears from BBC Factual Commissioner Jack Bootle on why human stories are so important to the Planet Earth brand, while conservationist Carla Daniel shares how she makes sure sea turtles remain safe on the busy streets of Barbados. Chimp expert Matt McLennan describes how his conservation work helped to bring a Planet Earth III sequence to our screens, and Sir David Attenborough offers his own thoughts on conservation heroes.

**SAT 15:00 Sweeney Todd and the String of Pearls (m000t4kg)**

Episode 1

Rosalind Ayres directs a stellar cast in this masterly, rediscovered, horror-thriller. Joanne Whalley stars as Mrs Lovett and Martin Jarvis as barber Sweeney Todd with Rufus Sewell, Jonathan Cake, Julian Sands, Jack Cutmore-Scott, Darren Richardson and Ian Ogilvy. Based on the novel by Thomas Prest.

It's 1785 in Fleet Street, during the reign of George III, with so many secrets and lies. What is the peculiar arrangement between Sweeney Todd and pie-shop owner, Mrs Lovett? What happened to the pearls? They were meant for lovely young Joanna. Is her sweetheart Mark lost at sea? What became of the messenger after entering Todd's shop? Who is the new cook in Mrs Lovett's bakehouse?

Can loyal Lieutenant Jeffrey (Rufus Sewell) and investigator Sir Richard Blunt (Jonathan Cake) unravel the dark mystery? A grim humour here - if there are killings, where are the bodies?

Cast:  
Mrs Lovett...Joanne Whalley  
Sweeney Todd...Martin Jarvis  
Colonel Jeffrey...Rufus Sewell  
Sir Richard Blunt...Jonathan Cake  
Mark...Jack Cutmore-Scott  
Tobias...Darren Richardson  
Joanna...Moirá Quirk  
Arabella...Elizabeth Knowelden  
Mr Oakley...Julian Sands  
Major Bounce...Ian Ogilvy  
Mr Grant...Alan Shearman  
Morgan/Captain...Neil Dickson  
Thornhill/Mundel/Crotchet...Matthew Wolf

Original music: A-Mnemonic

Dramatised by Archie Scottney, based on the novel by Thomas Prest

Director: Rosalind Ayres  
A Jarvis and Ayres production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 16:00 Woman's Hour (m001t97s)**

Ruth Perry's sister, City Girl in Nature, Caring for a

spouse, The politics of Christmas presents

An Ofsted inspection "contributed" to the death of head teacher Ruth Perry. That's the conclusion of senior coroner Heidi Connor. This is the first time Ofsted has been listed as a contributing factor in the death of a head teacher. Ruth Perry had been head of Caversham Primary School in Berkshire for 13 years when she took her own life in January, ahead of an inspection report being made public which had downgraded the school from Outstanding to Inadequate, based on safeguarding concerns. Her death ignited a national debate about the mental health of school leaders and the pressure they are under in terms of inspections. Anita Rani speaks to Ruth Perry's sister, Professor Julia Waters.

Born and raised in Deptford, south east London, Kwesia didn't grow up with a lot of nature around her. That's until she went on a life-changing trip to the Amazon. She's since created her YouTube channel, City Girl in Nature, to guide other city dwellers into the great outdoors. She speaks to Krupa Padhy about her platform, nature activism work, and winning Best New Voice at the Audio Production Awards for her podcast Get Birding.

Lina Mookerjee had been married to her husband Richard for more than 15 years when he lost both his sight and hearing. Lina is now as much a carer to Richard as she is a wife. Lina and Richard share their story and discuss what they describe as the 'invisible' work of carers.

Research suggests that the average Briton spends £300 on Christmas gifts. One woman who is bucking this trend is the writer and journalist Nell Frizzell, who says that her family Christmases have improved since they stopped buying one another gifts. Krupa hears from Nell and Ellie Gibson, comedian and one half of the Scummy Mummies, who is a big fan of gifting every festive season.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Dianne McGregor

**SAT 17:00 PM (m001t97v)**

Full coverage of the day's news

**SAT 17:30 Sliced Bread (m001t31c)**

Sliced Bread - Bedding

Can changing your sheets be good for you - and the environment? We've had loads of requests to look at the best way to make your bed - specifically, how all the different options for sheets and pillowcases compare. Cotton seems to be king when it comes to popularity, but is it justified? Listener Rosemary is a linen fan, but wants to know whether eucalyptus bedding lives up to the hype. How do its eco credentials stack up - and what does it feel like? Speaking of feel - silk pillow cases have a reputation for luxury, but listener Cathy wants to know whether sleeping on one will - as the marketing promises - also help your skin and your hair. Could it really help with acne? We'll hear from a dermatologist and a fabrics expert - and there are some surprising answers to this one!

If you've seen a claim you'd like investigating, you can email the team on sliced.bread@bbc.co.uk or send us a WhatsApp voice note on 07543 306807.

PRESENTER: GREG FOOT  
PRODUCER: TOM MOSELEY

**SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m001t97x)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 17:57 Weather (m001t97z)**

The latest weather forecast

**SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m001t98l)**

Israeli forces have continued to bombard targets throughout Gaza where a senior UN official has warned that half the population is now starving.

**SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m001t983)**

Elvis Costello and Conor McPherson, Suranne Jones, Martin Kemp, Michelle McManus, Roachford, Ify Iwobi, Emma Freud

Clive Anderson and Emma Freud are joined by Elvis Costello and Conor McPherson, Suranne Jones, Martin Kemp and Michelle McManus for an eclectic mix of conversation, music and comedy. With music from Roachford and Ify Iwobi.

**SAT 19:00 Profile (m001t985)**

Olivia Colman

Olivia Colman, Oscar winning actress. Stephen Smith charts her career from an appearance at the age of 4 in a school nativity play, through to her current project as Mrs. Scrubbit in the new 'Wonka' film.

Olivia Colman first came to public attention as a comedy actress in 'That Mitchell and Webb Look' and then 'Peep Show' but she always felt she could do more. It was being cast in the British film 'Tyrannosaur' that brought her to the attention of Hollywood. Now she's on her way to National Treasure status with the likes of Dame Judi Dench and Dame Helen Mirren.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Paterson Joseph, Actor, Producer, Writer. Screen Credits, Boat Story, Vigil.  
Paul Hands, Former Director of Drama, Gresham's School.  
Anna Smith, Film Critic, Broadcaster and host of 'Girls on Film' podcast.  
Catherine Shoard, Film Critic, The Guardian.

#### CREDITS

Peep Show, Channel 4  
Wonka, Warner Bros. Pictures  
L'Orchestre Cinematique, Pure Imagination (Newley/Bricusse)  
Oscars Award Ceremony 2019 - Best Actress Award  
The Crown, Netflix, Writer: Peter Morgan  
Life in Stages, Episode 1 Olivia Colman, National Theatre

#### PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer: Diane Richardson, Julie Ball  
Editor: Bridget Harney  
Sound: Neil Churchill  
Production Co-ordinators: Maria Ogundele and Sabine Schereck

#### SAT 19:15 The Infinite Monkey Cage (p0gr7n3y) Series 28

##### Hollywood in Space

Brian Cox and Robin Ince put Hollywood under the microscope to unpick the science fact v science fiction of some of the biggest movies set in space. They are joined by a truly out of this world panel of space experts including astronauts Tim Peake, Nicole Stott and Susan Kilrain alongside Oscar-winning Special FX director Paul Franklin, whose movies include Interstellar and First Man. Tim, Nicole and Susan fact check how space travel and astronauts are portrayed in movies such as Gravity and The Martian, whilst Brian and Robin argue about Robin's lack of enthusiasm for Star Wars. They look back at some of the greatest space movies including Alien and 2001 A Space Odyssey, and ask whether some fictional aspects of these blockbusters may not be so far from our future reality.

Executive Producer: Alexandra Feachem.

#### SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m001t988) The Art of Silence

A radio programme about mime seems like a contradiction in terms... but Marcel Marceau had so much to say.

When the entire population of Strasbourg was evacuated in September 1939, the Mangel family was sent to the south of France. Marcel attended art school in Limoges and, alongside his older brother Alain and several of his cousins, joined multiple resistance networks.

He changed his surname to Marceau and began a life in the underground. Still a teenager, he risked his own life many times to help save Jewish refugee children, predominantly through a relief charity called the OSE - Oeuvre de secours aux enfants. Marcel's own father Charles Mangel, a kosher butcher originally from Poland, was arrested in early 1944 and murdered in Auschwitz.

His cousin Georges Loinger arranged for Marcel to hide from the Gestapo at a radical orphanage outside Paris where he worked as a drama teacher while also beginning classes at the Charles Dullin theatre school in occupied Paris. This is where he made the crucial decision to focus on mime - an art form he'd loved since discovering the films of Charlie Chaplin as a child.

After Paris was liberated, he joined the French army and his first big performance as a mime artist was to American GIs. Over the next 60 years, Marceau would become world famous as the 20th century's best known and most celebrated proponent of mime.

Marcel rarely spoke about his wartime experiences but he did write a manuscript titled "Histoire de ma vie. De 1923 jusqu'en 1952" which he entrusted to his two daughters Aurélie - an actor - and Camille - an artist - before his death in 2007. To mark the centenary of his birth this year, it was published in

France by Actes Sud.

In this programme, Aurélie and Camille reveal some of the remarkable stories from the manuscript in addition to linking these experiences with his artistic development and his decision to choose an art form performed in silence, only aided occasionally by music and sound effects.

#### Contributors:

Nola Rae, mime artist and former student of Marceau.  
Tamar Nezer-Loinger whose mother Fanny was Marcel's cousin and was a resistance fighter who saved 500 Jewish children.  
Carol Mann, a sociologist whose mother Rose was also Marcel's cousin. She is the author of "Le mime Marceau, sa cousine Rose, le Yiddish, et moi".  
French Film director Michel Leclerc whose mother was saved by Marcel Marceau.  
Dr Betty Felembok, a retired biologist who was hidden aged 5 at La Maison d'enfants de Sèvres orphanage outside Paris where Marceau also hid as a drama teacher.  
Dr Hillel Kieval, Goldstein Professor Emeritus of Jewish History and Thought at Washington University in St. Louis.  
Jeanine Thompson, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts at Ohio State University.

With thanks to Robert Leopold, archivist for La Maison d'enfants de Sèvres; the Wallenberg Legacy for allowing the use of Marcel Marceau's 2001 Wallenberg Medal acceptance speech at the University of Michigan; the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute at Ohio State University who digitised the video of "Bip Remembers" especially for this programme.

Producer: Victoria Ferran  
Executive Producer: Susan Marling  
A Just Radio production for BBC Radio 4

#### SAT 21:00 Drama on 4 (m001gwz6) Border Call

We are on the cusp of major changes in the three-way relationship between Britain, Ireland and Northern Ireland. In this taut political drama, Hugh Costello looks into his crystal ball and imagines a future scenario.

The year is 2027. Helen Graham is the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the UK government. Recent elections to the Stormont Assembly have confirmed Sinn Féin as the largest party. Now they and their counterparts in the Republic, senior partners in a ruling coalition since the general election of 2025, have renewed their calls for a referendum, or Border Poll, on unification, to be held on both sides of the border.

Under the Good Friday Agreement, the power to call such a poll in NI lies with the Secretary of State, if she judges that "it appears likely that a majority of the people would vote in favour of a united Ireland."

Helen was raised in Manchester by an English father and Irish mother. This is her first Cabinet position, and it's giving her sleepless nights. Not least because the Prime Minister is demanding a debrief. At the suggestion of her resourceful PPS, Belfast native Emily Cooke, she embarks on a fact-finding mission and charm offensive. But while appearing as a guest on a radio phone-in show in Dublin, a caller raises a traumatic event in Helen's family's past that changes the future for both her and the island of Ireland....

Cast:  
Helen Graham Jane Slavin  
Emily Cooke Bronagh Waugh  
Andrew Tayla Kovacevic-Ebong  
Jennifer/Maureen Frances Tomelty  
Moriarty/Finnerty Stephen Hogan

Written by Hugh Costello  
Directed by Eoin O'Callaghan

A Big Fish Radio production for BBC Radio 4

#### SAT 21:45 Short Works (m001nw4c) Love Is Mortifying by Gina Donnelly

An original short story commissioned by BBC Radio 4 from author Gina Donnelly. Read by Catherine Rees

Gina Donnelly is a multi-award winning writer based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Along with her writing partner Seán Simpson, she has gained recognition for their play 'Two Fingers Up' after winning the Abbey Theatre Dublin Fringe Creative Thinking Award in 2019 and the Summerhall Lustrum Award in 2022 at the Edinburgh Fringe. Her other writing credits include 'Maybe If We'd Stayed Angry' for Origins First Irish Festival New York, 'Tea' as part of Now for the North and 'Don't Tell Me to Smile' for Fortnight Magazine's 50th Anniversary special. As writing partners, Gina and Seán were both part of the 2022 BBC Writersroom Belfast Voices.

Writer: Gina Donnelly  
Reader: Catherine Rees  
Producer: Geraldine Smyth  
Editor: Andy Martin

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

#### SAT 22:00 News (m001t98b) The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### SAT 22:15 Add to Playlist (m001t33x) Neil Brand and Anna Phoebe round off the latest series

Composer, silent film music specialist and musician, Neil Brand, and violinist and composer Anna Phoebe, join Cerys Matthews and Jeffrey Boakye for the final episode of the current series.

From Ma Rainey's loud and proud blues to a singalong classic from 1981, via an 8'25" digitally-manipulated track that could split the room, the current musical journey is making its last stop.

Add to Playlist returns on 9th Feb 2024

Producer Jerome Weatherald  
Presented, with music direction, by Cerys Matthews and Jeffrey Boakye

The five tracks in this week's playlist:

Prove It On Me Blues by Ma Rainey  
O Superman by Laurie Anderson  
Yo Soy Cubano by The Chakachas  
Finale from The Firebird by Igor Stravinsky  
Lay All Your Love On Me by ABBA

Other music in this episode:

Peter Gunn Theme from The Blues Brothers, written by Henry Mancini  
Believe by Cher  
Backseat Freestyle by Kendrick Lamar  
Crazy Frog by Axel F  
Magic Carpet Ride '07 by Mighty Dub Katz  
Theme from Stingray by Barry Gray

#### SAT 23:00 Brain of Britain (m001t314) The Final, 2023

(17/17)  
After four months of heats and semi-finals, the cream of this year's quizzers join Russell Davies at the Radio Theatre in London for the 2023 Final. One of them will take away the silver trophy as the 70th official BBC Brain of Britain.

The Finalists are  
Dan Adler from Surrey  
Eleanor Ayres from Cambridge  
Colin Kidd from Hertfordshire  
George Scratcherd from Essex.

They have all proved impressive and consistent on their climb to the final rung and a tight contest is guaranteed. Might it even come down to a tiebreak, as two of this year's semi-finals did?

Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner

Producer: Paul Bajoria

#### SAT 23:30 Limelight (m0015vlr) Dead Hand

Episode 1: Number Stations

A contemporary thriller set in Northern Ireland written by Stuart Drennan.

Greg is the host of a true crime podcast dedicated to uncovering the identity of a serial killer, last active over twenty years ago, known only as Dead Hand. A killer named after a mysterious radio transmission which has been broadcasting an indecipherable code in the years since Dead Hand vanished. A code told in the voices of Dead Hand's victims; including Greg's missing father. However, when a new voice is added to the code, Greg realises that Dead Hand is active again. With time already running out, can he finally crack the code and catch the killer?

Cast:  
Greg ... Paul Mallon  
DS Murray ... Michelle Fairley  
Kate ... Roisín Gallagher  
Lucy ... Hannah Eggleton  
Stacey ... Eimear Fearon

Daniel ... Desmond Eastwood  
Assistant Jo ... Nicky Harley  
Operator ... Louise Parker  
All other roles played by members of the cast.

Writer ... Stuart Drennan  
Script Editor ... Philip Palmer  
Producer ... Michael Shannon  
Executive Editor ... Andy Martin

A BBC Northern Ireland production for Radio 4.

### SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2023

#### SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m001t98d)

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

#### SUN 00:15 Poetry Please (m001t3b4)

Jackie Kay

Roger McGough is joined in the studio by Jackie Kay, who rifles through listener requests to pick out some of her favourite poems.

They include well-loved classics, such as The Lake Isle of Innisfree by W. B. Yeats, alongside oft-requested poems by Roger Robinson and Norman MacCaig and poets new to Roger, such as Ntozake Shange.

Jackie Kay is the former Scottish Makar, and as well as being a poet is also a novelist, playwright and librettist. Her collections include Bantam, Adoption Papers, Trumpet, Other Lovers and her recent memoir, Red Dust Road.

Produced by Eliza Lomas for BBC Audio

#### SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m001t98h)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

#### SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m001t98l)

World Service

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

#### SUN 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m001t98n)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

#### SUN 05:30 News Briefing (m001t98q)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m001t98s)

The Parish Church of Holy Trinity, St Austell in Cornwall

Bells on Sunday comes from the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, St Austell in Cornwall. The present church is largely 15th century with a fine ornamental tower, carved from Pentewan Stone. In the tower there is a peal of eight bells cast and hung by the Loughborough Foundry in 1902. The Tenor weighs eighteen and a half hundredweight is tuned to E. We hear them ringing Bristol Surprise Major.

#### SUN 05:45 Profile (m001t985)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

#### SUN 06:00 News Summary (m001t967)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### SUN 06:05 Something Understood (m001t969)

Turmoil and Tranquility

Mark Tully considers the most fertile conditions for creativity - in the arts, in nature and in the spiritual life. He talks to Karen Armstrong about why creativity cannot be hurried, but why it can sometimes require a backdrop of chaos and turmoil, and sometimes silence and solitude.

First Broadcast in 2005.

#### SUN 06:35 Natural Histories (b0bk140)

Penguin

It's arguable that a certain dinner-suited bird has captured our hearts and minds more than any other creature over the centuries. As Brett Westwood discovers, Penguins remind us of ourselves - Like us they stand upright, they travel in groups, they communicate all the time and they walk (or waddle) on

land. They have both entertained us and taught us life lessons. Our earliest encounters with Penguins very often resulted in the slaughter of these flightless birds for food and oil and they may well have gone the same way as the Great Auk had public campaigns to put an end to their slaughter not been successful. Since then, they have been adopted as a brand name for books and biscuits inspired music, animations, films, TV shows, children's stories and there is even a Penguin Post Office, surrounded by Penguins, on a tiny island in Antarctica where you can post a card with a Penguin stamp.

First broadcast in a longer form : 18th September 2018  
Original Producer (2018) : Sarah Bunt  
Archive Producer (2023) : Andrew Dawes

#### SUN 06:57 Weather (m001t66d)

The latest weather reports and forecast

#### SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m001t66g)

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

#### SUN 07:10 Sunday (m001t66j)

Gaza Christians; American Sikh; Ethics of War

Eight hundred Christians have been sheltering in two churches in Gaza City since the beginning of the war, with warnings that supplies are running low. Nader Abu Amshah from the Middle East Council of Churches has been in regular contact with them.

'American Sikh' is a short animated film about an ordinary New Yorker who is viewed with suspicion after 9/11 because of his beard and turban. One day as part of his search for acceptance in American society, he decides to wear a Captain America costume, fully turbaned and bearded. It completely transforms the way people interact with him on the streets of New York. After being screened at film festivals 'American Sikh' is eligible to be shortlisted for an Oscar, we speak to the film's main character and director, Vishavjit Singh.

The Israel-Gaza conflict involves two of the world's great religious traditions - Judaism and Islam - and each has their own principles for determining when and how war should be fought. To find out what they are, Edward talks to Daniel Greenberg, a lawyer who writes about Jewish ethics, and Audu Bulama Bukarti, an expert on the Islamic rule of war.

#### SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m001t66v)

Ripple Effect

Gardeners' World presenter Toby Buckland makes the Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of the charity Ripple Effect.

To Give:

- UK Freephone 0800 404 8144

- You can donate online at [bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4](http://bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4)

- Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal. (That's the whole address.

Please do not write anything else on the front of the envelope).

Mark the back of the envelope 'Ripple Effect'.

- Cheques should be made payable to 'Ripple Effect'.

Please note that Freephone and online donations for this charity close at 23.59 on the Saturday after the Appeal is first broadcast. However the Freepost option can be used at any time.

Registered charity number: 299717

#### SUN 07:57 Weather (m001t66l)

The latest weather forecast

#### SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m001t66n)

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

#### SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m001t66q)

God's Justice: Deliver Us from Evil

The historic church of St Cadoc's in the village of Llancafarn, South Wales, is adorned with recently-discovered Mediaeval wall paintings. The ancient illustrations depict George and the Dragon, the Seven Virtues and the Seven Deadly Sins. It is with this backdrop that Canon Edwin Counsell, leader of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area for the Church in Wales, reflects on today's advent theme of 'Deliver Us From Evil'. Edwin is joined by ecclesiastical historian, Dr Madeleine Grey, who helps tease out the significance of these ancient depictions of the battle between good and evil, in this time of advent reflection.

#### SUN 08:48 A Point of View (m001t34q)

The Usefulness of Pessimism

John Gray argues that the power of the imagination fuels the worst kind of politics.

'Nobody', he argues, 'is in overall charge of events. There are patterns in history, but particular human events are mostly random. We prefer an illusion of order to the brute fact of chaos.'

But, he says, pessimism may be the key to changing our fate.

Producer: Adele Armstrong  
Sound: Peter Boshier  
Production coordinator: Gemma Ashman  
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

#### SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (b038qk6p)

Great Shearwater

Tweet of the Day is a series of fascinating stories about our British birds inspired by their calls and songs.

Brett Westwood presents the Great Shearwater; a wanderer of the open ocean. They breed on remote islands in the South Atlantic and then disperse widely and many follow fish and squid shoals northwards, appearing around UK coasts in late summer and early autumn. The south-west of Britain and Ireland is the best area to look for them.

#### SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m001t66s)

The Sunday morning news magazine programme. Presented by Paddy O'Connell

#### SUN 10:00 The Archers Omnibus (m001t66t)

WRITER: Keri Davies

DIRECTOR: Pip Swallow

Brian Aldridge.... Charles Collingwood

Natasha Archer .... Mali Harries

Tom Archer .... William Troughton

Tony Archer ..... David Troughton

Lilian Bellamy .... Sunny Ormonde

Justin Elliott .... Simon Williams

Clarrie Grundy .... Heather Bell

Eddie Grundy .... Trevor Harrison

Emma Grundy .... Emerald O'Hanrahan

Will Grundy .... Philip Molloy

Jakob Hakansson.... Paul Venables

Kate Madikane .... Perdita Avery

Oliver Sterling .... Michael Cochrane

Graham .... Malcolm McKee

#### SUN 11:15 Desert Island Discs (m001t91j)

Shirley Ballas, dance judge

Shirley Ballas is the head judge on Strictly Come Dancing, the BBC's Saturday night entertainment show, which regularly attracts an audience of many millions. Known as the Queen of Latin dancing, she joined the show in 2017 after a long career as a competitive dancer and teacher.

Shirley was born in Wallasey in 1960. She discovered dance as a seven-year-old when she started taking classes in her local church hall. With a combination of natural flair and hard graft she began winning competitions with her partners. In 1980, while she was still an amateur, she met Sammy Stopford who was ranked seventh in the world as a professional Latin dancer. Together they shot up the rankings and became known as the 'non-stop Stopfords'.

In 1984 she divorced Sammy and the following year she married Corky Ballas, an amateur dancer from Houston. Shirley set about training Corky to become a professional and in 1995 they won the British Open to the World Championships – a feat they repeated the following year.

In 1996 Shirley retired from competitive dancing to concentrate on coaching dancers and judging competitions. In 2017 she joined Strictly Come Dancing, replacing her friend and former teacher Len Goodman as head judge.

Shirley lives in south London with her mother Audrey and her boyfriend, the actor Danny Taylor.

DISC ONE: Get Lucky - Daft Punk feat. Pharrell Williams and Nile Rodgers

DISC TWO: Ring of Fire - Johnny Cash

DISC THREE: Moon River - Frank Sinatra

DISC FOUR: Sherry - The Four Seasons

DISC FIVE: Smells Like Teen Spirit - Nirvana

DISC SIX: You To Me Are Everything - The Real Thing

DISC SEVEN: Highs and Lows - Alexander Jean

DISC EIGHT: We've Only Just Begun - The Carpenters

BOOK CHOICE: Unleash the Power Within by Tony Robbins

LUXURY ITEM: Cotton knickers

**CASTAWAY'S FAVOURITE:** Highs and Lows - Alexander Jean

Presenter Lauren Laverne  
Producer Paula McGinley

**SUN 12:00 News Summary (m001tb6x)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 12:04 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m001t32d)**  
Series 80  
Episode 4

The antidote to panel games pays a return visit to the De Montfort Hall in Leicester. Tony Hawks and Pippa Evans take on Andy Hamilton and the Reverend Richard Coles with Jack Dee in the chair. Colin Sell attempts piano accompaniment.

Producer - Jon Naismith.

It is a BBC Studios production for Radio 4.

**SUN 12:32 The Food Programme (m001tb6z)**  
Recipes for Long Life

Dan Buettner believes that "when a ritual lasts for hundreds or thousands of years, like prayer before a meal, it serves some purpose". Dan is the best-selling author of and founder of The Blue Zones; five parts of the world where people tend to live much longer and healthier lives, many into their hundreds. In this programme, Leyla Kazim finds out more about the culinary aspects of his research, discovering what is eaten in the Blue Zones, what isn't being eaten, and some of the practices that exist around meal times.

She also meets two academics whose work focusses on how to help people living in the UK live longer and healthier. Liz Williams from the Healthy LifeSpan Institute at the University of Sheffield explains that although the current life expectancy for people in the UK is just over 81 years - our average 'healthy life' expectancy is much lower, at around 63. Dr Oliver Shannon from The University of Newcastle explains how some of the Blue Zones observational findings are consistent with research they have been doing into the impact of the Mediterranean diet on brain health.

The promise of a long healthy life is all well and good - but as we know the reality of diets is that they are impossibly hard to keep to. So could choosing to make a 'lifestyle' change be any easier to stick with? Leyla hears from Jean Newton who in her 70s has done just that.

Presented by Leyla Kazim  
Produced by Natalie Donovan for BBC Audio in Bristol.

**SUN 12:57 Weather (m001tb71)**  
The latest weather forecast

**SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m001tb73)**  
Radio 4's look at the week's big stories from both home and around the world

**SUN 13:30 Behind the Crime (m001tb75)**  
Gary

This is the story of Gary, who served a prison sentence for his role in the supply for £4.2million of heroin. But this eye-catching conviction is only a fraction of Gary's story.

Gary grew up in Dagenham, in Essex. Very early on in his life he developed strategies to help him fit in with other children in school – strategies that sparked a remarkable chain of events which have led him to imprisonment ... and then into the world of conceptual art.

By casting our eye back to Gary's childhood and early adulthood, it's possible to see characteristics that would influence the pathway his life would take. Is it possible to prevent crime by understanding the root causes of offending behaviour?

Sally Tilt and Dr Kerensa Hocken are forensic psychologists who work in prisons.

They help people in prison to look at the harm they've caused to other people, understand why it happened and work out how to make changes to prevent further harm after they've been released.

In Behind the Crime, they take the time to understand the life of someone whose crimes have led to harm and, in some cases, imprisonment.

The job of the forensic psychologists is to dig deep into Gary's story, to understand the sequence of events that got Gary to the point where he committed a crime. For details of organisations that can provide help and support, visit [bbc.co.uk/actionline](http://bbc.co.uk/actionline)

Producer: Andrew Wilkie  
Editor: Clare Fordham  
Behind the Crime is a co-production between BBC Long Form Audio and the Prison Radio Association.

**SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m001t31w)**  
Bearwood

What's the best way to stop woodlice from hiding under my pots? How can I encourage my hibiscus plant to flower abundantly? What can I do to get my gardening mojo back?

Joining Kathy Clugston to answer these questions and more in front of a live audience in Bearwood are Head of Oxford Botanical Gardens Dr Chris Thorogood, houseplant expert Anne Swithinbank, and landscape designer Matthew Wilson.

Also on the programme, Matthew Biggs meets up with author of the first ever Bats in the Garden book, Shirley Thompson MBE, to debunk common misconceptions about bats and shares how they can benefit our gardens.

Producer: Dan Cocker  
Assistant Producer: Dulcie Whadcock  
Executive Producer: Hannah Newton

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 14:45 Opening Lines (m001tb77)**  
Kiss of the Spider Woman

John Yorke shines a light on the dark, claustrophobic pages of Manuel Puig's classic 1976 novel Kiss of the Spiderwoman, that went on to become a play, a musical and an Oscar-winning film.

Puig wrote the novel, which focuses on the relationship between a gay window dresser and a revolutionary political prisoner, having fled the ruling military dictatorship in Argentina. John shows how the book celebrates the power not only of human connection but also the imagination, as the two central characters - stripped of so much by way of physical comfort - escape the gloom of their cell through lengthy retellings of classic Hollywood films.

The novel itself couldn't escape censure, and was banned in Argentina until 1983.

John Yorke has worked in television and radio for 30 years, and he shares his experience with Radio 4 listeners as he unpacks the themes and impact of the books, plays and stories that are being dramatized in BBC Radio 4's Sunday Drama series. From EastEnders to The Archers, Life on Mars to Shameless, he has been obsessed with telling big popular stories. He has spent years analysing not just how stories work but why they resonate with audiences around the globe and has brought together his experience in his bestselling book Into the Woods. As former Head of Channel Four Drama, Controller of BBC Drama Production and MD of Company Pictures, John has tested his theories during an extensive production career working on some of the world's most lucrative, widely viewed and critically acclaimed TV drama. As founder of the hugely successful BBC Writers Academy John has trained a generation of screenwriters - his students have had 17 green-lights in the last two years alone.

Contributors:  
Laurie Sansom – Theatre director  
Suzanne Jay Levine - Puig's biographer and translator

Credits:  
Kiss of the Spiderwoman Pub 1976 (Spanish edition)  
Vintage 1991 translated by Thomas Colchie (English Edition)

Reader: Luciano Dodero  
Researcher: Nina Semple  
Production Manager: Sarah Wright  
Producer: Geoff Bird  
Executive Producer: Sara Davies  
Sound by Sean Kerwin

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 15:00 Love Stories (m001tb79)**  
Kiss of the Spider Woman

Valentin and Molina seemingly share little other than a prison cell. Through the glamorous fantasy of the movies, a deep bond is formed that offers both men the hope of survival.

Valentin is a revolutionary Marxist imprisoned for his political

actions, Molina a gay window dresser imprisoned for his sexuality. Sometimes they talk all night long. In the still darkness of their Buenos Aires cell, Molina re-weaves the glittering stories of the film he loves, and Valentin listens. A tender relationship grows between them and they form a bond so intimate - and a relationship so profoundly affecting - that only the other can understand.

But Molina holds a secret - the promise of an early release if he can get his cellmate to talk. Will Molina turn informer or is he actually playing his own game at the expense of the authorities?

Set in Villa Devoto prison in Buenos Aires in 1975 during Argentina's Dirty War.

Kiss of the Spider Woman is written by Manuel Puig and translated by Allan Baker

Molina.....Kadiff Kirwan  
Valentin.....Alfred Enoch  
Warden.....John Lightbody

The bolero song 'Mi Carta' by Mario Clavell was re-arranged by Jules Maxwell

Sound design by Sharon Hughes

Produced and directed by Nadia Molinari

BBC Audio Drama North

**SUN 16:30 Poetry Please (m001tb7c)**  
Jason Allen-Paisant

Jason Allen-Paisant joins Roger McGough, sharing a selection of listener requested poems.

They'll discuss classics by Ted Hughes and William Wordsworth, alongside new classics by Caleb Femi and Kei Miller. Jason also shares a poem from his award-winning second collection.

Jason Allen-Paisant is a Jamaican poet and scholar. His collection 'Self-Portrait as Othello' won the 2023 Forward Prize for Best Collection and is currently shortlisted for the 2023 T. S. Eliot Prize.

Produced by Alice McKee for BBC Audio

**SUN 17:00 File on 4 (m001t3gz)**

Whistling in the Wind: The NHS doctors sacked after raising concerns

Lucy Letby was allowed to continue working with new-born babies despite her colleagues raising concerns about her for months. Her conviction highlighted how NHS executives put the reputation of the Countess of Chester NHS Trust ahead of patient safety. But what happened in Cheshire was far from a one-off. File on 4 hears from doctors with unblemished medical careers who were sacked after raising patient safety concerns. The programme follows one medic through an Employment Tribunal as he attempts to save his career, and hears the emotional, brutal toll the process takes on him. For the first time, a top doctor who won record damages talks about the extraordinary steps her managers took to undermine her. Their tactics included relocating her to an empty office with a broken chair and telling colleagues that she agreed with their assessment she was incompetent. And a former NHS executive tells the programme that trusts are more interested in "flying LGBT flags" than tackling concerns about patient safety. With widespread calls for NHS managers to be regulated, File on 4 asks who should take on the role, given the willingness of the NHS to redeploy managers found to have ignored patient safety concerns, or even punished those who dared to raise them.

Reporter: Michael Buchanan  
Producer: Katie Langton  
Editor: Carl Johnston

**SUN 17:40 Profile (m001t985)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

**SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m001tb7f)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 17:57 Weather (m001tb7h)**  
The latest weather forecast

**SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m001tb7k)**  
Former immigration minister Robert Jenrick criticises the government's Rwanda asylum plan

**SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m001tb7m)**

Julie Hesmondhalgh

Julie Hesmondhalgh chooses audio highlights from the past week.

**SUN 19:00 The Archers (m001tb7p)**

Brian and Justin are playing golf before lunch. Brian tells Justin how he is no good at weekends and how Jennifer would have been busy preparing for Christmas by now. Brian talks about missing Jennifer and how horrified she'd be knowing he hadn't put the decorations up yet. Later Justin tells Brian how he's come to the realisation that Lilian is the most important person in his life, and he might've lost her over his inability to apologise.

Alice and Pip are talking while making Christmas wreaths. Alice asks Pip about Stella, and Pip tells her it's going well and might even be getting serious. Alice then tells her about Harry and that nobody knows yet, but she is worried because if it gets serious she will have to tell Chris. Pip tells her to do it soon, as she made a mess of it with Toby. Alice receives a message from Harry asking if he should book tickets for the Country Park Illuminations. Pip encourages her to say yes, telling her that they took Rosie last week and it was brilliant.

Lynda and Lilian have a heart to heart and Lilian tells her she always goes for the wrong man; she should've gone for someone like Robert; Lynda tells her she would find a man like that boring. She goes on to say that she likes her romance with a side order of stability and comfort, whereas Lilian prefers hers with surprises and thrills. Lilian gets upset and tells Lynda that she doesn't know how they'll come back from this.

**SUN 19:15 Scott Bennett: Stuff (m001t93g)**

Before becoming an award-winning comedian Scott Bennett was an award-winning product designer, a career he gave up to avoid workplace pressure and constant scrutiny. In his time, Scott has designed everything from water cans and hydraulic lifting systems to storage boxes and, in one instance, a flat-pack bondage cage.

As a former product designer, Scott now feels guilty about the part he's played in how consumerism impacts the world we live in. He asks whether it's possible to live a simple life when our lives are filled with so much, and probably too much, stuff.

In this bespoke show recorded at The Stand in Newcastle, Scott takes aim at the mindfulness industry, smart technology, aspirational lifestyles, product packaging and, his new bugbear, paper straws.

Written and performed by Scott Bennett

On-location recording by Mark Burrows

Sound editing by Kevin Bailey

Photograph supplied by Double Image Photography

Produced by Kurt Brookes

A Made In Manchester production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 19:45 Love on the Main Line (m001tb7r)**

Episode 2 - East Croydon

Jess Searle's life is mapped out like a timetable. A successful data analyst, she's created her own dating app to find your perfect match. It worked for her! She found devilishly handsome Jean-Baptiste and they will be married at the start of the new year. Everything is running to schedule. Until she meets cynic and sceptic Kev Warmley - a stand up comedian who believes love cannot be determined by an algorithm but by the rhythm of your heart. And the odd fart joke. Is Jess's life about to be completely derailed? Or will she find Love On The Main Line...?

Written by Colin Bytheway

Read by Rasmus Hardiker and Tigger Blaize

Directed by Celia de Wolff  
Studio Manager - Matt Bainbridge  
Sound Design by Lucinda Mason Brown  
Production Manager - Sarah Wright

A Pier Production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 20:00 Feedback (m001t328)**

Great thinkers, Gangsters, and Love and Money

Great thinkers, Gangsters, and Love and Money - it's all on this week's Feedback.

Andrea Catherwood talks themes and locations of The Reith Lecturers 2023 with this year's Lecturer Professor Ben Ansell and BBC Radio 4 Commissioning editor Hugh Levinson.

We delve into the murky depths of love and inheritance with the presenter of the podcast series Intrigue: Million Dollar Lover.

And listener Jay Smith from Birmingham is in the Vox Box to unpick a Radio 5 Live series exploring gangland violence in the city - Gangster: Burger Bar Boys.

And this is your last chance to nominate your Feedback Interview of the Year - your choice for the stand out interview from 2023 from anywhere on BBC Radio or Sounds.

A Whistledown Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 20:30 Last Word (m001t322)**

Shane MacGowan, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Lord Darling, Joan Jara

Matthew Bannister on

Shane MacGowan the lead singer of The Pogues who was famous for his song writing but also his abuse of drugs and alcohol. His sister joins us to discuss the roots of his talent and his excesses.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to be appointed to the US Supreme Court.

Lord Darling, the Labour politician who was Chancellor during the financial crash of 2008.

Joan Jara, whose husband, the singer Victor Jara was killed by the Pinochet regime in Chile. She campaigned for justice on behalf of thousands whose relatives died or disappeared.

Interviewee: Siobhan MacGowan

Interviewee: James Fearnley

Interviewee: Justice Ruth McGregor

Interviewee: Alan Day

Interviewee: Catherine MacLeod

Interviewee: Almudena Bernabeu

Producer: Gareth Nelson-Davies

Archive used:

Shane MacGowan interview, BBC Two, Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds with Shane MacGowan, BBC iPlayer, First broadcast 16/03/2021; Sandra Day O'Connor, 60 Minutes, YouTube uploaded, 01/12/2023; Sandra Day O'Connor nomination to the Supreme Court by President Reagan, CBS, 19/08/1981; Sandra Day O'Connor interview, PBS Newshour, 04/04/2013. Supreme Court Ruling Bush v Gore, BBC Newsnight, 08/12/2000; Alistair Darling interview, 10 Years After the Financial Crash with Alistair Darling, RBS Events, YouTube uploaded, 25/09/2017; Chile News report, The World at One, BBC Radio 4, 19/09/1973; Joan Jara interview, Woman's Hour, BBC Radio 4, 04/09/1988; Joan Jara interview, Weekend Woman's Hour, BBC Radio 4, 20/09/2003; Sandra Day O'Connor Retires, BBC News, BBC Radio 4, 01/07/2005;

**SUN 21:00 Money Box (m001t97g)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

**SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m001tbqv)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

**SUN 21:30 Loose Ends (m001t983)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

**SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m001tb7v)**

Iain Watson discusses Rishi Sunak's attempts to salvage his Rwanda plan, with Conservative MP Tim Loughton; Shadow Cabinet minister Thangam Debbonaire; and former Home Office special adviser, Mo Hussein. They also look ahead to the Prime Minister's appearance at the Covid Inquiry, and a big speech from Sir Keir Starmer. The programme includes an interview with Sophie Worringer from the Centre for Social Justice think tank, about the long-term impacts of the pandemic lockdowns. Rosa Prince - editor of Politico's London Playbook - brings expert insight and analysis.

**SUN 23:00 The Reith Lectures (m001t3cf)**

Ben Ansell: Our Democratic Future

2. The Future of Security

This year's BBC Reith Lecturer is Ben Ansell, Professor of Comparative Democratic Institutions at Nuffield College, Oxford University. He will deliver four lectures called "Our

Democratic Future."

In his series Professor Ansell asks how we can build a politics that works for all of us with systems which are robust to the challenges of the twenty first century, from climate change to artificial intelligence. The lectures build on his recent book Why Politics Fails, which identifies a series of traps that prevent us from attaining our collective goals and presents solutions to help us overcome those traps.

In this second lecture called 'The Future of Security', recorded in Berlin in front of an audience, he asks whether citizens of wealthy countries have been lulled into a false sense of security about threats from abroad and at home. It examines how we can control the security technologies of tomorrow, from facial recognition to autonomous weapons. And Ansell suggests how we can develop technologies powerful enough to protect us without exploiting us.

The Reith Lectures are chaired by Anita Anand and produced by Jim Frank.

The Editor is China Collins, and the coordinator is Brenda Brown.

The series is mixed by Rod Farquhar and Neil Churchill.

**MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023****MON 00:00 Midnight News (m001tb7x)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 00:15 Sideways (m001t3fs)**

56. A Cinderella Story

On a summer's day in 1974, Norwegian actor Knut Risan steps up to the mic for a voiceover job. It's for a Cinderella movie that's just been acquired by the Norwegian broadcaster NRK, from the country known at the time as Czechoslovakia.

NRK want him to dub the film into Norwegian. Knut's just having fun. He's doing all the voices, even the young Cinderella. But he's about to become Norway's "Voice of Christmas" when NRK decides to put the film out as part of its festive line up.

Tři oříšky pro Popelku or, as it's often translated, Three (Hazel)nuts for Cinderella, remains an essential part of many Europeans' seasonal viewing to this day. Not least in Norway, where it is shown at 11am on Christmas Eve every year.

Knut's son, Olav, used to feel a little embarrassed around this time of year - everyone knew he was the son of the most famous voice on TV. He'd get strange looks in supermarkets. But today, and in this episode of Sideways, he reflects on the special place his father's voice occupies in Norway's Christmas and in his own family.

Through the story of a film that straddles the line between fairy tale fun and the realities of the Iron Curtain, Matthew Syed explores the origins, meaning and persistence of this cross-cultural tradition and celebrates the role of Christmas films in many families' celebrations, including his own.

Featuring musician Olav Risan and author Kathrin Miebach of the Drei Haselnüsse für Aschenbrödel website. With fairy tale expert Professor Claudia Schwabe of Utah State University and Michal Bregant, Director of Národního Filmového Archivu.

Including clips from Tři oříšky pro Popelku (Czech language version) and Tre nøtter til Askepott (Norwegian language version), featuring the voice of Knut Risan).

Tři oříšky pro Popelku directed by Václav Vorlíček and starring Libuse Safránková and Pavel Trávníček. Written by Božena Němcová (story) and František Pavlíček (screenplay), produced by Jiří Krejčík and with a score by Karel Svoboda. Distributed by Ústřední půjčovna filmů.

Presenter: Matthew Syed

Producer: Amalie Sortland

Series editor: Katherine Godfrey

Sound design and mix: Naomi Clarke

Theme tune by Ioana Selaru

A Novel production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m001t98s)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

**MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m001tb7z)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m001tb81)**

World Service

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**MON 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m001tb83)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**MON 05:30 News Briefing (m001tb85)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m001tb87)**

A reflection and prayer to start the day with the Revd Dr Craig Gardiner, a tutor at Cardiff Baptist College.

Good morning. We finally put up our Christmas tree this weekend. There's a gold star balancing on top, there's softly glowing lights, and baubles collected over many festive years hang from all the branches.

Of course, not everyone will want or be able to celebrate with a tree, real or artificial, but for those who do, the perennial controversy is when to put it up and decorate it. Some trees around us, went up in mid-November, straight after Hallowe'en. Other folk may be waiting until every distant family member has home on Christmas Eve.

Some people will be adamant: we always do this on the first Saturday in December. Others do it when it just feels right. I have some sympathy for the date-stamped certainty of knowing when something must be done, doing it in what the ancient world called 'Chronos' time. But the Bible also speaks 'Kairos' time, moments, when, regardless of the day or the hour, we do something because it is the appropriate occasion to act. There is a time for everything, the Bible says: 'a time to be born, a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, to be silent and to speak'. Chronos is about the quantity of hours we have, but Kairos measures the deeper quality of our time. Sadly, we sometimes miss the Kairos quality under the tyranny of Chronos schedules. We were 'on time' but we missed 'the moment'. So, every now and then, it's good to lay aside the dates and the deadlines, and trust our intuition, and feel our way towards an opportune moment that is pregnant with welcome or beauty, kindness or justice, or maybe even God.

God of eternity,

Attentive to all of our moments,

Beckon us towards the right time to act,

to speak or to pause and pray,

That we may celebrate the quality of our days

Forever in praise of your presence

Amen

**MON 05:45 Farming Today (m001tb89)**

11/12/23 Sugar row; Minecraft and conservation; Rare breeds.

British Sugar says it may put negotiations over the price it'll pay farmers next year into arbitration. The NFU says the costs of that would outstrip the cost of the issues they can't agree on. There has been a long running row over prices for sugar beet next year. Talks broke down in the autumn and then British Sugar wrote directly to growers with an offer that hadn't been agreed by the NFU. The main issue causing the problem at the moment, is the futures price - while most sugar beet is sold on fixed price annual contracts, a small amount is sold on a futures contract and the two sides can't agree on the details

How do you get youngsters interested in conservation? The property owner the Crown Estate, thinks one way is video games. It has teamed up with Microsoft to make a version of Minecraft - a game of virtual worlds - based on Windsor Great Park.

All week we're looking at rare breeds. It's 50 years since the Rare Breeds Survival Trust was set up, when traditional breeds of farm animal were being ousted by European or new commercial breeds. Things are looking much brighter for native varieties, but while their popularity has grown, there are concerns about the availability of local abattoirs and hopes that native breeds will attract payments in England's Environmental Land Management Schemes, and their counterparts being developed in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Presenter = Charlotte Smith

Producer = Rebecca Rooney

**MON 05:56 Weather (m001tb8c)**

The latest weather forecast for farmers.

**MON 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b02twnw4)**

Herring Gull

Tweet of the Day is a series of fascinating stories about our British birds inspired by their calls and songs. Steve Backshall presents the herring gull.

Herring gulls now regularly breed inland and that's because of the way we deal with our refuse. Since the Clean Air Acts of 1956 banned the burning of refuse at rubbish tips, the birds

have been able to cash in on the food that we reject: And our throwaway society has provided them a varied menu. We've also built reservoirs around our towns on which they roost, and we've provided them with flat roofs which make perfect nest sites.

**MON 06:00 Today (m001tb8f)**

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

**MON 09:00 Start the Week (m001tb8k)**

Small states: global impact and survival

With the fall of the Soviet Union, the theoretical physicist Armen Sarkissian returned home and became first the Prime Minister and then the President of the newly reformed state of Armenia. In his book, *The Small States Club: How Small Smart States Can Save the World*, he argues that successful smaller nations have had to learn to be more agile, adaptive and cooperative, compared to the world's 'greater' powers.

The world map has changed considerably, especially in the 19th and 20th century, as empires fell apart and smaller nations fought for independence. The Canadian historian Margaret MacMillan looks back at this time, and considers how small states survive during times of conflict. In 2018 she presented the BBC's Reith Lectures, *The Mark of Cain*, on the tangled history of war and society.

The BBC's Chief International Correspondent Lyse Doucet is no stranger to conflict in the world, as she has covered all the major stories across the Middle East and North Africa for the past two decades. But she is also interested in the way small states have been instrumental in mediating world conflicts, and punching above their weight on international issues like the climate crisis.

Producer: Katy Hickman

**MON 09:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001tbcs)**

Cold Therapy - with Michael Mosley

Cold Therapy - Ep 1: Colder Room

There's a chill in the air as the winter months come around again. But the cold isn't always something to fight or guard against. With a little bit of care, you can invite the cold into your life - with real benefits for health and mood. In each episode of this new podcast series, Dr Michael Mosley uncovers the science behind a different way you can harness the power of the cold, alongside the very latest research and atmospheric sound design.

In this first episode, how turning your thermostat down by just a few degrees can improve your fat and blood sugar metabolism, boost your mood, and might even protect against type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Guest: Hannah Pallubinsky, Assistant Professor at Maastricht University.

Series Producer, Sound Designer and Mix Engineer: Richard Ward

Researcher: William Hornbrook

Science Producer: Samantha Lewis

Production Manager: Maria Simons

Editor: Zoe Heron

Specially composed music by Richard Atkinson (Mcasso)

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

**MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m001tb8t)**

Cancer during pregnancy, Israel-Gaza, Wedding dresses

Israel has accused the United Nations of moving too slowly to respond to accounts that Hamas carried out widespread sexual violence against women in the October 7th brutal attack on Israel. Christina Lamb, Chief Foreign Correspondent for the Sunday Times, has brought the details of this part of the attacks to light joins Emma Barnett.

Mandy Abramson runs a bridal shop in Skipton in North Yorkshire. For two years now she's run a special week in December where she invites women from all walks of life to try on a wedding dress even if they have no plans to marry. She joins Emma to explain why she wants to give everyone a chance to try on their dream dress.

When Louise Beavers found a lump in her breast during pregnancy, she was told by her GP that it was hormone related. Four months later she was diagnosed with Grade 3 breast cancer, and despite undergoing treatment the cancer is now incurable. Louise joins Emma alongside the Chief Medical Officer from Macmillan Cancer Support Professor Richard Simcock to discuss why greater awareness about cancer in

pregnancy is needed.

Bestselling author of *Apple Tree Yard*, Louise Doughty, on a new ITVX drama based on her novel: *Platform 7*. She tells Emma Barnett how she has turned male-heavy police procedurals and spy thrillers on their head - and why she thinks all middle-aged women long to go on the run.

Emma talks to two women about their hope for peace in Israel. Amira Mohammed is a Palestinian woman who works with young leaders across the Middle East and North Africa; and Danielle Cumpston is a 32-year-old from Israel who works for an organisation that promotes political partnership between Jews and Arabs within Israel

Presenter: Emma Barnett

Producer: Emma Pearce

**MON 11:00 Fed with Chris van Tulleken (m001tb8y)**

Series 1: Planet Chicken

**7. Big Chicken**

We're a planet addicted to chicken - and our appetites fuel a massive global industry... but is it one we should support?

As Chris wrestles with how he personally feels about this weird and wonderful bird, he decides to take a look at the business as a whole: a global industry that's cited by some as a shining example of a super-efficient food production system, one that could help drive food security around the world.

But others say it's a cruel, destructive and outdated structure that makes a few people richer while exploiting others - along with animals and the environment.

In Brazil, one of the world's biggest chicken and soy producers, our reporter Leonardo Milano hears accusations of threats and pollution relating to the feed sector; while in Africa, Chris learns about poultry-farming initiatives helping to make struggling nations more food-secure.

And then there are the other challenges that the industry is wrestling with: from antimicrobial resistance to the threat of another major global pandemic, potentially stemming from chicken farms...

So is there a 'big business bad guy' to blame - or does responsibility lie closer to home, with unquestioning consumers like Chris?

Produced by Lucy Taylor and Emily Knight.

Additional reporting, editing and translation by Fernando Otto, BBC News Brasil.

**MON 11:30 Artificial Implosion (m001tkbr)**

Until 17 November, Sam Altman was riding high. The CEO of OpenAI was bringing artificial intelligence to the world. Then he wasn't.

Deposed in a board coup, Altman's firing kickstarted 106 hours of chaos at the company spearheading the AI revolution.

Journalist and author Chris Stokel-Walker explores the possible reasons why Altman was fired, how the incident reflects a broader deep-seated unease at AI's transformative effects on society, and what it means now Altman has returned more powerful than ever before.

Presented by Chris Stokel-Walker

Produced by James Tindale

A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 12:00 News Summary (m001tbjf)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 12:04 You and Yours (m001tb96)**

Baby Banks; Gazundering; Used Cars

Baby Bank charity Little Village says it's supporting over 20% more families than this time last year. Winifred Robinson speaks to one mum about how rising costs and inflation led to her seeking the help of the people she refers to as "angels", plus Sophie Livingstone, CEO of Little Village tells us they cannot keep up with demand.

It doesn't feel very long ago that we were reporting on the soaring cost of second hand cars but that's not the case today. Used car prices are coming down. We find out what's driving it and how it might play out in the months to come.

And you've heard of "gazumping" but what about "gazundering"? Rather than sellers upping the price its the buyers dropping their offer that's on the up right now. Is it a

natural outcome of the housing market slowing down, should you try it if you're looking to buy and how do you protect yourself if you're selling your home? Nathan Emerson from PropertyMark joins us to explain.

PRESENTER - WINIFRED ROBINSON  
PRODUCER - CATHERINE EARLAM

**MON 12:57 Weather (m001tb9d)**  
The latest weather forecast

**MON 13:00 World at One (m001tb9l)**  
Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

**MON 13:45 Empire of Tea (m001tb9s)**  
Tough, Tiring, Difficult

The introduction of industrial tea production in India in the 19th Century created huge demand for tea pickers. Many were employed under a system of indenture. These contracts often meant five years of work in return for bed and board. Jo Sharma of the University of Toronto tells Sathnam Sanghera about the harrowing conditions people found themselves working in. He also considers claims that some of the modern problems in the industry, like low wages and poor health and safety conditions, are a legacy of that imperial system.

Produced by Paul Martin for BBC Audio Wales

**MON 14:00 The Archers (m001tb7p)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

**MON 14:15 Drama on 4 (m001tb9z)**  
The Human Way

Future set drama about two young people enlisted on a programme designed to break the hold technology has on communication and relationships written by Thomas Pickles.

Over-exposure to pornography, the glamorisation of true crime, and the overdose of social media has dismantled human connection. A desensitised society consists of predominantly hermit-like living. People prefer to isolate themselves into small dwellings, working remotely, carrying out the vast majority of daily life online. And sex has become about pixels not people. The Human Way promises to wean people off Semi Artificial Virtual Reality and rehabilitate them back into real human life by guiding them through reconstructions of life before the internet.

Jacob and Izzy are making progress on The Human Way until they meet Tas and discover a darker more disturbing side of the programme.

JACOB.....Tachia Newall  
IZZY.....Sade Malone  
TAS.....Ntombizodwa Ndlovu  
RUTH...Susan Twist  
THE HUMAN WAY OPERATOR.....Graeme Hawley

Written by Thomas Pickles  
Directed by Nadia Molinari  
Sound Design by Sharon Hughes

A BBC Audio Drama North Production

**MON 15:00 Counterpoint (m001tb5)**  
Series 37

Heat 1, 2023-4

(1/13)  
The new season of the general knowledge music quiz kicks off at the Radio Theatre in London with Paul Gambaccini in the chair. Competitors from around the UK face questions on all varieties of music, with extracts to identify and special topics to test their knowledge in depth.

Appearing in the first heat are:  
Ralph Barnes from Cheltenham  
Katherine Madge from Stafford  
Anju Sharda from Hertfordshire

The winner will go forward to the semi-finals in the new year.

Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner  
Producer: Paul Bajoria

**MON 15:30 The Food Programme (m001tb6z)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:32 on Sunday]

**MON 16:00 The Infinite Monkey Cage (p0gr7n3y)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:15 on Saturday]

**MON 16:30 Born in Bradford (m001dsdq)**  
Around 30,000 Bradford school pupils aged between 11 and 15 are completing detailed questionnaires on every aspect of their lives; from how they spend their free time, to questions about their mental health, their use of social media, their family finances and even details of any risk taking behaviour. These insights will lead to a raft of new approaches aimed at improving their lives.

Winifred Robinson has been alongside Born in Bradford since the start, when more than 11,000 pregnant mothers in the city agreed to be followed through their pregnancies. Now those children are teenagers and the study has been widened to include all pupils across the city. Findings to date have helped inform government policy and have shaped responses to health problems.

Almost half of the mothers in the original cohort were of Pakistani origin and in 2013 Born in Bradford published one of the world's most detailed studies about cousin marriage. Around sixty four per cent of the Pakistani mothers had married a cousin and researchers found that consanguinity more than doubled the risk of having a child with a genetic disorder: from 2.8 percent in the general population to just over 6 percent.

The researchers have been able to use data from a second cohort of mothers recruited to the study from 2016 onwards and have found that there has been a fall in cousin marriage amongst the city's Pakistani community; over the last decade it's gone from being a majority practise to being a minority one.

Professor John Wright, who heads Born in Bradford, said that the rate of cousin marriage had fallen to 46 per cent, with the fall being steepest among younger mothers of Pakistani origin who were born in the UK. There are more of those mothers now. The researchers believe there are a lot of factors at play here – among them tougher immigration laws.

“So we've seen this quite steep reduction in rates of consanguinity and cousin marriage; it may be that the conversations that we've been having to raise awareness about genetic literacy have made an impact. It may be that this is part of acculturation of these young people as they grow up in the UK, with more individualization and more choice. In addition the 2012 Immigration Act made it harder to bring partners in for marriage and this has undoubtedly had an impact.

“When we first published the 2013 paper, there were calls from some of the more right wing media that cousin marriage should be banned. It's a sensitive topic: a billion people across the world practice consanguinity, so the idea that we're going to ban it was just nonsense. We wanted to show the health risk from it and to raise awareness. And we're seeing that effect now, in Bradford with the data that we've got”

Khadija is 32 and works in a nursery in the city. She told the programme that although her parents were first cousins, she had chosen a love match: “I think a lot more women in the community work and that means you've got more opportunity to meet somebody, and especially with all the social media out there. There are all sorts of options today that weren't available before, when it was a lot harder for you to meet somebody new.

“We're coming to an age now where a lot of young people are not really connected to their Pakistani roots as much as our parents and our grandparents were. We're moving away from the culture and embracing the British culture a lot more, there's a lot more acceptance. That works in marriage, so there's more acceptance when it comes to us finding our spouse and getting an education, a degree.”

Seventeen year old Amari agrees, and says that although a lot of people in her family have cousin marriages, she would not chose it for herself: “I would want my babies to be healthy, but I wouldn't go up to my grandparents and say what you're doing is wrong. Or if my cousin got married to my other cousin, I wouldn't go and say what you're doing is wrong. I just wouldn't do it myself because of reasons like that, but also it would be weird to think of marrying one of my cousins and that's a big thing for me.”

**MON 17:00 PM (m001tbqj)**

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

**MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m001tbbz)**

He was challenged about whether his policies as Chancellor led to more deaths

**MON 18:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m001tbc3)**  
Series 80

Episode 5

The godfather of all panel shows pays a visit to the Dorking Halls. On the panel are Fred Macaulay, Milton Jones, Lucy Porter and Omid Djalili with Jack Dee in the umpire's chair. Colin Sell accompanies on the piano.

Producer - Jon Naismith.

It is a BBC Studios production for Radio 4.

**MON 19:00 The Archers (m001tbc5)**

Alice and Ian are talking about the joys of having children, and how Xander has landed himself the part of a disorganised Angel in the Christmas show. Ian hopes the teachers don't think it's based on him and Adam. Ian tells Alice that he's decided to stay on at Grey Gables until they find a replacement for him. He then asks Alice about Harry, and she tells him it's going well but to keep it to himself as Chris doesn't know yet.

Later Ian and Adam are talking about Xander, and how Adam wishes Jennifer could be there to see him. Adam tells Ian at bedtime that Xander mentioned all the Mummies and Daddies were coming but he didn't have a Mummy, only two Daddies. Ian worries about being the only same-sex couple at school and always having to come out. Adam tries to reassure him and tells him that they don't have to always come out. Xander just needs to know that his Dads love him and each other.

Tony and Lilian chat about Justin and Tony reveals he thought Justin was smarmy rather than charming; Justin's only well behaved when he wants something. Tony never understood what Lilian saw in him.

Alice and Lilian are catching up in The Bull when conversation turns to Harry. Alice says that she wanted to tell Chris, but when it came down to it she just couldn't. She realises she should tell Harry about her alcoholism, as she'd prefer to know if it will scare him off sooner rather than later.

**MON 19:15 Front Row (m001tbc8)**

Andy Serkis and Louisa Harland on Ulster American, Panto and Gender Roles, Graphic Novels with Rachel Cooke and Ian Dunt

Tom Sutcliffe talks to Andy Serkis and Louisa Harland about Ulster American, a new play in which they star at Riverside Studios with Woody Harrelson.

It's panto season (oh no it isn't), a form that has always played with ideas of gender. Megan Lawton explores how this year's crop continue that tradition.

Plus Rachel Cooke and Ian Dunt choose their graphic novels of 2023, and we announce the winner of this year's First Graphic Novel Award.

Rachel's picks of the year:

Monica by Daniel Clowes  
Roaming by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki  
Juliette by Camille Jourdy  
Social Fiction by Chantal Montellier, translated by Geoffrey Brock

Ian's picks of the year:

The Lion and the Eagle by Garth Ennis and PJ Holden  
Wonder Woman Historia: The Amazons by Kelly Sue DeConnick, Phil Jimenez, Gene Ha and Nicola Scott  
Eight Billion Genies by Charles Soule and Ryan Browne

Producer: Eliane Glaser

**MON 20:00 South Africa: The Children of Paradise (m001t9fk)**

A deadly mixture

Three decades after the momentous transition from Apartheid to a democratic South Africa, Fergal Keane returns to see what happened to the hopes and promises of a better nation. In a famous speech thirty years ago, as he collected the Nobel Peace Prize, Nelson Mandela spoke of a “common humanity” in which all South Africans would live “like the children of paradise.”

In this second episode, in which Fergal Keane and Milton Nkosi re-visit some of the places and people they encountered 30 years ago, they return to KwaZulu-Natal. In the early 1990s, leading up to the country's first democratic elections, the area was a hotbed of political violence. What about today?

Presenter: Fergal Keane

Producer: John Murphy

**MON 20:30 Crossing Continents (m001t30d)**

Cyprus: The battle over songbird slaughter

Cyprus is one of the main resting stops for songbirds as they



migrate between Europe, Africa and the Middle East. For centuries, Cypriots trapped and ate a small number of migrating songbirds, as part of a subsistence diet. But over recent decades, the consumption of songbirds became a lucrative commercial business and the level of slaughter reached industrial levels. Millions of birds were killed each year as trappers employed new technologies to attract and capture birds. The methods used by the trappers are illegal under both Cypriot and EU law. In the last few years, both the Cypriot authorities and environmental groups have been fighting back, dramatically reducing the number of birds being trapped. But it remains a multi-million dollar illegal business which has increasingly drawn in organised criminal gangs. For Crossing Continents, Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent sees the trappers in action, and meets those determined to stop the mass killing of birds.

Presenter: Antonia Bolingbroke Kent  
 Producer: Alex Last  
 Sound mix: Rod Farquhar  
 Production Coordinator: Gemma Ashman  
 Series Editor: Penny Murphy

**MON 21:00 Seven Deadly Psychologies (m001t3dt)**  
 Lust

Becky Ripley and Sophie Ward take a cold hard look at the psychology behind each of the seven deadly sins, in the order established by Pope Gregory the Great: pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and lazy old sloth. Why have we evolved these ugly emotions? What's going on in the brain and the body when we feel them? And how best can we live alongside them - in ourselves and with others?

Lust is today's hot topic. It's crucial to the continuation of our species, but it's also a form of neurochemical madness that can lead us astray. We all have wildly different brains, bodies, and cultural references, so everyone's relationship to lust is highly personal. Is it true that men want it more than women? When was the "lustiest" time in history? And, back in today's world, how can we navigate our drives alongside cultural expectations and the issue of consent? And how can we feel desire without shame?

To guide us through this mess is evolutionary anthropologist Dr Anna Machin from the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford, sexologist with a speciality in men's health and sexual function, Dr Anand Patel, and sex historian Dr Kate Lister, lecturer at Leeds Trinity University and author of 'A Curious History of Sex'.

Producer: Becky Ripley

**MON 21:30 Start the Week (m001tb8k)**  
 [Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m001tbcg)**  
 In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective

**MON 22:45 The Happy Couple by Naoise Dolan (m001tbcj)**  
 Episode 1

A sparky comedic exploration of modern love and millennial malaise from the Irish author Naoise Dolan. As read by Seána Kerslake ('Bad Sisters').

Celine (a pianist) and her boyfriend Luke (a serial cheater) are to be married. However, on the night of their engagement party, Luke disappears with Celine's ex-girlfriend...

Phoebe (the bridesmaid and Celine's sister) just wants to get to the bottom of Luke's frequent unexplained disappearances.

Archie (the best man) should be moving on from his love for Luke and up the corporate ladder, but he finds himself utterly stuck.

And Vivian (a wedding guest) is the only one with enough emotional distance to offer something resembling good advice.

As the wedding approaches and these five lives intersect, past lovers, old friends and new enemies will search for their happily ever after — but does it lie at the end of an aisle?

The Author  
 Naoise Dolan is an Irish writer born in Dublin. Her debut novel 'Exciting Times' was a Sunday Times bestseller. She has been short-listed and long-listed for several prizes, including the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Dylan Thomas Prize, and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award.

Reader: Seána Kerslake  
 Author: Naoise Dolan  
 Abridger: Rowan Routh  
 Producer: Michael Shannon

Executive Editor: Andy Martin

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**MON 23:00 Don't Log Off (m001tbcl)**  
 Series 15

Between Two Worlds

Alan Dein searches the internet to connect with strangers who have found themselves caught between two worlds – in religion, vocation, or who are quite literally all at sea.

In South Africa, Kepa is devoted to Kwantu, the community choir he conducts. But his journey to music wasn't straightforward. Alan connects with Ayu in Indonesia, who tells him about her passion for self-transformation and growing up between two faiths. And Alan hears from Cezar, a Romanian chief mechanic on board an enormous oil tanker, about photography and life at sea as he docks in Bangladesh.

Producer: Martha Owen

**MON 23:30 Today in Parliament (m001tbcn)**  
 Sean Curran reports as a Foreign Minister tells MPs a ceasefire in Gaza is 'implausible'. And there are tetchy exchanges about the cost of the government's Rwanda scheme.

**TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023**

**TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m001tbcq)**  
 The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 00:30 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001tbcs)**  
 [Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 on Monday]

**TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m001tbcv)**  
 The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m001tbcx)**  
 World Service

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**TUE 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m001tbcz)**  
 The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**TUE 05:30 News Briefing (m001tbd1)**  
 National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m001tbd3)**  
 A reflection and prayer to start the day with the Revd Dr Craig Gardiner, a tutor at Cardiff Baptist College.

Good morning. On this day in 884, the man purportedly known as Charles the Fat inherited the ancient Empire of the Carolingians. Technically he is known as Charles the Third, the great grandson of the mighty Charlemagne. But history has perhaps unkindly remembered him by focusing upon his expansive girth. Of course, back then, it might've have been a compliment, and today we wouldn't fat-shame anyone. Even so, I bet he wishes the chroniclers named him for his character rather than appearance: Charles the Good, the Brave, the Wise, anything but 'Fat.'

Names do matter. Descriptors have power people attach to them. If we call a child 'silly' or 'clumsy' for long enough, they'll start behaving like it's true. We often inhabit the names we are given.

And when Mary and Joseph are told to name their boy Jesus, it's not by chance that it means 'the one who rescues his people.' But that's a huge responsibility to lay upon a baby, especially one who Isaiah the prophet has named: 'wonderful counsellor, mighty God, Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace.'

Christians down the centuries have testified that Jesus lived up to all these names and more, that he can indeed save us from the worst of ourselves, offer us counsel and bring us peace. Indeed, the church would claim this is not just his legacy, but a present opportunity for us to share in his names as well, to be people of wise counsel, makers of peace and in some way, help rescue one another from the difficulties we face.

I'm not sure by what name we might eventually be remembered, but these ones seem a good place to begin.

God of all wisdom and peace,  
 Author of every salvation,  
 Help us be known as people of your name,  
 And to play our part in delivering this world  
 from all that ever would harm us.  
 Amen

**TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m001tbd5)**  
 12/12/23 Bluetongue; Treetop nematodes; Rare breed sheep

Next year could see drones being used for the first time to drop microscopic worms on trees, to protect them from harmful insects. The worms, or nematodes, are natural predators of damaging insects and the forest industry is developing ways of controlling pests as pesticides it currently relies on are phased out.

Another outbreak of Bluetongue has been recorded in Norfolk making a total of 11 cases in England. Stock on six different premises, in Kent and Norfolk have been affected. There are restrictions on moving animals in the protection zones and farmers say it's difficult to find abattoirs to process their animals within those zones. We speak to a beef farmer who remembers a big outbreak which affected farms across Europe in 2007.

All week we're looking at rare breeds. The North Ronaldsay are one of the UK's oldest and rarest breeds of sheep. They're shaggy and small and can often be found grazing on seaweed along the coast of the northernmost of the Orkney Islands, which they're named after. But more recently farmers on the UK mainland have taken to keeping the breed which is listed as a priority by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Presenter = Anna Hill  
 Producer = Rebecca Rooney

**TUE 05:58 Tweet of the Day (m0001sx5)**  
 Becky Unthank's Wren

For Becky Unthank her interest in birds goes beyond just watching them while out in the countryside, as she has recently named her son wren to reflect her love of the natural world.

The Unthanks is a family affair from the North East of England and one of the leading exponents of traditional music.. Categorizing their music is difficult, but The Unthanks see their work and songs as less a style of music and more delivering an oral history for the modern audience. Which is perfect for Tweet of the Day, as Becky Unthank recalls how her son was named wren and also how she has been inspired by the story of the King of the Birds.

Producer Andrew Dawes

**TUE 06:00 Today (m001tbg1)**  
 News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**TUE 09:00 The Life Scientific (m001tbg5)**  
 Mercedes Maroto-Valer on making carbon dioxide useful

How do you solve a problem like CO2?  
 As the curtain closes on the world's most important climate summit, we talk to a scientist who was at COP 28 and is working to solve our carbon dioxide problem. Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer thinks saving the planet is still Mission Possible - but key to success is turning the climate-busting gas, CO2, into something useful. And as Director of the Research Centre for Carbon Solutions at Heriot-Watt University and the UK's Decarbonisation Champion, she has lots of innovative ideas on how to do this. She also has a great climate-themed suggestion for what you should say when someone asks your age...  
 Produced by Gerry Holt

**TUE 09:30 One to One (m001tbg7)**  
 Parenting advice in the age of social media: Samira Shackle and Lucy Jones

Since becoming a parent to a now-toddler, Samira Shackle has been bombarded with advice on social media - sometimes useful, sometimes not-so. She meets Lucy Jones, mother-of-three, to discuss navigating this online world and the affect it has on mothers, in particular.

Samira Shackle is a journalist and the author of Karachi Vice: Life and Death in a Contested City; Lucy Jones is the author of Matrescence: On The Metamorphosis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Motherhood.

Produced by Eliza Lomas for BBC Audio, Bristol.

**TUE 09:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley****(m001tbgm)**

Cold Therapy - with Michael Mosley

Cold Therapy - Ep 2: Cold Recovery

There's a chill in the air as the winter months come around again. But the cold isn't always something to fight or guard against. With a little bit of care, you can invite the cold into your life - with real benefits for health and mood. In each episode of this new podcast series, Dr Michael Mosley uncovers the science behind a different way you can harness the power of the cold, alongside the very latest research and atmospheric sound design.

In this episode, how and when to ice an injury, and why taking contrast showers (alternating between hot and cold) can aid your recovery, reduce pain, improve energy levels and even help you take less sick days.

Guest: Dr Amir Pakravan, consultant in sport, exercise and musculoskeletal medicine.

Series Producer, Sound Designer and Mix Engineer: Richard Ward

Researcher: William Hornbrook

Science Producer: Samantha Lewis

Production Manager: Maria Simons

Editor: Zoe Heron

Specially composed music by Richard Atkinson (Mcasso)

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

**TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m001tbge)**

The future of embryo research, Ofsted inspections, British Gymnastics' complaints procedure

Leading scientists are calling for a change in the law to help IVF patients donate unused embryos to biomedical research after a collapse in donations over the past 15 years. Emma Barnett talks to Professor of Reproductive Physiology at Cambridge University Kathy Niakan and Clare Ettinghausen from the UK's fertility regulator, the HFEA.

The new play *Glacier* is a dark and poignant festive comedy. It follows three women who meet while wild swimming in their local lake one Christmas. They form an unofficial tradition, meeting each year to go for a swim and escape. Escape their responsibilities, life's stresses, and maybe most of all - their families. We hear from playwright, comedian and podcaster Alison Spittle, and actor Sophie Steer, who stars in the show.

We take another look at the world of gymnastics following on from last year's damning Whyte review with labelled the British Gymnastics as "inept and dysfunctional". Since that time, not one complaint of abuse has been upheld by British Gymnastics' Independent Complaints Process - with every single case over the past three years collapsing. We talk to Claire Heafford from Gymnasts 4 Change about their campaign for a new procedures. As two teaching unions call for a pause in Ofsted inspections following the death of head teacher Ruth Perry, we talk to Paul Whiteman, the General Secretary of the teaching union the National Association of Head Teachers.

Presenter: Emma Barnett

Producer: Lisa Jenkinson

Studio Manager: Tim Heffer

**TUE 11:00 Seven Deadly Psychologies (m001tbgf)**

Envy

Becky Ripley and Sophie Ward take a cold hard look at the psychology behind each of the seven deadly sins, in the order established by Pope Gregory the Great: pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and lazy old sloth. Why have we evolved these ugly emotions? What's going on in the brain and the body when we feel them? And how best can we live alongside them - in ourselves and with others?

Envy is in the spotlight today. On one hand, it indicates what it is you want, and it motivates you to go out there and get it. On the other hand, it can be a corrosive feeling of yearning that eats you up from the inside. And at its ugliest, it can drive you to seek the destruction of others...

How can we listen to our feelings of envy, without being riddled with resentment? And how can we make peace with that restless, nagging feeling that the grass is always greener?

To guide us through this mess is evolutionary anthropologist Dr Anna Machin from the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford, psychotherapist and author of 'Coping with Envy', Professor Windy Dryden, from the Department of Psychotherapeutic Studies at Goldsmiths University, author and scholar Professor Ian Kapoor, from the Department of Critical Development Studies at York University in Toronto, and clinical psychologist, poet, writer and educator, Dr Sanah Ahsan.

**TUE 11:30 Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics****(m001tbgh)**

Series 9

Athena

Athena is charismatic and bloodthirsty, goddess of wisdom, war and...handicrafts.

Owl-eyed Athena is not interested in love, although she is very fond of the hero Odysseus and gives him a leg-up whenever she can. War is Athena's thing, the bloodier the better. She's perfectly happy to humiliate and degrade her enemies, including the feisty and talented weaver Arachne, who challenges Athena to a weaving competition. Athena loves a scrap so it's game on: looms at dawn. She weaves a depiction of her own glorious success over Poseidon in the battle for Attica. Arachne creates a tapestry which shows scenes of gods tricking, seducing, assaulting and kidnapping mortal women. Her message is that the 'protection' of the gods is not worth the cost. Athena is speechless and it's clear who has won the challenge. But Arachne has to pay a price for victory.

Rock star mythologist and reformed stand-up Natalie Haynes is obsessed with the ancient world. Here she explores key stories from ancient Rome and Greece that still have resonance today. They might be biographical, topographical, mythological or epic, but they are always hilarious, magical and tragic, mystifying and revelatory. And they tell us more about ourselves now than seems possible of stories from a couple of thousand years ago.

Producer...Mary Ward-Lowery

**TUE 12:00 News Summary (m001tbrg)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 12:04 You and Yours (m001tbqg)**

Call You and Yours: It's an Online World

We're asking "How are you coping in an online world?"

Is life more convenient and cheaper, or do you struggle with apps for banking, health, travel and everything else.

Maybe you can't afford to be connected or you live somewhere with poor signal.

Let us know what it's like dealing with organisations that would prefer you to be online.

So that's how are you coping in an online world. Email us now: YouandYours@bbc.co.uk and leave a number

And from **11am** on Tuesday - you can call us on 03700 100 444

Presenter: Winifred Robinson

Producer: Kevin Mousley

**TUE 12:57 Weather (m001tbgy)**

The latest weather forecast

**TUE 13:00 World at One (m001tbgx)**

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

**TUE 13:45 Empire of Tea (m001tbgz)**

Punjabi Cha and Masala Chai

Like Britain (and several other countries), India sees tea as its definitive national drink. But as Sathnam Sanghera discovers, mass market Indian tea culture was seeded, in large part, by its coloniser. With a trip to a chai stall in London and a chat with the historian Romita Ray, Sathnam charts the development of tea in India from both indigenous and imperial origins. Amid its regional diversity, how did it become India's national drink?

Produced by Paul Martin for BBC Audio Wales

**TUE 14:00 The Archers (m001tbc5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

**TUE 14:15 Drama on 4 (m001tbh1)**

The Last Chihoro

By Tonderai Munyevu

A touching story based on true events. Tonde returns to his place of birth in Zimbabwe to bury his mother as she wished. But traditional funeral rites mean this is far more difficult than he ever imagined.

This unique drama, with original music is a powerful meditation

on grief, tradition, and love.

Cast:

Tonde ..... Tonderai Munyevu  
Aunty/Mo ..... Pamela Nomvete  
Sekuru ..... Femi Elufowoju Jr.  
Dee ..... Chipu Kureya  
Medium/Cousin ..... Estella Daniels  
Partner ..... John Lightbody

Original music by Tendai Humphrey Sitima

Singing by the cast and Tendai Humphrey Sitima

Produced and directed by Jessica Mitic  
Sound by Alison Craig, Andy Garratt and Sue Stonestreet  
Production co-ordination by Pippa Day

A BBC Audio Drama North production

An EcoAudio certified production

**TUE 15:00 The Kitchen Cabinet (m001t970)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:30 on Saturday]

**TUE 15:30 Doctor, Doctor (m001tbrq)**

End of life specialist Dr Rachel Clarke

Doctor Doctor reveals the stress, excitement and challenges facing a 21st century medic. These are life-affirming stories of highs and lows, of commitment, bravery, skill, heartache and love.

Dr Phil Hammond dissects the medical lives of professionals at all levels of the health service: surgeons, intensive care nurses, NHS executives, junior doctors, psychiatrists - fascinating jobs, the titles of which we know very well, but our understanding of which may be lacking.

Dr Phil's guests range from the recently qualified to the recently retired, from well-known medical grandees to unknown regional heroes, covering all specialties in hospital and community.

Producer: David Morley

Original Music by Chris O'Shaughnessy

A Perfectly Normal production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 16:00 The Deadly Ring (m001tbh3)**

Thousands of people have taken part in 'white collar' boxing bouts since it was introduced in the UK in the early 2000s. The premise is simple - a non-boxer spends six to ten weeks training for a fight which usually takes place in front of friends and family. But critics of white collar boxing have called it another form of unregulated boxing, which falls outside the jurisdiction of governing sports bodies.

Two young men have died in the last two years after taking part in white collar boxing bouts, leading to renewed calls for these types of matches to be banned. While the exact cause of their deaths has yet to be determined through an inquest, the dad of one of these young men is now fighting for white collar boxing to end.

Presenter Richard Butchins goes on the trail of this type of boxing, asking whether participants are being put at unnecessary risk. He wants to know what kind of damage white collar boxing is doing to the reputation of the sport in the UK, and if it has a future.

Presenter: Richard Butchins

Producer: Emily Uchida Finch

A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 16:30 Great Lives (m001t91j)**

Iszi Lawrence on Diana Barnato Walker

Broadcaster and author Iszi Lawrence chooses the aviator Diana Barnato Walker. Coming from a privileged background, Diana used her pocket money to take flying lessons, flew bombers during World War II, and - aged 45 - became the first British woman to break the sound barrier. Iszi is joined by Giles Whittell, author of *Spitfire Women of World War II*, and Diana's son Barney Walker.

Presented by Matthew Parris

Produced in Bristol by Beth Sagar-Fenton

**TUE 17:00 PM (m001tbh5)**

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on

breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines

**TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m001tbh9)**

Rival Conservative factions have clashed in the Commons over the legislation

**TUE 18:30 Best Medicine (m001tbhc)**

Series 1

10. Epidurals, Embroidery, Play, Death

Joining Kiri this week are historian Dr Paul Craddock who unravels how vascular surgery owes a debt to 19th century Parisian embroiderer Marie-Anne Lerouquier, historian Subhadra Das unearthing stories of death prevention, comedian Ria Lina pushing epidurals as the best medicine, and paediatrician Dr Guddi Singh who shows off with play.

Best Medicine is your weekly dose of laughter, hope and incredible medicine. Award-winning comedian Kiri Pritchard-McLean is joined by funny and fascinating comedians, doctors, scientists and historians to celebrate medicine's inspiring past, present and future.

Each week, Kiri challenges her guests to make a case for what they think is 'the best medicine', and each of them champions anything from world-changing science to an obscure invention, an everyday treatment, an uplifting worldview, an unsung hero or a futuristic cure.

Whether it's micro-robotic surgery, virtual reality syringes, Victorian clockwork surgical saws, more than a few ingenious cures for cancer, world-first lifesaving heart operations, epidurals, therapy, dancing, faith or laughter - it's always something worth celebrating.

Hosted by Kiri Pritchard-McLean

Featuring: Dr Paul Craddock, Subhadra Das, Ria Lina, Dr Guddi Singh

Written by Laura Claxton, Edward Easton, Charlie George, Kiri Pritchard-McLean and Ben Rowse

Producer: Ben Worsfield

Assistant Producer: Tashi Radha

Executive Producer: Simon Nicholls

Theme tune composed by Andrew Jones

A Large Time production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 19:00 The Archers (m001t9h1)**

Paul's surprise of a visit to a Rage Room for Lily's birthday doesn't quite hit the mark but she gets into it once Paul tells her they're going for cocktails later. Whilst having cocktails the subject of Freddie and the discrepancy in what they'll both inherit comes up, and Paul asks Lily if she's angry. Lily explains to Paul that she could go around being angry all the time, but it wouldn't get her anywhere. Paul's understanding, but thinks Lily has every right to be mad. Later, whilst at the bar, Paul apologises for bringing up the subject of her inheritance, but Lily tells him its fine. In fact, it's the best birthday she's had. They both acknowledge that celebrations can be intense when families are involved. They go on to discuss Christmas and how nice it would be to have a low-key Christmas with just friends. Neither of them is sure if their families would agree but think it might be okay if they saw them on Boxing Day.

Pip is interrupted when asking Stella a question by Ben, who is in a panic about taking Bess to the Vets as he's been called to a meeting with his tutor. Stella offers to take Bess. Later on Ben thanks Stella and they talk about how lovely it is having a dog. Once Stella and Pip are alone, Stella reminds Pip that she had a question for her earlier. After some panicked babbling Pip finally asks Stella to have Christmas dinner with the family. Stella tells her that she would like that very much.

**TUE 19:15 Front Row (m001tbhf)**

Margaret Cavendish, Margareth Olin, Christmas TV

Margaret Cavendish was born exactly 400 years ago, and her many achievements include writing *The Blazing World*, arguably the first ever sci-fi novel. Novelist Siri Hustvedt and biographer Francesca Peacock discuss the enduring legacy of this pioneering woman, with extracts read by Rhiannon Neads

Margreth Olin tells Samira about her film *Songs of Earth*, for which she returned to the valley in Western Norway where she grew up, and the year she spent learning from her elderly parents and from nature.

Graham Kibble-White, Deputy Editor of Total TV guide magazine and TV critic and broadcaster Scott Bryan share their top festive viewing tips – from ghosts stories to soaps, documentaries to children's viewing.

Presenter: Samira Ahmed  
Producer: Julian Wilkinson

**TUE 20:00 File on 4 (m001tbhh)**

Shoplifting and organised crime

File on 4 reveals how hundreds of vulnerable women and children are being trafficked to the UK by organised crime gangs to work as shoplifters. The victims are forced to live in squalor in overcrowded houses in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Investigators have discovered there are 154 known members of one gang which is making millions for the gangmasters from Eastern Europe. High street stores have reported a 25 per cent increase in the number of shoplifting incidents over the last year.

Reporter: Datsiane Navanayagam  
Producers: Holly Clemens and Kate West  
Editor: Carl Johnston

**TUE 20:40 In Touch (m001tbhk)**

The Eyes Have It

Ophthalmology is the busiest outpatient speciality in the NHS, with 8 million attendances in England in the last two years. However, there is a crisis of capacity and many patients are not receiving the specialist treatment that they need to retain their vision. The Eyes Have It is a partnership are trying to change that. It is comprised of the Macular Society, Fight for Sight / Vision Foundation, RNIB, Association of Optometrists, The Royal College of Ophthalmologists and Roche. The partnership's primary aim is to advocate for a national approach to improvements across the eye care sector in England. In Touch attended their parliamentary event in the Houses of Commons, and spoke to various professionals within the sector about the issues and the specifics of what they are calling for.

Presenter: Peter White  
Producer: Beth Hemmings  
Production Coordinator: Liz Poole

Website image description: Peter White sits smiling in the centre of the image and he is wearing a dark green jumper. Above Peter's head is the BBC logo (three separate white squares house each of the three letters). Bottom centre and overlaying the image are the words "In Touch" and the Radio 4 logo (the word Radio in a bold white font, with the number 4 inside a white circle). The background is a bright mid-blue with two rectangles angled diagonally to the right. Both are behind Peter, one is a darker blue and the other is a lighter blue.

**TUE 21:00 All in the Mind (m001t9hy)**

The impact of bad news, compassion fatigue, and the psychology of whistleblowing

Increasing numbers of people are avoiding the news, and a recent update to Ipsos's Global Trends 2023 report has found that the current state of the world is causing people to focus on their own lives, rather than broader, global problems. Mike Clemence, associate director of trends & futures at Ipsos, talks Claudia Hammond through the findings and the "polycrisis" we find ourselves in. Coverage of these crises can have a psychological impact. Roxane Cohen Silver, distinguished professor of psychological science, medicine, and public health at the University of California Irvine, tells Claudia how media exposure to traumatic events can cause acute symptoms of stress, and what we can do to protect ourselves.

Whistleblowers do the important job of calling out wrongdoing in an organisation. So why are so many treated badly, even though they've done the right thing? And how can people be encouraged to raise concerns at work? Claudia speaks to Amy Edmondson, professor of leadership and management at the Harvard Business School, about "psychological safety" – the belief that you won't be punished for speaking up.

And Claudia is joined in the studio by Daryl O'Connor, professor of psychology at the University of Leeds, to take us through some of the latest findings in neuroscience and psychology. We discuss whether compassion is a limited resource and if the emotional words we use can affect our heart health.

Presenter: Claudia Hammond  
Producer: Sophie Ormiston  
Studio Manager: Tim Heffer  
Production Coordinator: Siobhan Maguire  
Editor: Holly Squire

**TUE 21:30 The Life Scientific (m001tbg5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m001tbhm)**

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

**TUE 22:45 The Happy Couple by Naoise Dolan (m001tbhq)**

Episode 2

A sparky comedic exploration of modern love and millennial malaise from the Irish author Naoise Dolan. As read by Seána Kerslake ('Bad Sisters').

Celine (a pianist) and her boyfriend Luke (a serial cheater) are to be married. However, on the night of their engagement party, Luke disappears with Celine's ex-girlfriend...

Phoebe (the bridesmaid and Celine's sister) just wants to get to the bottom of Luke's frequent unexplained disappearances.

Archie (the best man) should be moving on from his love for Luke and up the corporate ladder, but he finds himself utterly stuck.

And Vivian (a wedding guest) is the only one with enough emotional distance to offer something resembling good advice.

As the wedding approaches and these five lives intersect, past lovers, old friends and new enemies will search for their happily ever after — but does it lie at the end of an aisle?

**The Author**

Naoise Dolan is an Irish writer born in Dublin. Her debut novel 'Exciting Times' was a Sunday Times bestseller. She has been short-listed and long-listed for several prizes, including the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Dylan Thomas Prize, and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award.

Reader: Seána Kerslake  
Author: Naoise Dolan  
Abridger: Rowan Routh  
Producer: Michael Shannon  
Executive Editor: Andy Martin

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**TUE 23:00 Now You're Asking with Marian Keyes and Tara Flynn (m001tbhs)**

The Comb Over Problem

Your close friend is doing a bad job at disguising his baldness – people are noticing and making cruel comments... what should you do? You know your relationship is over but, if you leave, your partner's life might fall apart... what should you do? You've been asked to a party and the hosts are now asking you to help pay for it... what should you do? Modern dilemmas tackled with wisdom, grace and trademark good humour by Marian and Tara. All this and... is Marian declaring herself to be running for political office?

Marian Keyes is a multi award-winning writer, with a total of over 30 million copies of her books sold to date in 33 languages. Her close friend Tara Flynn is an actress, comedian and writer. Together, these two friends have been through a lot, and now want to use their considerable life experience to help solve your biggest - and smallest - of the things that keep us awake at night.

Previous series were welcomed by listeners and critics: "Both are warm and kind enough to not only be funny but also offer genuinely thoughtful, if left-field, advice." (Miranda Sawyer, *The Observer*) "Keyes and Flynn are my new favourite double-act." (Jane Anderson - *Radio Times*) "I found their compassion endlessly soothing." (Rachel Cunliffe - *The New Statesman*)

Recorded in Dublin with emails received from listeners around the world, the hosts invite you to pull up a chair at their virtual kitchen table as they read and digest their inbox.

Got a problem you want Marian and Tara to solve? Email: [marianandtara@bbc.co.uk](mailto:marianandtara@bbc.co.uk)

Producer: Steve Doherty.  
A Giddy Goat production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds

**TUE 23:30 Today in Parliament (m001tbhv)**

Alicia McCarthy reports as MPs back Rishi Sunak's Rwanda policy despite some Tory unhappiness on a day of intrigue at Westminster.

**WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023**

**WED 00:00 Midnight News (m001tbhx)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**WED 00:30 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001tbgm)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 on Tuesday]

**WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m001tbh)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m001tbj1)**

World Service

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**WED 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m001tbj3)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 05:30 News Briefing (m001tbj5)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m001tbj7)**

A reflection and prayer to start the day with the Revd Dr Craig Gardiner, a tutor at Cardiff Baptist College.

Good morning. We're well into December now and it feels like peak Carol singing season. This week I've sung in school concerts and church services, I've hummed along with radio play lists and buskers serenading shoppers. Most of us will have a favourite for the festive season. Perhaps a traditional carol like Hark the Herald Angels, maybe a classical Oratorio from Bach or even Mariah Carey's glitzy 'All I want.' Whatever your choice, it's difficult to escape the Christmas music, but I'm not sure we should try to.

Our favourite songs can tell us much about who we are and what we aspire to be. The Norwegian author Arne Garborg takes this further when he writes: 'To love a person is to learn the song that is in their heart and sing it to them when they have forgotten.'

I think about that line whenever I hear the Bible passage known as the Magnificat. This is the song Mary sings while pregnant with Jesus, it's a defiant plea for justice that sees God toppling rulers from their thrones, filling the hungry with good things and sending the rich away empty. It's powerful and seditious stuff. But it's the song that's in the heart of God, and Mary sings it to her baby, so that he may learn it from the womb.

I wonder how many times, after he was born, she sang those words of hope and protest again to him, or indeed, how often did Jesus echo them to his mother, perhaps amidst her greatest doubts and fear.

If this is so, then how might we this Christmas time, help others remember songs from deep within their hearts, and what might we hope they sing afresh to us?

God who has composed  
the song of every human heart,  
help us to teach the world to sing,  
melodies of justice and joy.  
Amen

**WED 05:45 Farming Today (m001tbj9)**

13/12/23 Food and farming at COP28; Ecology out of kilter; Suffolk Punch horses

For the first time, agriculture and its impact on climate change, was on the official agenda at the COP28 Summit in Dubai, which has just ended. While much of the debate about the final statement from the event has centred around reductions in the use of fossil fuels, progress was made on the role of agriculture. More than 120 countries signed a pledge to include agriculture in their national climate change equations, and ensure changes in agricultural practices are part of their plans for reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the impacts of global warming.

A new study covering thousands of species has analysed how many plants and insects are now out of kilter with the seasons. The University of Oxford and the Chinese Academy of Sciences has looked at data covering the last 34 years across Europe, much of it gathered by citizen scientists. We speak to one of the authors about how particular crops are affected when nature is out of sync.

All week we're talking about rare breed farm animals. The Suffolk Punch is the oldest breed of heavy horse and according to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, all modern Suffolks are descended from just one horse which was born in 1768. There are currently 200 breeding mares today, but back in 1966 there were just nine Suffolk foals registered.

Presenter = Anna Hill

Producers = Rebecca Rooney & Marie Lennon

**WED 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b08q5x8w)**

Dara McAnulty on the whooper swan

Since he was a small boy, Fermanagh based bird blogger Dara McAnulty has been enthralled by birds. For this Tweet of the Day Dara draws a comparison with seeing whooper swans near to his home in Northern Ireland with the swans from Irish mythology, the Children of Lir. Dara, who has Aspergers Syndrome, blogs as Young Fermanagh Naturalist to convey his love of nature and wildlife through the written word.

Producer Maggie Ayre.

**WED 06:00 Today (m001t9f5)**

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

**WED 09:00 The Reith Lectures (m001t9f9)**

Ben Ansell: Our Democratic Future

3. The Future of Solidarity

This year's BBC Reith Lecturer is Ben Ansell, Professor of Comparative Democratic Institutions at Nuffield College, Oxford University and the author of "Why Politics Fails." He will deliver four lectures in a series called "Our Democratic Future." The series asks how we can build a politics that works for all of us with systems which are robust to the challenges of the twenty first century, from climate change to artificial intelligence.

In this third lecture, recorded in Sunderland, Professor Ansell explores whether we can develop a shared sense of belonging in today's polarised societies. How can we ensure that we look after the less fortunate in an economy that seems only to reward the 'already haves'? Ansell addresses the challenges posed by technologies that enrich a small elite and privatise solidarity with bespoke healthcare and benefits that might undermine collective solidarity. And he assesses how policy reform - from universal basic income to civic nationalism - might help renew our communities.

The Reith Lectures are chaired by Anita Anand and produced by Jim Frank.

The Editor is China Collins, and the co-ordinator is Brenda Brown.

The series is mixed by Rod Farquhar and Neil Churchill.

**WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m001t9ff)**

Imelda Staunton on depicting Queen Elizabeth II

How could people step in safely if they see a woman being harassed in public? Former police officer Graham Goulden and criminologist Molly Ackhurst tell Emma Barnett how bystanders can protect themselves while helping others.

Imelda Staunton has played Queen Elizabeth II for the last two series of television drama The Crown. She joined us before she started the role, in 2021, to talk about how she was approaching the role, and why it was important to her. She joins Emma Barnett again now that it's coming to an end – the final episodes of The Crown are released on Netflix this week.

Should we celebrate quitting a job? We've got divorce parties - how about a quitting party? When award-winning sex educator and author, Hannah Witton decided to stop making her successful YouTube and podcast series, Doing It, her friends and colleagues threw her a surprise quitting ceremony. There was cake, and even a card saying Bye, Bye Don't Come Back. Hannah tells Emma whether this party helped, alongside career coach, and host of the Career Happiness podcast, Soma Ghosh, with her advice for anyone thinking of quitting.

There has been a significant increase in the number of women being investigated by police after a suspected abortion, according to a senior consultant gynaecologist, with some women facing high-profile court cases, and other instances where children have been removed from the mother. Abortion is a criminal offence in England and Wales unless it meets strict criteria. Co-chairman of the British Society of Abortion Care Providers Dr Jonathan Lord, who has raised these concerns, joins Emma.

Producer: Hannah Sander

Presenter: Emma Barnett

**WED 11:00 South Africa: The Children of Paradise (m001t9fk)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Monday]

**WED 11:30 Being Roman with Mary Beard (p0gr2sw2)**

6: Love in the Borderlands

At the very edge of Empire, inscribed on a beautifully carved

tombstone, there's a story of love across the tracks. On Hadrian's Wall a slave girl from Hertfordshire and a lonely traveller from Syria meet and marry. The story of Regina and Barates has inspired poets and writers eager for a simple love story to illuminate a dark and dangerous world. But how true might this be? What brought this couple together across cultures and thousands of miles? Was their alliance true love or forced marriage?

Mary Beard tracks our couple from Palmyra to South Shields, revealing the cultural mix of the Empire and the power dynamics of slave and master with the help of Syrian poet, Nouri Al-Jarrah.

Producer: Alasdair Cross

Expert Contributors: Greg Woolf, University of California Los Angeles and Frances McIntosh, English Heritage

Cast: John Collingwood Bruce played by Josh Bryant-Jones and reading of The Stone Serpent by Tyler Cameron

Translation of The Stone Serpent: Catherine Cobham

Arabic Translation: Samira Kawar

Special thanks to Alex Croom and Tyne and Wear Museums

**WED 12:00 News Summary (m001t9fr)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**WED 12:04 You and Yours (m001t9fy)**

Private medical cannabis clinics, Pet Christmas presents, Size of cars

Around 33,000 people in the UK currently have a medical cannabis prescription, and it's growing at around 1000 a month. The vast majority obtain this through private medical cannabis clinics, there are 31 currently operating in the UK, and growing. However, the cost facing people that use medical cannabis for many health issues can be hundreds if not thousands a month. We speak to two people who are prescribed medicinal cannabis products, asking about why they use it, how it has helped them, and also how they afford to use it.

We also speak to the founder of Mamedica, one of the recent private clinics that have opened up, and Professor Mike Barnes one of the leading voices in the medical cannabis discussion in the UK.

Also in the programme:

No fault evictions, also known as Section 21, allows landlords to evict tenants without giving a reason. Thousands of tenants are facing being turned out of their homes in the run-up to Christmas, after government plans to ban no-fault evictions were indefinitely delayed in October until after the court system is reformed – we speak to one of them.

We love our pets, but are they top of your Christmas list? With lots of surveys suggesting we pamper our pets more than ever, and even spend more on them than our family, we chat with dog owner that goes as far as filling a stocking and baking biscuits for Dolly the chihuahua - that's half a sausage, half a chihuahua!

Should there be a limit on how big our cars can be? Some think so, and in a new report says car emissions could have fallen 30 percent more over the past decade if it wasn't for our growing preference for bigger vehicles. These include much-loved SUVs, which now account for more than half of all new car sales around the world. We speak to the authors of the report, and also a car journalist that has their name down for the new Tesla Cybertruck.

And after we covered the scam of the good Samaritan who helped someone out at a petrol, many more of you got in touch to say it had happened to you. We dig a little deeper and report on what you've told us.

Presenter: Winifred Robinson

Producer: Dave James

**WED 12:57 Weather (m001t9g4)**

The latest weather forecast

**WED 13:00 World at One (m001t9gf)**

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

**WED 13:45 Empire of Tea (m001t9gn)**

One For Each Person and None For The Pot

By the 1930s tea-drinking had become such an integral part of British life that maintaining supplies during the war was a government priority.

It was seen as an essential morale-booster on both the home

front and the fighting front.

Urging restraint, the food minister Lord Woolton advised people to allocate one tea bag for each person "and none for the pot" when brewing up.

James Bulgin of the Imperial War Museum and historian Erika Rappaport tell Sathnam Sanghera about the measures taken to protect supply, safeguard stocks and discourage wastage. Just how important was imperial tea to the British war effort?

Produced by Paul Martin for BBC Audio Wales

**WED 14:00 The Archers (m001t9h1)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 14:15 Drama on 4 (m0001v12)**

The Receiver of Wreck

"Unusual? I've seen unusual. More than you would believe. Driftwood that looks like bodies and bodies that look like driftwood. Thirty thousand left footed trainers on a beach in Peterhead. A pod of seals living in a ... whatever the collective noun is for a load of Zanussi fridges. That's unusual. What you're talking about is impossible. Ships do not disappear, float round the Irish Sea, never once being sighted, then reappear four and a bit decades later. That's impossible..."

Fleetwood, Lancashire, the depths of a dead winter, the bleakest in years. The small town - part failed seaside resort, part former fishing port - wakes to find a rusted old ship has washed up on its silting estuary. There is no-one on board, no craft have been reported missing anywhere in the Irish Sea and the boat is so weather-beaten that positive identification proves impossible.

Jen Green, The Receiver of Wreck, arrives to find rumour sweeping the town as to just what the boat might be. From pirate radio station to pirate ship, Russian spy vessel through to Gaddafi's gunrunning shipment to the IRA - no theory is too maverick for the small crowd sheltering at the front as to what the strange boat might have been...

**CAST**

Jen ..... Alice Lowe  
Prudence Peacock/Denisa/The Voice ..... Jane Horrocks  
Malcolm ..... Pearce Quigley  
Kelly ..... Lucy Gaskell  
Adam ..... Tom Meeten  
Jeancia/Hannah ..... Hayley Doherty  
Tania ..... Hannah Livingston  
Ben ..... Ben Cottam

Writer, Ben Cottam  
Directed by Alison Crawford

Recorded on location at Weston-Super-Mare. Many thanks to Weston-Super-Mare Golf Club, Beachlands Hotel, North Somerset Council and Alison Kentuck (the real Receiver of Wreck).

**WED 15:00 Money Box (m001t9hg)**

Money Box Live: Christmas Spending and Scams

This week we're tackling the cost of the festive season and looking at how to avoid scams.

The cost of Christmas is up almost a quarter over the last three years according to the The Centre for Economics and Business Research. What can you do to keep costs down?

And as figures from UK Finance, the trade body for banks, suggest nearly £100m will be stolen from around 200,000 people through fraud and scams over the Christmas period we'll discuss what you can do to avoid them.

With Felicity Hannah today to go through your questions and comments we have Sarah Pennells, consumer finance specialist at Royal London and Professor Sharon Collard, Research Director at the University of Bristol's Personal Finance Research Centre.

We'll also be hearing from Paul Askew a chef and the owner of the Art School restaurant in Liverpool and he'll be giving us some tips on how to cut the cost of Christmas Dinner.

Presenter: Felicity Hannah  
Producer: Sarah Rogers  
Reporters: Dan Whitworth and Kath Paddison  
Editor: Jess Quayle

(First broadcast 3pm Wednesday 13th December, 2023)

**WED 15:30 All in the Mind (m001t9hy)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 16:00 A Dyeing Wish (m001t9jf)**

An inspirational story for the dark days of winter.

A remarkable five-year project called Three Acres of Colour is taking place on a farm in Wiltshire. The figurehead is acclaimed fine-art photographer Garry Fabian Miller who has been inspired by early 20th Century natural weaver and dyer Ethel Mairet to attempt to grow at scale weld, woad and madder - the dye-plants which yield the primary colours, yellow, blue and red.

Three Acres of Colour is set against worldwide anxieties about chemical dyes and against Garry's personal story as he undergoes treatment for bladder cancer after a life given to the toxicity of traditional dark room colours.

While farm-owner Sarah Griffin hopes to find a new source of income, Garry is reinterpreting one of his final dark room works, The Ark, in a new textile version, created by Bristol-based design and weaving studio Dash and Miller and using wool dyed from the project.

Contributors include master potter and writer Edmund de Waal, gardener and dyer Tania Compton, head gardener Les Brindley, farm manager Mike Mundy and the Dash and Miller team, Emma Loughton, Molly Hayden, Juliet Bailey and Libby Kates.

With a specially commissioned soundscape by Emily Levy inspired by the natural music of the handloom and of the larks which sing above the Three Acres of Colour field, performed by Riaan Vosloo and Richard Ormrod.

Photo credit: Nicholas J R White

Presented and produced by Beaty Rubens  
A Just Radio production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 16:30 The Media Show (m001t9jz)**

Martin Lewis, Britain's most influential journalist?

Martin Lewis is easily one of Britain's most influential and trusted journalists. His Money Saving Expert website ranks as one of the most-read news sites in the UK, his weekly newsletter has around 9 million subscribers, and he is a regular face on prime-time TV.

In a wide-ranging interview, Martin joins Ros Atkins to discuss his career in media, the state of British journalism, and the toll being in the public eye has had on his mental health.

He also talks about his campaign against scam ads on social media, and singles out Facebook-owner Meta for criticism, who told the BBC in October: "We're constantly working to improve our systems and encourage anyone who sees content they believe breaks our rules to report it using our in-app tools so we can investigate and take action."

Producer: Dan Hardoon

Presenter: Ros Atkins

**WED 17:00 PM (m001t9kj)**

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

**WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m001t9lm)**

Some have hailed the resolution as progressive; but others say it does not go far enough

**WED 18:30 Whatever Happened to Baby Jane Austen? (m001t9m3)**

Series 2

Episode 1

Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders star as respected novelist Florence and movie star Selina, in the second series of this sparkling comedy about two sisters at war, by David Quantick.

The first series of Whatever Happened To Baby Jane Austen? won the Writers' Guild Award for Best Radio Comedy and the Comedy.co.uk award for Best Radio Sitcom.

"Thank you, Mr Quantick - this is nigh on perfect" Radio Times

And now Dawn, Jennifer and David return with Series 2.

Episode one: Mummy Dearest  
Lucy, convinced that her mother is Selina, can't take any more - she's going to be an astronaut. Meanwhile, Selina's off to the Palace to collect her OBE, with a jealous Florence in tow. And Mrs Ragnarrok has applied for Danish citizenship.

Written by David Quantick

Florence - Dawn French  
Selina - Jennifer Saunders  
Mrs Ragnarrok - Meera Syal  
Lucy - Georgia Tennant  
All the men - Alistair McGowan

Producer: Liz Anstee  
A CPL production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 19:00 The Archers (m001t9mp)**

Whilst shopping at Deck The Hall Stella notices her Dad's watch has stopped working. Leonard offers to try and fix it for her. Later Leonard presents her with the watch newly fixed and polished. They go on to discuss Christmas Day at Brookfield. Leonard warns Stella about being on David's team for Charades and how he takes it all very seriously. Leonard then tells her he's been put in charge of cheese and worries about what he should buy. Stella suggests going to the Farm Shop, after all, buying from the family would probably be the best idea.

Lily tells Freddie about her plans for a chilled-out Christmas with friends and he's devastated, telling her that spending Christmas with just his mum will be sad. Whilst at the Vets getting Ena's claws clipped, Joy and Paul discuss their Christmas plans. Joy assumes he'll be spending it with his parents and goes on to tell him about the Christmas she'll be having on her own, with a free-range chicken for dinner. Paul feels sorry for Joy and after work, dashes to the shop to invite her over for Christmas dinner. Later, Paul sheepishly admits to Lily that he invited both his parents and Joy for Christmas dinner. Lily is annoyed, but also admits that she has invited Freddie and Elizabeth as well. Lily goes on to tell him that Elizabeth is making her polenta-parsnips. Paul tells her that his dad is also making honey-roasted parsnips, he'll be bringing his air-fryer and everything. Lily laughs telling him "you can never have too many parsnips, can you?"

**WED 19:15 Front Row (m001t9n2)**

Bradley Cooper and Carey Mulligan on Maestro, Noel Coward's Songs, Wien Museum reopens

Bradley Cooper directs and stars in the new film Maestro about the hugely influential American composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein alongside Carey Mulligan as his wife, the actor Felicia Montealegre. Nick Ahad speaks to both of them about portraying a 'marriage through music' and how Cooper spent six years preparing to conduct Mahler's Resurrection with the London Symphony Orchestra.

Fifty years after his death, for many the playwright and composer Noel Coward is very much a figure of the British establishment. However as a new production of his most famous work, Brief Encounter, opens at Manchester's Royal Exchange, Front Row brought together its musical director Matthew Malone and Sarah K Whitfield, co-author of An Inconvenient Black History of British Musical Theatre 1900 - 1950, to discuss how Coward's songs reveal a more radical side of his artistry.

Kirsty Lang reports on the Wien Museum, the Viennese institution which has just re-opened and for the first time includes an acknowledgement of the city's Nazi past.

Critic Kate Maltby reflects on the news that Indhu Rubasingham has been appointed the next director of the National Theatre. She will be the first female and the first person of colour to lead the theatre.

Presenter: Nick Ahad  
Producer: Ekene Akalawu

**WED 20:00 AntiSocial (m001t304)**

Trans kids and schools

What should teachers do if a pupil wants to use a name, uniform, toilet or changing room of the opposite sex because they feel it better represents who they are? It's known as 'social transitioning'. It's in the news because the former Prime Minister Liz Truss has proposed a new law that would ban it in schools - re-charging a debate that's been going on from a while.

Social transitioning isn't the same as having surgery or taking drugs. So what is it? Schools have been crying out for some guidance from the government. We'll hear what teachers have been doing in the meantime. There are laws that protect pupils and laws that protect teachers. We'll find out where they sometimes clash.

**WED 20:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001t9nn)**

Cold Therapy - with Michael Mosley

Cold Therapy - Ep 3: Cold Exercise

There's a chill in the air as the winter months come around again. But the cold isn't always something to fight or guard against. With a little bit of care, you can invite the cold into your life - with real benefits for health and mood. In each episode of this new podcast series, Dr Michael Mosley uncovers the science behind a different way you can harness the power of the cold, alongside the very latest research and atmospheric sound design.

In this episode, Michael goes for a jog on a chilly day, and finds out how exercising in colder weather can allow you to go further than on a hot day, enabling you to work harder, for longer, with less effort.

Guests: Dr Chris Tyler, University of Roehampton  
Hannah Pallubinsky, Assistant Professor at Maastricht University.

Series Producer, Sound Designer and Mix Engineer: Richard Ward

Researcher: William Hornbrook  
Science Producer: Samantha Lewis  
Production Manager: Maria Simons  
Editor: Zoe Heron

Specially composed music by Richard Atkinson (Mcasso)  
A BBC Studios production for BBC Sounds / BBC Radio 4.

#### WED 21:00 When It Hits the Fan (m0019nz)

Baroness Mone, ITV and VIP PR

David Yelland and Simon Lewis discuss Baroness Mone of Mayfair's self-funded YouTube documentary – does it make her a PR genius or just terribly unwise?

They also look at the reputational fallout from the Phillip Schofield affair at ITV – for both the company and individuals.

And they peek inside the secret world of VIP PR. What strategies do big companies have for handling famous customers in public and in private?

Producer: Eve Streeter  
Editor: Sarah Teasdale  
Executive Producer: William Miller  
Researcher: Sophie Smith  
Music by Eclectic Sounds

A Raconteur production for BBC Radio 4

#### WED 21:30 The Media Show (m0019jz)

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:30 today]

#### WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m0019pb)

Nations agree on the need to "transition away" from coal, oil and gas

The researcher working on a cure for pregnancy sickness

As the UK moves to declare Rwanda a "safe" country, Rwanda's government stands accused of backing violent rebels in DRC

#### WED 22:45 The Happy Couple by Naoise Dolan (m0019pp)

Episode 3

A sparky comedic exploration of modern love and millennial malaise from the Irish author Naoise Dolan. As read by Seána Kerslake ('Bad Sisters').

Celine (a pianist) and her boyfriend Luke (a serial cheater) are to be married. However, on the night of their engagement party, Luke disappears with Celine's ex-girlfriend...

Phoebe (the bridesmaid and Celine's sister) just wants to get to the bottom of Luke's frequent unexplained disappearances.

Archie (the best man) should be moving on from his love for Luke and up the corporate ladder, but he finds himself utterly stuck.

And Vivian (a wedding guest) is the only one with enough emotional distance to offer something resembling good advice.

As the wedding approaches and these five lives intersect, past lovers, old friends and new enemies will search for their happily ever after — but does it lie at the end of an aisle?

The Author  
Naoise Dolan is an Irish writer born in Dublin. Her debut novel 'Exciting Times' was a Sunday Times bestseller. She has been short-listed and long-listed for several prizes, including the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Dylan Thomas Prize, and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award.

Reader: Seána Kerslake  
Author: Naoise Dolan

Abridger: Rowan Routh  
Producer: Michael Shannon  
Executive Editor: Andy Martin

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

#### WED 23:00 Big Little Questions (m0019q7)

Ben Asks...

Comedians Chris Cantrill and Amy Gledhill, aka The Delightful Sausage, tackle big questions from the curious minds of little kids.

Chris' son, Ben, asks the final question of the series which sends his old man spiralling. With a big promotion on the horizon, Amy's ready to leave the low-brow world of sketch comedy behind. And finally, they have an excuse to fire up the BBC Radio 4 Chopper!

Cast  
Chris Cantrill  
Amy Gledhill  
Sunil Patel  
Emily Lloyd-Saini

Written by Chris Cantrill and Amy Gledhill  
Researcher - Tashi Radha  
Original Music - Joe da Costa  
Sound Design - Alisdair McGregor  
Produced by Hannah Moulder

A Various Artists Ltd production for BBC Radio 4

#### WED 23:15 Jokes (m0019qn)

Nora Meadows' Week of Wellness

#### 2. Bird, Bath and Beyond

A client who won't open up is at the top of Nora's list this week. She also has to take drastic measures after her offer of an emotional support animal goes wrong. Finally, after a busy week, Nora visits a gong bath to try and unwind...

Nora Meadows..... Katy Wix  
Giles..... Adam Drake  
Claire..... Emily Lloyd-Saini  
Sam..... Alexander Owen  
Benedict Mitchell..... Alistair Green  
Anthony..... Sunil Patel  
Nish Hartley..... Mark Silcox

Written and directed by Will Farrell and Ben Rowse, with additional material from the cast

Producer: Nick Coupe

A HatTrick production for BBC Radio 4

#### WED 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0019qy)

The final Prime Minister's Questions of 2023.

### THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023

#### THU 00:00 Midnight News (m0019r9)

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

#### THU 00:30 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m0019nn)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:45 on Wednesday]

#### THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0019rp)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

#### THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0019s6)

World Service

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

#### THU 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0019sp)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

#### THU 05:30 News Briefing (m0019t4)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0019th)

A reflection and prayer to start the day with the Revd Dr Craig Gardiner, a tutor at Cardiff Baptist College.

Good morning. This week we brought down the last box of Christmas decorations from the loft, to finish our festive decorating. Tucked in behind it was a set of sparkly angel wings held together with elastic. I remember when our children were young enough to wear them in the school nativity, and light enough for me to lift them in the air pretending they could fly.

Those days are gone now, but angels seem to have stayed around. At Christmas time there are angel lights and decorations for the tree. There are angels in the nativity, saying 'Don't be afraid' to Mary and Joseph and the priest called Zechariah, and 'sing, choirs of angels', they're with the shepherds on the hill as well.

We might imagine them to be quite cutesy, child friendly beings with an eternally welcoming smile, or if we take the scriptures more literally, they might be seen as more austere and frightening in appearance. Would we know one if we saw them?

Perhaps we would, and maybe we would even be afraid, but I've always been more fascinated with that part of the Bible that talks about 'entertaining angels unawares', meeting them without ever recognising who they are. These angels are probably not heavenly beings at all, but down-to-earth human strangers who come seeking our help. They are easy to miss, to ignore or even to blame for all our problems, but these angels bring with them a rare opportunity for us to welcome someone for the first time, a time to share with them something of what we have and who we are. These are precious moments, perhaps even more so because they bring the chance for us to say to another person: 'Do not be afraid - I'm here'.

God of the angels,  
Generous to all,  
Help us to hospitable and welcome and celebrate strangers with a meal or a room, or whatever is needed,  
So that all who are anxious today  
May no longer be afraid.  
Amen

#### THU 05:45 Farming Today (m0019tt)

The government's published an independent review into the management of protected sites on Dartmoor. Earlier this year, there was an almost complete breakdown in the relationship between farmers and commoners on Dartmoor and Natural England, the body that advises the government on the natural environment. Dartmoor National Park, around two thirds the size of Greater London, is classified as a European Special Area of Conservation and 62 percent of the area falls within Sites of Special Scientific Interest, but much land on those sites is in poor condition. We speak to a Dartmoor farmer and the Natural England's director for the south west.

We're all starting to think about our Christmas dinner vegetables, but there are warnings that prices could be higher in the shops this year. Storms and heavy rain have contributed to reported record low-yields of cauliflowers and broccolli in some areas. Meanwhile potatoes could be in shorter supply come the Spring. We report from a Cornish potato farm.

The government has announced applications are now open for a new £4 million pound Smaller Abattoir Fund. The fund is to enable abattoirs in England to improve productivity, enhance animal health and welfare, and will allow farmers to add value to their meat and encourage innovation. Abattoirs will be able to apply for funding of up to £60,000.

We've talking about rare native breeds all this week. Glyn Canol Old Farm near Welshpool in Powys is something of a rare farm because all its animals are rare breeds - from the goats and sheep to the chickens and cows. We find out why the farmers there have chosen rare breeds over commercial stock and whether rare breeds can be commercially viable.

Presenter = Caz Graham  
Producer = Anna Hill

#### THU 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b0378svz)

Wood Pigeon

Tweet of the Day is a series of fascinating stories about our British birds inspired by their calls and songs.

Michaela Strachan presents the wood pigeon. One of our most widespread birds, you can hear this song all year round; just about anywhere. The young are called squabs and along with seeds and green foliage, Wood Pigeons feed their chicks with "pigeon milk", a secretion from their stomach lining.

#### THU 06:00 Today (m0019tq)

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

#### THU 09:00 In Our Time (m0019tj8)

<p>Tiberius</p> <p>Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the Roman emperor Tiberius. When he was born in 42BC, there was little prospect of him ever becoming Emperor of Rome. Firstly, Rome was still a Republic and there had not yet been any Emperor so that had to change and, secondly, when his stepfather Augustus became Emperor there was no precedent for who should succeed him, if anyone. It somehow fell to Tiberius to develop this Roman imperial project and by some accounts he did this well, while to others his reign was marked by cruelty and paranoia inviting comparison with Nero.</p> <p>With</p> <p>Matthew Nicholls Senior Tutor at St. John's College, University of Oxford</p> <p>Shushma Malik Assistant Professor of Classics and Onassis Classics Fellow at Newnham College at the University of Cambridge</p> <p>And</p> <p>Catherine Steel Professor of Classics at the University of Glasgow</p> <p>Producer: Simon Tillotson</p> <p>Reading list:</p> <p>Edward Champlin, 'Tiberius the Wise' (Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte, 57.4, 2008)</p> <p>Alison E. Cooley, 'From the Augustan Principate to the invention of the Age of Augustus' (Journal of Roman Studies 109, 2019)</p> <p>Alison E. Cooley, The Senatus Consultum de Cn. Pisone Patre: text, translation, and commentary (Cambridge University Press, 2023)</p> <p>Eleanor Cowan, 'Tiberius and Augustus in Tiberian Sources' (Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte, 58.4, 2009)</p> <p>Cassius Dio (trans. C. T. Mallan), Roman History: Books 57 and 58: The Reign of Tiberius (Oxford University Press, 2020)</p> <p>Rebecca Edwards, 'Tacitus, Tiberius and Capri' (Latomus, 70.4, 2011)</p> <p>A. Gibson (ed.), The Julio-Claudian Succession: Reality and Perception of the Augustan Model (Brill, 2012), especially 'Tiberius and the invention of succession' by C. Vout</p> <p>Josephus (trans. E. Mary Smallwood and G. Williamson), The Jewish War (Penguin Classics, 1981)</p> <p>Barbara Levick, Tiberius the Politician (Routledge, 1999)</p> <p>E. O'Gorman, Tacitus' History of Political Effective Speech: Truth to Power (Bloomsbury, 2019)</p> <p>Velleius Paterculus (trans. J. C. Yardley and Anthony A. Barrett), Roman History: From Romulus and the Foundation of Rome to the Reign of the Emperor Tiberius (Hackett Publishing, 2011)</p> <p>R. Seager, Tiberius (2nd ed., Wiley-Blackwell, 2005)</p> <p>David Shotter, Tiberius Caesar (Routledge, 2005)</p> <p>Suetonius (trans. Robert Graves), The Twelve Caesars (Penguin Classics, 2007)</p> <p>Tacitus (trans. Michael Grant), The Annals of Imperial Rome (Penguin Classics, 2003)</p> <p><b>THU 09:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m0019jt)</b> Cold Therapy - with Michael Mosley</p> <p>Cold Therapy - Ep 4: Cold Water Swim</p> <p>There's a chill in the air as the winter months come around again. But the cold isn't always something to fight or guard against. With a little bit of care, you can invite the cold into your life - with real benefits for health and mood. In each episode of this new podcast series, Dr Michael Mosley uncovers the science behind a different way you can harness the power of the cold, alongside the very latest research and atmospheric sound design.</p> <p>In this episode, how cold water swimming can increase energy levels, boost your mood, reduce inflammation and might even improve your brain health.</p> <p>Guests:</p>	<p>Professor Giovanna Mallucci, Altos Labs Dr Heather Massey, Portsmouth University</p> <p>Series Producer, Sound Designer and Mix Engineer: Richard Ward Researcher: William Hornbrook Science Producer: Samantha Lewis Production Manager: Maria Simons Editor: Zoe Heron Specially composed music by Richard Atkinson (Mcasso) A BBC Studios production for BBC Sounds / BBC Radio 4.</p> <p><b>THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0019kb)</b> Mica Paris, Is Facebook dangerous for kids? Regretting your tattoos</p> <p>The National Crime Agency has warned parents that Facebook and Instagram are now a danger to children. That's after Meta, the parent company of the social media sites, made the decision to introduce encrypted messaging. The BBC's Technology Editor Zoe Kleinman and online safety expert John Carr join Emma Barnett to discuss.</p> <p>Bafta award-winning actor Sheridan Smith has said that she regrets the tattoos she's got and would never get another one done. It's a situation that a lot of people find themselves in. Letitia Mortimer, a London-based tattoo artist, talks to Emma about seeing plenty of people wanting to get their tattoos covered or removed over the years.</p> <p>Soul singer Mica Paris will headline an evening of gospel music on television, where she'll be joined by 10 gospel singers and a dynamic four-piece band to perform moving versions of various Christmas songs. She joins Emma live in the studio to give us a taste of what to expect on A Gospel Christmas and her new album.</p> <p>Two referenda to change Ireland's constitution regarding gender and family are to be held on International Women's Day next year. The amendments would broaden the definition of family beyond marriage in the constitution, and there would be reference to carers to recognise all those who provide care. Commentator Laura Perrins and academic and activist Ailbhe Smyth join Emma to discuss why the suggestions are potentially contentious.</p> <p>Presenter: Emma Barnett Producer: Lottie Garton</p> <p><b>THU 11:00 Crossing Continents (m0019kz)</b> Ukraine: Fighting for Openness</p> <p>As hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers defend their country against Russia, many patriotic civilians are engaged in a struggle that's less risky, but that they believe is also vital. They're battling for a fairer, less corrupt Ukraine, worthy of its heroes.</p> <p>For Crossing Continents, Tim Whewell follows one tireless citizens' group in the city of Dnipro as they continue, even in wartime, to hold local authorities to account. They've been investigating a contract to repair housing damaged in a Russian attack. And they claim there's been corrupt profiteering. But Dnipro's powerful mayor dismisses the allegations - and deliberately insults those who question his priorities. What's the role of civil society when rockets are falling? And can Ukraine - one of the world's more corrupt countries - pursue reform while the war continues?</p> <p>Produced and presented by Tim Whewell Fixer in Ukraine: Rostyslav Kubik Mixed by Neil Churchill Production coordinator: Gemma Ashman Series Editor: Penny Murphy</p> <p><b>THU 11:30 Great Lives (m0019lj)</b> [Repeat of broadcast at 16:30 on Tuesday]</p> <p><b>THU 12:00 News Summary (m0019ly)</b> The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.</p> <p><b>THU 12:04 You and Yours (m0019mc)</b> Gap Finders: Zip World co-founder Sean Taylor</p> <p>Does hurtling across a chasm at 100 miles per hour on a zip wire appeal to you? This Gap Finders guest, Zip World co-founder Sean Taylor, is responsible for hundreds of people each day doing just that. Sean founded the company in 2013 - it now employs over 850 people. He tells Winifred Robinson how his previous career in the Royal Marines - and travelling the world as a private bodyguard - prepared him for running a business; how he returned to the area he grew up in to launch Zip World - and whether you can admire the view of a national park from the world's fastest zip wire.</p>	<p>PRODUCER: TOM MOSELEY PRESENTER: WINIFRED ROBINSON</p> <p><b>THU 12:32 Sliced Bread (m001r7vs)</b> Sliced Bread - Weighted Blankets</p> <p>Do weighted blankets reduce stress and help you sleep better?</p> <p>They've gone from a middle-aisle fad to being a regular fixture in supermarkets and online stores. Weighted blankets can cost up to £200 and promise to give you a deeper, more restful sleep. But do they?</p> <p>Listener Theresa wanted to know about the science behind them. What is it about the 'deep touch' or 'deep pressure' stimulation that the manufacturers claim helps us to sleep? They're also often marketed as offering help with anxiety and autism. Listener Claire runs a support group for children with autism and is keen to know more, so I speak to the lead scientist of a big study into that. And listener Pauline wonders whether there are any health risks associated with weighted blankets?</p> <p>Once again this series we're testing and investigating your suggested wonder-products, so if you've seen an ad, trend or fad, and wonder if there's any evidence to back up a claim, drop us an email to sliced.bread@bbc.co.uk or you can send us a voice note to our WhatsApp number: 07543 306807.</p> <p>Presenter: Greg Foot Producer: Simon Hoban</p> <p><b>THU 12:57 Weather (m0019n4)</b> The latest weather forecast</p> <p><b>THU 13:00 World at One (m0019nj)</b> Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.</p> <p><b>THU 13:45 Empire of Tea (m0019nv)</b> A Nice Cup of Tea</p> <p>George Orwell described tea as "one of the mainstays of civilization in this country." But how did this foreign plant become so British? Sathnam Sanghera speaks to Orwell expert Jean Seaton, cultural historian Kate Teltcher, and ramblers with flasks of tea in the Peak District, to try and figure out how and why tea became a national obsession.</p> <p>Produced by Paul Martin for BBC Audio Wales</p> <p><b>THU 14:00 The Archers (m0019mp)</b> [Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]</p> <p><b>THU 14:15 Broken Colours (m0019ps)</b> Series 3</p> <p>Episode 3</p> <p>by Matthew Broughton.</p> <p>Jess and Dan are still on the run from the police and rival gangs. Blue Rider is getting close to finding Jess, and something's not right with Melissa. Dan goes in search of his mother.</p> <p>Jess.....Hollie Dempsey Dan.....Josef Altin Selena.....Brid Brennan Mandy.....Michelle Bonnard Melissa.....Kezrena James Anthony.....Tayla Kovacevic-Ebong Blue Rider.....Olivia Vinnal Producer.....Don Gilet</p> <p>Production Co-ordinator.... Lindsay Rees Sound Design.....Catherine Robinson and Nigel Lewis Director.....John Norton Producer... John Norton and Emma Harding</p> <p>A BBC Audio Drama Wales Production</p> <p><b>THU 15:00 Open Country (m0019pl)</b> Wintertide in Hartlepool</p> <p>Sally Rodgers from electronic musical duo 'A Man Called Adam' takes us to the Headland of Hartlepool to explore the landscape, culture and history which has inspired her music. As part of Wintertide Festival, the artists of the area have created installations, art and music inspired by their fishing heritage. We hear about the songs of the 'gutter girls' - women who gutted herring along the East Coast - which 'A Man Called Adam' have reworked into electronic soundscapes, to be played along the Wintertide Trail. Sally meets the curators and</p>
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creatives at work transforming the Headland and learns more about how industry and culture here have been shaped by the features of this coastline. As dusk falls, the Headland is lit up as the Wintertide Festival begins.

Produced by Helen Lennard

The Gutter Girls project was commissioned and funded for Wintertide Festival by Tees Valley Festivals Volunteering.

**THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m001tbqv)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

**THU 15:30 Open Book (m001t9px)**  
Ron Rash

Ron Rash on his new book, *The Caretaker*, set in rural Appalachia.

Plus, three years on from the first Covid Christmas - a look at the health of the publishing industry, with Dan Conway, CEO of the Publishers Association, and Philip Jones, Editor of *The Bookseller*.

And, as we approach the longest night of the year, AL Kennedy muses on the lure of writing at night.

Presenter: Johnny Pitts  
Producer: Emma Wallace

Photo Credit: Ron Rash by Daniel Dent

**THU 16:00 Rewinder (m001t9q9)**  
Trifle and Tripe and Tracy Island

Greg James dives into the BBC Archive to track down audio gems, using listener requests, overlooked anniversaries and current stories as inspiration.

This week, as Christmas approaches, Greg looks at the cost of Christmas dinner in years gone by, encountering a 24-year-old Jeremy Paxman tucking into turkey and trimmings in 1974. Fearful festive favourite Fanny Cradock takes out her troubles on a goose, as well as her long-suffering assistant Sarah, and Greg encounters a 1950s paean to tripe.

He also uncovers the national scandal that erupted when the BBC paid more than \$4 million for the rights to broadcast *The Sound of Music*, meanwhile delving into the history of the film - featuring archive interviews with Julie Andrews and the real Maria Von Trapp - and the staggering public reaction to it.

A listener request sends Greg into the nightmares of children as he seeks out *Sketch Club* from 1957, in which kids were invited to send in drawings of their dreams and nightmares. And he revisits some of Blue Peter's festive makes, from a cufflink box to an Advent crown (fetch the wire cutters!) and Anthea Turner's iconic Tracy Island.

Producer: Tim Bano

**THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (m001t9qq)**  
Biggest COP in history

COP 28, the largest climate summit in history, has drawn to a close. Marnie Chesterton examines some of the main stories to emerge from this lengthy conference.

The way we look after our oceans, measures needed to ensure food security and an agreement to transition away from fossil fuel dependence were some of the big themes of the summit.

The BBC's climate reporter Georgina Rannard takes us through the final agreement.

We hear from Glada Lahn, senior research fellow at international affairs think-tank Chatham House, who explains how we might one day wean ourselves off so-called 'brown energy'.

Farming is also a source of greenhouse gases. Growing, processing and packaging food account for a third of all greenhouse gas emissions. How we feed the 8.1 billion of us on the planet continues to be a contentious issue. Casper Chater from Royal Botanic Gardens Kew explains what we can do to adapt our existing crops to cope with more frequent flood and drought events.

Oceans are warming, losing oxygen and acidifying. Sea levels are rising. We speak to Ko Barrett, a senior climate advisor at the US's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, about the role oceans have played so far in helping us mitigate the worse effects of climate change. And we meet Mervina Paueli, a 25-year-old Tuvaluan negotiator, whose small

archipelago in the South Pacific is on the frontline.

Presenter: Marnie Chesterton  
Producers: Louise Orchard, Hannah Robins and Harrison Lewis  
Editor: Richard Collings  
Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

BBC Inside Science is produced in collaboration with the Open University.

**THU 17:00 PM (m001t9r1)**

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

**THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m001t9rd)**

EU leaders agreed to start talks despite threats from Hungary to veto the decision

**THU 18:30 Ken Cheng: I Can School You (m001t9rs)**  
1. Solving a Problem like Maths

Comedian Ken Cheng focuses his analytical observations on school subjects. In the first of the series, Ken explores Maths, the subject that he loved until it broke him. Ken looks into popular disdain of Maths, and offers up his answers on how we turn around its public image.

Producer: Rajiv Karia  
An EcoAudio certified production.

It is a BBC Studios production for Radio 4.

**THU 19:00 The Archers (m001t9ns)**

Ian and Adam are at Xander's Nativity play, when Ian notices some people staring at them. Ian thinks it's because they are the only same-sex couple in the room and goes to confront them. When Ian returns, he tells Adam that a group of people recognised him from his pizza van. Once the performance has finished, Adam and Ian talk about how proud they are of Xander, and marvel at his singing voice.

Lynda catches Jakob at the Vets to ask him about his rehearsal schedule as director. When Jakob tells her there won't be one and that he'll let people get on with it themselves, Lynda is horrified. She waits for him all afternoon and collars him once his last client has left. Lynda tries to get Jakob to reconsider his plans, but he waves her concerns away.

Justin tries to win back Lillian's affection with presents and a dinner at a fancy restaurant, but she tells him this isn't something he can fix with money. She goes on to say that he hurt her, and she needs him to accept that he's caused real damage. Lillian accepts that she made a mistake by not being straight with Shula, but never in a million years did she think it would be Justin who would expose her. Lillian tells him if the situation was reversed she would not have sabotaged him like that. Lillian's going to spend Christmas away with Leonie and James. Lillian needs some space to decide whether there is a future for her and Justin.

**THU 19:15 Front Row (m001t9sh)**

Live magazine programme on the worlds of arts, literature, film, media and music

**THU 20:00 The Briefing Room (m001t9km)**

What can the UK learn from other countries about assisted dying?

Euthanasia is illegal in the UK. All attempts to change the law have failed.

Other countries have legalised assisted dying and/or euthanasia. In this week's Briefing Room with David Aaronovitch we find out what their experience has been and what, if anything, the UK could learn from that.

Joining David on the programme are:

- Imogen Goold, professor of medical law at University of Oxford
- Agnes van der Heide, Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam
- Thaddeus Pope, Professor, Health Law Institute, Mitchell Hamline School of Law (Minnesota, USA)
- Richard Huxtable, professor of medical ethics and law at the University of Bristol

Production: Kirsteen Knight and Alex Lewis  
Production co-ordinators: Jacqui Johnson and Gemma Ashman  
Sound: James Beard  
Editor: Richard Vardon

**THU 20:30 Intrigue (m001t9sz)**

Million Dollar Lover – Ep 4: Rewards of Love

One of the consequences of the family falling out about Dave is that Carolyn has decided to take back control of her bank accounts from her daughter, Sally, who had always helped her Mum in the past. Carolyn's daughters fear that she will start giving money to Dave and that there is nothing they can do about it.

In the early days of the relationship, the daughters had got Carolyn and Dave to sign a legal agreement protecting her money and properties. But now they fear that the pair have effectively ripped up that agreement, which they are perfectly entitled to do. Could this be the start of the nightmare scenario they have been dreading ever since Dave moved into the family home?

There is a childlike quality in Carolyn when it comes to Dave that does make her vulnerable. She guards him as if he is some kind of rare treasure and when he is out late drinking with friends, she sometimes sets out in the dark to find him. Her neighbour Marie, who cares for more than a dozen wealthy old women in Cayucos, says it is something she sees a lot.

Marie has warned Carolyn about Dave, but to no avail. The story captured the attention of the BBC Journalist Sue Mitchell, as it was unfolding on her street. She spends a lot of time in California; she married an American and her award-winning journalism has been about the lives of people like Dave who inhabit the dangerous margins of society.

Is Dave really a tender carer who will cherish Carolyn to the end as he promises, or is he a dangerous interloper who will fleece Carolyn – breaking her heart and her family?

Million Dollar Lover is produced at BBC Audio by the team behind *The Boy in the Woods* and is presented by Sue Mitchell.

The series is scripted by Winifred Robinson; the producers are Sue Mitchell and Joel Moors; the dramaturg is Flo Dessau and sound design is by Tom Brignell

**THU 21:00 BBC Inside Science (m001t9qq)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:30 today]

**THU 21:30 In Our Time (m001t9j8)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m001t9tj)**

Inside Putin's marathon press conference

President Putin says Russia's war aims have not changed - in a four-hour press conference. We get the account of our Russia Editor who was in the room.

Mr Putin also raised the prospect of releasing the Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and another detained American, Paul Whelan. We hear from Mr Whelan's sister about her efforts to get him released.

Also on the programme:

A group of British men are the first in the world to test a new male contraceptive pill. We speak to the professor running the trial.

And a Premier League match will be refereed by a woman for the first time - we hear about that pioneering referee, Rebecca Welch.

**THU 22:45 The Happy Couple by Naoise Dolan (m001t9tx)**  
Episode 4

A sparky comedic exploration of modern love and millennial malaise from the Irish author Naoise Dolan. As read by Seána Kerslake ('Bad Sisters').

Celine (a pianist) and her boyfriend Luke (a serial cheater) are to be married. However, on the night of their engagement party, Luke disappears with Celine's ex-girlfriend...

Phoebe (the bridesmaid and Celine's sister) just wants to get to the bottom of Luke's frequent unexplained disappearances.

Archie (the best man) should be moving on from his love for Luke and up the corporate ladder, but he finds himself utterly stuck.

And Vivian (a wedding guest) is the only one with enough emotional distance to offer something resembling good advice.

As the wedding approaches and these five lives intersect, past lovers, old friends and new enemies will search for their happily ever after — but does it lie at the end of an aisle?



## The Author

Naiose Dolan is an Irish writer born in Dublin. Her debut novel 'Exciting Times' was a Sunday Times bestseller. She has been short-listed and long-listed for several prizes, including the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Dylan Thomas Prize, and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award.

Reader: Seána Kerslake  
Author: Naiose Dolan  
Abridger: Rowan Routh  
Producer: Michael Shannon  
Executive Editor: Andy Martin

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**THU 23:00 The Today Podcast (m00119v5)**

Is Putin in danger of winning in Ukraine?

Ukraine is back in the news with Vladimir Putin holding his first press conference since the outbreak of war. But in the last few weeks the story has fallen from the top of the news agenda – with many of The Today Podcast listeners emailing to ask why.

Amol and Nick explain – and talk to Yale University historian Professor Timothy Snyder, one of the world's leading experts in Russian and Ukrainian history. He joins them to talk through the danger to the world if Putin prevails.

Episodes of The Today Podcast land every Thursday and watch out for bonus episodes. Subscribe on BBC Sounds to get Amol and Nick's take on the biggest stories of the week, with insights from behind the scenes at the UK's most influential radio news programme.

If you would like a question answering, get in touch by sending us a message or voice note via WhatsApp to +44 330 123 4346 or email us Today@bbc.co.uk

The Today Podcast is hosted by Amol Rajan and Nick Robinson, both presenters of BBC Radio 4's Today programme, the UK's most influential radio news programme. Amol was the BBC's media editor for six years and is the former editor of the Independent, he's also the current presenter of University Challenge. Nick has presented the Today programme since 2015, he was the BBC's political editor for ten years before that and also previously worked as ITV's political editor.

The senior producer is Tom Smithard, the producer is Rufus Gray. The editors are Jonathan Aspinwall and Louisa Lewis. The executive producer is Owenna Griffiths. Studio direction from Jack Graysmark.

**THU 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00119vf)**

Alicia McCarthy reports as MPs question the Energy Minister about the COP28 summit.

**FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2023****FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m00119vn)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 00:30 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m00119jt)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 on Thursday]

**FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m00119vy)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m00119w7)**

World Service

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**FRI 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m00119wk)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 05:30 News Briefing (m00119wy)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m00119x9)**

A reflection and prayer to start the day with the Revd Dr Craig Gardiner, a tutor at Cardiff Baptist College.

Good morning. I remember this day back in 1993: approaching Christmas with songs of 'peace on earth and goodwill to all', I watched the British Prime-minister John Major and the Irish Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds sign the Downing Street

Declaration. I'd grown up in the violence of what were euphemistically called 'The Troubles' of Ireland, and this felt like a genuine move towards peace.

The initial political reception was far from euphoric. And it took months for the paramilitary factions to bring an end to the violence. And even then, it did not last. The ceasefire broke as old hurts, along with old habits die hard.

But as Martin Luther King reminds us, 'the arc of the universe may be long, but it does bend towards justice' and just a few years later the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 moved people further on a journey towards reconciliation. Of course, the old hurts still linger, but at least new habits were being found.

The long walk towards any sort of peace is full of false starts and dead-ends and stumbling blocks. Whether it is peace between nations, between religions or within our family tensions, the trouble can often seem too big to bear and our hopes can grow too small. But perseverance, is a virtue much valued in the Christian tradition. When Jesus teaches the disciples to pray, he encourages them to ask God, and to keep on asking, seek God and keep on seeking and you shall find, knock and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you.

God, we pray this day  
that doors of peace and good will to all  
would be flung open wide:  
between nations, and faiths and in families too:  
but if this does not all come to pass  
then we will ask  
and seek  
and knock again tomorrow.  
Amen

**FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m00119xr)**

The Government launches its plan to protect 30% of land in England for the environment by 2030, but the NFU is concerned about the impact on farmers.

A community deer-stalking scheme in Scotland could become a template for more initiatives.

We're looking at rare breeds all this week, and today we hear how the Welsh Government's Sustainable Farming Scheme is proposing to encourage and support people interested in farming with rare breeds.

Presented by Anna Hill and produced by Beatrice Fenton.

**FRI 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b03k72zr)**

Starling

Tweet of the Day is a series of fascinating stories about our British birds inspired by their calls and songs.

David Attenborough presents the starling. Throughout autumn parties of starlings have been crossing the North Sea to join our resident birds and as winter's grip tightens they create one of Nature's best spectacles. These huge gatherings, sometimes a million or more strong, are called murmurations and they offer the birds safety in numbers.

**FRI 06:00 Today (m00119h4)**

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

**FRI 09:00 Desert Island Discs (m00119j1)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:15 on Sunday]

**FRI 09:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m00119kt)**

Cold Therapy - with Michael Mosley

Cold Therapy - Ep 5: Sleep and the Cold

There's a chill in the air as the winter months come around again. But the cold isn't always something to fight or guard against. With a little bit of care, you can invite the cold into your life - with real benefits for health and mood. In each episode of this new podcast series, Dr Michael Mosley uncovers the science behind a different way you can harness the power of the cold, alongside the very latest research and atmospheric sound design.

In this final episode, how keeping a colder bedroom can lead to better, deeper sleep - and how our sleep is affected by the changing climate.

Guests:  
Kathryn Reid, research professor, Centre for Circadian and Sleep Medicine at Northwestern University, Illinois.  
Dr. Nick Obradovich, Laureate Institute for Brain Research,

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Series Producer, Sound Designer and Mix Engineer: Richard Ward  
Researcher: William Hornbrook  
Science Producer: Samantha Lewis  
Production Manager: Maria Simons  
Editor: Zoe Heron  
Specially composed music by Richard Atkinson (Mcasso)  
A BBC Studios production for BBC Sounds / BBC Radio

**FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m00119k1)**

Kinship care, Shane MacGowan's widow Victoria Mary Clarke, 'Red White and Blue', Lora Logic

The government is today unveiling the first ever national Kinship Care strategy, aiming to bring more awareness and more money to family members looking after children that aren't theirs. Kinship care is when a child lives full time, or most of the time, with a relative, be it grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, or someone in the wider family network, because their own parents can't care for them. Anita talks to David Johnston, the Under Secretary of State for Children, Families and Wellbeing at the Department of Education about the new strategy.

Shane MacGowan, the legendary songwriter and frontman with The Pogues, died on 30th November. As the classic Christmas anthem Fairy Tale of New York reaches number one in Ireland, Anita speaks to his widow, Victoria Mary Clarke about their life together, his music, his addictions and his legacy.

It has been a year and a half since Roe vs Wade was overturned in the United States, ending the constitutional nationwide right to abortion for millions of women. It remains an issue that divides opinion. Anita talks to the British writer Nazrin Choudhury, the director of a new short film on the subject: 'Red White and Blue,' follows the character Rachel Johnson, a single mother in a precarious financial position, who is forced to cross state lines from Arkansas in search of an abortion.

Musician Lora Logic was the woman behind the iconic saxophone that was a part of the British Punk-Rock band X-Ray Spex. After almost 30 years, the band are re-releasing their second album, Conscious Consumer. Lora joins Anita to talk about the album, what she's up to now and what lead singer Poly Styrene would have thought of the re-release.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Rebecca Myatt  
Studio manager: Sue Maillot

**FRI 11:00 The Briefing Room (m00119km)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Thursday]

**FRI 11:30 Disordered (m00119l6)**

Series 1

Episode 2- Light, Dark, Light

A comedy drama, written by Magnus Mackintosh, and starring Jamie Sives as Hector, an optimistic but struggling 42-year-old single father, with long-term mental health issues, who lives in Edinburgh with his unusually bright 10-year-old son William. He is aided by kindly friend and neighbour Susan and hindered by acerbic ex-partner Amanda.

In episode two, Light, Dark, Light, Hector is frustrated in his attempts to restore his benefits by his terminally unsympathetic benefits advisor and winds up dealing with loan sharks and even somebody helpful before finally the lights go out on him and William. Hector then gets his hands on some cash from an unlikely source, and, as ever, neighbour Susan and William are on hand with plenty good advice.

The writer, Magnus Mackintosh, has personally struggled with mental health issues over 27 years. He openly discusses his own mental health issues on social media in the hope he can help others and raise awareness.

Cast  
Hector- Jamie Sives  
Susan- Rosalind Sydney  
Amanda- Gail Watson  
William- Raffi Phillips  
Thresher/Bert- Steven McNicoll  
Advisor/Check out Person- Jenny Ryan  
Gabriel- Moray Hunter  
Dodgy- Gordon Kennedy

Studio Engineer and Editor- Lee McPhail  
Production Manager- Tayler Norris  
Title Music- Just Breated by Police Dog Hogan  
Produced and Directed by Moray Hunter and Gordon Kennedy

Recorded at Castlesound Studios, Pencaitland, East Lothian

An Absolutely production for BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 12:00 News Summary (m001t9mm)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 12:04 AntiSocial (m001t9m9)**

The National Anthem

Bristol University has dropped the national anthem from some of its graduation ceremonies, sparking a discussion about the song's relevance to students and the merits of the national anthem more broadly. The university made the change in 2020 and will now sing 'God Save the King' at just two ceremonies a year, when a representative of the royal family attends. So why has it sparked a heated discussion this week? Some say the national anthem is too focused on the monarch, which represents an outdated way of running the state and reminds us of a problematic past. Others say it's an important tradition, we have much to be proud of and there is too much snobbishness about displaying national pride. Our panel discuss their views and we consider what a new anthem might sound like. We hear that the anthem originates from a turbulent time for the monarchy. Pollsters at More in Common explain that a small group of the population that are most likely to dislike the monarchy are also the most likely to write political social media posts, giving them a disproportionate say in the debate.

**FRI 12:57 Weather (m001t9mq)**

The latest weather forecast

**FRI 13:00 World at One (m001t9n1)**

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment.

**FRI 13:45 Empire of Tea (m001t9ng)**

Tea or Coffee?

After nine episodes on tea, it's time for coffee. Sathnam Sanghera meets up with Phil Withington of Sheffield University to find out why coffee failed to take off in Britain in the way that tea did. And he discusses what coffee's resurgence in the 21st Century means for tea, with Sebastian Michaelis of Tetley.

Produced by Paul Martin for BBC Audio Wales

**FRI 14:00 The Archers (m001t9ns)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

**FRI 14:15 Limelight (m001t9p4)**

English Rose - Series 2

English Rose - 3: Transylvania

By Helen Cross.

Rose won't survive 'the Old Land'. Her Mam means Transylvania.

So when Rose arrives at a picturesque town in the shadow of the Carpathian Mountains, she's on high alert.

Rose's arrival is a nasty surprise for Siobhan too. She wants to go home, yes, but not in a body bag. And if Austin's 'reappeared' here, then Rose has to be ready for a fight.

Stylish and surprising fantasy horror with a comic twist, starring Alexandra Mardell (Coronation Street) and Demetri Goritsas (Ten Percent).

With music by Dana Margolin and Sam Yardley of Mercury-nominated band, Porridge Radio.

Helen Cross wrote 'My Summer of Love' which won a Betty Trask award and was made into a Bafta-winning film with Emily Blunt (recently rated her best film in The Guardian top ten Emily Blunt films). Mary Ward-Lowery won Best Director in 2020 Audio Drama Awards.

Rose ... Alexandra Mardell  
Maya ... Miranda Braun  
Austin ... Demetri Goritsas  
Siobhan ... Deirdre Mullins  
Delphine ... Yasemin Ozdemir  
Mam ... Jane Thornton  
Jack ... Tyler Cameron  
Gym owner ... Don Gilet  
Dakota ... Rhiannon Needs  
Alina ... Kitty O'Sullivan  
Englishman ... Martin Bongor  
Angry Man ... Douglas Hodgson  
Gully ... Bruce Casswell

Original music written and performed by Dana Margolin and Sam Yardley of Porridge Radio.

Sound design by Ilse Lademann and Mary Ward-Lowery

Assistant Producer ... Alison Crawford  
Director ... Mary Ward-Lowery

**FRI 14:45 Multitrack (m001t9ph)**

Somali Funk - A Story of Sonic Resistance

First time Producer Sagal Hersi's chance encounter with some funk music from her parents time in Somalia sparks a journey to discover how it was used to unite and strengthen the movement for change in Somalia in the 70s and 80s.

Often frustrating, the messy story reveals much but leaves Sagal with perhaps more questions than answers.

This short documentary could not have been made without Multitrack a charity set up with the aim of making the Audio industry more inclusive and accessible. Sagal, who made the programme, undertook the Multitrack Fellowship and this programme is the culmination of that course.

The music for this short documentary came from 'Sweet as Broken Dates: Lost Somali Tapes from the Horn of Africa' on Ostinato Records and 'Volume 5' on Awesome Tapes From Africa

Written Presented and Produced by Sagal Hersi

Edited by Leon Chambers

Music by kind permission of Ostinato Records and Awesome Tapes From Africa

Executive Producer: Gordon Kennedy

An Absolutely production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m001t9pt)**

Wildmoor Heath

How do you successfully prolong the life of an orchid? What can I do to keep my indoor tropical plants in good condition during the winter? What plant do you consider to be overlooked and underrated?

Peter Gibbs is in Wildmoor Heath, Berkshire for this week's programme, with his panel of horticultural experts including garden designer Matthew Wilson, proud plantswoman Christine Walkden, and passionate plantsman Matthew Biggs.

Fitting with the recent cold weather, James Wong is joined by Head of Arboretum and Temperate Collections Tony Hall and Arboretum Supervisor Rebecca Lane, as they give him a tour of Kew Gardens' brand new Winter Gardens

Producer: Bethany Hocken

Assistant Producer: Rahnee Prescod

Executive Producer: Hannah Newton

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 15:45 Short Works (m001t9q6)**

Mudlarks

Seeking distraction from her work, a junior doctor looks to take up mudlarking on London's River Thames.

Sophie Haydock's debut novel, *The Flames* (2022), was about the four muses who posed for Egon Schiele in Vienna. Her second, *Madame Matisse*, will be published in 2024.

Writer: Sophie Haydock  
Reader: Bryony Hannah  
Producer: Jeremy Osborne

A Sweet Talk production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 16:00 Last Word (m001t9qj)**

Matthew Bannister on

The dub poet Benjamin Zephaniah who overcame childhood trauma to become an acclaimed performer and writer.

Laura Lean, who volunteered for the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, helping to support distressed families after The Grenfell Tower fire and greeting Afghan evacuees.

Stacy Marking, one of the first women directors in documentary television whose work focused on social issues.

Eric Freeman, the Gloucestershire farmer who played a key role in saving the county's rare breeds of cattle, sheep and pigs.

Interviewee: Qian Zephaniah

Interviewee: Neil Astley

Interviewee: Dot Newman

Interviewee: Adam Henson

Interviewee: Clifford Freeman  
Interviewee: Havana Marking

Producer: Gareth Nelson-Davies

Archive Used:

Benjamin Zephaniah performance of Dis Poetry, BBC Radio 1, 05/06/1984; Benjamin Zephaniah, To Do Wild Me (trailer), Blood Axe Books, director: Pamela Robertson-Pearce, Uploaded 17/02/2013; Benjamin Zephaniah interview, Desert Island Discs, BBC Radio 4, 13/06/1997; Benjamin Zephaniah, I Luv Me Mudder, Benjamin Zephaniah Orchard Enterprises, YouTube uploaded 08/11/2014; Benjamin Zephaniah - What has Stephen Lawrence Taught Us?, AKL Concepts, YouTube, Uploaded 16/02/2012; Laura Lean interview, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry; fany.org.uk; 2022; Princess Alice inspects First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Unit and donated ambulances (1940), British Pathe, British Pathe YouTube channel, uploaded 11/11/2020; Eric Freeman interviews courtesy of Vernon Harwood, Eric Freeman. Auction Memories. Farming Today, BBC Radio 4, 17/04/2017; Eric Freeman Future of Rare Breeds. On Your Farm, BBC Radio 4 03/03/2013; Gloucester Cattle. Country Matters, BBC Radio Gloucestershire 19/05/2013; Wassail. Country Matters, BBC Radio Gloucestershire 14/01/2007;

**FRI 16:30 Feedback (m001t9qx)**

Historian Dr Mary Beard on her first series for BBC Radio 4, *Being Roman*

How often do you think about the Romans? Historian Dr Mary Beard speaks with Andrea Catherwood on her new series for BBC Radio 4 *'Being Roman'*

BBC Radio 4 recently released the latest series of *The Lovecraft Investigations* – based on the occult writer HPLovecraft's stories. Many Listeners told us how unsettling they were. Feedback's Special Correspondent Rob Crossan investigates the enduring appeal of audio horror.

And we're almost at the end of year of cuts and changes to BBC Local Radio in England, which has left some listeners worried that the spirit of Christmas won't sound the same this year, and there'll be a lack of local companionship. We hear some of your comments.

Producer: Gerry Cassidy

Presenter: Andrea Catherwood

A Whistledown Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 17:00 PM (m001t9r8)**

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

**FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m001t9s2)**

The High Court ruled the Duke of Sussex was the victim of phone hacking

**FRI 18:30 Dead Ringers (m001t9sj)**

Christmas Specials 2023

Episode 1

Topical comedy as everyone's favourite impressions show returns ... with a festive twist.

This episode features the Rwanda migrant crisis, Tory factionalism, Sir Keir Starmer's latest policy and troubling times for The Wombles.

This week's impressionists are Jon Culshaw, Lewis MacLeod, Jan Ravens, Jess Robinson and Duncan Wisbey.

This episode was written by: Nev Fountain & Tom Jamieson, Laurence Howarth, Ed Amsden & Tom Coles, Edward Tew, Robert Darke, Peter Tellouche, Sophie Dickson, Rachel E Thorn and Jo Topping.

Sound Design for the series by Rich Evans

Produced and created by Bill Dare.

**FRI 19:00 The Archers (m001t9t5)**

WRITER: Sarah McDonald Hughes  
DIRECTOR: Jeremy Howe

Brian Aldridge.... Charles Collingwood  
Ben Archer.... Ben Norris  
David Archer.... Timothy Bentinck  
Pip Archer.... Daisy Badger  
Tony Archer .... David Troughton  
Lilian Bellamy .... Sunny Ormonde  
Leonard Berry .... Paul Copley

Alice Carter .... Hollie Chapman  
 Harry Chilcott .... Jack Ashton  
 Ian Craig .... Stephen Kennedy  
 Justin Elliott .... Simon Williams  
 Jakob Hakansson..... Paul Venables  
 Joy Horville .... Jackie Lye  
 Paul Mack .... Joshua Riley  
 Adam Macy .... Andrew Wincott  
 Freddie Pargetter .... Toby Laurence  
 Lily Pargetter .... Katie Redford  
 Stella Pryor .... Lucy Speed  
 Lynda Snell .... Carole Boyd

**FRI 19:15 Screenshot (m0019tk)**

Terence Davies

Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode celebrate the life and career of the much-loved Liverpoolian screenwriter and director Terence Davies, who died earlier in 2023 at the age of 77.

From an astonishing trilogy of early short films, to his final feature, 2021's *Benediction*, Terence Davies seamlessly blended personal recollections with wider essential truths. His subjects ranged from autobiographically inspired portraits of postwar working-class life in Liverpool in films like *Distant Voices Still Lives* and *The Long Day Closes*, to intimate portraits of real-life authors, most remarkably the American poet Emily Dickinson in *A Quiet Passion*.

Mark speaks to Scottish actor Jack Lowden, who played poet Siegfried Sassoon in *Benediction*, about his relationship with Davies. He also talks to critic and historian Lillian Crawford about why the director's work resonates so deeply for so many.

And Ellen discusses Davies' relationship to his hometown with two fellow Scousers - author and screenwriter Frank Cottrell-Boyce, and actor Tina Malone, who starred in *The Long Day Closes*.

Producer: Jane Long  
 A Prospect Street production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m0019tw)**

Sir Ed Davey MP, Sherelle Jacobs, Darren Jones MP, Rebecca Pow MP

Alex Forsyth presents political discussion from Stonehenge Visitor Centre in Wiltshire with the Leader of the Liberal Democrats Sir Ed Davey MP, columnist at *The Daily Telegraph* Sherelle Jacobs, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury Darren Jones MP and Environment Minister Rebecca Pow MP.

Producer: Camellia Sinclair  
 Lead broadcast engineer: Tim Allen

**FRI 20:50 A Point of View (m0019v4)**

Dearly Beloved

In a pew in Edwin Lutyens' ecclesiastical masterpiece, *St Jude on the Hill* in North London, Will Self ponders the contemporary power of the sermon.

'Dearly Beloved,' he begins, as he explains the appeal of a good sermon!

And he reminds us that 'the sermon was instituted, in part, to correct the fake news of an age before the media that now disseminate it.'

Producer: Adele Armstrong  
 Sound: Peter Boshier  
 Production coordinator: Gemma Ashman  
 Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

**FRI 21:00 Empire of Tea (m0019vd)**

Omnibus: episodes 6-10

Tea arrived in Britain as an exotic product for the elite. How and why did it then become a drink for the masses? *Empire of Tea* tells the story of how Britain's national drink was pushed by imperialists and helped shape the modern world.

Produced by Paul Martin for BBC Audio Wales

**FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m0019vl)**

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

**FRI 22:45 The Happy Couple by Naoise Dolan (m0019vv)**  
 Episode 5

A sparky comedic exploration of modern love and millennial malaise from the Irish author Naoise Dolan. As read by Seána Kerslake ('Bad Sisters').

Celine (a pianist) and her boyfriend Luke (a serial cheater) are to be married. However, on the night of their engagement party, Luke disappears with Celine's ex-girlfriend...

Phoebe (the bridesmaid and Celine's sister) just wants to get to the bottom of Luke's frequent unexplained disappearances.

Archie (the best man) should be moving on from his love for Luke and up the corporate ladder, but he finds himself utterly stuck.

And Vivian (a wedding guest) is the only one with enough emotional distance to offer something resembling good advice.

As the wedding approaches and these five lives intersect, past lovers, old friends and new enemies will search for their happily ever after — but does it lie at the end of an aisle?

The Author

Naoise Dolan is an Irish writer born in Dublin. Her debut novel 'Exciting Times' was a Sunday Times bestseller. She has been short-listed and long-listed for several prizes, including the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Dylan Thomas Prize, and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award.

Reader: Seána Kerslake  
 Author: Naoise Dolan  
 Abridger: Rowan Routh  
 Producer: Michael Shannon  
 Executive Editor: Andy Martin

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**FRI 23:00 Americast (m0019w3)**

Beto on the Border: Ex Presidential Candidate on the US Immigration Crisis

In a week dominated by legal cases, the team takes you into the virtual Americast courtroom to dissect the various trials involving Donald Trump and Rudy Giuliani.

Sarah's back from her trip to the US/Mexico border and tells us how it relates to a funding deadlock in Congress for support to Ukraine.

One person who lives on that border is former presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke. He dials in to chat about how the deadlock can be broken and enters his own predictions into the Americast time capsule...

HOSTS:

- Sarah Smith, North America editor
- Justin Webb, Radio 4 presenter
- Marianna Spring, disinformation and social media correspondent
- Anthony Zurcher, North America correspondent

GUEST:

- Beto O'Rourke, Former Democrat presidential candidate

GET IN TOUCH:

- Join our online community: <https://discord.gg/qSrxqNcmRB>
- Send us a message or voice note via WhatsApp to +44 330 123 9480
- Email [Americast@bbc.co.uk](mailto:Americast@bbc.co.uk)
- Or use #Americast Find out more about our award-winning "undercover voters" here: [bbc.in/3lFddSF](http://bbc.in/3lFddSF).

This episode was made by George Dabby with Alix Pickles, Catherine Fusillo and Claire Betzer. The technical producer was Mike Regaard. The series producer is George Dabby. The senior news editor is Sam Bonham.

**FRI 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0019wg)**

Susan Hulme reports as MPs discuss the Rwanda Bill, threats to our security and vital minerals