

**SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 2025****SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m0027531)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 00:30 The History Podcast (m001z6sh)**

Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 5. All That Glitters

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera

Series Producer: John Murphy

Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)

Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison

Series Editor: Penny Murphy

**SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0027533)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0027535)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**SAT 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0027537)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 05:30 News Briefing (m0027539)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002753c)**

Celebrating Trees

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Julia Neuberger

Good morning.

I was given a great honour this past New Year's Day. A Roman Catholic friend was celebrating her 50th birthday in Ireland, and she asked me to plant a tree that day, shortly before dusk, to mark the occasion and to be there long after she, and I, have departed this life. We Jews have a special New Year for Trees, Tu B'Shvat, which occurs in the middle of February this year. So it was a bit early for us, but the same principle applies. We plant trees, think about environmental issues, check any trees we already have growing for disease or infestation, and celebrate nature. And when we plant the trees, we say a blessing. Some Jews say this: Blessed are you, our God, ruler of the universe, whose world lacks nothing and who made wonderful creations and beautiful trees for human beings to enjoy." But, typically amongst Jews, others disagree, and say: "Blessed are you, God, ruler of the universe, who makes all the works of creation," a sort of catch all.

Everyone agrees that you finish with the blessing known as the shehecheyanu, which we say whenever reaching any special occasion. It goes like this. Baruch attah Adonai, eloheinu melech haolam, shehecheyanu, ve-kiyemanu ve-higianu lazman hazeh. "Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, preserved us and allowed us to reach this season." I love that blessing. It expresses both gratitude and hope, it celebrates something new- a birthday, a special occasion, a tree planting- and it echoes down the generations for us Jews, and it can be shared by everyone, of whatever faith. For we can all say thankyou to God, for allowing to reach this season.

Thankyou.

Amen.

**SAT 05:45 Why Do We Do That? (m0027520)**

Series 2

1. Why do we gossip?

It can be the source of drama that ruins reputations or simply keeps you entertained during your lunch break. But is gossip ingrained in our nature? Anthropologist Ella Al-Shamahi digs into our evolutionary history to uncover the truth behind this age-old human habit. Joining her are Kelsey McKinney from the Normal Gossip podcast and anthropologist Dr. Nicole

Hagen Hess, as they unravel the origins of this sometimes controversial behaviour. Could gossip be the social glue that binds us together, or is it just another weapon in our ongoing competition for status?

BBC Studios Audio

Producer: Emily Bird

Additional production: Olivia Jani and Geraldine Fitzgerald

Executive Producer: Alexandra Feachem

**SAT 06:00 News and Papers (m0027cqn)**

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

**SAT 06:07 Rambblings (m00274yh)**

60-60-60 in the Southern Pentlands

Clare Balding is celebrating a listener's birthday today. Not something we've done before, but when we heard that Lynda Pettit was marking her 60th birthday by walking 60 different routes with 60 different people, and that the idea was partly inspired by Rambblings, well we just had to join in, especially as it's Clare's 25th year on Rambblings (double celebrations!). Lynda and several friends took Clare for a hike on the Stoney Path walk in the Pentland Hills near West Linton, about 20 miles south of Edinburgh.

They met outside The Gordon Arms Hotel on the A702 and went up into the southern Pentlands. It's a route that takes in the Old Roman road that heads up to Edinburgh; Stoney Path, also known as Thieves Road, an ancient droving track used by cattle reivers herding stolen livestock through the hills; and Baddingsgill Reservoir. They also ascended Mount Maw, catching sight of a beautiful cloud inversion on the way. Views from the top stretched around 80 miles to a snow-capped Ben Lomond, Scotland's most southerly Munro.

Presenter: Clare Balding

Producer: Karen Gregor

**SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m0027cqq)**

25/01/25 - Farming Today This Week: Inheritance tax, sheep scanning, neonics and US undocumented farmworkers

This week, the Government has refused emergency use of pesticides shown to harm pollinators for the first time.

What's the future for US agriculture if farm workers with no documents are deported?

And will the collective voice of the supermarkets make a difference on inheritance tax for farmers?

Presented by Caz Graham and produced by Beatrice Fenton.

**SAT 06:57 Weather (m0027cqs)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 07:00 Today (m0027cqy)**

Including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m0027cqx)**

Nadiya Hussain, Dr Kate Hays, Tim Sullivan, DJ Spooky

Cook, author, broadcaster and former Great British Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussain knows how to turn up the heat in the kitchen and how to quietly contemplate life. Her new book is a love letter to her food and her religion.

Dr Kate Hays helps us keep our cool under pressure, as the FA's performance psychologist currently working with the Lionesses, she's seen the highs and lows that sport has to offer.

Tim Sullivan is the film and tv writer turned crime author who has swapped My Little Pony for the criminal underworld in his DS Cross series.

All that plus the Inheritance Tracks of Radio 2 star, The Good Groove's DJ Spooky.

Presenters: Nikki Bedi and Jon Kay

Producer: Ben Mitchell

**SAT 10:00 You're Dead to Me (m0027cqz)**

Catherine de' Medici: the real Serpent Queen of France

Greg Jenner is joined in 16th-Century France by Dr Estelle Paranque and comedian Shaparak Khorsandi to learn all about controversial queen Catherine de' Medici.

Catherine's life was dramatic from the moment she was born: orphaned when she was just a few weeks old, she was brought

up by her uncle the Pope, and her childhood was shaped by the tumultuous politics of Renaissance Florence. At fourteen, she was married to the son of the king of France and shipped off to the French court, only to find herself involved in a literal ménage à trois with her teenage husband's older mistress. But after her husband became king – and even more so after he died and her sons ruled France – Catherine came into her power as queen and later queen mother. And through her children and the marriages she organised for them, Catherine's influence was even felt beyond the borders of France. She even corresponded with Tudor queen Elizabeth I!

This episode traces Catherine's tumultuous personal and political life from orphaned child to grandmother of Europe, exploring along the way the terror of the French Wars of Religion, and asking whether the dark legend of Catherine 'the serpent queen' is deserved, or whether she has been misunderstood by history.

If you're a fan of scheming queens, scandalous royal love affairs and dramatic religious conflicts, you'll love our episode on Catherine de' Medici.

If you want more from Shaparak Khorsandi, check out our episodes on Justinian and Theodora and the Ancient Olympics. And for more quality queens, listen to our episodes on Emma of Normandy and Eleanor of Aquitaine.

You're Dead To Me is the comedy podcast that takes history seriously. Every episode, Greg Jenner brings together the best names in history and comedy to learn and laugh about the past.

Hosted by: Greg Jenner

Research by: Hannah Cusworth

Written by: Emmie Rose Price-Goodfellow, Emma Nagouse, and Greg Jenner

Produced by: Emmie Rose Price-Goodfellow and Greg Jenner

Audio Producer: Steve Hankey

Production Coordinator: Ben Hollands

Senior Producer: Emma Nagouse

Executive Editor: James Cook

**SAT 10:30 What's Funny About... (m0027cr1)**

After Life

Peter Fincham and Jon Plowman are joined by Ricky Gervais to hear the inside story of how he made his hit sitcom, After Life.

Ricky talks about the decision to set a comedy against the backdrop of grief and loss, and how lucky he feels that audiences trust him to tell these difficult and complex stories. He tells us about the huge importance of music in After Life (and the equally huge line that was required in the budget to licence it all!). And he explains his decision to break with a habit of a lifetime and write a third series of one of his shows.

Producer: Owen Braben

An Expectation Entertainment production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 11:00 The Week in Westminster (m0027cr3)**

George Parker of the Financial Times assesses the latest developments at Westminster

Following the inauguration of Donald Trump George is joined by Sir Simon Fraser, the former permanent secretary at the Foreign Office and Chair of the Foreign Affairs think tank Chatham House, and Michael Gove, the former Conservative cabinet minister and now editor of the Spectator. They discuss the impact of the Trump on international politics.

As Rachel Reeves visits Davos for the World Economic Forum, George discusses the Chancellor's efforts to win business confidence with the director general of the CBI, Rain Newton-Smith, and the Head of Bloomberg Economics, Stephanie Flanders.

The teenager who murdered 3 young girls in Southport was sentenced this week. The question for many is what - if anything - can be done to stop this kind of tragedy happening in future? George discusses this with former Labour MP John Woodcock, who is now the crossbench peer Lord Walney. He is also the government's independent adviser on political violence and disruption

Following the temporary closure of Strangers' Bar in Parliament over an alleged spiking incident, George is joined by Francis Elliott, the Editor of the House Magazine, and Cat Eccles, the newly elected Labour MP for Stourbridge, to discuss the drinking culture at Westminster.

**SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m0027chp)**

Israel, Gaza and the ceasefire

Kate Adie present stories from Israel and Gaza, Syria, Denmark, Spain and Poland.

After a faltering start, the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas came into effect last Sunday. Fergal Keane has been reporting on the conflict from the outset and was on Israel's border with Gaza last weekend – here he reflects on the human cost of the war and what the future might hold.

Syrians have been embracing their new found freedoms since the fall of Bashar Al-Assad's regime last year. But, at the same time, the scale of Assad's intelligence and surveillance operation is now coming to light. Lina Sinjab retraces her own experiences of being arrested by Syria's secret police.

We visit the Danish town of Kalundborg – the main manufacturing centre for the weight loss drug Wegovy. Bob Howard paid a visit to find out more about life in a modern-day boom town

Climate change is posing a major challenge for wine producers across the world. Sophie Eastaugh travelled to Catalonia to find out how one of Spain's oldest family-run wine companies is looking to the past for answers.

80 years ago, Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi extermination camp. Events are being held this week to remember the 1.1m people, mainly Jews, who were murdered there. Amie Liebowitz, a descendant of two women held at the camp, reflects on a recent visit there.

Series Producer: Serena Tarling  
Editor: Richard Fenton Smith  
Production Coordinators: Katie Morrison & Sophie Hill

**SAT 12:00 News Summary (m0027cr5)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 12:04 Money Box (m0027chm)**  
State Pension Tax and Debt Relief Orders

Over 1.4 million pensioners unexpectedly received a tax bill last year, according to exclusive data shared with Money Box. The mutual life, pensions and investment firm Royal London says its research suggests more than two thirds of those who'd retired paid tax on their pension income last year. But, also, that 1 in 7 of those didn't expect to do so. Pensioners can pay tax on anything that counts as income if it goes over the personal tax free allowance of £12,570 a year. We'll discuss how that works.

A record number of people in England and Wales who were overwhelmed by their debts took out what is called a debt relief order last year. DROs freeze people's debts for 12 months and then write them off. They're a cheaper, more straightforward alternative to bankruptcy although there are serious financial implications and strict criteria about who can apply for them. We'll find out more about what's behind that rise.

Savings rates are still high but there's £300 billion in bank accounts earning nothing, what's behind that?

And, unexpected mobile and broadband mid-contract price rises are now banned after a change by the regulator. What does that mean?

Presenter: Paul Lewis  
Reporter: Dan Whitworth  
Researchers: Eimear Devlin and Jo Krasner  
Editor: Jess Quayle

(First broadcast 12pm Saturday 25th January 2025)

**SAT 12:30 The News Quiz (m002752d)**  
Series 116

The Donald and The Dons

This week on The News Quiz, Andy Zaltzman is joined by Andrew Maxwell, Val McDermid, Jay Lafferty and Stuart Mitchell to unpack the week's new stories. Recorded from the Gardyne Theatre in Dundee, the panel look into Donald Trump's first week of his second term, Prince Harry's legal victories, Scottish Health Minister Neil Gray's guinea excursions, and the honour of the Glaswegian accent.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Rebecca Bain, Cody Dahler, Alexandra Haddow and Peter Tellouche.

Producer: Rajiv Karia  
Executive Producer: Richard Morris  
Production Coordinator: Jodie Charman  
Sound Manager: Sean Kerwin  
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

A BBC Studios Audio Production for Radio 4  
An Eco-Audio certified Production

**SAT 12:57 Weather (m0027cr7)**  
The latest weather forecast

**SAT 13:00 News and Weather (m0027cr9)**  
The latest national and international news and weather reports from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (m002752i)**  
Mims Davies MP, Eluned Morgan MS, Rupert Soames, Sioned Williams MS

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from All Saints Church in Porthcawl with the shadow secretary of state for Wales, Mims Davies MP; Eluned Morgan MS, the First Minister of Wales; CBI chair Rupert Soames; and Sioned Williams MS, Plaid Cymru's social justice and early years spokesperson.

Producer: Paul Martin  
Lead broadcast engineer: Nick Ford

**SAT 14:00 Any Answers? (m0027crc)**  
Call Any Answers? to have your say on the big issues in the news this week.

**SAT 14:45 The Archers (m002752g)**  
Ben apologises again to Zainab for last night's takeaway incident. Zainab brushes it off – Ben should stop saying sorry all the time. Later Ben tries to track down Azra. He tells Zainab he's worried he might have got something wrong at work, oversharing his own mental health experience with a patient. Zainab recommends he doesn't beat himself up, but takes a step back. He did what he thought was right at the time, and no-one's been harmed. Ben thanks her for her wise words.

Vince continues his campaign to move in to Lower Loxley. Contrary to Elizabeth's claim that the private quarters are small, he reckons there's tons of room. Elizabeth counters good naturedly that she thought they'd resolved this. Vince accepts it and they change the subject. Elizabeth remarks she thinks Joy sounds a bit low – she's meeting her later for tea. As they banter contentedly Elizabeth admits to Vince that she loves him. Things are pretty near perfect right now and she doesn't want to spoil it. To cheer him up she presents Vince with the gift of a signet ring she'd been saving for their anniversary. She's very committed to him. Vince is delighted with it. Later, pleased for Elizabeth and Vince, Joy admits that she and Mick are struggling a bit. Having Rochelle around has changed the dynamic. But as Joy starts to open up her phone rings. The roof at the Felpersham panto venue has virtually collapsed. The show's off. Joy despairs – everything she does turns to disaster, and Elizabeth doesn't know the half of it.

**SAT 15:00 Drama on 4 (m00017kf)**  
The Plague

The Plague was adapted from the globally renowned novel La Peste by Albert Camus, and directed for radio by Neil Bartlett, based on his 2017 Arcola Theatre production and script. A disturbing, deeply relevant listen.

Bartlett's adaptation is the English language world radio premiere production of The Plague and focuses the story on five characters, using only words contained in the novel.

It is often said of La Peste - written in 1947 by the Nobel Prize winner for literature, Albert Camus - that the plague and the rats in his novel are an allegory for the rise of fascism across Europe. He always denied this. For us today, The Plague will have uncanny echoes of the pandemic, the restrictions and the moral dilemmas we are living through, as well as the rise of extremist ideology in many countries today.

Just like our current crisis, the characters in The Plague comprise heroes, selfless and selfish acts, those who shame themselves into changing, and those who do not and suffer the consequences once the plague has been conquered. Hope surfaces when there is talk of a serum but, with the arrival of the first attempts at a cure, who should be selected as the guinea pigs?

In an uncanny parallel, this drama about a community facing lockdown due to a deadly plague was recorded by actors, locked down in their own homes during our own pandemic. The scope of the production was not reduced as a result.

Cast:  
Doctor Rieux ..... Sara Powell  
Raymond Rambert .... Billy Postlethwaite  
Mr Cottard ..... Joe Alessi  
Jean Tarrou ..... Jude Aduwudike  
Mr Grand ..... Colin Hurley

Adapted for radio and directed by Neil Bartlett

Producer: Turan Ali

A Bona Broadcasting production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 16:00 Woman's Hour (m0027crf)**  
Weekend Woman's Hour: Felicity Jones, Ukraine's Zla Mavka, Author Kate Fagan, Adult sons at home, WSL record signing

Felicity Jones has been nominated for an Oscar and a BAFTA for her role in The Brutalist, in which she plays Erzsébet, a Hungarian journalist who emigrates to the US in the late 1950s to join her architect husband. She joined Anita Rani to discuss her portrayal of this complex character and the other memorable roles she's taken on, from Ruth Bader Ginsberg to Jane Wilde Hawking.

Zla Mavka is a non-violent all-female Ukrainian resistance group, fighting against Russian occupation. It spreads newsletters and shares experiences aiming to support others. Anita was joined by the Guardian's chief culture writer, Charlotte Higgins, who has spoken to some of the members and Tetyana Filevska, the curator at the Ukrainian Institute, to find out more.

Kate Fagan has been a US basketball player, an ESPN journalist and has written three non-fiction books. She joined Datshiane Navanayagam to discuss her first novel, The Three Lives of Cate Kay.

More people in their late 20s are still living with their parents – it's up by more than a third in nearly two decades according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Men are also more likely than women to stay in the family home, with 23% of 25-34 year old men living with their parents compared to 15% of women the same age. Anita spoke to writer and counsellor Lucy Cavendish who has two adult sons living at home, and Associate Professor and family therapist Dr Hannah Sherbersky.

It has been reported that USA women's footballer Naomi Girma has agreed terms to join Chelsea FC for a world record transfer fee of £900,000 or \$1.1 million. Anita was joined by Tom Garry, Women's Football writer at The Guardian.

Elise Downing is known for running 5,000 miles self-supported around the British coast over the course of 10 months. She was not only the youngest person, but also the only female to have completed the challenge. Along the way she saw Britain at its wild and wonderful best. She has now written Walk Britain, packed with inspiring car-free ideas on how to get out and explore stunning locations – from the Cornish coast to the Yorkshire Dales and the Isle of Arran. She joined Datshiane to talk about some of the 90 different routes that can be completed on foot, all accessible by public transport.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Annette Wells  
Editor: Sarah Jane Griffiths

**SAT 17:00 PM (m0027crh)**  
Full coverage of the day's news.

**SAT 17:30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson (m0027crk)**  
The Kim Leadbeater One

The Labour MP sits down with Nick to reflect on how she went from selling beds in her Yorkshire hometown, to being at the forefront of political debate, as the face of the campaign to legalise assisted dying, and how the murder of her sister, Jo Cox, helps explain the journey.

Producer: Daniel Kraemer

**SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m0027crm)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 17:57 Weather (m0027crp)**  
The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0027crr)**  
Another four hostages released by Hamas as more Palestinian prisoners are freed.

**SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m0027m0v)**  
Susie McCabe, Peat and Diesel, Carina Contini, Meredith Brook, Paul Malgrati

Clive Anderson celebrates Scotland's Bard with a special Loose Ends Burns Supper.

Comedian Susie McCabe is back with her new show Best Behaviour. The Billy Connolly Spirit of Glasgow award-winner

and host of the smash-hit podcast Here Comes The Guillotine is headed for Glasgow Comedy Festival.

Meredith Brook stars in new BBC ALBA drama An t-Eilean (The Island), the UK's first high-end Gaelic drama series which is set on the Isle of Harris.

Franco-Scott poet Paul Malgrati's book Robert Burns and Scottish Cultural Politics – The Bard of Contention (1914-2014) explores Robbie's influences around the world. He shares why the poet still means so much to modern audiences across the world, and what it was like learning Scots as a French-speaker.

Carina Contini discusses cooking up the perfect Burns Supper and her showcase of the rich variety of Italian recipes The Contini Cookbook.

Plus Isle of Lewis trio Peat and Diesel bring a bit of island spirit to Glasgow.

#### SAT 19:00 Profile (m0027cgq)

Poppy Gustafsson

A mathematician and cyber defence expert, Poppy Gustafsson has been handed an integral role within government, as the prime minister attempts to grow the economy and attract international investment.

She was born in 1982, to parents John and Gilly. Her father ran an agricultural sales business, while her mother was a journalist.

In her early career, Poppy Gustafsson worked for a venture capital firm before co-founding Darktrace, a cybersecurity company, in 2013. She would go on to take the role of co-CEO in 2016 and became the sole CEO in 2020.

Darktrace was among the first companies in its field to use artificial intelligence (AI) or machine learning to improve cyber-security.

So, as ministers attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, what tricks does this one time CEO of the Year have in store?

Mark Coles has been taking a closer look.

Production Team

Producers: Sally Abrahams and Bethan Ashmead Latham  
Editor: Ben Mundy  
Sound: James Beard  
Production Co-ordinator: Maria Ogundele and Jack Young

#### SAT 19:15 This Cultural Life (m00274xz)

Marin Alsop

American conductor Marin Alsop was the first woman to lead major orchestras in the UK, South America and in the United States, becoming principal conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in 2007. Nominated for Grammy Awards five times, in 2013 she became the first ever woman to lead the Last Night Of The Proms, and is now regarded as one of the greatest conductors in the world.

She talks to John Wilson about her professional musician parents who nurtured her love of music and supported her career choice from the age of 9 when she first revealed she wanted to be a conductor. Marin also talks about Leonard Bernstein, the great American composer and conductor, who inspired her ambitions and later became a mentor to her. She also chooses Carl Jung's work The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious, and explains how his theories have helped her in leading orchestras around the world.

Producer: Edwina Pitman

Music and archive used:

Serenade in C major for String Orchestra, Op. 48; Valse, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, New York City Ballet Orchestra, 1986  
Irish Spring commercial: "Clean as a Whistle" 1980  
Leonard Bernstein, Young People's Concerts: "What is Classical Music?", CBS Television, 24 January 1959  
Omnibus: Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story, BBC2, 10 May 1985  
Archive of Leonard Bernstein and Marin Alsop at the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, 1987  
Leonard Bernstein, Young People's Concerts: "What Does Music Mean?", CBS Television, 18 January 1958  
Archive of OrchKids concert, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Woman's Hour, BBC Radio 4, 26 July, 2005  
Rhapsody in Blue, George Gershwin, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Marin Alsop  
Last Night of the Proms, BBC1, 7 September 2013  
Symphony No. 2 in C Minor, "Resurrection", Gustav Mahler, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Marin Alsop

#### SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m0027crw)

A Brief History of Bureaucracy

"Attacking bureaucracies is like attacking the Atlantic ocean. It's a waste of time."

In this new episode of Archive on Four, Joe Queenan dispenses with the standard approach to bureaucracy and looks for the good in what jobsworths achieve. From the Sumerians to the Chinese, he discovers early civilisations finessed efficient ways of getting things done. Yet now many leaders, including Donald Trump, view bureaucracy as the deep state, the enemy within.

"When he talks about the deep state obstructing his agenda, he's really talking about some 50,000 bureaucrats. I'm sure most bureaucrats would love to be buried deep in the state. It gives them mystery and allure. It's just weird how he's rebranded them in this way."

This is Joe Queenan's fifteenth Brief History for Radio 4 and this one includes special sections on the French and the BBC, plus the genesis of Parkinson's Law. There are contributions from Sir Robin Butler, Frances Wood, Sir Gus O'Donnell, business guru Guy Browning, classicist Professor Edith Hall, former BBC correspondent John Sergeant and ex-super-bureaucrat TJ Elliott. The key voice though is Rory Sutherland of the Spectator who explains the relevance of Pournelle's Iron Law:

"In any bureaucracy, the people devoted to the benefit of the bureaucracy always get in control. Those dedicated to the goals of the bureaucracy is supposed to accomplish have less and less influence, and are sometimes eliminated entirely."

Joe Queenan is the author of Balsamic Dreams and Closing Time.. His previous shows for Radio 4 include Postcard from Gotham, Wonderful Ways to Make a Living plus archive programmes on Irony, Failure, Cunning and Lust.

The producer for BBC Studios in Bristol is Miles Warde.

Readings by Sarah Langan and Emily Knight.

Bureaucracy - what is it for? And who is it for?

#### SAT 21:00 The Poetry Detective (m0024ngw)

Wedding Poems

Weddings... finally! An all too rare moment for poems to shine! Time for all those neglected specks of verse to don their smart jackets and satin heels to help mark one of our most revered social rituals.

If you've ever been asked to read a poem at a wedding you'll know that finding and reading the perfect verse is far from an easy task. The hunt for a poem befitting the occasion has unraveled many a wedding speaker, our Poetry Detective included. For those of us who don't want to settle for one of the 'top ten wedding poems', where do we begin?

Vanessa Kisuule speaks to poets Caroline Bird and Rachel Long, who are compiling a new anthology of alternative wedding poems. Why is it so hard to choose a poem that works for a wedding ceremony, and how can people find a poem that really speaks to - and for - them?

"Yes, yours, my love, is the right human face / I in my mind had waited for so long". Stephen Walsh chose The Confirmation by Edwin Muir for both his first and second marriage, finding that the poem had changed for him over the decades and taken on new depth of meaning. Vanessa finds out how Muir's own love story informed the poem, speaking to writer Kenneth Steven about Muir's childhood on the Orcadian island of Wyre, and the huge losses he experienced as a young man before meeting his wife Willa.

"We two boys together clinging / One the other never leaving". In 1994, before same-sex marriage was recognised in UK law, Sarah Doyle was asked to read a Walt Whitman poem at the living room marriage ceremony of her friends Ford and Will. 25 years later she read the poem again at their anniversary party and wrote her own version of it specifically for the couple. Sam Magavern founded the Calamus Project in 2022 to celebrate the poems of Walt Whitman through film, song and live performance. He tells us about the moment in which Whitman was writing, with America on the brink of Civil War, and about the former Confederate soldier who became one of the great loves of Whitman's life.

Song version of "We Two Boys..." performed by Curtis Lovell accompanied by Luis Montjo; included with kind permission of Curtis and the Calamus Project.

Produced by Mair Bosworth for BBC Audio  
Mixed by Ilse Lademann

#### SAT 21:30 The Bottom Line (m00274y3)

Unbossing: Can We Work Without Managers?

Can businesses operate without managers? It's an idea Amazon, Meta and Citigroup are exploring. Evan hears from the leaders of three companies who've already tried working that way, but with varying degrees of success.

Guests:

Chris May: Founder of Mayden  
Hazel Brown: CEO of Cornerstone  
Luke Kyte: Operations Director of Reddico

Presenter: Evan Davis  
Producers: Nick Holland and Bob Howard  
Sound: James Beard  
Production Coordinator: Katie Morrison  
Editor: Matt Willis

#### SAT 22:00 News (m0027cry)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### SAT 22:15 The Food Programme (m002751k)

Food and Exercise: A Puzzle

Want to lose weight? How much can you achieve through exercise? Dan Saladino investigates with the help of Mike Keen, a chef and Arctic explorer.

Mike has had numerous adventures in Greenland, including kayaking thousands of miles, and sometimes doing nothing at all. What happened to his weight on this trips has left him puzzled.

They enlist the help three experts, Chris Van Tulleken, author of Ultra Processed People; Nigel Smith of the UK Sports Institute and Andrew Jenkinson, surgeon and author of Why We Eat too Much and How to Eat.

Produced and presented by Dan Saladino.

#### SAT 23:00 What? Seriously?? (m0027cs0)

4. Opera, Romance, and Nazis

In this episode, Dara and Isy are joined by the former Queen of the Jungle, Georgia Toffolo, to learn about the power of the written word - with some diverting conversations about the Taylor Swift of the 1920s, naughty novels, and drinking a bit too much at Glyndebourne.

What? Seriously?? is a new podcast which combines comedy with quirky history, hosted by Dara and Isy who unravel an extraordinary real-life tale each week with the help of a celebrity guest.

The stories are definitely true, but also kind of unbelievable at the same time - the sort of stories that make you go 'What? Seriously??' when you hear them, but you resolve to tell them in the pub the first chance you get.

Across the series, Dara and Isy will be joined by I'm A Celeb winner Georgia Toffolo, the Aussie comedian Rhys Nicholson, the broadcaster Stuart Maconie, Master Chef star Louisa Ellis, Miles from The Traitors, the comedian Richard Herring, the astronaut Helen Sharman, and Slow Horses star Chris Chung.

'What? Seriously??' with Dara Ó Briain and Isy Suttie and special guest Georgia Toffolo  
Format co-developed by Dan Page. Story compiled by Gareth Edwards and Dan Page.  
Producer: Laura Grimshaw  
Executive Producer: Jon Holmes  
An unusual production for BBC Radio 4

#### SAT 23:30 Counterpoint (m00274nt)

Series 38

Heat 4, 2025

(4/13)

Another three music lovers from around the UK compete for a place in the semi-finals, aiming to prove who's the musical mastermind of 2025. Along the way they face Paul Gambaccini's questions and will have to identify a wide variety of musical extracts, including a bossa nova adaptation of Mozart and an a cappella choir singing Depeche Mode. Each competitor will also have to pick a special subject on which to answer their own individual questions, with no advance warning of what the choice of categories will be.

Taking part today are  
Jim Maginnis from Lurgan in County Armagh  
Rob Mansfield from Brighton  
Gill Morris from Eastbourne.

Counterpoint is a BBC Studios Audio production for Radio 4.

Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner

Producer: Paul Bajoria

### SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2025

#### SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m0027cs2)

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

#### SUN 00:15 Take Four Books (m00274nr)

Paul Theroux

The award-winning travel writer and novelist Paul Theroux talks to Take Four Books about his latest short story collection - The Vanishing Point - and explores three other works that have helped to shape his writing. Paul's choices were: A Simple Heart by Gustave Flaubert (1877); Two Brothers by V S Pritchett (1932); and Riders In The Chariot by Patrick White (1961).

Producer: Dominic Howell

Editor: Annie McGuire

This was a BBC Audio Scotland production

#### SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0027cs6)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

#### SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0027csb)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

#### SUN 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0027csd)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

#### SUN 05:30 News Briefing (m0027csg)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

#### SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m0027chw)

St Mary's Church in the village of Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk

Bells on Sunday comes from St Mary's Church in the village of Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk. The church was rebuilt in the 15th century and renovated in 1865. It appears several times in John Constable's paintings. There are eight bells, the oldest of which dates from the late 14th century by an unknown founder. The Tenor weighs twenty two hundredweight and is tuned to the note of D. We hear them ringing Grandsire Triples.

#### SUN 05:45 In Touch (m002750I)

SEND Crisis; Period Detection

In Touch assesses the findings of a report that looks at the ways special educational needs care is being delivered to the children who need it. The report gives little to no mention of the challenges of specific groups of pupils and so, with the help of Rachael Hewett of the Vision Impairment Centre for Teaching and Research at Birmingham University and the Thomas Pocklington Trust's Tara Chattaway, we review the implications of a system in crisis for visually impaired pupils.

When it is your time of the month and you're visually impaired, it can be tricky to know when your period has arrived. In Touch looks at an upcoming device that is aiming to provide women with information about their menstrual cycle in an accessible way. The device and corresponding app, is called FlowSense. Muna Daud is the founder and CEO and she provides information on how the device works. Leanne Best and Tassia Leefe, both describe the unique challenges they have with their periods as visually impaired women. FlowSense are looking for more women to test out their prototypes. If you are interested, you can contact Muna Daud via email: Muna@flowsense.co. Or visit their website: flowsense.co

Presenter: Peter White

Producer: Beth Hemmings

Production Coordinator: David Baguley

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 of 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.

#### SUN 06:00 News Summary (m0027cfw)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### SUN 06:05 Thinking Allowed (m0027507)

Playgrounds

After the Second World War, a vast experiment took place in which adventure playgrounds transformed bombsites and waste ground in the UK, creating opportunities for children, beyond the sanitised safety of more conventional play spaces with swings and see saws. Laurie Taylor talks to Ben Highmore, Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of Sussex about the range of people whose celebration of children's imaginative capacities re-invented the notion of play, from Northern Europe to North America. Designers, social reformers, and even anarchists, saw these sites of fun as the foundation for the creation of citizens and agents of social change.

What remains of those post war playgrounds, in the here and now, and what can the astonishing ambition of those spaces tell us about the power of play in an age of risk aversion?

Producer: Jayne Egerton

#### SUN 06:35 On Your Farm (m0027cfy)

The Romance of Apples

The apple of Karim Habibi's eye is, well, apple trees. In this programme Sarah Swadling visits his nursery, near Maidstone in Kent, where he has around a thousand different varieties of apple and other fruit trees.

Propagating new trees is a painstaking labour of love using a process known as Grafting, which begins in the summer. Wintertime is when the 18 month old trees are harvested and sent off to their new homes in gardens and historic properties around the country. Karim also creates new apple varieties from seed - he shows Sarah his fridge full of pips which he hopes will yield some exciting new varieties. He's already bred apples named after his wife, Bethan, and some of their children.

Presented and produced by Sarah Swadling

#### SUN 06:57 Weather (m0027cg0)

The latest weather reports and forecast

#### SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m0027cg2)

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

#### SUN 07:10 Sunday (m0027cg4)

Trump & the Bishop; Kerouac's Buddhist years; Ceasefire latest

Emily Buchanan hears reaction from the US to the biggest religious news story of the week: Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde and her sermon addressed to President Trump at the National Prayer Ceremony.

It's the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day and we're live at Auschwitz-Birkenau ahead at the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp.

A new book of previously unpublished work by Jack Kerouac chronicles 'The Buddhist Years' As the writer of On the Road and The Dharma Bums, which turned many people onto Buddhism, we'd love about a writer that got you interested in religion or spirituality. Email Sunday@bbc.co.uk

And we hear from George Antone, an aid worker from the Holy Family Church in Gaza City. He's been sheltering with 500 other members of the parish since the start of the war and keeping in touch with Sunday. Correspondent Nick Beake has the latest on the ceasefire.

PRESENTER: EMILY BUCHANAN  
PRODUCERS: CATHERINE MURRAY & SABA ZAMAN  
EDITOR: TIM PEMBERTON

#### SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m0027cg6)

Power for the People

Baroness Caroline Cox makes the Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of Power for the People. The charity provides sanitary packs for girls in Kenya and Uganda, educating them on menstrual health, and building washing facilities in schools.

To Give:

- Freephone 0800 404 8144

- 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 'Power for the People'.

- Cheques should be made payable to 'Power for the People'.

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

Registered Charity Number: 1162330. If you'd like to find out more about the charity's work visit \*<https://www.pfp.global/>  
\*The BBC is not responsible for content on external websites

Producer: Katy Takatsuki

#### SUN 07:57 Weather (m0027cg8)

The latest weather reports and forecast

#### SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m0027cgb)

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

#### SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m0027cgd)

'Final Solution'

To mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Holocaust Memorial Day, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, together with his son Amos and his BBC journalist nephew Daniel retrace the final steps of three members of his family who perished in Auschwitz as part of the Nazi 'Final Solution'. The programme begins at the grave of Rabbi Jonathan's great grandfather in Holesov (Czech Republic), who died at the end of 1937 and who therefore escaped the horrors that his wife and children went through. Revisiting the Old Synagogue where his great grandfather had been Rabbi, the sight of the New Synagogue (with film of it being blown up by the Nazis), the street where the family lived during their final days, and the railway station where they were herded onto a train for the death camps, the programme charts the way that the Final Solution closed in on three members of the family. Readers: Soshana Hoffman and Susanna Gunner. Producer: Philip Billson

#### SUN 08:48 A Point of View (m002752n)

On Hyperbole

Remember the days, Howard Jacobson implores us, when we got on fine with 'very'?

Today, Howard argues, 'very' is not 'very' enough for the times we live in.' In its place, 'incredible' and other supersized words, spreading 'verbal chaos.'

Howard reflects on the dangers of over-inflated language, 'where words prance about without their clothes, shouting obscenities.'

Producer: Adele Armstrong

Sound: Peter Boshier

Production coordinator: Gemma Ashman

Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

#### SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (m0027cgg)

Iolo Williams on the Golden Plover

A new series of Tweet of the Day for Sunday morning revealing personal and fascinating stories from some fresh voices who have been inspired by birds, their calls and encounters.

Few bird calls evoke wild, open spaces like that of the golden plover. Springwatch presenter Iolo Williams first encountered these birds was on the Elenydd, the empty heart of Wales in the Cambrian Mountains. That was more than 40 years ago when the Welsh uplands were home to around 300 breeding pairs of golden plover; today, fewer than 40 remain.

Producer : Andrew Dawes, BBC Audio, Bristol

Studio Engineer : Ilse Lademann

#### SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m0027cgj)

Reeves looks to EU in quest for growth

The Chancellor is "happy" to revamp EU ties to bolster the UK economy. What might change? Plus, Katie Amess on the parallels between the Southport killings and the murder of her father, the MP Sir David Amess, and Bristol's plan to cut bin collections.

#### SUN 10:00 Desert Island Discs (m0027cgl)

Nick Cave, singer and writer

Nick Cave is a singer and writer who, with his band Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, has released emotionally intense and provocative music since the mid-Eighties. He is also a novelist, composer and has written film scripts and soundtracks along with his writing partner and Bad Seed Warren Ellis.

Nick grew up in Wangaratta, Australia the third of four children. He formed his first band, the Boys Next Door, in 1973 while he was at school. He studied fine art at the Caulfield Institute of Technology in Melbourne but left to pursue music. In 1980 the band relocated to London, renaming themselves the Birthday Party on the flight over. In 1984 Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds' released their debut album, From Her to Eternity, and they have gone on to put out a further 17 albums.

In 2015 Nick lost his son Arthur who died after accidentally falling off a cliff and seven years later his eldest son Jethro died. In 2018 Nick started the Red Hand Files, an online blog in which he answers questions posed by his fans, to try and articulate his feelings about grief. He has described it as a “strange exercise in communal vulnerability and transparency.”

In 2017 he was named an Officer of the Order of Australia.

DISC ONE: Metal Guru - T. Rex  
 DISC TWO: My Father - Nina Simone  
 DISC THREE: (I'm) Stranded - The Saints  
 DISC FOUR: It Serves You Right to Suffer - John Lee Hooker  
 DISC FIVE: Something on Your Mind - Karen Dalton  
 DISC SIX: Girl from the North Country - Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash West  
 DISC SEVEN: I Am a God – Kanye West  
 DISC EIGHT: Morning Dew - Tim Rose

BOOK CHOICE: The Adventures of Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi  
 LUXURY ITEM: A suit  
 CASTAWAY'S FAVOURITE: I Am a God – Kanye West

Presenter Lauren Laverne  
 Producer Paula McGinley

**SUN 11:00 The Archers Omnibus (m0027cgn)**

Writer: Katie Hims  
 Director: Pip Swallow  
 Editor: Jeremy Howe

Brian Aldridge.... Charles Collingwood  
 Ben Archer.... Ben Norris  
 Josh Archer.... Angus Imrie  
 Pip Archer.... Daisy Badger  
 Neil Carter.... Brian Hewlett  
 Susan Carter.... Charlotte Martin  
 Vince Casey.... Tony Turner  
 Emma Grundy.... Emerald O'Hanrahan  
 Joy Horville.... Jackie Lye  
 Zainab Malik.... Priyasha Kumari  
 Elizabeth Pargetter.... Alison Dowling  
 Freddie Pargetter.... Toby Laurence  
 Lily Pargetter.... Katie Redford  
 Stella Pryor.... Lucy Speed  
 Fallon Rogers.... Joanna Van Kampen  
 Nelly.... Jill Baker

**SUN 12:15 Profile (m0027cgg)**  
 [Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

**SUN 12:30 Just a Minute (m00274sz)**  
 Series 94

I. A red phone called Kevin

Sue Perkins challenges Paul Merton, Laura Smyth, Julian Clary and Desiree Burch to speak for 60 seconds without repetition, deviation or hesitation. Subjects include shopping centres, snake oil, and a slip of the tongue.

Production Coordinator: Sarah Nicholls  
 Sound Editor: Marc Willcox  
 Producer: Rajiv Karia  
 An EcoAudio certified production.

A BBC Studios Audio Production for Radio 4.

**SUN 12:57 Weather (m0027cgs)**  
 The latest weather forecast

**SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m0027cgv)**  
 What does the Gaza ceasefire mean for the West Bank?

A week since the ceasefire in Gaza, we look at how it could impact the West Bank's future and how President Trump's words and actions could affect peace in the region.

**SUN 13:30 The Documentary (w3ct7m66)**  
 Israel's Unwra ban

What will it mean for Palestinians if Israel bans Unwra, the United Nations agency that provides vital aid and essential services to millions of refugees in Gaza and the West Bank? The proposals have drawn widespread condemnation and warnings of a humanitarian catastrophe. Israeli politicians have accused Unwra staff of taking part in the October 7 2023 attacks alongside Hamas, and have designated it a terror group. We visit refugee camps across the occupied territories to hear about the role Unwra plays in education, health, and emergency food aid, and people's despair about the prospect of it disappearing. The agency's services and dependents have

mushroomed over the last 75 years – we look at its origins and why it has long been controversial in Israel. Plus, an Israeli MP, who tells us Unwra must go, says that his country will not stand by and see Palestinians suffer, but what, if anything, is capable of replacing the organisation?

Presenter: Reda El Mawy  
 Producers: Simon Tulett and Ziad Ghandour

**SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m0027522)**  
 Shepton Mallet: Garlic Rust, Mushroom Compost and Plant Renaissance

Any tips on combating garlic rust? How should I spread mushroom compost in my garden? Which plants do you predict will make a renaissance?

Peter Gibbs and a team of experts visit the market town of Shepton Mallet to solve gardening conundrums from an audience of gardeners. In the hot seats this week are house plant guru Anne Swithinbank, pest and disease expert Pippa Greenwood, and garden designer Matthew Wilson.

Later in the programme, Matthew Wilson travels to Bath to meet with Britain In Bloom champions Steve Brook and Barry Cruz. He gathers some useful tips and tricks for snagging the title of champion.

Producer: Daniel Cocker  
 Assistant Producer: Rahnee Prescod  
 Executive Producer: Carly Maile

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 14:45 Opening Lines (m0027cgx)**  
 The History of Mr Polly

Ian Sansom, sitting in for John Yorke, takes a look at The History of Mr Polly, the satirical novel by HG Wells. Published in 1910, it tells a story of one man's comic, sometimes poignant struggle to find his place in the world.

Mr Polly is an ordinary man, with an irrepressible longing for the extraordinary - a man caught in a frustratingly mundane world who finally and magnificently rebels against it. The dreamer mired in the mundane world of a draper's shop has become a classic, much-loved figure, and Ian explores his timeless appeal.

Ian Sansom is a novelist, journalist and broadcaster. He is the author of more than 20 books, including the Mobile Library and the County Guides series of detective novels and his work has been translated into more than a dozen languages. He has worked as a columnist for The Guardian and The Spectator and currently writes for the TLS, The Irish Times and The Dublin Review. He is a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio 4 and Radio 3. He was formerly the Director of the Oscar Wilde Centre at Trinity College Dublin and a Professor and Head of English at Queen's University Belfast.

Contributors:  
 Dr Caroline Sumpter Senior Lecturer in Victorian Literature at Queen's University, Belfast  
 Stephen Mangan, actor, who narrates the Radio 4 adaptation of The History of Mr. Polly

Producer: Laura Grimshaw  
 Executive Producer: Sara Davies  
 Reader: Stephen Mangan  
 Programme Hub Co-ordinator: Nina Semple  
 Sound: Sean Kerwin  
 A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 15:00 Drama on 4 (m0027cgz)**  
 The History of Mr Polly

Beginnings and the Bazaar

Alfred Polly is an ordinary middle-aged man who is tired of his wife's nagging and his dreary job as a gentleman's outfitter in a small town. Faced with the threat of bankruptcy, he decides that the only way to escape his frustrating existence is to burn his shop to the ground and kill himself. Unexpected events, however, conspire at the last moment to lead the bewildered Mr Polly to a bright new future – after he saves a life, fakes his death and escapes to a world of heroism, hope and ultimate happiness.

A comic take on mid-life crisis, The History of Mr Polly (published in 1910) is generally considered H G Wells' funniest novel. But it's not without serious purpose. Beneath the surface is an implicit criticism of a society that forces people to suppress their imaginations and lead lives of drab conformity.

In the first episode, Mr Polly – romantic, dreamer, and gentleman's outfitter - takes stock of his life so far. He

remembers his early years as an apprentice draper, and the fun he used to have with his friend, Parsons. He is saved from the drudgery of his apprenticeship when his father dies, leaving him an inheritance. This enables him to marry his cousin, Miriam, and buy a shop of his own. But 15 years on, he concludes he has wasted his life.

Episode 1: Beginnings and the Bazaar

Narrator ..... Stephen Mangan  
 Alfred Polly ..... Paul Ready  
 Miriam ..... Clare Corbett  
 Garvace /Penstemon ..... Trevor Littledale  
 Parsons ..... James Joyce  
 Harold Johnson ..... Nigel Anthony  
 Mrs Larkins ..... Rachel Atkins  
 Annie ..... Emma Kilbey  
 Christabel ..... Ela Chapman  
 Rumbold ..... Richard Atlee  
 Schoolmaster ..... Julian Parkin

Written by HG Wells  
 Dramatised by Stephen Sheridan  
 Producer / Director: David Blount

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 16:00 Take Four Books (m0027ch2)**  
 Michelle de Kretser

This week Take Four Books, presented by James Crawford, talks to the award-winning Australian writer Michelle de Kretser about her new novel - Theory & Practice - and its three key influences. Michelle's choices were: the diary of Virginia Woolf from 1932; Ali Smith's The Accidental from 2005; and Shirley Hazzard's The Transit of Venus, from 1980.

Producer: Dom Howell  
 Editor: Annie McGuire  
 This was an BBC Audio Scotland production

**SUN 16:30 Counterpoint (m0027ch4)**  
 Series 38

Heat 5, 2025

(5/13)  
 Another three contenders face Paul Gambaccini's questions on the full spectrum of music, from the classical repertoire to musical theatre, jazz, folk, world music and sixty years of the pop charts.

Taking part today are:  
 Rosanne Jardine from Dorset  
 Clive Manning from London  
 Claire Sanderson from Cardiff.

Counterpoint is a BBC Studios Audio production.  
 Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner  
 Producer: Paul Bajoria

**SUN 17:00 Witness History (w3ct5yf6)**  
 My dad created Dungeons & Dragons

In 1970, father of five Gary Gygax was fired from his job as an insurance underwriter in Chicago, in the United States of America. It may sound like a mundane event to read about but, believe it or not, this moment actually changed the gaming industry forever.

Gary is the creator of table-top roleplay game, Dungeons & Dragons. In the 50 years since its release, D&D has generated billions of dollars in sales and now boasts more than 50 million players worldwide.

However, Gary's story is not one of riches and success. Luke Gygax witnessed the incredible highs and lows of his father's life first hand. He shares his memories of that time with Matt Pintus.

Eye-witness accounts brought to life by archive. Witness History is for those fascinated by the past. We take you to the events that have shaped our world through the eyes of the people who were there. For nine minutes every day, we take you back in time and all over the world, to examine wars, coups, scientific discoveries, cultural moments and much more.

Recent episodes explore everything from football in Brazil, the history of the 'Indian Titanic' and the invention of air fryers, to Public Enemy's Fight The Power, subway art and the political crisis in Georgia. We look at the lives of some of the most famous leaders, artists, scientists and personalities in history, including: visionary architect Antoni Gaudi and the design of the Sagrada Familia; Michael Jordan and his bespoke Nike trainers; Princess Diana at the Taj Mahal; and Görel Hanser, manager of legendary Swedish pop band Abba on the influence

they've had on the music industry. You can learn all about fascinating and surprising stories, such as the time an Iraqi journalist hurled his shoes at the President of the United States in protest of America's occupation of Iraq; the creation of the Hollywood commercial that changed advertising forever; and the ascent of the first Aboriginal MP.

(Photo: Gary Gygax and Luke Gygax. Credit: Luke Gygax)

#### SUN 17:10 The Verb (m0027ch7)

Joelle Taylor, Anthony Joseph, Luke Wright, Accents

How does it feel to be adopted? How does naming things affect experience? Why does a mysterious sound make Ian want to get out of the studio in Salford? Is it ever a good idea to pretend to have a particular accent? Poems, questions and much more - on this week's Verb.

Ian McMillan is joined by poets Joelle Taylor, Anthony Joseph, Luke Wright, and sociolinguist Rob Drummond.

Joelle Taylor brings us a brand new commission inspired by the 50th anniversary of the BBC television series 'The Changes' - with its mysterious sound that transforms and challenges modern life. Does it still have resonance today? Joelle won the TS Eliot Prize for poetry in 2022, and her most recent book is a novel - 'The Night Alphabet', which has been described as 'relentlessly inventive.'

Anthony Joseph is a poet, musician and academic. He shares poetry of intimacy and intimacy with language - in work from his selected poems 'Precious and Impossible'. Anthony won the TS Eliot prize in 2023 with his 'luminous' collection 'Sonnets for Albert'.

Luke Wright is a ground-breaking performer and poet - currently touring with his show 'Joy'. He reads new poems which look at the power of early experiences: a book that helped him understand the experience of being adopted, and a poem which celebrates the beauty of the view from his window in Suffolk.

Did the contestant who faked a Welsh accent on 'The Traitors' TV series make a good decision? And what poetry was there to be found in the series? Ian talks to Rob Drummond, Professor of Sociolinguistics at Manchester Metropolitan University.

#### SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m0027ch9)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

#### SUN 17:57 Weather (m0027chc)

The latest weather reports and forecast

#### SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0027chf)

President Trump is facing accusations of advocating ethnic cleansing, after he suggested relocating Palestinians in Gaza to nearby Arab countries.

#### SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m0027chh)

Derek 'Pluto' Murray

This week, we hear about how buses ran by volunteers are bringing a community together in Perthshire. On the topic of transport - the I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue gang offer up some double entendres that will possibly earn you a parking ticket if you're not careful. Plus, Radio 4 has been offering up a Burns Night supper in audio form, where Michael Rosen discovers the influences of the Ploughman Poet on the former Makar Jackie Kay, followed by a dram of Stormoway's finest Peat & Diesel on Loose Ends.

Presenter: Derek 'Pluto' Murray  
Producer: Anthony McKee  
Production Coordinator: Jack Ferrie

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland production for BBC Radio 4.

#### SUN 19:00 The Archers (m0027bns)

Lilian does her best to pacify fretful Joy, who's taking the cancellation of the Felpersham pantomime very hard. Lilian assures her all is well, and she's not to blame. Lilian asks about Mick, and the real cause of Joy's disquiet becomes apparent as she admits they're not really speaking. Mick blames her for Rochelle leaving, and Joy doesn't know where she stands with him now.

Tracy's cross with Susan, who's borrowed her best shoes and lost one of them. Later Susan and Joy share their angst over being got at by people.

Lynda enjoys a bit of an 'I told you so' moment with the panto cancellation; she feels Felpersham never really puts its heart into productions and that they could learn a lot from her, but

they've missed their chance having turned down a proposition from her in the past. Vince disagrees that village productions are better, and he and Lynda have a spat. He's annoyed with Joy for building up the excitement over the Felpersham show and now he has disappointed employees and families to deal with. Lynda takes issue with this and defends Joy. Moreover she declares she could do better than Felpersham in a fraction of the time, and finds herself betting five hundred pounds she can put on a panto by Friday. Later she quails a little, but Lilian buoys her up. Lynda will do a fine job - Lilian is right behind her. They suggest enlisting Joy's help. Joy's nervous initially but eventually agrees to find the star attraction for the panto.

#### SUN 19:15 Illuminated (m0027chk)

The Memory Catcher

Memory is fragile. We are driven to capture it. But is this possible when the memories of the person we love have fragmented?

Julian's mother has no memory. Both her long and short term memory were destroyed by different viruses. His mother still has an emotional memory of Julian. She recognises him - his personality, his manner. But she doesn't know how old he is, what he does for a living, or that he has a partner. And she doesn't realise that she can't remember. So their relationship is stuck in a loop, consisting of repeated conversations and activities.

But Julian's found a way to connect with his mother. He is a photographer and he is constantly trying to capture his mother's image. His sister thinks he's trying to catch glimpses of their mum as she would have been had she not got ill. Julian isn't so sure. For him, taking photographs of his mum is simply a way for them to pass time together - to connect.

Chatting in her care home, going to the café for tea and cake, listening to music in the car, celebrating a birthday - the lens of Julian's camera brings us into the relationship between a mother and a son, divided by a loss but bound together by love.

The Memory Catcher takes us on a journey into their relationship but also our relationship with memory. Who are we when we cannot make memories, even as simple as who has just said hello? When memory is faulty, fading, or lost altogether, what can be captured by another?

Recorded by artist and writer Julian Lass  
Produced by Maia Miller-Lewis and Jo Rowntree  
Composer Maia Miller-Lewis  
With thanks to Kirsten and Monika and the wonderful staff at Monika's care home.

A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4

#### SUN 19:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001vclt)

Take Vitamin D

During the winter months, here in the UK, days are short and there isn't enough sunlight for most of us to make the Vitamin D we need. Taking a tiny Vitamin D supplement is a minute change that could have a huge impact on our health. Professor David Llewellyn from Exeter University explains to Michael that Vitamin D helps clear abnormal proteins, such as amyloid plaques and tau, from the brain, which may help protect you from dementia. Having enough vitamin D can also boost your immune systems, making that common cold easier to recover from. It could even lift your mood! Volunteer Baljit tries making Vitamin D a habit.

Series Producer: Nija Dalal-Small  
Science Producer: Catherine Wyler  
Researcher: Sophie Richardson  
Researcher: Will Hornbrook  
Production Manager: Maria Simons  
Editor: Zoe Heron  
A BBC Studios production for BBC Sounds / BBC Radio 4.

#### SUN 20:00 Word of Mouth (m00274yk)

Jackie Kay on the Scots language

Poet Jackie Kay has written a book in Scots: Coorie Doon: A Scottish Lullaby Story. She joins presenter Michael Rosen to talk about her love of the language and what it meant to her growing up.

Produced for BBC Audio Bristol by Beth O'Dea.  
Subscribe to the Word of Mouth podcast and never miss an episode: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qtnz>

#### SUN 20:30 Last Word (m0027526)

Dame Joan Plowright, Sir Jim Walker, Barbara Clegg, Denis Law

Matthew Bannister on

Dame Joan Plowright, one of the most acclaimed actresses of her generation who was married to Laurence Olivier. Dame Judi Dench pays tribute.

Sir Jim Walker, who built up his family business from a small bakery in the North of Scotland to become a global food exporter.

Barbara Clegg, the first woman to write a story for Dr Who.

Denis Law - the Scottish born footballer who was part of Manchester United's "Holy Trinity" alongside Bobby Charlton and George Best.

Producer: Ed Prendiville

Archive:

Doctor Who : Season 20 : Enlightenment : Part 1, BBC1, **01.03.1983**; Emergency Ward 10; **14.08.1959**; THE DALES: BBC Radio, **27.10.1966**; Jim Walker reflects on 125 years of Walker's Shortbread, Highlands News & Media, 2022; Nothing Like a Dame, BBC 2, **31.12.2021**; In Touch : Dame Joan Plowright at Home, BBC Radio 4, **25.12.2018**; Wogan, **10.12.1990**; Private Passions : Sound Frontiers: Dame Joan Plowright, BBC Radio 3, **25.09.2016**; Roots, BBC Radio 3, **29.02.1960**; FOOTBALLERS LIVES, DENIS LAW, **21.03.2002**; MORE THAN A GAME, BBC, **26.05.2001**; MEMORY MATCHES: ENGLAND V SCOTLAND 1967; **15.04.1967**; Sports Special, BBC., **24.11.1979**

#### SUN 21:00 Money Box (m0027chm)

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

#### SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m0027cg6)

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

#### SUN 21:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m0027chp)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:30 on Saturday]

#### SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m0027chr)

Ben Wright and guests discuss relations between Keir Starmer and President Trump, economic growth and assisted dying

Ben Wright's guests are the Labour MP Rachel Blake; Conservative frontbencher Saqib Bhatti, former Corbyn adviser turned political commentator, Andrew Fisher; and the Financial Times Whitehall Editor, Lucy Fisher. They discuss the relationship between Sir Keir Starmer and Donald Trump - after the Prime Minister and President had their first phone call since the inauguration. They also talk about deregulation and the expected government decision on the expansion of Heathrow Airport. Ben speaks to the former Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Heseltine about his ideas on devolution and urban regeneration. And the panel also look ahead to the Commons committee stage of the Bill to allow assisted dying for some terminally ill adults.

#### SUN 23:00 In Our Time (m00274xs)

Socrates in Prison

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Plato's Crito and Phaedo, his accounts of the last days of Socrates in prison in 399 BC as he waited to be executed by drinking hemlock. Both works show Socrates preparing to die in the way he had lived: doing philosophy. In the Crito, Plato shows Socrates arguing that he is duty bound not to escape from prison even though a bribe would open the door, while in the Phaedo his argument is for the immortality of the soul which, at the point of death, might leave uncorrupted from the 'prison' of his body, the one escape that truly mattered to Socrates. His example in his last days has proved an inspiration to thinkers over the centuries and in no small way has helped ensure the strength of his reputation.

With

Angie Hobbs  
Professor of the Public Understanding of Philosophy at the University of Sheffield

Fiona Leigh  
Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at University College London

And

James Warren  
Professor of Ancient Philosophy at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Producer: Simon Tillotson

Reading list:

David Ebrey, Plato's Phaedo: Forms, Death and the

Philosophical Life (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Dorothea Frede, 'The Final Proof of the Immortality of the Soul in Plato's Phaedo 102a-107a' (Phronesis 23, 1978)

W. K. C. Guthrie, A History of Greek Philosophy, vol. 4, Plato: The Man and his Dialogues, Earlier Period (Cambridge University Press, 2008)

Verity Harte, 'Conflicting Values in Plato's Crito' (Archiv. für Geschichte der Philosophie 81, 1999)

Angie Hobbs, Why Plato Matters Now (Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2025), especially chapter 5

Rachana Kamtekar (ed.), Plato's Euthyphro, Apology and Crito: Critical Essays (Rowman and Littlefield, 2004)

Richard Kraut, Socrates and the State (Princeton University Press, 1984)

Melissa Lane, 'Argument and Agreement in Plato's Crito' (History of Political Thought 19, 1998)

Plato (trans. Chris Emlyn-Jones and William Preddy), Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Phaedo and Phaedrus (Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press, 2017)

Plato (trans. G. M. A. Grube and John Cooper), The Trial and Death of Socrates: Euthyphro Apology, Crito, Phaedo (Hackett, 2001)

Plato (trans. Christopher Rowe), The Last Days of Socrates: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Phaedo (Penguin, 2010)

Donald R. Robinson (ed.), The Cambridge Companion to Socrates (Cambridge University Press, 2011)

David Sedley and Alex Long (eds.), Plato: Meno and Phaedo (Cambridge University Press, 2010)

James Warren, 'Forms of Agreement in Plato's Crito' (Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, Volume 123, Issue 1, April 2023)

Robin Waterfield, Why Socrates Died: Dispelling the Myths (Faber and Faber, 2010)

In Our Time is a BBC Studios Audio Production

#### SUN 23:45 Short Works (m0027524)

Feathertongue by Anthony Shapland

An original short story by Anthony Shapland. Two boys idle away the long days of late summer. Their games, dares and bets escalate and the power balance shifts as they lose control.

Anthony Shapland is from Bargoed, Wales. His short stories can be found in the anthologies (un)common, Lucent Dreaming and Cymru & I. Twice shortlisted for the Rhys Davies Short Story Award, he was chosen as one of the 2023 Hay Festival's Writers at Work. His debut novel A Room Above a Shop will be published by Granta in 2025.

Reader - Nathan Sussex

Sound by Catherine Robinson  
Directed by John Norton  
A BBC Audio Wales Production

#### MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2025

##### MON 00:00 Midnight News (m0027cht)

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

##### MON 00:15 Crossing Continents (m002750n)

Death Marches: uncovering the truth beneath the soil

How a town in Poland – once in Germany – is discovering its troubling past.

80 years ago Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi extermination camp. Over 1.1 million people, mainly Jews, were murdered there. However, there is an aspect of those terrible days which is less well known and which 80 years later is still being uncovered and still resonating: the death marches.

As Soviet troops approached, in January 1945, SS soldiers at Auschwitz-Birkenau forced some 60,000 prisoners to march west, in freezing temperatures. Weak with hunger and disease, those who fell behind were shot.

This is the story of how eight decades on the search for the truth behind one of those death marches is being uncovered. For years the history of a death march passing through the once proud German community of Schönwald was hidden. It is also the story of how descendants of the original inhabitants

of Schönwald are having to confront the role some of their relatives may have played in the Nazi project, and how today's Polish inhabitants of the town, which is now called Bojków, are grappling with what happened on their streets. Amie Liebowitz's own great-grandmother was murdered Auschwitz-Birkenau, while her great-aunt was rescued by the Soviet forces. She speaks to those on both sides – German and Polish – who are uncovering this history.

Presenter: Amie Liebowitz  
Producer: John Murphy  
Production co-ordinator: Gemma Ashman  
Editor: Penny Murphy

Archive of Gita Stein © 1995 USC Shoah Foundation

##### MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m0027chw)

[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

##### MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0027chy)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

##### MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0027cj0)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

##### MON 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0027cj2)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

##### MON 05:30 News Briefing (m0027cj4)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

##### MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0027cj6)

Holocaust Memorial Day

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Julia Neuberger

Good morning.

It's Holocaust Memorial Day today, when we remember the Nazi regime's mass murder of six million Jews, along with Roma, homosexuals, communists, and others regarded as untermenschen- sub-humans. British intelligence actually learnt something of that murder from bugging the conversations of German officer Prisoners Of War held captive during World War II. The listeners were German refugees, mostly Jews.

One group of captured German generals thought they were being unbelievably well treated, held in a stately home, drinking wine and eating good food. They boasted about how stupid the British were, but failed to realise that British intelligence had bugged every part of their accommodation, in order to glean information.

The historian Helen Fry believes that what was learnt from these bugging operations was as significant to winning the war as the code-breaking work at Bletchley Park. British intelligence overheard admissions of the German army's participation in atrocities and mass killings of Jews, something denied by the German army for 65 years until the bugging evidence was released.

The listeners faced a tough job. One, Fritz Lustig, said: "We felt no guilt - on the contrary, we felt proud to be able to contribute to the British war effort....." He died aged 98 in 2017, able to reflect on his proud record of helping the British win the war, by listening to Nazi officers giving away secrets, such as about weapons development at Peenemuende, which the British then destroyed. Today, of all days, we should be grateful to those 'listeners'. They were fortunate in escaping the Nazis, and they made such an enormous contribution to their adopted country that they helped it win the war.

##### MON 05:45 Farming Today (m0027cj8)

27/01/25 - Crops in a new climate, International Barley Hub and agricultural transition

As the climate warms, UK farmers may be able to start growing new crops - from oranges to okra. That's according to a new study from the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the University of East Anglia which looks at the future suitability of more than 160 existing and new food crops in a warming climate.

We visit the new International Barley Hub in Dundee, where scientists are exploring the genetic diversity found in their collection of ancient barley varieties for traits that could be beneficial on modern farms.

And it's five years since the UK left the EU. For farmers that meant leaving the EU Common Agricultural Policy and

transitioning to new policies which are being drawn up by the different UK nations, since agriculture is devolved. We ask how it's going.

Presented by Caz Graham  
Produced by Heather Simons

##### MON 05:57 Weather (m0027cjb)

Weather reports and forecasts for farmers

##### MON 06:00 Today (m0027bn3)

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

##### MON 09:00 Start the Week (m0027bn5)

Climate Crisis: truth, lies and compromise

Every year world leaders gather at the United Nation's COP (the Conference of Parties) to discuss how to work together on solutions to tackle climate change. And every year the wrangling lasts into the night as it becomes clear how difficult it is to achieve consensus. In Kyoto the playwrights Joe Murphy and Joe Robertson have recreated the drama, intrigue and power plays that resulted in one of COP's greatest successes, the Kyoto Protocol from 1997. Kyoto is on at the Soho Place Theatre until May 2025.

Professor Mike Berners-Lee is an expert on the impact and footprint of carbon and has watched as countries see-saw on commitments to reduce the use of fossil fuels. In his latest book, A Climate of Truth he argues that we already have the technology to combat many of the problems, but what we're lacking is the honesty – in our politics, our media, and our businesses – to make a real difference.

But how to save the planet is not necessarily straightforward. In The Shetland Way: Community and Climate Crisis on my Father's Islands, Marianne Brown returns home after the death of her father. She finds the islanders at loggerheads over the construction of a huge windfarm: while some celebrate the production of sustainable energy, others argue the costs are too high for the environment and local wildlife.

Producer: Katy Hickman

##### MON 09:45 Café Hope (m0027bn7)

Feeling safer on the streets

Co-founder of Strut Safe Rho Chung tells Rachel Burden how they set up the UK-wide phoneline to try to make people feel safer on the streets at night time.

Café Hope is our virtual Radio 4 coffee shop, where guests pop in for a brew and a chat to tell us what they're doing to make things better in big and small ways. Think of us as sitting in your local café, cooking up plans, hearing the gossip, and celebrating the people making the world a better place.

We're all about trying to make change. It might be a transformational project that helps an entire community, or it might be about trying to make one life a little bit easier. And the key here is in the trying. This is real life. Not everything works, and there are struggles along the way. But it's always worth a go.

You can contact us on [cafehope@bbc.co.uk](mailto:cafehope@bbc.co.uk)

##### MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0027bn9)

Mary Robinson, Holocaust Memorial Day, Catherine Airey

Mrs Robinson is a feature-length documentary about Ireland's first female president. Telling her own story of her childhood and career for the first time on screen, it was filmed over three years, and takes a deep-dive into Mary Robinson's career as she discusses the significant controversies throughout her tenure and her own professional regrets; and examines how her gift for bridging differences was instrumental in bringing about seismic change in Ireland. Mary Robinson joins Clare McDonnell live.

Today is Holocaust Memorial Day and this year it marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Clare is joined by two women who reflect on their mothers' experiences of surviving the Holocaust, the lasting impact and how it has shaped their own lives. Anita Peleg talks about her mother, Naomi Blake, who was sent first to Auschwitz and then to Brahmnau Concentration Camp, before settling in the UK and becoming a sculptor. Noemie Lopian remembers her mother, Renee Bornstein BEM – a Holocaust survivor and educator.

The Welsh opera singer and presenter Wynne Evans has apologised for what he called 'an inappropriate and unacceptable' comment at the launch of the Strictly Come Dancing Live tour earlier this month, about the tour host Janette Manrara. Clare speaks to podcaster and comedian Helen Thorn

and entertainment journalist Caroline Frost to get their reactions.

Confessions is the debut novel from Catherine Airey. The book follows three generations of women as they navigate love, trauma, family and tragedy. Catherine joins Clare and discusses quitting her job and moving to rural Ireland in 2021 to focus on her writing.

**MON 11:00 The Body Politic (m0027bnc)**  
Assisted dying

The politics of the human body is at the centre of intense debate in the UK and beyond. Thanks to science, technology and a fast-moving political landscape, humans are increasingly able to intervene in the natural processes of life – how we are conceived, how we are born and how and when we die. But what are the limits to this intervention, how should we decide and who should decide?

Broadcaster and columnist Sonia Sodha gets behind divides and polarisation to discover nuance, complexity and compelling stories around the beginning and the end of human life.

In the final episode we delve deep into the complex and fascinating debate around assisted dying, which has moved to the front and centre of politics in Britain. We hear views from all sides, as well as powerful stories - a widow whose husband had an assisted death in Switzerland, a woman who recovered from anorexia who's joined the anti campaign, a retired high court judge who has a life-changing illness and a leading practitioner of assisted dying in Canada.

Sonia teases out the complexity in ideas of choice, coercion and capacity as the UK debate intensifies, showing how decisions made now will impact future views on the value of life and how society handles death.

Producer: Leala Padmanabhan  
Sound design: Hal Haines  
Credit: 'How to die: Simon's choice', Minnow Films, directed by Rowan Deacon, executive producer Colin Barr

**MON 11:45 The History Podcast (m001zddx)**  
Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 6. Under Pressure

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera  
Series Producer: John Murphy  
Producer: Olivia Lace-Evans  
Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)  
Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison  
Series Editor: Penny Murphy

**MON 12:00 News Summary (m0027bnf)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 12:04 You and Yours (m0027bnh)**  
Hospital Beds, Side Hustles and 20 MPH zones

Why cannot the NHS make use of spare capacity in the care sector to mitigate the beds crisis?

So many games, so little time! The huge increase in computer games on the market. If you are a gamer, can you see 'the woods for the trees'?

New tax rules come into force this year impacting people who sell online or have other side hustles.

What impact has the expansion of 20 mph zones in Wales had, a year on from implementation.

Debt counsellors say they have seen a large increase in the number of people seeking debt advice, how does that square with wages out-pacing inflation?

**MON 12:57 Weather (m0027bnk)**  
The latest weather forecast

**MON 13:00 World at One (m0027bnm)**

Hundreds of thousands return home to north Gaza

Officials say 200,000 Palestinians have returned home to the north of the territory in the first hour since Israel opened routes through the Netzarim Corridor. We speak to UNRWA's acting director in Gaza and a former Jordanian foreign minister.

**MON 13:45 The Prophets of Profit (m0027bnp)**  
The Business of Business

It's been called the dumbest idea in the world. But many believe shareholder value is the most important, the most consequential idea of the last hundred years. In Prophets of Profit the BBC's Business Editor Simon Jack discovers why so many believe the prime responsibility of business is to increase profits and maximise returns to shareholders.

Simon reveals how a few influential individuals propelled this idea from academic cloisters to dominate boardrooms across the world from the 1980s onwards. He shows how the consequences of this foresight have enriched many people but devastated many too. How the separation of the idea of money-making from other social obligations has led to severe social tensions and a profound misunderstanding of business within communities and governments alike.

Speaking to investors managing trillions, the most powerful union boss in Britain, and CEOs who've been at the very top of some of the world's biggest companies, Simon tracks how a simple idea became so powerful and why it shapes all of our lives today.

Presenter: Simon Jack  
Producer: Jonathan Brunert

**MON 14:00 The Archers (m0027bns)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

**MON 14:15 A Charles Paris Mystery (m0027bnv)**  
Charles Paris: Situation Tragedy

Episode 1

Bill Nighy returns as the loveably louche actor-cum-amateur sleuth, Charles Paris.

When Charles lands a role in a grimly unfunny sitcom the cast and crew begin to die in a series of grisly accidents and the situation comedy turns into a situation tragedy.

As the 'pound shop' Poirot goes on the hunt for the perpetrator, Frances (his semi-detached wife), and Maurice (his worse than useless agent), are furious. Maurice is also living with them following a skiing collision with George Clooney. Tensions were already running high in this unlikely ménage à trois and become even higher when Charles starts looking for clues from a cast of showbiz suspects.

Charles ..... Bill Nighy  
Frances ..... Suzanne Burden  
Maurice ..... Jon Glover  
Ash Amos .... Phaldut Sharma  
Judy Gilmore ..... Christine Kavanagh  
Stevie Dean/Howard Langridge .... Tony Turner  
Scott.....Joseph Ayre  
Sadie .... Maggie Service

Written by Jeremy Front from a story by Simon Brett  
Technical Producers..... Peter Ringrose & Alison Craig  
Director ..... Sally Avens

**MON 14:45 Marple: Three New Stories (m001gkkn)**  
The Unravelling by Natalie Haynes

The Unravelling (Part 1)

Agatha Christie's iconic detective is reimagined for a new generation with a murder, a theft and a mystery where nothing is quite what it seems.

The Unravelling by Natalie Haynes  
When an itinerant farm hand is found dead outside Weaver's Haberdashers it's chalked up as a brawl gone tragically wrong - but Miss Marple refuses to accept this simple solution...

Read by Monica Dolan  
Abridged and produced by Eilidh McCreadie

Almost 50 years since the publication of Agatha Christie's last Miss Marple novel, 'Marple: Twelve New Stories' is a collection of ingenious new stories by acclaimed authors and Christie devotees.

**MON 15:00 Great Lives (m0027bny)**  
Ellen E Jones nominates Florynce Kennedy

One dubbed "the biggest, loudest and indisputably the rudest

mouth on the battleground", Florynce Kennedy was a force to be reckoned with.

She was a lawyer, a vocal figure in the American civil rights and feminist movements of the 1960s and '70s, and a champion of numerous other causes besides; from legalising abortion to campaigning for sex-worker rights - proving that it was possible to care about and campaign for causes even if they didn't affect her directly.

Flo was famous in her own time, not only for her passionate commitment to fighting injustice and her incredible talent as a phrase-maker - delivering punchy comments peppered with colourful language - but also for her flamboyant style, notably her trademark Australian hat. And yet today Flo's reputation has dwindled; she's arguably far less well-known than she should be according to her nominator Ellen E Jones, a journalist and broadcaster focusing on film and television who co-hosts the Radio 4 programme 'Screenshot'.

Joining the discussion remotely from the United States, is Sheri Randolph, author of the biography 'Florynce "Flo" Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical'; also an associate professor of history at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and founder of the Black Feminist Think Tank.

Matthew and his guests also hear from Flo's friend and fellow activist Gloria Steinem, who says: "Wherever we went, somehow she created a community of our own by her presence. She was effervescent and smart and outgoing and irresistible... Flo, in her jodhurs and her Aussie hat, was just a symbol of all the movements together."

Presented by Matthew Parris and produced for BBC Studios Audio by Lucy Taylor.

**MON 15:30 History's Heroes (m0027bp0)**  
History's Youngest Heroes

History's Youngest Heroes: 8. Rani Lakshmi Bai: The Warrior Queen

When her kingdom is threatened, a 22-year-old Indian woman takes on the British Empire on horseback, with a sword in each hand.

Nicola Coughlan shines a light on extraordinary young people from across history. Join her for 12 stories of rebellion, risk and the radical power of youth.

A BBC Studios Audio production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds.

Producer: Sunita Somaia  
Edit Producer: Melvin Rickarby  
Assistant Producer: Lorna Reader  
Executive Producer: Paul Smith  
Written by Alex von Tunzelmann  
Commissioning editor for Radio 4: Rhian Roberts

**MON 16:00 The Documentary (w3ct7m34)**  
Songs from Auschwitz

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2025, a story of hope, music and survival from Auschwitz.

Professor Shirli Gilbert explores the life of Krystyna Żywulska, a Jewish political prisoner. Imprisoned in the most notorious camp in the Nazi system, Żywulska turned to poetry and music, offering tiny moments of resilience and optimism for her fellow inmates and creating some of the most remarkable songs of this tragic era.

Born in Poland in 1914, Krystyna Żywulska was sent to Auschwitz in 1943. There she was given a very unusual job. She worked at the Effektenkammer, the storage facility for the personal items confiscated from arriving prisoners.

This role turned out to be a gift. Żywulska described the Effektenkammer as a 'beautiful oasis' in the middle of the horrors of Auschwitz. Into it came a bounty of treasures - fur coats, musical instruments, gold jewellery and countless suitcases stuffed with possessions.

At the Effektenkammer, Żywulska composed many poems and songs that spread rapidly through the camp. She also put on musical events to raise the spirits of the Auschwitz inmates.

Shirli Gilbert speaks to Żywulska's son and to Holocaust historians to explore this remarkable story. She also visits the site of the Effektenkammer at Auschwitz, returning Żywulska's music to the place where it began.

Presenter: Shirli Gilbert, Professor of Modern Jewish History at University College London

Historical consultant: Professor Barbara Milewski



Producer: Tom Woolfenden

Editor: Kirsten Lass

A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 16:30 Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics (m001sv5y)**  
Series 9

Martial

Epigrams, jokes, highly-polished poems in praise of the Emperor. Oh, and absolute filth. These are what made the name of the first-century Roman poet Martial.

It has taken nearly two thousand years for Martial's work to be considered a fit subject for study by classicists. His poems to the Emperor may have been as highly crafted as a Fabergé egg, but nestled beside these jewels, in the same volume, were works of 'incomprehensible obscenity'. The Romans loved both, apparently. His work is still funny, and still shocking.

Natalie is joined by Professor Llewelyn Morgan and comedian Robin Ince to discover what we can learn about the poet and his readers from his work, and if he can still make us laugh.

Spoiler: he can.

'Rock star mythologist' and reformed stand-up Natalie Haynes is obsessed with the ancient world. 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

**MON 17:00 PM (m0027bp2)**

Tech stocks plunge after launch of Chinese AI Chatbot

New Chinese AI chatbot 'Deepseek' sees \$1 trillion of value wiped from tech stocks. Plus, thousands return to the north of Gaza.

**MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0027bp4)**

Survivors of the Nazi death camp lead commemorations to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

**MON 18:30 Just a Minute (m0027bp6)**

Series 94

2. Where they make cheese and milk out of butterflies

Sue Perkins challenges Tony Hawks, Ian Smith, Zoe Lyons and Charlotte Ritchie to speak for 60 seconds without repetition, deviation or hesitation. Subjects include Getting Butterflies, Bottling it, and a Desire for Revenge.

Production Coordinator: Sarah Nicholls

Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

Producer: Rajiv Karia

An EcoAudio certified production.

A BBC Studios Audio Production for Radio 4.

**MON 19:00 The Archers (m0027bp8)**

Lynda enthuses to Lilian about putting on Cinderella. She's convinced it's the right choice of panto. They just need a good script, and the star attraction, which is down to Joy.

Joy and Mick chat awkwardly about their future, and Mick wonders whether they should give themselves until the end of the week to decide whether their current living arrangement can continue. Joy talks about the panto and reveals that Berwick Kaler, the well know pantomime dame, is in town, and she wonders whether she might approach him. Mick warns Joy off of interfering, as she did with Rochelle. But Joy seeks out Berwick, and he turns down her request for him to perform for no money. Joy and Jazzer share some mutual frustration, as he's caught between feuding Tracy and Susan; they should just have their scrap and get over themselves. Joy wonders if that would work for her and Mick. Later Mick confesses to Jazzer that Joy's a mystery to him. In the spirit of helping, Mick organises a secret meeting with Berwick Kaler at the Bull, with Jazzer looking on intrigued. Berwick's answer is still no, but Mick explains Joy's motives. With some business over a piece of paper and mystery financial offer, Berwick seems ready to negotiate. Later, excited Joy informs Lynda and Lilian that Berwick has changed his mind; she has secured her star. Joy worries briefly that other potential cast members might be intimidated, but when news spreads they're inundated with

volunteers to play the other Ugly Sister – they'll have to have a Dame-off!

**MON 19:15 Front Row (m0027bpb)**

25 Years of 21st Century: Music

Front Row looks at how culture has changed in the first 25 years of this century, starting with Music.

Samira is joined by Radio 4's Add to Playlist hosts Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe, music journalist Kitty Empire and former Spotify exec Will Page.

They discuss how transformations in technology have impacted what we listen to and what music is being written, and what genres of music have come to the forefront in the last 25 years.

Pete Waterman, one of the judges on the original Pop Idol, talks about the explosion of TV music competitions.

And the Master of the Kings Music, composer Errollyn Wallen, explores how classical music has changed and evolved.

Presenter: Samira Ahmed

Producer: Corinna Jones

**MON 20:00 Rethink (m00274ym)**

Rethink... museums

The UK has many world-leading museums that inspire wonder and fascination in their visitors. Many were originally created to display artefacts from empire or house the collections of their wealthy Victorian founders but recent decades have seen museums finding innovative ways to challenge what a modern museum can be. However, in tough economic times many museums are facing serious challenges. The sector is having to make the case for why museums should receive public money when there's a lot less to go around. They are also facing criticism about who visits them, who curates them, and what objects they collect and display. What are museums for? Who are they for? And how can they teach us about our past whilst remaining relevant and exciting for today's visitors?

Presenter: Ben Ansell

Producer: Viv Jones

Editor: Clare Fordham

Contributors:

Sara Wajid, co-CEO of Birmingham Museums Trust

Tony Butler, Director of Derby Museums Trust

Stephen Bush, columnist and associate editor at the Financial Times

**MON 20:30 BBC Inside Science (m00274yp)**

Next-gen batteries and 'dark oxygen'

Following a devastating fire at the world's largest lithium-ion battery plant, Inside Science probes the present and future of a technology we rely on every day.

Lithium-ion batteries were a technological breakthrough, powering everything from mobile phones to electric vehicles, but as funding is poured into researching alternatives, are we on the verge of something safer, faster, and more efficient?

Also this week, we learn about the "dark oxygen" potentially being produced in the deep ocean and friend of Inside Science, Anjana Ahuja, brings us her favourite science stories of the week, including a new material described as 'chainmail on steroids' and contagious urination.

Presenter: Marnie Chesterton

Producers: Ella Hubber, Sophie Ormiston & Gerry Holt

Editor: Martin Smith

Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

To discover more fascinating science content, head to [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) search for BBC Inside Science and follow the links to The Open University.

**MON 21:00 Start the Week (m0027bn5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**MON 21:45 Café Hope (m0027bn7)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

**MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m0027bpd)**

Auschwitz survivors commemorate 80 years since liberation

Survivors of the Auschwitz extermination camp gathered there again to mark 80 years since it was liberated by Allied forces towards the end of WWII. World leaders and European royalty were present, but it was the 56 survivors of Hitler's genocide of European Jews that took centre-stage. We report from the camp

and speak to survivors and guides about its horrors and the dwindling memories of them.

The bishop who urged newly-inaugurated President Trump to show mercy to illegal migrants and LGBT minorities told us his policies are "not in the best interests of... our survival as a species."

And could Britain's loneliest bat be about to find love?

**MON 22:45 Rye by Alex Preston (m0027bpg)**

Episode One

The novel Winchelsea - serialised on Radio 4 in 2022 - described the extraordinary life of smuggler and privateer Goody Brown and her dealings and struggles with the notorious Hawkhurst Gang.

Now it is 1804, and Goody is a grandmother.

Rye - an original commission by BBC Radio 4 - tells the story of her grandson, Zeke, a young man determined to prove his worth and free his father from a prison hulk at Sheerness.

Episode 1

Zeke Brown lives at the Hope Anchor inn, and watches the spring rains transform Rye into an island again.

Alex Preston is an author and journalist who lives in Kent. His personal anthology of nature writing, *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*, was published in 2017. His novels include *In Love And War* and *Winchelsea*.

Writer: Alex Preston

Reader: Karl Davies

Producer: Jeremy Osborne

A Sweet Talk production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 23:00 Limelight (p0ctyd5b)**

Exemplar - Series 1

Exemplar - Episode 5

A modern day thriller set in the North East of England starring Gina McKee as a lone wolf audio forensic analyst with a troubled past. Jess races to find her mother, Judith. When the mystery of her father's departure is solved, Jess is forced to reevaluate her childhood memories.

Exemplar: an audio recording made by a forensic analyst to recreate the precise audio conditions of a piece of evidence in a criminal or civil case.

Exemplar is based on an idea from Ben and Max Ringham, and written by Ben Ringham, Max Ringham and Dan Rebellato.

Jess ..... Gina McKee  
Maya ..... Shvorne Marks  
Sophie ..... Fenella Woolgar  
Judith ..... Barbara Marten  
Ajay ..... Asif Khan

Writers: Dan Rebellato with Ben and Max Ringham

Showrunner: Dan Rebellato

Audio forensic consultant: James Zjalić

Sound recordist: Alisdair McGregor

Studio assistant: Oyin Fowowe

Production coordinator: Darren Spruce

Sound design: Lucinda Mason Brown and David Chilton

Original music/Sound consultants: Ben and Max Ringham

Directors: Polly Thomas and Jade Lewis

Executive producer: Joby Waldman

A Reduced Listening production for BBC Radio 4.

**MON 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0027bpk)**

Susan Hulme reports on MPs questioning the government about defence spending.

**TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2025**

**TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m0027bpm)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**TUE 00:30 The History Podcast (m001zddx)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Monday]

**TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0027bhp)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0027bpr)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**TUE 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0027bpt)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**TUE 05:30 News Briefing (m0027bpw)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0027bpy)**

Be Kind

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Julia Neuberger

Good morning.

On this day back in 1813, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* was published. Amongst the most beloved books in English literature, it's sold well over 20 million copies. It begins with that memorable line: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife." And so the story progresses, with the heroine, Elizabeth, eventually marrying the romantic Mr Darcy - and his fortune. Her wit, charm and honesty win him over - and Darcy is portrayed ever after as a handsome figure, haughty yes, but so handsome, and so very compelling.

But *Pride and Prejudice* is more than simply popular. It is also, as the writer Anna Quindlen suggests, the first modern novel that focuses on the search for self, "with this search (being) as surely undertaken in the drawing room making small talk as in the pursuit of a great white whale or the public punishment of adultery." It's a novel of manners, about the search for husbands, about women's inability to fully control their own destinies, and about their capacity - if bright - to shape their own futures. It allows us to look for meaning within a hemmed-in, genteel life, and then to find it in the courage, humour and generosity of some of the characters. It lets us find the profound in a seemingly constrained existence. And it teaches us that learning to control one's feelings, and supporting others, brings its own reward. A simple message maybe, focusing on 'be kind', something we often forget, but as important for us to remember now when pursuing our own Mr Darcy, or in the rest of life, as it was back then.

**TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m0027bq0)**

28/01/25 - Storm clear-up, agricultural valuers and Welsh farm policy update

A patch of commercial forest has been left "flattened" by Storm Eowyn and looking like "a bunch of giants have gone in there and played rugby" according to one farm manager in Scotland. We catch up on how the clear up is going.

Since the Budget in October, farmers have been coming to terms with the introduction of inheritance tax on their businesses. Many are now trying to work out how much money they might owe the Government when the changes come into force next year. So what does that mean for the agricultural valuers doing the sums?

And we catch up on progress towards the introduction of the Sustainable Farming Scheme - due to start being rolled out across Wales in 2026, after years of negotiation between farmers, environmentalists and the Welsh Government. This is the farming policy and payments that will replace old EU payments: to gain access to the funding under the new rules, farms will have to sign up to 12 so-called universal actions. These range from soil health planning and habitat maintenance, to "continuous professional development".

Presented by Anna Hill  
Produced by Heather Simons

**TUE 06:00 Today (m0027cl8)**

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

**TUE 09:00 Young Again (m0027clb)**

23. Tanni Grey-Thompson

Kirsty Young asks Paralympic legend Tanni Grey-Thompson what advice she would give her younger self.

With 11 Paralympic gold medals and six London Marathon victories, Grey-Thompson reflects on a childhood in Wales, her extraordinary athletics career and her transition to becoming a campaigner and crossbench peer. She discusses the mindset of a champion, the importance of forward-looking goals, and her advocacy for disability rights.

A BBC Studios Audio production.

**TUE 09:30 Inside Health (m0027cld)**

Raw milk: What are the risks and why are people talking about it?

Pasteurising milk makes it safer, but are there any benefits to drinking it "raw"? James heads to a dairy farm to investigate the evidence and see if anything is lost in pasteurising milk.

Guests:  
Professor Marion Nestle, food policy expert, New York University  
Dr Ellen Evans, food safety expert at Cardiff Metropolitan University  
Jonny Crickmore, Fen Farm Dairy and chairman of the Raw Milk Producers Association  
Professor Markus Ege, researcher, University of Munich

Presenter: James Gallagher  
Producer: Tom Bonnett

**TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0027clg)**

Vicki Pattison's deepfake doc, Kim Wilde, Misogyny, Football academies

Reality star turned documentary filmmaker Vicki Pattison joins Clare McDonnell to discuss her latest project, Vicki Pattison: My Deepfake Sex Tape. The documentary sees her exploring the proliferation of videos generated by AI whereby people's faces are placed onto pornographic images and shared without their consent. Vicki talks about creating her own deepfake sex tape and looks at the impact the phenomenon is having on women and girls.

A rapid review commissioned by the government in response to the Southport attacks has been leaked, including suggestions that the definition of extremism should be widened to include men who are prejudiced against women, along with potentially violent environmentalists, the far left and conspiracy theorists. The BBC has been told Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, doesn't agree with the findings and will order the focus to remain on Islam and far-right extremism. We're joined by BBC Political correspondent Tom Symonds, author and journalist Joan Smith and Ian Corbett, Participation, Engagement and Policy Advisor for the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice.

Eighties pop legend Kim Wilde joins us to discuss her new album, *Closer*, her career and embracing her 60s.

We discuss football academies and the challenges they present for parents with Rachel Holmes, whose son Pete plays for Cambridge United's U18s team and Jordan Gibson, Academy Manager at Stevenage Football Club.

Presenter: Clare McDonnell  
Producer: Sarah Jane Griffiths

Editor: Karen Dalziel

**TUE 11:00 Screenshot (m002752j)**

Mike Leigh

Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermod explore the visionary world of veteran British filmmaker Mike Leigh, as he returns with *Hard Truths* - his first film in six years.

Born in 1943 and raised in Salford, Leigh started his career in the theatre, before moving to TV in the 1970s, making a string of plays and films for the BBC.

Since his very first film *Bleak Moments* in 1971, Mike Leigh has been at the cutting edge of British screen culture, creating a diverse body of work which ranges from the exquisitely excruciating 1970s comedy of manners *Abigail's Party*, to his epic biopic of the 19th century painter Mr Turner.

Ellen attempts to get to grips with Leigh's singular creative process - which involves assembling a group of actors and getting them to research and develop their characters in detail. She speaks to Mike Leigh himself about how he approaches each of his films, and about the unmade big budget project he'd still like to see realised.

Mark learns about an actor's role on a Mike Leigh project - speaking to *Hard Truths* lead actor Marianne Jean Baptiste, who was Oscar-nominated for her role in Leigh's 1996 film *Secrets & Lies*.

And Mark also speaks to American independent filmmaker Sean Baker - whose latest film *Anora* is shaping up as a major Oscar contender - about the profound impact Leigh's 1993 film *Naked* had on his career.

Produced by Jane Long

A Prospect Street production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 11:45 The History Podcast (m001zg5d)**

Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 7. The Abduction

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times - how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera  
Series Producer: John Murphy  
Producer: Olivia Lace-Evans  
Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)  
Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison  
Series Editor: Penny Murphy

**TUE 12:00 News Summary (m0027clj)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 12:04 You and Yours (m0027cll)**

News and discussion of consumer affairs

**TUE 12:57 Weather (m0027cln)**

The latest weather forecast

**TUE 13:00 World at One (m0027cls)**

Jordanian helicopters begin deliveries of aid to Gaza

We hear from Fergal Keane, who has just flown in to Gaza on a Jordanian helicopter delivering aid - the first such flights since the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas began. Plus, we speak to the Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel D'Souza, about the sentences given to children who took part in last summer's riots.

**TUE 13:45 The Prophets of Profit (m0027cly)**

Creative Destruction

Simon Jack reveals what many believe to be the most important idea in business today, where it came from and how its consequences have shaped all our lives.

It's been called the dumbest idea in the world. But many believe shareholder value is the most important, the most consequential idea of the last hundred years.

In *Prophets of Profit* the BBC's Business Editor Simon Jack discovers why so many believe the prime responsibility of business is to increase profits and maximise returns to shareholders. He shows how the consequences have enriched many people but devastated many too. How the separation of the idea of money-making from other social obligations has led to severe social tensions and a profound misunderstanding of business within communities and governments alike.

Speaking to investors managing trillions, the most powerful union boss in Britain, and CEOs who've been at the very top of some of the world's biggest companies, Simon tracks how a simple idea became so powerful and why it shapes all of our lives today. In this episode Simon reveals how this powerful idea was propelled by a few influential individuals from academic cloisters to dominate boardrooms across the world from the 1980s onwards.

**TUE 14:00 The Archers (m0027bp8)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

**TUE 14:15 This Thing of Darkness (m001venv)**

Series 3

A Pint with Pals

by Frances Poet with monologues by Eileen Horne

Part Three - A Pint with Pals

Dr Alex Bridges is an expert forensic psychiatrist and psychotherapist, assessing and treating perpetrators of serious crime.

This gripping drama explores the psychological impact of murder on teenage perpetrators and follows the fortunes of

participants in a Long Sentence therapy group.

How do you cope with the extreme grief behind bars?

Dr Alex Bridges ..... Lolita Chakrabarti  
 Anthony ..... Lorn Macdonald  
 Finn ..... Reuben Joseph  
 Twitch ..... Brian Ferguson  
 Simon ..... Shaun Mason  
 Dani ..... Elysia Welch  
 Dead Elvis.....Andy Clark

'Autopilot' composed by Jill O'Sullivan & Lee and performed by Jill O'Sullivan & Louis Abbott as part of the Vox Limini's Distant Voices project.

Sound Design: Fraser Jackson

Series Consultant: Dr Gwen Adshead

Series format created by Lucia Haynes, Audrey Gillan, Eileen Horne, Gaynor Macfarlane, Anita Vettesse and Kirsty Williams.

Thanks to Victoria Byrne, Barlinnie Prison, Vox Limini's Distant Voices Project and Prof Fergus McNeill.

Produced by Gaynor Macfarlane and Kirsty Williams

A BBC Scotland Production directed by Kirsty Williams

#### **TUE 15:00 The Gift (m0025475)**

Series 2

3. Sold

A breast cancer survivor investigates her genes and uncovers a black market in human life.

It's the perfect gift for the person who already has everything. It promises to tell you who you really are, and how you're connected to the world. A present that will reveal your genetic past – but could also disrupt your future.

In the first series of The Gift, Jenny Kleeman looked at the extraordinary truths that can unravel when people take at-home DNA tests like Ancestry and 23andMe.

For the second series, Jenny is going deeper into the unintended consequences - the aftershocks - set in motion when people link up to the enormous global DNA database.

Reconnecting and rupturing families, uprooting identities, unearthing long-buried secrets - what happens after technology, genealogy and identity collide?

Presenter: Jenny Kleeman  
 Producer: Conor Garrett  
 Production Coordinator: Gill Huggett  
 Editor: Philip Sellars  
 Commissioning Executive: Tracy Williams  
 Commissioning Editor: Dan Clarke

The Gift is a BBC Studios Audio production for BBC Radio 4

#### **TUE 15:30 Thinking Allowed (m0027cm2)**

Crime Stories

Laurie Taylor explores the fascination for true crime stories. He's joined by Jennifer Fleetwood, Senior Lecturer in Criminology at City, University of London, whose latest work considers the remarkable rise in the number of people who speak publicly about their experience of crime. Personal accounts used to be confined to the police station and the courtroom, but today bookshops have with autobiographies by prisoners, criminals, police and barristers while streaming platforms host hours of interviews so how easy is it for the 'truth' to come out?

Louise Wattis, Assistant Professor in the Department: Social Sciences -at Northumbria University, Newcastle looks at the skyrocketing interest in true crime as a form of popular entertainment. What do we know about the appeal of 'Hardman' biographies of violent criminals, a hugely popular subgenre, particularly for male readers?

Producer: Jayne Egerton

#### **TUE 16:00 Moving Pictures (m0027cm6)**

A Woman Bathing in a Stream by Rembrandt

Cathy FitzGerald invites you to discover new details in old masterpieces. Each episode of Moving Pictures is devoted to a single artwork – and you're invited to look as well as listen, by following a link to a high-resolution image made by Google Arts & Culture. Zoom in and you can see the pores of the canvas, the sweep of individual brushstrokes, the shimmer of

pointillist dots.

A young woman paddles in a stream, staring down with an enigmatic smile as the cool water plays about her legs. At first glance, it's a simple scene - and yet this small painting by Rembrandt mesmerises with its tender sensuality. Is it a portrait of his partner, Hendrickje? Or a biblical picture made for sale by an artist in serious financial difficulties? Take a closer look at Rembrandt's daringly intimate A Woman Bathing in a Stream and discover how he 'sculpts in paint'.

To see the high-resolution image of the painting made by Google Arts & Culture, visit [www.bbc.co.uk/movingpictures](http://www.bbc.co.uk/movingpictures). Scroll down and follow the link to explore A Woman Bathing in a Stream by Rembrandt.

Interviewees: Helen Hillyard, Francesca Whitlum-Cooper, Jonathan Bikker, Bart Cornelis, Pieter Roelofs.

Producer and presenter: Cathy FitzGerald

Executive producer: Sarah Cuddon  
 Mix engineer: Mike Woolley  
 Art history consultant: Leah Kharibian

A White Stiletto production for BBC Radio 4

NG54: Rembrandt, A Woman bathing in a Stream (Hendrickje Stoffels?), 1654. Oil on wood, 61.8 x 47 cm, © The National Gallery, London

#### **TUE 16:30 When It Hits the Fan (m0027cmb)**

Inside the Sun's historic apology to Prince Harry

In a rare, open and frank discussion, David Yelland and Simon Lewis go behind the scenes of The Sun newspaper's historic apology to Prince Harry, including for 'serious intrusion' by The Sun and unlawful activity by private investigators.

There's no suggestion that any Sun journalist broke the law. But as a former editor of the paper during this time, what light can David shed on practices at Rupert Murdoch's company then - the use of private investigators and oversight of this, questioning sources, as well as protecting the privacy of Prince William and Prince Harry while they were at Eton? Will this settlement draw a line under the hacking scandal and Harry's crusade against the tabloid press?

Producer: Eve Streeter  
 Editor: Sarah Teasdale  
 Executive Producer: William Miller  
 Music by Eclectic Sounds  
 A Raconteur Studios production for BBC Radio 4

#### **TUE 17:00 PM (m0027cmg)**

UK's population projected to rise to nearly 73 million by 2032

ONS projects the UK's population to hit nearly 73 million in 8 years time, with migration the main factor. Also on PM a report from inside Gaza, and who gets to name maps?

#### **TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0027cmk)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### **TUE 18:30 Janey Godley: The C Bomb (m001xmgs)**

Series 2

4. Friends, Enemies and a Big Decision

Janey knows she's got a big mouth – and sometimes that's a great thing. She can talk to anyone, and often makes celebrity mates without even knowing who they are! But it's also got her into trouble on many occasions.

In this episode, she tells us all about making friends and enemies - and the Hollywood star she's making a surprise gift!

Things also take a surprising turn as Janey decides in the spur of the moment to make a big decision, and say goodbye to something that's been a massive part of her life for years, but which has now become a toxic influence that needs to go.

Reflecting with rare candour on her life, as she continues to live with a terminal diagnosis, she still finds humour and insight in both the darkness and the ridiculous.

A mix of stories told onstage to a hometown audience, and intimate conversations with her daughter Ashley Storrie, recorded in the living room of the home they share.

Produced by Julia Sutherland  
 Featuring Ashley Storrie  
 A Dabster production for BBC Radio 4

#### **TUE 19:00 The Archers (m0027cmp)**

Lynda's delighted Berwick Kaler's accepted her offer of accommodation. She and Lilian move on to the pressing matter of casting for the panto, using Lilian's impressive availability chart. Kind-hearted Joy has put Mick forward for Buttons so that he can play alongside Berwick, and they're hoping Alice will play Cinderella. Vince accuses them of being unscrupulous, having cast a professional actor. He reckons it's against the spirit of the thing – but not the law, declares Lilian. Vince bumps into Jazzer and quizzes him about the 'ringer' who's been cast in the panto. Is he being paid? Jazzer reckons he might be – he saw Mick doing a deal with him yesterday. This gives Vince the ammunition he needs and he heads off. When Leonard agrees to take on anything if he's unsuccessful in the Dame-off later, Lynda pounces and puts him down for set building duties. Sure enough Leonard doesn't pass the Ugly Sister test even with the help of Jill's dressing gown, and Lynda consigns him to the under-stage store, where he finds Jazzer following instructions from costumier Paul to check for hats. Leonard becomes enthused when he finds an old Cinderella's coach, however, and sets about planning a renovation. Meanwhile at the auditions Tony dons the discarded dressing gown and finds success as 'Antonia' – Lynda's secured her second Ugly Sister. Vince puts in a cryptic appearance, claiming to suspicious Lynda and Lilian that he's just passing. He heads off, commenting that he hopes it will all be worthwhile.

#### **TUE 19:15 Front Row (m0027cmt)**

Jane Austen's sister, artist Chila Kumari Singh Burman, football in fiction

As new BBC One drama adaptation, Miss Austen, shines fresh light on Jane Austen's sister Cassandra. Gill Hornby, who wrote the eponymous novel on which Miss Austen is based, and Claire Harman, author of Jane's Fame, How Jane Austen Conquered The World, discuss how perceptions of Cassandra's burning of her sister's letters have been changing.

Paris-based journalist and cultural critic Agnès Poirier reports on President Macron's announcement at the Louvre.

Artist Chila Kumari Singh Burman reflects on weaving together personal, historical, and social stories in her exhibition, Chila Welcomes You, at Imperial War Museum North in Manchester.

Alex Allison and George Harrison on their new novels which centre on football. Alex's Greatest of All Time is a tender gay love story set among a fictional Premiership team in the North East while George Harrison's Season is a cross generational tale of two dedicated football fans that stretches over a season.

Presenter: Nick Ahad  
 Producer: Ekene Akalawa

#### **TUE 20:00 File on 4 Investigates (m0027cmj)**

Abramovich, the Yachts and the Tax Dodge

With the billions he made at the expense of Russian taxpayers, Roman Abramovich bought six luxury superyachts over the years. Among them were the 162-metre-long Eclipse, with swimming pools, helipads and a missile defence system - and the Pelorus - sometimes lent to Chelsea footballers.

They could each cost up to one and a half million dollars just to re-fuel. If they'd been declared as being for his own personal use, VAT would have been payable on costs like that. Instead, for more than a decade, tax authorities were led to believe the superyachts were being rented out to commercial customers.

Financial investigations correspondent Andy Verity working with The Bureau of Investigative Journalism and The Guardian discovers that the firms renting the boats ultimately belonged to a trust held by - Roman Abramovich. Under the scheme devised for him, the sanctioned oligarch was hiring out his superyachts - to himself. Mr Abramovich has denied either directing or knowing of any deception.

Reporter: Andy Verity  
 Producer: Paul Grant  
 Editor: Richard Vadon

#### **TUE 20:40 In Touch (m0027cn0)**

Regulator rejects macular disease treatment; Optomap

The treatment of Geographic Atrophy (GA) or late stage dry age-related macular degeneration as it's also known, is proving to be a pretty tough nut to crack. Hopes had been high that a treatment available in the USA would also be approved for use here in the UK. However, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has rejected the application. Ed Holloway, Chief Executive of the Macular Society and Bill Best who has lived with GA for many years join us to discuss the MHRA decision.

Optomap is an imaging system which produces significantly more detailed information about the retina than had been

available before. This can lead to earlier diagnosis of many eye conditions and accordingly a better chance of preventing sight loss. Dr Peter Hampson, Policy and Clinical Director of the Association of Optometrists and John Hopcroft, Clinical Services Manager at Boots join us to discuss the system and how public access to it is being improved by bringing it to the high street.

Presenter: Peter White  
Producer: Fern Lulham  
Production Coordinator: David Baguley

Website image description: Peter White sits smiling in the centre of the image, wearing a dark green jumper. Above Peter's head is the BBC logo (three individual 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 of a darker blue and the other is a lighter blue.

**TUE 21:00 World Of Secrets (m0026jxm)**  
The Bad Guru

The Bad Guru: 1. The Retreat

Miranda joins a yoga school in London. The classes make her feel amazing and the people make her feel loved. But at a weekend retreat in a country house, she gets a shock.

This series contains explicit sexual content, some strong language and allegations of sexual exploitation. This episode contains explicit sexual content.

Host: Cat McShane  
Producers: Emma Weatherill and Cat McShane  
Sound design: Melvin Rickarby  
Production Coordinator: Juliette Harvey  
Unit Manager: Lucy Bannister  
Executive Producer: Innes Bowen  
Commissioning Editor: Dan Clarke  
Commissioning Executive: Tracy Williams

**TUE 21:30 Crossing Continents (m0027cn3)**  
Reel Revolution? The dramatic rise of Saudiwood

Saudi Arabia is rolling out the red carpet to filmmakers and foreign companies as it sets out to establish itself as a major player in the entertainment industry. After lifting a 35-year ban on cinemas in 2018, the Kingdom is now luring Hollywood with cash incentives to shoot in the desert, and playing host to a glitzy international film festival. The move is all part of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's 'Vision 2030' - a grand blueprint to rewrite the Kingdom's script, diversify its economy away from oil, and expand its cultural influence through films, gaming and sport, all at the same time seeking to keep an overwhelming young population happy. It is a dramatic transformation with writers, directors and actors now prepared to test boundaries and break taboos on screen. But as Emily Wither finds out Saudi Arabia is still a country where not every story can be told.

Presenter: Emily Wither  
Producers Emily Wither and Ben Carter  
Editor: Penny Murphy  
Sound Engineer: Neil Churchill  
Production manager: Gemma Ashman

Archive credits:

Fox News, The Bret Baier Podcast  
Netflix, Masameer

**TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m0027cn5)**  
Rebels edge closer to taking key city in Democratic Republic of Congo

As Rwanda is accused of aiding rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we look at what lies behind a decades-long conflict and why it has flared in recent days.

We speak to the MP who wants to tighten the language on mental capacity in the landmark Assisted Dying Bill.

And the man fitted with a new brain implant that has been so successful he sometimes forgets he has Parkinson's disease.

**TUE 22:45 Rye by Alex Preston (m0027cn7)**  
Episode Two

The novel Winchelsea - serialised on Radio 4 in 2022 - described the extraordinary life of smuggler and privateer, Goody Brown, and her dealings and struggles with the notorious Hawkhurst Gang.

Now it is 1804, and Goody is a grandmother.

Rye - an original commission by BBC Radio 4 - tells the story of her grandson, Zeke, a young man determined to prove his worth and free his father from a prison hulk at Sheerness.

Episode 2  
At Ypres Castle, Zeke meets the mysterious Frenchman M. Bihoreau, 'The Heron'.

Alex Preston is an author and journalist who lives in Kent. His personal anthology of nature writing, *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*, was published in 2017. His novels include *In Love And War* and *Winchelsea*.

Writer: Alex Preston  
Reader: Karl Davies  
Producer: Jeremy Osborne

A Sweet Talk production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 23:00 Uncanny (m0013hb5)**  
Series 1

Case 13: The Return of Elizabeth Dacre

A young family moves into a historic seaside house converted from a once famous hotel, but when they start to see an apparition who resembles the former owner, they begin to wonder if they are really welcome. Does she want them out of her house?

Written and presented by Danny Robins  
Editor and Sound Designer: Charlie Brandon-King  
Music: Evelyn Sykes  
Theme Music by Lanterns on the Lake  
Produced by Danny Robins and Simon Barnard

A Baffleleg and Uncanny Media production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0027cnb)**  
Sean Curran reports on a row over the definition of extremism - and on calls for restrictions on newly-qualified drivers.

**WEDNESDAY 29 JANUARY 2025**

**WED 00:00 Midnight News (m0027cnd)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 00:30 The History Podcast (m001zg54)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Tuesday]

**WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0027cng)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0027cnj)**  
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**WED 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0027cnl)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 05:30 News Briefing (m0027cnn)**  
The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0027cnq)**  
The Hope Science Is Bringing to Humanity

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Julia Neuberger

Good morning.

Back in 1896, the American doctor Emile Grubbe was allegedly the first clinician to use radiation treatment for breast cancer, less than a year after Wilhelm Roentgen had discovered the X-ray. Roll on 130 years and we're all familiar with X-rays, CT scans, MRIs and other forms of imaging. Doctors can see what's going on inside us as never before, but we still use radiation therapy, though in a much more sophisticated way, for treating some breast cancers.

Those final decades of the nineteenth century and early years of the twentieth were scientifically extraordinary. Take syphilis, for example. The organism was first identified in 1905 and the first effective treatment, Salvarsan, was produced just 5 years later in Paul Ehrlich's lab in Berlin. Insulin was discovered as a treatment for diabetes in 1922. Science was seen as the pursuit of great thinkers and optimists, who believed you could change

things for the better. And, despite the horrors of World War One, with its huge slaughter on the battlefields followed by Spanish flu killing millions afterwards, that optimism remained in place.

And it still does. These days, new forms of science, engineering biology, gene modification, immunotherapy and others are changing how we treat disease. Great minds are focused on how you can use nature's own properties to heal and to cure. I chair two London hospitals and work closely with research scientists and doctors; I'm bowled over by the combination of humility and excitement I encounter every day. The advances we make are for the whole of humankind. May we be grateful for this new knowledge and celebrate the hope science is bringing to humanity.

**WED 05:45 Farming Today (m0027cns)**  
29/01/25 - Avian flu in people, housing orders for birds and English farm payments

After the the UK Health Security Agency confirmed a case of avian flu in a person, what does it mean for farmworkers on poultry units?

As avian flu outbreaks in farmed poultry continue, we visit a free range egg farm that's under housing orders, with the chickens shut indoors. New rules mean eggs from previously free range birds that now have to be kept inside can still be sold as "free range" for the duration of the housing order. Before, after 16 weeks inside, eggs would have been labelled as "barn eggs".

And how is the role of out The Environmental Land Management Scheme going? That's the new system of farm payments that is replacing the old EU payments in England since Brexit.

Presented by Anna Hill  
Produced by Heather Simons

**WED 06:00 Today (m0027ctd)**  
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**WED 09:00 Sideways (m0027ctg)**  
69. Memento Mori

The passing of time brings inevitable change - corrosion, disintegration and, eventually, disappearance. While the certainty of this process may seem like cause for despair, Matthew Syed explores the beauty that can be found in the process of decay.

American composer William Basinski, watching his old reel-to-reel tapes disintegrate into a masterpiece of ambient music, discovered how even decay can lead to something unexpectedly profound.

In Detroit's abandoned neighbourhoods, the ruins tell a story of transformation, where the decline of once-thriving industry serves as both a stark reminder of impermanence and a catalyst for reflection and artistic expression.

With composer William Basinski, cultural historian Professor Dora Apel, Detroit artist Scott Hocking, and religion professor Ankur Barua.

Presenter: Matthew Syed  
Producer: Julien Manuguerra-Patten  
Series Editors: Georgia Moodie and Max O'Brien  
Sound Design and Mix: Daniel Kempson  
Theme music by Ioana Selaru  
A Novel production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 09:30 In Dark Corners (m0027ctj)**  
Series 2

4. Member 51

A social care consultant who advises the government on children in care, is raided by police in 1992. A detective finds evidence linking him to the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE).

A local social worker is called in. He and the detective search through seven boxes of documents, brought from the home of the suspect. They discover that not only was he a member of PIE, but a central figure and high up in establishment circles.

Alex Renton sits down with the social worker, and hears about his decades long quest: to expose members of the Paedophile Information Exchange within social care and stop them from harming children.

In their public literature, the leaders of PIE members had

always claimed their relationships with children were consensual. Alex Renton tracks down one of the boys, now a man in his fifties, who was abused by the childcare expert and his partner.

Archive: Inside Story- The Secret Life of a Paophile, 1994, BBC. News report on the White Inquiry into Islington Children's Homes child abuse scandal, 1995, BBC; The Scandal of Crookham Court, That's Life!, 1991, BBC.

Presenter: Alex Renton  
Producer: Caitlin Smith  
Executive Producers: Gail Champion and Gillian Wheelan  
Story Consultants: Jack Kibble-White and Kirsty Williams  
Sound design: Jon Nicholls  
Theme Tune: Jeremy Warnmsley

Details of organisations offering information and support for victims of child sexual abuse are available at [bbc.co.uk/actionline](http://bbc.co.uk/actionline)

#### WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0027ctf)

Women's refugees and disability, Aisling Walsh, Roxanne de Bastion

In the last year, women with disabilities experienced domestic abuse at more than twice the rate of those without, according to the latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales. Yet data from Women's Aid shows less than 1% of refuge vacancies in England are suitable for wheelchair users. Where does this leave women with disabilities impacted by domestic abuse? Anita Rani hears about one anonymous woman's experience and is joined by Angie Airlie, CEO of Stay Safe East and Rebecca Goshawk, a director of Solace Women's Aid.

Singer Roxanne de Bastion's grandfather was a Holocaust survivor and a renowned pianist. She joins Anita to discuss bringing his music to a modern audience and tracing his story for her book, The Piano Player of Budapest.

Aisling Walsh, Bafta-winning director of Room at the Top and Elizabeth is Missing, has a new project – the BBC series Miss Austen. Aisling speaks to Anita about the series, which reimagines the life of Cassandra Austen, Jane's sister, and her career in giving a voice to unheard stories through film and TV.

The Creative Industries Independent Standards Authority (CIISA) was created to tackle misconduct across the arts and media sectors. But more than a year later, it's struggling to secure funding and deliver on its mission. Anita hears from the CEO Jen Smith and Charisse Beaumont, CEO of Black Lives in Music, to explore the challenges CIISA faces and how the music industry can work towards being safer for women.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Lottie Garton

#### WED 11:00 File on 4 Investigates (m0027cmy)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Tuesday]

#### WED 11:45 The History Podcast (m001zdqy)

Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 8. Pulling the Strings

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera  
Series Producer: John Murphy  
Producer: Olivia Lace-Evans  
Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)  
Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison  
Series Editor: Penny Murphy

#### WED 12:00 News Summary (m0027ctp)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

#### WED 12:04 You and Yours (m0027ctr)

Why are there so many empty homes?

A new report from Keep Britain Tidy says litter is getting worse. What are people dropping, and who's ultimately responsible? We hear from people on the front line - the litter pickers. Also - we hear a lot about the number of new homes

that are needed - but what about all those that are empty? A 'housing detective', whose job it is to bring them back to use, gives us a tour of her area. WH Smith is a fixture in many town centres - but for how much longer? The retailer's thinking about selling all off its high street branches. And more of us are buying and selling private car number plates - we find out why.

PRESENTER: WINIFRED ROBINSON  
PRODUCER: TOM MOSELEY

#### WED 12:57 Weather (m0027ctt)

The latest weather forecast

#### WED 13:00 World at One (m0027ctw)

Reeves backs controversial Heathrow expansion

In a heavily-trailed speech about growth the Chancellor says the UK's potential has been held back for too long. Plus, the gems in Britain's smaller art galleries.

#### WED 13:45 The Prophets of Profit (m0027cty)

The Managers

It's been called the dumbest idea in the world. But many believe shareholder value is the most important, the most consequential idea of the last hundred years.

In Prophets of Profit the BBC's Business Editor Simon Jack discovers why so many believe the prime responsibility of business is to increase profits and maximise returns to shareholders. Simon reveals how this powerful idea was propelled by a few influential individuals from academic cloisters to dominate boardrooms across the world from the 1980s onwards. He shows how the consequences have enriched many people but devastated many too. How the separation of the idea of money-making from other social obligations has led to severe social tensions and a profound misunderstanding of business within communities and governments alike.

Speaking to investors managing trillions, the most powerful union boss in Britain, and CEOs who've been at the very top of some of the world's biggest companies, Simon tracks how a simple idea became so powerful and why it shapes all of our lives today. In this episode he looks at how the idea changed the role of company executives.

#### WED 14:00 The Archers (m0027cnp)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

#### WED 14:15 Drama on 4 (m0027cv0)

A Tale of Two Trumpets

By Sylvia-Anne Parker.

A music-fuelled drama set in the court of Henry VIII and playfully inspired by the life of Black Tudor and royal trumpeter - John Blanke.

When Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII lose a child, the King prepares a celebration of the baby prince's life and calls in the trailblazing trumpeter John Blanke to help him...

And when John sees an opportunity to also help Henry VIII's private passions, little does he know that his timely intervention will change the course of history in more ways than one...

Cast:

John ... Nicholas Pinnock with Byron Wallen on trumpet  
Henry VIII ... Rory Kinnear with Jacob Heringman on lute  
Dominic ... Harry Lloyd with David McCallum on trumpet  
Harriet ... Ayesha Antoine  
Femi and Compton ... Yinka Awonri  
Catherine ... Ruth Everett

Studio Production: Alison Craig and Mike Etherden  
Production Co-ordinator: Rosalind Gibson

Sound Design: Fraser Jackson.

Directed by Kirsty Williams

The writer dedicates this production to the memory of her audio drama mentor, Oliver Emanuel.

#### WED 15:00 Money Box (m0027cv2)

Money Box Live: Disability and Finance

Research from charity Scope suggests that disabled households have to find an extra £1,000 pounds a month to have the same standard of living as non-disabled households.

Extra costs include, heating, equipment and transport. Having a

disability can also mean navigating the benefits system - a system that Chancellor Rachel Reeves said today would undergo reform by the spring, as the government struggles to manage the rising cost of claims.

Felicity Hannah is joined by Dan White from Disability Rights UK and Sarah Coles, Head of Personal Finance at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Presenter: Felicity Hannah  
Producer: Sarah Rogers  
Editor: Jess Quayle

(First broadcast 3pm Wednesday 29th January 2025)

#### WED 15:30 The Artificial Human (m0027cv4)

Should AI have a 'kill switch'?

Aleks Krotoski and Kevin Fong explore our fears around AI, where they come from and whether we're worrying about the right things?

Listener Paul asks 'if AI gets so smart wouldn't it realise it was a threat to society and switch itself off?' Its the stuff of Sci-fi fantasy, an artificial intelligence that gets so smart it decides it doesn't need humanity anymore. But if AI were ever to get that powerful and for many its a very big 'if' why would it want to do that? Kevin and Aleks speak to Dr Kanta Dihal who researches the stories we tell ourselves about technology and ask her why they seem to have become increasingly apocalyptic.

Do these far-flung futures distract us from much more immediate problems with AI and is that their purpose? Professor Michael Rovatsos explains the issues AI raises today and what's being done counter them.

Presenters: Aleks Krotoski & Kevin Fong  
Producer: Peter McManus  
Sound: Sue Maillot & Sean Mullervy

#### WED 16:00 The Media Show (m0027cv6)

China's AI win, transparency in family courts, refugee life close up

From TikTok to AI, concerns are growing around the world about the influence of Chinese technology. Kathrin Hille, FT Greater China correspondent, tells us how TikTok might be influencing the political views of young people in Taiwan but former Head of Cybersecurity at GCHQ Ciaran Martin says the threat may not be as it seems. What will new reporting rules mean for the way the press covers the family court? We get two perspectives. Katie and Ros meet the producer of a controversial new Channel 4 programme which puts people with strong opinions about immigration into the shoes of those attempting to come to the UK. Plus, we find out why a gang of nerds has been flocking to Las Vegas to solve unusual game tasks in Microsoft Excel.

Presenters: Katie Razzall and Ros Atkins  
Producer: Simon Richardson  
Assistant Producer: Lucy Wai

Guests: Shirin Ghaffary, AI Reporter, Bloomberg; Ciaran Martin, Professor, Oxford University Blavatnik School of Government; Kathrin Hille, Greater China correspondent, Financial Times; Hannah Summers, Family Courts Journalist, Bureau of Investigative Journalism; Emily Verity, Barrister, 1GC Family Law; Emma Young, Executive Producer, Minnow Films; Robert McMillan, Reporter, Wall Street Journal

#### WED 17:00 PM (m0027cv8)

Labour unveils its plan for growth

Labour lays out its plan for growth, it includes a new runway for Heathrow. Chief Secretary to the Treasury Darren Jones, Michael Gove and Willie Walsh give their reactions.

#### WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0027cvb)

The Chancellor Rachel Reeves backs a third runway at Heathrow Airport as part of a plan for economic growth.

#### WED 18:30 ReincarNathan (m001g39w)

Series 3

Cleaning Wrasse

Nathan Blakely was a popstar. But he was useless, died, and was reincarnated. The comedy about Nathan's adventures in the afterlife returns for a third series, starring Daniel Rigby, Ashley McGuire and guest-starring Hamed Animashaun and Hugh Dennis.

In episode 5, Nathan is brought back to life as a Cleaning Wrasse fish on a coral reef. He's shocked to find out his dad

(Hugh Dennis) has also been reincarnated on the same reef and is desperate to win his approval. So he and his friend Anwar (Hammed Animashaun) set about trying to impress his father. Will Nathan get his respect? And will he ever learn to do the right thing and make it back to human again?

## Cast:

Ashley McGuire - Carol  
Daniel Rigby - Nathan  
Hammed Animashaun - Anwar  
Hugh Dennis - Robert Blakely, Nathan's Dad  
Tom Craine - Colin the Crab  
Henry Paker - Shark

Writers: Tom Craine and Henry Paker

Producer: Harriet Jaïne

Sound: Jerry Peal

Music Composed by: Phil Lepherd

A Talkback production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 19:00 The Archers (m0027cvd)**

Lynda struggles to maintain her composure when Berwick suggests some nips and tucks to the pantomime script. He's keen to meet his pantomime 'sister' Tony, stressing the importance of compatibility. They're shocked when Mick drops the bombshell that the Village Hall has been booked out by Vince. When Berwick's despondent, saying he's out, Lynda's optimistic. She pulls out a Fairy Godmother costume, saying they have to believe that something will turn up. At that moment her phone pings with a message from David saying they can use the Events Barn for the panto. The panto's back on!

Tony worries that Berwick might think he's not up to scratch as a dame, but when Berwick arrives he positively assesses Tony in his dressing gown. He thinks they can work together. Lynda's offended when they go off to rehearse rejecting her offers to direct. Mick then receives a message from Paul saying that all the costumes have disappeared. Mick thinks they've been sabotaged.

Susan tries to make it up with Tracy over her missing shoes. Tracy is reluctant to let it go but agrees to discuss it later. Unfortunately when Susan arrives with a custard tart as a peace offering, she trips up on Tracy's step covering her in custard. Tracy's furious and asks Susan to leave. Later Tony finds Susan sitting by herself on a bench. She tells him about her fight with Tracy. Tony counsels that it's a precious thing to have a sister and not to spoil things by throwing custard at each other.

**WED 19:15 Front Row (m0027cvg)**

The Great Gatsby centenary, The Testament of Gideon Mack, A New Prize for Contemporary Dance

We celebrate the centenary of the publication of F Scott Fitzgerald's seminal novel The Great Gatsby, with Fitzgerald experts James West and Sarah Churchwell,

Writer and performer Matthew Zajac talks about his new theatre production The Testament of Gideon Mack, based on James Robertson's acclaimed book about a Minister who doesn't believe in God, but then meets the Devil,

And news of a new prize for contemporary dance productions, from Sir Alistair Spalding of Sadler's Wells, and one of the judges of the prize, Dame Arlene Phillips.

Presenter: Kirsty Wark  
Producer: Fiona MacLellan

**WED 20:00 AntiSocial (m002751p)**

Mental health and race

Reports that psychology students at a UK university were separated by race to learn about ethnicity and "whiteness" have prompted a row over racism and mental health. Some of the sessions, The Telegraph claims, were designed for white students to take responsibility for colonialism. King's College London says the sessions have been mischaracterised and that they were open to all students. We dig into what's really been going on, and ask whether separate spaces for different ethnicities are helpful or divisive. Plus, to what extent do mental health services in the UK have a problem with race - we hear the key statistics. And we explore a phrase that keeps coming up in this debate - "critical race theory".

Presenter: Adam Fleming  
Producers: Emma Close, Josephine Casserly, Simon Tulett  
Production coordinator: Janet Staples  
Editor: Penny Murphy

**WED 20:45 How They Made Us Doubt Everything (m001yxg4)**

Talc Tales: 3. 'We may have problems'

Could companies clean up their talc? In the 1970s, talc companies worked out a plan to check their product for asbestos fibres. The problem was, mineralogist Sean Fitzgerald says the testing method they chose wasn't sensitive enough to truly weed all asbestos fibres out. But this testing method was taken up not just in America but around the world and still informs the standards today. Companies can legally say their talc is 'asbestos free' if they've used this method, but there could still be trace amounts of asbestos fibres in the product.

Meanwhile, epidemiologist Dan Cramer starts some research into a possible association between talc and ovarian cancer – but what does the latest research say?

Presenter and Producer: Phoebe Keane  
Sound mix: James Beard  
Series Editor: Matt Willis

**WED 21:00 Sideways (m0026nbl)**

25 Years of the 21st Century

25 Years of the 21st Century: 3. The Age of Outsourcing

Is this the age of outsourcing?

This is not a show about call centres in India. Rather, it's a look at a much deeper shift in who we are, how we think, and where value is created. In some ways, it's the most dizzying and philosophical shift of all.

In this episode, we attempt to understand outsourcing at the macro level - how corporations have outsourced so much that they've become hollow. And we look at the micro level - how we've outsourced our minds and memories to technology.

## Contributors

Margaret MacMillan, Emeritus Professor of International History at the University of Oxford and author of several acclaimed books.

James Williams is an author and technology advisor. He worked for Google for more than 10 years where he received the Founders Award for his work on search advertising. He's the author of Stand Out of Our Light: Freedom and Resistance in the Attention Economy.

John Key is author of The Corporation in the 21st Century. He's a visiting professor at the London School of Economics and a columnist for the Financial Times.

## Production team

Editor: Sara Wadeson  
Producers: Emma Close, Marianna Brain, Michaela Graichen  
Sound: Tom Brignell  
Production Co-ordinators: Janet Staples and Katie Morrison

## Archive

Steve Jobs launches the Apple iPhone, 2007

**WED 21:30 Inside Health (m0027cld)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 on Tuesday]

**WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m0027cvk)**

Reprimations in German parliament after contentious vote

Germany's parliament descended into heckles and reprimations as politicians from the right-wing Christian Democrats were accused of undermining the "firewall" against co-operation with the far-right Alternative for Germany. The CDU tabled a non-binding motion calling for tougher border and asylum rules after a spate of stabbings linked to foreign nationals in the country. The motion passed with the support of the AfD, prompting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to slam the move as an "unforgivable mistake".

As the government puts its weight behind a third runway at Heathrow, as well as expansion of other UK airports, we ask whether the ambition contradicts its climate commitments.

And as the fourth instalment of Bridget Jones premieres in London, why is the character's appeal so enduring?

**WED 22:45 Rye by Alex Preston (m0027cvn)**

Episode Three

The novel Winchelsea - serialised on Radio 4 in 2022 - described the extraordinary life of smuggler and privateer, Goody Brown, and her dealings and struggles with the notorious Hawkhurst Gang.

Now it is 1804, and Goody is a grandmother.

Rye - an original commission by BBC Radio 4 - tells the story

of her grandson, Zeke, a young man determined to prove his worth and free his father from a prison hulk at Sheerness.

## Episode 3

At the Hope Anchor, the Heron unveils his plan to spring his son Etienne, the American revolutionary Captain Tate, and Zeke's father Ezekiel from the prison ship.

Alex Preston is an author and journalist who lives in Kent. His personal anthology of nature writing, As Kingfishers Catch Fire, was published in 2017. His novels include In Love And War and Winchelsea.

Writer: Alex Preston  
Reader: Karl Davies  
Producer: Jeremy Osborne

A Sweet Talk production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 23:00 Alison Spittle: Petty Please (m0026vwd)**

Series 1

Barrioque

In this new series for Radio 4, comedian Alison Spittle explores some of her longest and deepest held grudges. The kind of thing most people would be ashamed to still be thinking about 30 minutes later, let alone contemplating exacting retribution decades on.

There are two things Alison Spittle really loves. EastEnders' Barry Evans (actor Shaun Williamson) and revenge. And this episode threatens to join her two passions. Shaun runs a popular night called Barrioque - where fans can party and perform karaoke hits on stage with him. Alison has been many times, but she's never been pulled out of the audience. What gives, Shaun? Alison needs to know.

Written by Alison Spittle & Simon Mulholland  
With Tasha & Hayley  
Script edited by Joel Morris  
Produced by Lyndsay Fenner

A Mighty Bunny Production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0027cvp)**

Susan Hulme reports on Prime Minister's Questions where Keir Starmer and Kemi Badenoch accuse each other of blocking growth.

**THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2025****THU 00:00 Midnight News (m0027cvr)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 00:30 The History Podcast (m001zdyq)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Wednesday]

**THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0027cvt)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0027cvw)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**THU 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0027cvy)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**THU 05:30 News Briefing (m0027cw0)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0027cw2)**

When I Grow Up

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Julia Neuberger

Good morning.

When I grow up, I used to say, I want to be a ballerina. Now if you'd seen me dance as a child, you'd know that was ridiculous. I must be the only person in the country who couldn't pass Grade 1 ballet. But a couple of weeks ago, I was with some five year olds, whose ambitions were very different. One wanted to drive a cherry picker. I can see the attraction, getting to all those places it's impossible to reach otherwise. Another wanted to be an AI engineer. A third wanted to be an astronomer. And a fourth a physicist. Where are the innocent days of wanting to be an engine driver or a fireman? Or has something happened that makes these 5 year olds both more ambitious, and more

realistic? The would be astronomer told me she needed to be very very VERY good at maths. The would be cherry picker driver told me he was developing a head for heights. The AI engineer spent half an hour showing me how to look things up on Chat GPT. And the physicist didn't really speak, but was concentrating hard on working out how electrical circuits worked.

Are these five year olds a completely new breed? Or have there always been truly ambitious young children, thinking about their aims from when they were tiny, like Mozart? I'm not sure, but I was astonished, and moved, by the seriousness of their ambition and their determination. It gave me real hope in a younger generation who are thinking about how to be useful in the wider world. From a very young age. And that, surely, is something we should be grateful for.

#### THU 05:45 Farming Today (m0027cw4)

Agriculture in Gaza, Reaction to Chancellor's Speech, Brexit Transition

Two weeks into the ceasefire in Gaza we speak to the deputy director of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation about what is left of farming in the devastated territory. Beth Bechdol tells us three quarters of farmland has been destroyed, as well as two thirds of wells used for irrigation and drinking water. They are hopeful they will now be able to bring in agricultural supplies to start to rebuild.

Five years after the UK left the EU, we look at how the four nations are responding to the transition to new agriculture policies. Today, it's Northern Ireland. And we have reaction to Chancellor Rachel Reeves' speech on growth, in which she said there would be some relaxation to environmental regulations for developers who pay into a new Nature Restoration Fund. Presented by Caz Graham and produced by Sally Challoner

#### THU 06:00 Today (m0027d6r)

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

#### THU 09:00 In Our Time (m0027d6t)

Pope Joan

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss a story that circulated widely in the middle ages about a highly learned woman who lived in the ninth century, dressed as a man, travelled to Rome, and was elected Pope.

Her papacy came to a dramatic end when it was revealed that she was a woman, a discovery that is said to have occurred when she gave birth in the street. The story became a popular cautionary tale directed at women who attempted to transgress traditional roles, and it famously blurred the boundary between fact and fiction. The story lives on as the subject of recent novels, plays and films.

With:

Katherine Lewis, Honorary Professor of Medieval History at the University of Lincoln and Research Associate at the University of York

Laura Kalas, Senior Lecturer in Medieval English Literature at Swansea University

And

Anthony Bale, Professor of Medieval & Renaissance English at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Girton College.

Producer: Eliane Glaser

Reading list:

Alain Boureau (trans. Lydia G. Cochrane), *The Myth of Pope Joan* (University of Chicago Press, 2001)

Stephen Harris and Bryon L. Grisby (eds.), *Misconceptions about the Middle Ages* (Routledge, 2008), especially 'The Medieval Popess' by Vincent DiMarco

Valerie R. Hotchkiss, *Clothes Make the Man: Female Cross Dressing in Medieval Europe* (Routledge, 1996)

Jacques Le Goff, *Heroes and Marvels of the Middle Ages* (Reaktion, 2020), especially the chapter 'Pope Joan'

Marina Montesano, *Cross-dressing in the Middle Ages* (Routledge, 2024)

Joan Morris, *Pope John VIII - An English Woman: Alias Pope Joan* (Vrai, 1985)

Thomas F. X. Noble, 'Why Pope Joan?' (Catholic Historical

Review, vol. 99, no.2, 2013)

Craig M. Rustici, *The Afterlife of Pope Joan: Deploying the Popess Legend in Early Modern England* (University of Michigan Press, 2006)

In Our Time is a BBC Studios Audio production

#### THU 09:45 Strong Message Here (m0027d6w)

Trump Derangement Syndrome

Comedy writer Armando Iannucci and journalist Helen Lewis decode the utterly baffling world of political language.

This week, Trump has truly settled back into the White House, but is it different this time around? Helen and Armando take a look at how this unique politician uses language to get his way. We also look at Trump Derangement Syndrome - a favourite phrase of the new President to describe his detractors - and how other politicians have changed their tune about Trump since his last term.

Listen to Strong Message Here every Thursday at 9.45am on Radio 4 and then head straight to BBC Sounds for an extended episode.

Have you stumbled upon any perplexing political phrases you need Helen and Armando to decode? Email them to us at strongmessagehere@bbc.co.uk

Sound Editing by Charlie Brandon-King  
Production Coordinator - Katie Baum  
Executive Producer - Pete Strauss

Produced by Gwyn Rhys Davies. A BBC Studios Audio production for Radio 4.  
An EcoAudio Certified Production.

#### THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0027d6y)

Polar Preet, 'Swell' poetry, Ballet body-shaming

The Royal Ballet School (RBS) has reached a financial settlement with former student Ellen Elphick who said the body-shaming she experienced while at the elite institution has left her with lifelong psychological damage. The London-based school accepts no liability for the former dancer's case and has not issued an apology. Ellen talks to Anita Rani about the experience along with her lawyer, Dino Nocivelli.

Female-dominated films are more likely to get more sexist criticism in reviews- that's according to a study of more than 17,000 reviews. Another study looked at how women in finance are portrayed in films and how this impacts real women working in the sector. Anita talks to the film critic, Leila Latif, about women in film.

Cardiff University has announced possible cuts to 400 full-time jobs amid a funding shortfall. One of the departments to be potentially impacted is nursing and, whilst the university has said that no "final decisions" have been made and there's "no immediate impact" to those currently studying, concerns have been raised about the future supply of those going into the profession. Anita talks to Helen Whyley, executive director of the Royal College of Nursing Wales.

Preet Chandi, better known as Polar Preet, broke world records in 2023 when she made the longest solo and unsupported journey across Antarctica, crossing 922 miles in 70 days. Now Preet is setting her sights on the North Pole, hoping to cross 500 miles of sea ice to reach it in under 70 days. She joins Anita to discuss why she's making the change to the North Pole, how she plans to get there and how she plans on dealing with polar bears.

Poet Maria Ferguson has a new collection out. It's called Swell, and it explores the highs and lows of conception, pregnancy and motherhood, including looking at miscarriage. Maria joins Anita to talk about her compositions and why she wanted to write about becoming a mother.

Presenter: Anita Rani

Producer: Rebecca Myatt

#### THU 11:00 This Cultural Life (m0027d70)

Cynthia Erivo

Born and raised in south London, Cynthia Erivo made her name with musical theatre in London, starring in shows including *The Umbrellas Of Cherbourg* and *Sister Act*. In 2015 she became a Broadway star and won Tony, Emmy and Grammy awards for her role in *The Color Purple*, the musical adaptation of the Alice Walker novel which had transferred from London. Her screen acting credits include the title role in *Harriet*, about the 19th century abolitionist and campaigner Harriet Tubman, a film which earned her two Academy Award nominations, including for Best Actress. Oscar nominated again for her lead role in the musical film *Wicked*, she became the first black

British woman to receive multiple Academy award nominations for acting. An acclaimed singer, she performed a solo show of songs made famous by female artists including Aretha Franklin, Etta James and Barbra Streisand at the 2022 BBC Proms.

Cynthia Erivo tells John Wilson about the influence of her Nigerian born mother, who raised her as a single mum. She remembers two mentors who encouraged her to perform at at young age: school music teacher Helen Rycroft, and Rae McKen who ran a local drama club. Cynthia recalls winning a place at the prestigious drama school RADA, and returning to become Vice President of the institution last year. She talks about the emotional pressures she underwent on playing Celie in *The Color Purple*, a story of abuse and survival, and how the themes of prejudice and acceptance explored in the musical *Wicked*, resonated so strongly with her. Cynthia also chooses the 2015 Alexander McQueen exhibition *Savage Beauty* at the V&A as an inspiring creative moment, and discusses her love of glamorous fashion.

Producer: Edwina Pitman

#### THU 11:45 The History Podcast (m001zdw1)

Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 9. Designing the Future

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera

Series Producer: John Murphy

Producer: Olivia Lace-Evans

Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)

Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison

Series Editor: Penny Murphy

#### THU 12:00 News Summary (m0027d72)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

#### THU 12:04 The Bottom Line (m0027d74)

Robots On the Doorstep: Is This The Future Of Food Delivery?

Evan Davis talks to the Estonian Ahti Heinla, co-founder of robot delivery firm Starship Technologies, which is hoping to expand across the UK. Evan hears about Ahti's early life in Estonia, how he competed in a Nasa competition, the start of the delivery system in Milton Keynes and how he thinks robot deliveries will grow in the future in Britain and worldwide.

#### THU 12:32 Sliced Bread (m0027d76)

Grounding Sheets

Grounding Sheets - do they really work?

It's perhaps the most-requested product in Sliced Bread history but is there any real science behind grounding (or 'earthing') sheets? The claims made for them are wide and varied - from reducing inflammation and pain, to helping with sleep. How do they do this? Proponents say grounding sheets connect you to the Earth's own electrical field and dissipate electrical charges in your body, built up through everyday activities like wearing rubber-soled trainers. Prices of grounding sheets vary from £30 to £150.

Listener Alison is thinking of buying one and wants to know if it could ease pain and help her sleep better. She joins Greg in the studio along with two experts for a deep-dive into the science to find out whether grounding sheets are the best thing since sliced bread - or marketing BS.

We are looking for more of YOUR suggestions of products to investigate. If you've seen an ad, trend or wonder product promising to make you happier, healthier or greener, email us at sliced.bread@bbc.co.uk OR send a voice note to our WhatsApp number, 07543 306807

PRESENTER: GREG FOOT

PRODUCERS: SIMON HOBAN AND PHIL SANSOM

#### THU 12:57 Weather (m0027d78)

The latest weather forecast

#### THU 13:00 World at One (m0027d7b)

"No survivors" expected after Washington DC plane crash

Emergency officials in Washington DC say they don't expect to find any survivors after a passenger plane and a US army helicopter collided in mid-air. We ask how the accident could have happened and hear from a retired US Air Force Brigadier General. Plus, the Archdeacon of Liverpool speaks to us following the resignation of the Bishop of Liverpool over allegations of sexual assault and harassment.

**THU 13:45 The Prophets of Profit (m0027d7d)**

New Prophets

It's been called the dumbest idea in the world. But many believe shareholder value is the most important, the most consequential idea of the last hundred years.

In Prophets of Profit the BBC's Business Editor Simon Jack discovers why so many believe the prime responsibility of business is to increase profits and maximise returns to shareholders. Simon reveals how this powerful idea was propelled by a few influential individuals from academic cloisters to dominate boardrooms across the world from the 1980s onwards. He shows how the consequences have enriched many people but devastated many too. How the separation of the idea of money-making from other social obligations has led to severe social tensions and a profound misunderstanding of business within communities and governments alike.

Speaking to investors managing trillions, the most powerful union boss in Britain, and CEOs who've been at the very top of some of the world's biggest companies, Simon tracks how a simple idea became so powerful and why it shapes all of our lives today. In this fourth episode he examines how a new generation of business leaders pushed back against the idea.

**THU 14:00 The Archers (m0027cvd)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

**THU 14:15 Drama on 4 (m0027d7g)**

Transparency

A new play by Mark Lawson.

Emma Eaves, a journalist and author, is invited to meet the Prime Minister. She tells her that that the new government has decided to declassify the records on Operation Buffalo, a top secret security operation from the past that has long been regarded by conspiracy researchers as the holy grail of covert state activity.

In the interests of "transparency", Emma will be given all access - "apart from a small amount of redacted information" - and participants will be freed from the official secrets act to speak to her.

Though it could transform her career and give her a bestseller, Emma is increasingly psychologically and emotionally affected by exploring something the state once wanted no-one to know about but now wishes everyone to share.

Why are they doing this? Some of the sources she is put in contact with seem surprisingly willing to break their lifelong habits of secrecy while others still refuse to engage. And what is in the "small amount" of redacted information? She even comes to wonder if Operation Buffalo ever existed or has been invented purely for the purposes of revelation now. But, if so, why?

CAST

EMMA EAVES - Emily Beecham  
HELEN DORCHESTER, PM - Jane Slavin  
JACK CADE - David Horovitch  
DAN STOCKTON - Tom Glenister  
WITNESS C - Nicholas Murchie  
POLITICAL EDITOR - Mark Lawson

Producer/Director: Eoin O'Callaghan

A Big Fish production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 15:00 Rambblings (m0027d7j)**

Fife - Clatto Reservoir to Pitscottie

Clare is in the Kingdom of Fife today, hiking from Clatto Reservoir to Pitscottie. It's a beautiful stretch of the Fife Pilgrim Way, a long-distance footpath that runs 65 miles from either Culross or North Queensferry (there's a choice of starting places) and ends in St Andrews.

Joining her are three colleagues from the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, who helped to develop the route, and an Elder from the church in the village of Ceres who would like to see 'champing' (that's camping in churches) established as a way of providing good accommodation for Pilgrims passing through

Ceres on their way to St Andrews.

The Fife Pilgrim Way was officially opened in 2019 and connects west to east Fife via routes traditionally used by religious pilgrims. The route is divided into seven sections, ranging from 8 to 11 miles in length. You can find more information here: <https://fife.coastandcountryside.co.uk/walks/fife-pilgrim-way/>

Presenter: Clare Balding  
Producer: Karen Gregor

**THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m0027cg6)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

**THU 15:30 Word of Mouth (m0027d7l)**

Politeness with Louise Mullany

Professor Louise Mullany talks to Michael Rosen about politeness, and how it governs our lives, from the behaviour of football managers to the different ways children can embarrass us. Why, in this country at least, is it so mortifying to mistakenly assume someone is pregnant, when in other cultures it's simply thoughtful to book two seats on a plane for a larger person. Starring Michael Rosen as Spanish football manager Unai Emery, the politest man in football.

Produced for BBC Audio Bristol by Sally Heaven  
Subscribe to the Word of Mouth podcast and never miss an episode: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qtnz>

**THU 16:00 Rethink (m0027d7n)**

Rethink: is big tech stealing your life?

Rethink examines emerging issues in politics, society, economics, technology and the UK's place in the world, and how we might approach them differently. We look at the latest thinking and research and discuss new ideas that might make the world a better place.

In this episode, we consider the changing relationship between the public and big tech companies.

Big technology companies have given us incredible social media and online services, that came with a price - our data. They used it to target advertising and to learn about our likes and dislikes, and the vast majority of us couldn't have cared less about giving up this information.

But Artificial Intelligence products have changed the game, from chatbots that can hold human-like conversations, to Generative AI that can write prose or create a picture from a simple text prompt.

And these unthinking machines require endless amounts of data to train them.

Some companies have been quietly changing their terms and conditions to access our social media and messages for AI training. Privacy regulators in the UK have called a halt to this so far, but US consumers don't have that protection.

Developers have also been scraping the internet, gathering both free and copyrighted material, and leading to legal actions in both the USA, the EU and the UK.

Copyright holders are concerned about a lack of payment or licencing deals, and also that AI imitates their content, putting them out of work. The Government has now launched a consultation to try to balance up the needs of AI and the creative industries.

But with some companies refusing to pay for content, creators have a new tool at their disposal - a program that makes stolen pictures poisonous to AI.

Presenter: Ben Ansell  
Producer: Ravi Naik  
Editor: Clare Fordham

Contributors:

Ben Zhao, Neubauer Professor of Computer Science at University of Chicago  
Jack Stilgoe, Professor in science and technology studies at University College London, where he researches the governance of emerging technologies  
Justine Roberts, CEO and founder of Mumsnet.  
Cerys Wyn Davies, Partner at Pinsent Masons solicitors, specialising in IP and Copyright.  
Neil Ross, Associate director of policy for Tech UK

**THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (m0027d7q)**

Is 1.5 still alive?

1.5C.

It's THE number we talk about when we talk about climate change.

But what does 1.5C actually mean now – and as the world saw record-breaking heat last year, does it even matter anymore?

Climate scientist Mark Maslin and environmental psychologist Lorraine Whitmarsh discuss.

Also this week, new clues about how life may have begun from a dusty space rock called Bennu, and New Scientist's Graham Lawton brings us the science of the week, including AI's 'Sputnik moment', the mice born with two fathers, and how often do unexpected discoveries happen?

Presenter: Victoria Gill  
Producers: Sophie Ormiston, Ella Hubber & Gerry Holt  
Editor: Martin Smith  
Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

If you want to test your climate change knowledge, head to [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) search for BBC Inside Science and follow the links to The Open University to take the quiz.

**THU 17:00 PM (m0027d7s)**

Trump blames diversity hires for plane crash

President Trump blames his predecessors for a collision that killed 67 people in Washington, claiming the Democrats had prioritised diversity over safety. Plus, the Bishop of Liverpool resigns after allegations of sexual harassment against him are publicised, and the music therapist who helped Joni Mitchell recover from a stroke.

**THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0027d7v)**

The President appears to blame diversity in air traffic control for a plane accident. He didn't provide any evidence for the claims.

**THU 18:30 P.O.V. (m0027d7x)**

Series 1

Colin from Portsmouth is DISGUSTED

The internet's best comedy creators bring you a sketch show that features Colin from Portsmouth, Broken News, Sally In HR, and every Ed Sheeran song ever.

Written and performed by Kylie Brakeman, The Exploding Heads, Rachel Fairburn, Matt Green, Rosie Holt, Charlene Kaye, Kelechi Okafor, Larry & Paul, Morton, Burke & Fry, The Squid, and Ed Night & Paddy Young.

Recorded in London, Manchester, Dublin, Los Angeles, New York and Edinburgh.

Edited by Rich Evans at Synchro Post  
Produced by Ed Morrish

A Lead Mojo production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 19:00 The Archers (m0027d3r)**

Lynda despairs about the panto-in-a-week, and suspects something foul is afoot. Jill wants her dressing gown back, but Tony needs it. The schedule's so complicated that Prince Charming will only meet Cinderella for the first time at the performance. Cast are dropping out and Berwick's pestering her with script tweaks. On top of it all costumes are going missing. Lillian's pragmatic telling Lynda to keep going, suggesting some quick fixes. She reckons Vince is behind cast leaving and the missing costumes. She'll investigate and see what can be done.

At rehearsals, Berwick's assertive with Lynda even questioning Leonard's competency to build the set. Lynda defends Leonard until she discovers he's only built the coach and none of the actual set. Frustrated Lynda loses her cool with Leonard.

Lilian discovers from Jean Harvey that Vince has told everyone that Berwick's being paid. Mick thinks it might be because Vince overheard a joke Mick and Berwick had about how much it would take for Berwick to do the panto. Lillian thinks Vince used that misinformation to sabotage it. When Mick wonders why, Lillian explains about Vince's bet with Lynda.

Vince is unrepentant when Mick confronts him, until Mick says he's prepared to settle the bet himself if it comes to it. He's doing all this for Joy and the children who'd otherwise miss out.

Later as Leonard works late to catch up with the set, he's surprised by Vince returning the costumes. Vince offers to get a team together to get the set ready for tomorrow's performance, and solve all Leonard's worries.

**THU 19:15 Front Row (m0027d80)**



Review: Mike Leigh's *Hard Truths*, Inside No. 9 on stage, film Saturday Night

Tom Sutcliffe is joined by writer Dreda Say Mitchell and critic Scott Bryan to assess the week's cultural releases, including a new stage version of the hit TV series *Inside Number 9*.

They've also been watching Mike Leigh's first film in 6 years, *Hard Truths*, which has reunited him with Marianne Jean-Baptiste who was nominated for an Oscar in his hit film *Secrets and Lies*.

Finally they review Saturday Night, the new film about the beginnings of the cult TV series *Saturday Night Live* which launched the careers of many comedians including Tina Fey.

Presenter: Tom Sutcliffe  
Producer: Claire Bartleet

**THU 20:00 The Media Show (m0027cv6)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Wednesday]

**THU 21:00 Loose Ends (m0027m0v)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

**THU 21:45 Strong Message Here (m0027d6w)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

**THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m0027d82)**  
Investigation into fatal Washington DC plane crash

President Trump has blamed diversity recruitment policies for the deadly crash between a passenger plane and an army helicopter in Washington DC. We speak to the mayor of the town from where the American Airlines plane took off.

Also on the programme:

Five Thai hostages have walked to freedom under the Gaza ceasefire deal. We speak to the head of the hospital where they're now being looked after.

The *Traitors* finalist Alexander on how his appearance on the show has led to tens of thousands of pounds in donations to a learning disability charity.

And the singer and actress Marianne Faithfull has died at the age of 78. We have a tribute from her friend, the DJ Bob Harris.

**THU 22:45 Rye by Alex Preston (m0027d84)**  
Episode Four

The novel *Winchelsea* - serialised on Radio 4 in 2022 - described the extraordinary life of smuggler and privateer, Goody Brown, and her dealings and struggles with the notorious Hawkhurst Gang.

Now it is 1804, and Goody is a grandmother.

*Rye* - an original commission by BBC Radio 4 - tells the story of her grandson, Zeke, a young man determined to prove his worth and free his father from a prison hulk at Sheerness.

Episode 4  
William Baldock of the shady and secretive Seasalter Company joins the conspiracy.

Alex Preston is an author and journalist who lives in Kent. His personal anthology of nature writing, *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*, was published in 2017. His novels include *In Love And War* and *Winchelsea*.

Writer: Alex Preston  
Reader: Karl Davies  
Producer: Jeremy Osborne

A Sweet Talk production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 23:00 The Today Podcast (m0027d86)**  
Rachel Reeves in 'Bring It On Mode'

The Chancellor has backed the expansion of Heathrow and picked a fight with bats in her pursuit of economic growth. Nick is joined by fellow Today presenter Justin Webb to talk about his interview with Rachel Reeves on Thursday morning's Today programme.

They discuss her new approach, whether Keir Starmer's government is taking a leaf out of Donald Trump's book and why political interviews are much better face-to-face.

To get Amol and Nick's take on the biggest stories and insights

from behind the scenes at the UK's most influential radio news programme make sure you hit subscribe on BBC Sounds. That way you'll get an alert every time we release a new episode, and you won't miss our extra bonus episodes either.

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\* Send us a message or a voice note via WhatsApp to +44 330 123 4346  
\* Email today@bbc.co.uk

The Today Podcast is hosted by Amol Rajan and Nick Robinson who are both presenters of BBC Radio 4's Today 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.

This episode was made by Lewis Vickers with Nadia Gyane and Grace Reeve. Digital production was by Nadia Gyane and Grace Reeve. The technical producer was Hannah Montgomery. The editor is Louisa Lewis. The executive producer is Owenna Griffiths.

**THU 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0027d88)**

Sean Curran reports as MPs ask what the government is doing about the threat from bird flu.

## FRIDAY 31 JANUARY 2025

**FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m0027d8b)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 00:30 The History Podcast (m001zdw1)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Thursday]

**FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0027d8d)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0027d8g)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**FRI 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0027d8j)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 05:30 News Briefing (m0027d8l)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0027d8n)**

Hope for the Year Ahead

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rabbi Julia Neuberger

Good morning.

This is the last day of January. Named after the Roman god Janus, who was usually depicted as having two heads, one facing in each direction, January often gives us time to reflect. We say Happy New Year, but it's really only as January gets under way that we look back at the previous year properly, and look forward to the next. New Year's resolutions have either been long broken by now, or are beginning to grip. The nature of the upcoming year is becoming clearer. Christmas, Chanukkah and other festivities are over and it's back to the normal daily grind.

But before we get into February I usually do a simple audit, in an old-fashioned notebook, about what I feel about the past year - pretty horrible in fact, with wars everywhere. And what I hope for the coming year - peace, friendship, a different way for the world's leaders to deal with its disagreements. I look at it personally, too. No, I didn't lose weight despite my best intentions. But I did read more serious books. I gave more to charity, and I saw more of friends and family. Simple, almost boring. But so important for us to have the discipline to look at what was and to make resolutions, and KEEP them, even when there's no certainty about what the year will bring. It's the changeover time. In the Hebrew Bible, the failing Moses tells his successor Joshua to be strong and of good courage. As we leave the end of January and enter the fullness of 2025, I think we should say that to ourselves too, to help us face the future with calm and resolve. Let us be strong, and of good courage, and be prepared to meet life's challenges with calm spirits and clear minds.

Amen.

**FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m0027d8q)**

Land Use Framework; Natural Capital; Brexit transition

The government's long-awaited Land Use Framework has been published for consultation. It sets out the future direction for balancing how land is used in England. There are many conflicting pressures - including food production, housing, energy and transport links. It's also needed to protect wildlife, mitigate climate change and provide open spaces for the public. DEFRA says the Framework "will provide the principles, advanced data and tools to support decision-making by local government, landowners, businesses, farmers, and nature groups." It'll be a 12 week consultation.

One of the growing uses for land is to mitigate against climate change, and the funding for some of those projects is coming from private investors who are keen to add green credentials to their businesses. We visit the 57,000 acre Corrou Estate in the Scottish Highlands which is being managed to restore habitats, increase biodiversity and sequester carbon. Some of that work is being paid for by a new Natural Capital Deal. And we've been looking at how farming in the four UK nations has changed in the five years since we left the EU. Today we're on a sheep farm in Scotland. Presented by Anna Hill and produced by Sally Challoner

**FRI 06:00 Today (m0027d37)**

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

**FRI 09:00 Desert Island Discs (m0027cgl)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Sunday]

**FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0027d39)**

Rumer, Kerry Godliman, Afghan women's cricket

The singer/songwriter Rumer is a MOBO award winner and double Brit Award nominee. Her new album *In Session* is out today celebrating the 15th anniversary of her platinum debut album *Seasons Of My Soul*. The success that followed that album affected her mental health. She stepped away from the industry and relocated to the US. Now back in the UK she has returned to the record that has shaped so much of her life both professionally and personally. Rumer joins Anita Rani to talk about her life and music and to perform live in the studio.

Afghanistan's women's cricket team have played their first match since being exiled three years ago. Cricket commentator Alison Mitchell and Firoza Amiri from the squad discuss the game and their fight for official ICC recognition.

Are people better served by sexual assault referral centres than by self-swabbing in cases of alleged rape? Tana Adkin KC says we should be careful. Katie White is the co-founder of Enough, who have developed these kits and currently running a pilot project in Bristol. They've given away 7000 in just 12 weeks. The two of them are in the *Woman's Hour* studio to discuss.

Actor and comedian Kerry Godliman, is best known for her portrayal of Lisa Johnson, the deceased wife of Ricky Gervais' character Tony in the hit Netflix series *After Life*. She now returns to the stage with her new stand-up show *Bandwidth* - on being a middle age woman - everything from parenting teenagers, to considering dealing HRT on the black market to losing her mum bag.

And we look back at the life of Marianne Faithfull hearing her when she was last on *Woman's Hour* in 2011.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Kirsty Starkey

**FRI 11:00 The Food Programme (m0027d3c)**

Low and No

What's behind the rise and rise of low alcohol and alcohol free drinks? The sector grew by a quarter last year alone, fuelled by our changing relationship with alcohol. More than fifteen million people are thought to have considered taking part in Dry January this year and younger drinkers in particular are turning away from alcohol and embracing alcohol-free versions of beer, wine and spirits or entirely new drinks coming onto the market.

In this programme Jaega Wise considers the changes in the drinks industry. She eavesdrops on an alcohol-free workshop with the mindful drinking movement Club Soda and speaks to its founder Laura Willoughby. She hears from the alcohol-free beer brand Lucky Saint and the market research company Kam on our changing drinking patterns, including the trend for zebra-stripping - alternating between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Then Jaega visits Bristol to find out how breweries are using different techniques to make alcohol-free beer that is far superior to the much-derided watery and flavourless versions of old. The Bristol Beer Factory tells her that their alcohol-free

brand now makes up a fifth of sales. At Wiper & True nearby, they reckon within five years around half of all their beers will be alcohol-free.

The movement towards "low and no" drinks means there is now a World Alcohol Free Awards as their co-founder Chrissie Parkinson explains and Dash Lilley from the Three Spirit brand talks about how some drinks makers are looking to very different ingredients from the plant world to create original flavours.

Presented by Jaega Wise  
Produced in Bristol for BBC Audio by Robin Markwell

**FRI 11:45 The History Podcast (m001ztdt)**  
Shadow War: China and the West

Shadow War: 10. Collision

Could growing tensions lead to conflict? The rise of China is the defining challenge of our times – how far to co-operate, compete or confront? But has the West taken its eye off the ball? BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera looks at the points of friction in recent history, from espionage to free speech, the battle over technology and claims of political interference. This is a story about the competition to shape the world order. He speaks to politicians, spies, dissidents and those who've been caught up in the growing tension between China and the West.

Presenter: Gordon Corera  
Series Producer: John Murphy  
Producer: Olivia Lace-Evans  
Sound Designer: Eloise Whitmore (Naked Productions)  
Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison  
Series Editor: Penny Murphy

**FRI 12:00 News Summary (m0027d3f)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 12:04 AntiSocial (m0027d3h)**  
Bats v trains

Do we have to choose between conserving nature and growing the economy?

The Chancellor Rachel Reeves has been complaining about the £100m being spent on a tunnel to stop bats being squished by trains on the HS2 railway line. A debate about whether looking after the environment is getting in the way of developing Britain's infrastructure has ensued.

Is nature conservation getting in the way of economic growth - and can there only be one winner?

Presenter: Adam Fleming  
Producers: Josephine Casserly, Simon Tulett, Beth Ashmead-Latham  
Editor: Penny Murphy  
Production coordinator: Janet Staples  
Studio engineer: Andy Mills

**FRI 12:57 Weather (m0027d3k)**  
The latest weather forecast

**FRI 13:00 World at One (m0027d3m)**  
German politics in turmoil

Could Germany's CDU party rely on support from the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party for the second time in a week? And should the UK vaccinate against bird flu?

**FRI 13:45 The Prophets of Profit (m0027d3p)**  
Going for Growth

It's been called the dumbest idea in the world. But many believe shareholder value is the most important, the most consequential idea of the last hundred years.

In Prophets of Profit the BBC's Business Editor Simon Jack discovers why so many believe the prime responsibility of business is to increase profits and maximise returns to shareholders. Simon reveals how this powerful idea was propelled by a few influential individuals from academic cloisters to dominate boardrooms across the world from the 1980s onwards. He shows how the consequences have enriched many people but devastated many too. How the separation of the idea of money-making from other social obligations has led to severe social tensions and a profound misunderstanding of business within communities and governments alike.

Speaking to investors managing trillions, the most powerful union boss in Britain, and CEOs who've been at the very top of

some of the world's biggest companies, Simon tracks how a simple idea became so powerful and why it shapes all of our lives today. In this final episode he considers how the idea of shareholder value might change and adapt in the next decade.

**FRI 14:00 The Archers (m0027d3r)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

**FRI 14:15 Limelight (m0027d3t)**  
Exemplar - Series 2

Exemplar - Episode 1

A successful television actor hires Jess and Maya to analyse a voicemail, leaked to the press, that suggests he supplied the drugs that killed his younger co-star. The suspicion is that the recording has been doctored.

As they disentangle the truth behind the missing 29 seconds in the voicemail, pushy Detective Sergeant Serena Gray hires Veritas to help with a phone-hacking investigation.

Exemplar: "an audio recording made by a forensic analyst to recreate the precise audio conditions of a piece of evidence in a criminal or civil case."

The return of a modern day thriller set in the world of audio forensics. In Exemplar, Gina McKee plays Jess, a forensic analyst born and bred in the North East. Together with her colleague Maya, she undertakes a different sound challenge in every episode. When DS Serena Gray comes into their world, things become a little bit more complicated.

Created by leading sound designers, Ben and Max Ringham, and rooted in factual research. The first series of Exemplar won Best Series at the 2022 BBC Audio Drama Awards.

Jess ..... Gina McKee  
Maya ..... Shvorne Marks  
DS Serena Gray ..... Clare Perkins  
Adam ..... Afnan Iftikhar  
Jason ..... Benjamin Cawley  
Chris ..... Malcolm Ridley

Writers: Ben and Max Ringham, with Dan Rebellato  
Audio forensic consultants: James Zjalic, plus Dr Katherine Earnshaw and Bryony Nuttall, forensic specialists in speech and audio at the Forensic Voice Centre  
Police consultant: Alex Ashton  
Sound recordist: Alisdair McGregor  
Production coordinator: Annie Keates Thorpe  
Sound design: Ben and Max Ringham with Lucinda Mason Brown  
Original music: Ben and Max Ringham  
Directors: Polly Thomas and Jade Lewis  
Executive producer: Joby Waldman

A Reduced Listening production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 14:45 Why Do We Do That? (m0027d3x)**  
Series 2

2. Why do I get so upset when my team loses?

Ella Al-Shamahi is joined by Crystal Palace superfan Bobby and psychologist Martha Newson to find out why it's so devastating when our football team loses.

People who normally keep a stiff upper lip through life's ups and downs are distraught after a defeat. Is this a cultural response or something more primeval? Martha's work shows that being beaten by another team deepens social bonds with fellow fans. From her results the fans of the least successful football clubs, including Crystal Palace, saw one another as kin and were willing to sacrifice themselves for each other.

BBC Studios Audio  
Producer: Emily Bird  
Additional production: Olivia Jani and Ben Hughes  
Series Producer: Geraldine Fitzgerald  
Executive Producer: Alexandra Feachem

**FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m0027d3z)**  
East and West Hanney

Is gardening a solitary or a social activity? What could I grow up a garage wall? What do the panel expect to see in open gardens?

Kathy and a team of experts visit The Hanneys to solve gardeners' problems. Joining Kathy to answer the questions are fanatical plantswoman Christine Walkden, dedicated botanist Dr Chris Thorogood, and passionate plant expert Matthew Biggs.

Later in the programme, Matthew Pottage and GQT producer Dominic Tyerman visit the Sydney Botanic Gardens in Australia to understand the wide appeal of living wall gardens, as well as provide tips for making your own.

Producer: Dominic Tyerman  
Assistant Producer: Rahnee Prescod  
Executive Producer: Carly Maile

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 15:45 Short Works (m0027d41)**  
Incandescent by Clare Duffy

An original short story specially commissioned by BBC Radio 4 written and read by Clare Duffy.

Clare Duffy is an Irish writer and performer across stage and screen. She is currently living and writing in Belfast and dreaming about Paris. She gained an MA in Creative Writing from the Seamus Heaney Centre and Queens University Belfast and is working on a screen project, a short story collection, and teaching screenwriting at Queens University Belfast.

Writer: Clare Duffy  
Reader: Clare Duffy  
Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland Production for BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 16:00 Last Word (m0027d43)**  
Rev Don Cupitt, Phyllis Dalton, Cecile Richards, Michael Longley

Matthew Bannister on

The Reverend Don Cupitt, the controversial theologian whose TV series "The Sea of Faith" asked in what form - if any - is Christian faith possible for us today?

Phyllis Dalton, the Oscar winning costume designer who worked on classic films, including "Lawrence of Arabia", "Doctor Zhivago" and "Oliver!".

Cecile Richards, the American activist who campaigned for women's right to have abortions.

Michael Longley, the Northern Irish poet whose subjects included love, war and the natural world.

Interviewee: Professor Catherine Pickstock  
Interviewee: Alexander Ballinger  
Interviewee: Laura Kusisto  
Interviewee: Paul Muldoon

Producer: Gareth Nelson-Davies

Archive used:

Sea of Faith, BBC TWO, 12/09/1984; Thinking Aloud: Religion, BBC TWO, 22/12/1985; Don Cupitt on the non-realist position on God, Podcast 20; The Middle Way Society, YouTube 12/04/2014; Doctor Zhivago film promo, Warner Bros, 1965; Oliver! Film promo, (1968), Sony Pictures Entertainment, YouTube 07/10/2021; Phyllis Dalton, The British Entertainment History Project, www.historyproject.org.uk, 11/02/2000; Championing Choice, The Thread Documentary Series, Life Stories, 17/06/2022; Hundreds protest at Planned Parenthood, WPRI, YouTube 22/08/2015; Cecile Richards, Life Stories, YouTube uploaded 12/10/2022; Protesters outside Louisville's Planned Parenthood, Courier Journal, 22/08/2015; Letters to a Young Poet: Michael Longley, BBC Radio 3, 15/01/2014; Poet Michael Longley reads "Wounds" in UCD Library, University College Dublin Library, UCD YouTube Channel 16/08/2016; Michael Longley, "Ceasefire", The Arts Show, BBC TWO, 12/03/2014; Michael Longley interview, Where Poems Come From, BBC, 11/02/2024; Michael Longley, The Culture Cafe, BBC Radio 4, 18/02/2024

**FRI 16:30 Sideways (m0027ctg)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]

**FRI 17:00 PM (m0027d45)**

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

**FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0027d47)**

An email shows Prince Andrew was in contact with Jeffrey Epstein longer than he admitted.

**FRI 18:30 The News Quiz (m0027d49)**  
Series 116

## Gear shifting and Shoplifting

This week on The News Quiz, Andy Zaltzman is joined by Simon Evans, Athena Kugblenu, Susie McCabe and Hugo Rifkind I to unpack the week's new stories. In the week Keir Starmer set his sights on growth, the panel looked backing of a third runway at Heathrow, a shoplifting epidemic, and the decline of urban chess in the streets of Nottingham.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Cameron Loxdale, Sascha LO, Meryl O'Rourke and Peter Tellouche.  
 Producer: Rajiv Karia  
 Executive Producer: Pete Strauss  
 Production Coordinator: Jodie Charman  
 Sound Manager: David Thomas  
 Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

A BBC Studios Audio Production for Radio 4  
 An Eco-Audio certified Production

**FRI 19:00 The Archers (m0027d4c)**

Writer: Nick Warburton  
 Director: Jeremy Howe  
 Editor: Jeremy Howe

Tony Archer.... David Troughton  
 Lillian Bellamy.... Sunny Ormonde  
 Leonard Berry.... Paul Copley  
 Susan Carter.... Charlotte Martin  
 Vince Casey.... Tony Turner  
 Mick Fadmoor.... Martin Barrass  
 Tracy Horrobin.... Susie Riddell  
 Joy Horville.... Jackie Lye  
 Jazzer McCreary.... Ryan Kelly  
 Lynda Snell.... Carole Boyd  
 Berwick Kaler as himself

**FRI 19:15 Screenshot (m0027d4f)**

Hitmen

The last few years have seen a number of new entries on the cinematic hit list, from David Fincher's *The Killer* to Richard Linklater's *Hit Man*. TV has also seen its fair share of hitmen in the last year; the reboot of the 2005 *Brad and Angelina* film *Mr and Mrs Smith*; Eddie Redmayne donning various elaborate disguises in a *Day of the Jackal* update, as well as *Black Doves*. It seems these days hitmen are among TV and film's most wanted.

Mark talks to critic Christina Newland about the history of crime cinema's enigmatic icon, exploring everything from cult oddities such as *Branded to Kill* to the female assassin of the 90's such as *Nikita* and *The Long Kiss Goodnight*.

Ellen goes deep on cult classic *Le Samourai* with Kill List and *A Field in England* director Ben Wheatley and academic Ginette Vincendeau; they discuss the relationship between hitmen and samurai in cinema.

Produced by Queenie Qureshi-Wales  
 A Prospect Street production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m0027d4h)**

Alex Burghart MP, Lord Falconer, Inaya Folarin Iman, Maya Goodfellow

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from London Museum Docklands with shadow cabinet minister Alex Burghart MP; Labour peer Lord Falconer; journalist and broadcaster Inaya Folarin Iman; and journalist and academic Maya Goodfellow.

Producer: Paul Martin  
 Lead broadcast engineer: Kevan Long

**FRI 20:50 A Point of View (m0027d4k)**

The Overwhelm

The 'overwhelm' - noun, not verb - has been around 'since at least 1596', AL Kennedy discovers.

She looks at the reasons why the word is making a comeback - and she has some advice for those who also feel lost in 'the overwhelm.'

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

**FRI 21:00 Free Thinking (m0027d4m)**

Decision making

Matthew Sweet and guests talk about the tools and processes of decision-making today and through history.  
 Justine Greening is a former Secretary of State for Education who is now working on social mobility and levelling up.  
 Professor Bill Sherman heads the Warburg Institute, which has just opened an exhibition about tarot which the filmmaker and magik scholar K A Laity has visited. Gary Stevenson is a former financial trader who now uses YouTube to share his knowledge of economics and the philosopher Constantine Sandis is the author of *The Things We Do and Why We Do Them*.

Producer: Lisa Jenkinson

**FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m0027d4p)**

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

**FRI 22:45 Rye by Alex Preston (m0027d4r)**

Episode Five

The novel *Winchelsea* - serialised on Radio 4 in 2022 - described the extraordinary life of smuggler and privateer, Goody Brown, and her dealings and struggles with the notorious Hawkhurst Gang.

Now it is 1804, and Goody is a grandmother.

*Rye* - an original commission by BBC Radio 4 - tells the story of her grandson, Zeke, a young man determined to prove his worth and free his father from a prison hulk at Sheerness.

Episode 5

Zeke must play a full part in the attempt to rescue the rebels from the notorious Spymaster, Sir Vincent Eyre.

Alex Preston is an author and journalist who lives in Kent. His personal anthology of nature writing, *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*, was published in 2017. His novels include *In Love And War* and *Winchelsea*.

Writer: Alex Preston  
 Reader: Karl Davies  
 Producer: Jeremy Osborne

A Sweet Talk production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 23:00 Americast (m0027d4t)**

Is Trump's 'flood the media' strategy working?

With daily announcements, executive orders and press conferences from Trump's presidency in its first fortnight, how should we be navigating the daily torrent of news? *Americast* examines the deliberate strategy by the White House (also used in Trump's first presidency) to "flood the zone" with news. Justin, Anthony and Marianna discuss whether Democrats and the media should be properly scrutinising each news story, what to ignore, and whether the strategy is successfully working for President Trump?

HOSTS:

- Justin Webb, Radio 4 presenter
- Anthony Zurcher, BBC North America Correspondent
- Marianna Spring, Social Media Investigations Correspondent

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- 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

This episode was made by Purvee Pattni, Rufus Gray, Catherine Fusillo, Claire Betzer and George Dabby. The technical producer was Mike Regaard. The series producer is Purvee Pattni. The senior news editor is Sam Bonham.

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US Election Unspun: Sign up for Anthony's BBC newsletter: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-68093155>

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The Global Story:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/w13xtvsd>

The Today Podcast:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0gg4k6r>

News: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/p05299nl>

Ukraine: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0bqztzm>

**FRI 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0027d4w)**

Alicia McCarthy reports from Westminster on plans to crackdown on benefits cheats. And a new inquiry is about to start investigating threats to the UK's undersea cables.