

**SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2025**

**SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m002838q)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 00:30 Under a Metal Sky by Philip Marsden (m0028379)**

Gold

Philip Marsden's passion for rocks dates back to his boyhood, when he first discovered the excitement of searching for crystals and fossils. In *Under a Metal Sky*, he takes us on a captivating journey across Europe through the story of metals, revealing how they became an engine of culture, trade and technology that changed our relationship with the natural world.

In the final episode, Philip travels to Georgia, home of the legend of the Golden Fleece. The quest for the fleece is the origin story of countless heroic tales, down to *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter*. The search for gold itself represents the ultimate reward - a symbol of status and value.

In Svaneti, a region known for its gold, he finds two locals who take him panning for gold in the river. As he catches a few grains, the excitement of his childhood explorations searching for rocks returns, a fascination that has shaped his journey across Europe to follow the story of metals.

Read by Adrian Lukis  
Produced and Abridged by Jo Glanville  
Editor: Jo Rowntree  
Studio Engineer: Jon Calver

A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002838s)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002838v)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**SAT 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m002838x)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 05:30 News Briefing (m002838z)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0028393)**

Being the Rope of Mercy

Good morning.

I was visiting my mother, and after 9 hours of travel, I arrived late in the evening, ate some food and crashed into bed, the feeling of a temperature rising in my body. When I woke up the combination of jetlag and fever left me discombobulated. I thought I had woken up in my own bed at home, but the surroundings were alien. From the other room, I heard my mother's footsteps, the unmistakable pattern of her movements. I remembered a moment pre-dawn when she covered me in an extra blanket. I was home, because I was where she was.

Proust says that memory comes like a rope let down from heaven to draw one out of the abyss of unbeing, but what happens if you have no memory? The curious case of Clive Waring who suffered one of the worst cases of amnesia ever, records him as not being able to recall short nor long-term memory. As soon as something happened, he immediately forgot. And yet, despite this, he would remember his wife, Deborah. He didn't recall the details, but he knew he loved her, and she loved him, and that was the rope let down from heaven for him to hold onto.

How often have we forgotten the exact words a person may have said to us, or the precise actions that they did, but we remember always how they made us feel? In the Qur'an, the Prophet Muhammad is told, "By the Mercy of Allah, you were gentle with them. Had you been rude or harsh, they would have scattered from around you." Elsewhere, God reminds him, "We did not send you, except as a Mercy to the world."

I pray we move through the world leaving in our wake people, whether familiar or strangers, feeling loved, seen, and cherished. Amen.

**SAT 05:45 Why Do We Do That? (m002837p)**

Series 2

5. Why do we laugh?

Ella Al-Shamahi asks why do we laugh?

Some people might not have a sense of humour, you might even know someone who never laughs... but there isn't a culture out there, say a tribe, where people just never laugh. It does appear to be universal but how universal and how primal?

Many mammals and the great apes (chimpanzees, gorillas and bonobos) laugh. Orangutans diverged from the other great apes including us about 12 million years ago and because we all laugh that suggests our shared common ancestor laughed. So what is the purpose of laughing? Ella talks to Professor Sophie Scott from University College London and stand-up comic Ria Lina.

**SAT 06:00 News and Papers (m002897x)**

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

**SAT 06:07 This Natural Life (m00282rr)**

Adjoa Andoh

Adjoa Andoh has played lead roles with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, and is a familiar face to fans of *Casualty* and *Doctor Who*. She is probably best known as Lady Danbury in *Bridgerton*, the hit Netflix series. Her roots, though, are firmly in the countryside. She grew up in the village of Wickwar, just north of Bristol, where she and her brother were the only black children in the area. In this programme she tells Martha Kearney about her rural childhood and the lasting love of the natural world it instilled in her. She takes Martha on one of her favourite walks on the South Downs. Together they spot birds, stop to admire sweeping views of the sea, where Adjoa swims year-round, and talk about landscape, religion and the restorative power of nature.

Producer: Emma Campbell

**SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m002897z)**

22/02/25 - Farming Today This Week: Peat and climate change, bottom trawling, inheritance tax

The majority of the UK's peatlands could be at risk of drying out in the next 40-50 years because of climate change - according to a new study from scientists at the Universities of Exeter, Manchester and Derby. Healthy, wet peatlands are seen as part of the solution to climate change because they soak up planet-heating carbon dioxide - UK peatlands currently store an estimated 3.2 billion tonnes of carbon. But where they dry out, they become a problem because they can then release that stored carbon back into the atmosphere.

MPs have been debating calls to ban bottom trawling in some parts of the sea. Bottom trawling is a method of fishing where weighted nets are dragged along the seabed to gather things like scallops, sole and plaice. According to The Marine Conservation Society, bottom trawling is currently forbidden across 5% of the UK's MPAs, and a wider ban in ALL protected areas is something conservation charities have been calling for, for some time. But is it the right move?

And farming leaders have said they left a much-anticipated meeting with the Treasury this week with their blood "boiling", claiming the Government has "shut the door" on any rethink of planned changes to inheritance tax on farms. Representatives from agricultural organisations met the Exchequer Secretary, James Murray, and Farming Minister, Daniel Zeichner, on Tuesday. It follows months of protests over plans for inherited agricultural assets worth more than a million pounds to be taxed at 20% from April next year.

Presented by Charlotte Smith  
Produced by Heather Simons

**SAT 06:57 Weather (m0028981)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 07:00 Today (m0028983)**

Including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m0028985)**

Steven Frayne (aka Dynamo), Pepsi Demacque-Crockett, Harriet Dyer, Steph McGovern

Steven Frayne, better known as the illusionist and magician Dynamo, has made the impossible look effortless: walking on water, levitating above London and somehow keeping his secrets. His new show marks a new chapter, where he uses his magic to spotlight everyday heroes across the UK, returning to the street magic that first launched his career.

From backing vocals for Wham! to pop stardom with Pepsi & Shirlie, Pepsi Demacque-Crockett has now woven her St Lucian roots into her writing, with a memoir, a debut novel, and a lifetime of stories to tell.

Comedian writer and mental health advocate Harriet Dyer sees comedy as just one of her superpowers and shares how she died not once, but twice with her trademark unfiltered honesty.

All that plus the Inheritance Tracks of broadcaster and Irish dance child prodigy Steph McGovern.

Presenters: Nikki Bedi and Jon Kay  
Producer: Ben Mitchell

**SAT 10:00 You're Dead to Me (m0028987)**

Cuneiform: the world's first writing system

Greg Jenner is joined in ancient Mesopotamia by Dr Moudhy Al-Rashid and comedian Phil Wang to learn about the history of cuneiform, the oldest writing system in the world.

In the 19th Century, European scholars began to translate inscriptions found on ruins and clay tablets from ancient Mesopotamia - an area of the world between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers that encompasses modern Iraq, as well as parts of Syria, Iran, Turkey and Kuwait. The script they deciphered became known as cuneiform, and this distinctive wedge-shaped writing system is perhaps the oldest in the world. The earliest cuneiform tablet is in fact over 5,000 years old.

These clay tablets reveal much about the daily life of people in this part of the ancient world, recording everything from the amounts of beer sold by brewers and the best way to ask the gods for advice, to squabbles between husbands and wives and even the lullabies used to get babies to sleep. The first recorded epic poem, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, is also preserved thanks to cuneiform. This episode traces the history of cuneiform, exploring how this script worked, who used it and what they used it for, what it tells us about the inhabitants of ancient Mesopotamia, and how it was finally deciphered.

If you're a fan of historical puzzles, amazing archaeological finds and the intimate details of everyday life in the ancient world, you'll love our episode on cuneiform.

If you want more from Dr Moudhy Al-Rashid, check out our episode on Ancient Babylon. And for more ancient history with Phil Wang, listen to our episodes on the history of Kung Fu and the Terracotta Warriors.

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 and Matt Ryan  
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 The Kitchen Cabinet (m0028989)**

Series 47

Newark

Jay Rayner and a panel of chefs and food writers kick off a new series in Newark. They answer a range of questions on coffee infused dishes and the best way to cook lamb. Joining Jay are food historian Dr Annie Gray, and chefs, cooks and food writers Lerato Umah Shaylor, Melissa Thompson, and Rob Owen Brown.

The panellists also come up with ideas for cooking cauliflower, as well as some suggestions for using beetroot.

Alongside the Q and A, Jay chats to Mat Short from *Stray's* at The Ossington about the do's and don't of using coffee in food and drinks.

Producer: Daniel Cocker  
Assistant Producer: Dulcie Whadcock  
Executive Producer: Ollie Wilson  
A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 11:00 The Strange Death of Cultural Originality? (m002697q)**

These days, when you turn on the TV or visit the cinema do you ever think, hang on, I'm sure I've seen this before? Maybe you've bought the latest crime thriller after seeing it in the bestseller lists and, 50 pages in, you're overcome with a weird feeling of déjà vu? And when you put the radio on in the car, does all the music sound, well, the same?

If so, don't worry. It's not just you. Something strange seems to be happening.

Statistics show that the number of top 20 highest grossing Hollywood films each year which are either sequels or spin-offs has risen from 25% to 50% in the past two decades.

In the 1960s, most TV shows were original formats. Today, a third are spinoffs or multiple broadcasts.

In music, the number of artists on the Billboard Hot 100 has been falling for some time, meaning the big established acts are getting more and more exposure while new acts struggle to break through.

Existing best-selling authors are becoming increasingly dominant in publishing sales.

So is it fair to say that cultural originality is in rather poor health?

Might it even be dead?

Ben Chu spends a lot of time thinking about economics, numbers and why the world works in the way it does. In this programme he's going to ask - if cultural originality is dead, who or what killed it?

A Tempo & Talker production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002898d)**  
Disappeared in Ukraine

Kate Adie presents stories from Ukraine, the United States, The Gambia and Uzbekistan.

Its three years since Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, during which time hundreds of thousands of people have been killed or injured - though others have simply disappeared without trace. Sarah Rainsford travelled to Ukraine, where she met one woman trying to find out what happened to her parents after they were detained during Russia's occupation of her home town.

US President Donald Trump has pledged to curb government waste by cutting spending. Under review are the billions of dollars set aside for research grants, intended for universities and scientific institutions. At the annual gathering of one of the country's oldest scientific societies, which took place in Boston last week, Sandra Kanthal found a decidedly dampened mood.

Each year thousands of people leave sub-Saharan Africa in hope of reaching Europe and forging a better life. It's a dangerous and potentially deadly journey - and for some the challenge is just too much. So what happens after they return home? Alex Last went to The Gambia to find out.

The city of Bukhara in Uzbekistan is located on the route of the legendary Silk Road, and in the Middle Ages it became a major intellectual hub of the Islamic world. It's also home to a centuries-old Jewish community, which over generations blended culture with the Muslim community. Post-Soviet emigration means it's now much smaller than it used to be, but Monica Whitlock met one man who is still happy to call Bukhara home.

Producer: Arlene Gregorius  
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith  
Production coordinators: Sophie Hill and Katie Morrison

**SAT 12:00 News Summary (m002898g)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 12:04 Money Box (m002898j)**  
Ofgem Back Billing and Pensions and IHT

The energy regulator Ofgem says suppliers must take urgent action to find out how widespread a problem back billing is. It's when suppliers send out new bills for electricity and gas from longer than 12 months ago, a practice that was banned in 2018. The development follows Money Box's investigation which discovered thousands of people have wrongly been receiving back bills. Paul Lewis interviews Tim Jarvis, Director General of Markets at Ofgem.

And unspent pension pots will be subject to inheritance tax from 2027. This change, announced by Rachel Reeves in the Autumn Budget, means most unused pension funds will be included within the value of a person's estate for Inheritance Tax purposes from 6th April 2027. Money Box has been getting lots of emails from listeners who're now reconsidering their financial planning and are worried and upset about the new rules. The Treasury told us it continues to incentivise pensions savings for their intended purpose of funding retirement instead of them being openly used as a vehicle to transfer wealth. But how will the new rules work?

Presenter: Paul Lewis  
Reporters: Dan Whitworth and Sarah Rogers

Researcher: Eimear Devlin  
Editor: Jess Quayle

(First broadcast 12pm Saturday 22nd February 2025)

**SAT 12:30 The News Quiz (m0028384)**  
Series 116

7. Lying and Reassurance

Andy Zaltzman is joined by Zoe Lyons, Ian Smith, Laura Lexx and Hugo Rifkind as they unpack Trump and Putin in talks in Saudi Arabia, the solutions to prison overcrowding, and the Welsh solution for parliamentary empty promises.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Simon Alcock, David Duncan, Laura Major, Christina Riggs and Peter Tellouche.

Producer: Rajiv Karia  
Executive Producer: James Robinson  
Production Coordinator: Jodie Charman  
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

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

**SAT 12:57 Weather (m002898l)**  
The latest weather forecast

**SAT 13:00 News (m002898n)**

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

**SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (m002838b)**

Gerard Baker, James Cartlidge MP, Carla Denyer MP, Luke Pollard MP

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from Sutton Scotney in Hampshire with the Wall Street Journal's editor-at-large Gerard Baker; shadow defence secretary James Cartlidge MP; Carla Denyer MP, the co-leader of the Green Party; and defence minister Luke Pollard MP.

Producer: Paul Martin  
Lead broadcast engineer: Tim Allen

**SAT 14:00 Any Answers? (m002898q)**  
Call Any Answers? to have your say on the big issues in the news this week.

**SAT 14:45 The Archers (m0028386)**

Emma congratulates Fallon on her new permanent role at the Bull. Kicking her heels on a day off, Fallon admits to Joy that it's hard to relax with Harrison away. Joy invites her over to the Gills'. Later as they enjoy wine, nibbles and playing with the various fancy gadgets at Home Farm, Fallon wonders what Brian would make of the Gills' refurb of his old home. Mick returns and immediately sends Fallon away, insisting to embarrassed and annoyed Joy that no guests are permitted. However he goes some way towards making up for his brusqueness when he reveals there's a sauna he and Joy can enjoy.

Pat's stressed trying to get through to Borssetshire Water. Whilst Emma still has a role as parish councillor, she offers to help. Emma gets on with some online research for Pat, and finds details of the The Borssetshire Clean Water Action Group and other paperwork. Pat thanks her for her excellent work, and Emma promises to keep digging. Pat's impressed when Emma reports she's managed to contact someone via the water company's press office, though she's been brushed off. Pat thinks radical action is needed, but she counsels Emma not to get too involved given her precarious position on the parish council. However Emma is adamant, and feels she owes Pat after she wrote the reference for George. She also needs something to make her feel powerful. Pat concedes the point; she's always regretted holding back in the past and this time nothing's going to stop her.

**SAT 15:00 The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter (m000gd7p)**  
Part One

Set in a small mill town in the 1930s in the middle of the Deep South of America, Carson McCullers' *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* is the story of Mick Kelly, a tomboyish girl who loves music and dreams of buying a piano. John Singer, is a lonely deaf-mute who comes to stay as a lodger in Mick's house. No-one knows where he's from. A disparate group of people who live in the town are drawn towards Singer's kind, sympathetic nature. The owner of the café where Singer eats every day, an angry socialist drunkard, a frustrated black doctor: each pours their heart out to Singer, their silent confidant. He in turn

changes their disenchanting lives in ways they could never imagine.

Often cited as one of the great novels of twentieth-century American fiction, Carson McCullers' prodigious first novel was published to instant acclaim when she was just twenty-three. *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* explores loneliness, the human need for understanding and the search for love.

Part One. Cast

MICK KELLY ..... Coco Green  
BUBBER ..... Aaron Gelkoff  
JOHN SINGER ..... David Bowler  
BIFF BRANNON ..... Michael S. Siegel  
JAKE BLOUNT ..... Andonis Anthony  
ALICE BRANNON ..... Laurel Lefkowitz  
PORTIA JONES ..... Anna Jobarteh  
DR BENEDICT COPELAND ..... Delroy Brown  
ETTA KELLY ..... Lily Green  
WILLIE COPELAND ..... Tachia Newall  
HARRY MINOWITZ ..... Eric Sirakian

Dramatised by Amanda Dalton  
Directed by Susan Roberts  
A BBC Drama North Production

**SAT 16:00 Woman's Hour (m002898s)**

Weekend Woman's Hour: Raising the 'Sen-betweeners', Signs of teenage exploitation, Formula One, Nussaibah Younis, Egg-freezing

'Sen-betweeners' is the term Lisa Lloyd, a mum of two autistic children, uses to describe her children. She says their neurodivergence is too severe to fit easily into mainstream school, but not severe enough for a special school, so they fall between the gaps. Lisa has written a guide for other parents on 'Raising the Sen-betweeners,' in which she, whilst recognising that all children are different and there can be no rules, offers tips and advice for how to handle behaviours. Lisa joined Anita to share what she has learnt.

The Children's Society are training staff at the fast food chain Chicken Cottage to spot signs of exploitation amongst their teenage customers. Nuala discussed the initiative and issues with the charity's Head of National Programmes, Lisa Witherden, and Chicken Cottage franchise manager Georgian Balog.

Formula 1 has just turned 75, but how much headway are women racing drivers making? Nuala was joined by Jamie Chadwick, one of the leading British women in this sport, and BBC reporter Charlotte Simpson, who has spent months talking to a wide range of people trying to support more young women to become involved in the sport.

Nussaibah Younis's debut novel *Fundamentally* is based on her own experiences working as a peacekeeping consultant in Baghdad. The book follows Nadia, a British Asian woman working for the UN, and her relationship with fellow Brit Sara, a nineteen-year-old three-times widowed member of the Islamic State Group. Nussaibah joined Anita to discuss finding the comedy in a desperate situation.

Harvest, a new documentary, shows the realities of the egg freezing process. Director and writer Sophia Seymour decided to film her journey of elective egg freezing. With the number of women choosing this form of fertility planning rising, Nuala was joined by Sophia to discuss why she decided to do, and film it, and also by Dr Ippokratis Sarris, Consultant in Reproductive Medicine and Director of King's Fertility.

Nao is a Grammy and Mercury nominated singer songwriter. She's described her unique brand of music as "wonky funk". She joined Nuala McGovern to talk about fame, motherhood and her new album *Jupiter*. She performed live in the studio.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Annette Wells

**SAT 17:00 PM (m002898v)**

Israel delays handover of Palestinian prisoners

Hamas frees 6 Israeli hostages but 602 Palestinians due to be released in return remain in custody. Plus, why President Trump has fired his top military advisor.

**SAT 17:30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson (m002898x)**

The Heidi Alexander One

The Transport Secretary on Corbyn, Ukraine and growing up in Swindon

Producer: Lauren Tavriger

**SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m002898z)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 17:57 Weather (m0028991)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0028993)**

Six Israeli hostages who were being held by Hamas in Gaza have been released

**SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m00274rb)**

Stewart Lee, Barb Jungr, Philippa Dunne, Biig Piig, Aysha Kala

Stuart Maconie is joined by the 41st best stand up ever to talk about his new tour 'Stewart Lee Vs The Man-Wulf', and by Philippa Dunne who plays Anne in the school gates sitcom 'Motherland'. Anne is back in the spinoff series 'Amandaland', focusing on Anne's glamorous best friend Amanda. Aysha Kala tells us how she nailed the accent to play Saima in the new Bradford set crime thriller Virdee.

Music from song intrepeter Barb Jungr whose new album 'Hallelujah on Desolation Row' sees her back in the company of two songwriters whose music she has spent a lifetime alongside, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen as well as Irish singer and rapper Biig Piig who has just released her debut album '11:11'.

Presenter: Stuart Maconie  
Producer: Jessica Trean

**SAT 19:00 Profile (m0028995)**

Mark Rutte

His 14 year-stint at the top of European politics has earned him a distinguished record of domestic and international achievements.

Mark Rutte, born in The Hague in 1967, embarked on a career in business after leaving university and held several positions at Unilever.

His career in Dutch politics started in 2002, and four years later – as leader of the VVD party – he became prime minister.

During his tenure, he steered the Netherlands through times of significant national and global upheaval. From economic crisis, to the coronavirus pandemic.

And now, as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 14th Secretary General, he faces his next challenge – leading Europe's response to recent Russia-US talks over Ukraine.

Mark Coles takes a closer look at Mark Rutte.

Production Team

Producers: Sally Abrahams, Mantej Deol, Chloe Scannapieco  
Editor: Ben Mundy  
Sound: Neil Churchill  
Production Co-ordinators: Maria Ogundele and Sabine Schreck

Credits

Joint press conference by NATO Secretary General, Mark Rutte with the President of Slovakia, Peter Pellegrini, 20 Feb. 2025

Mark Rutte cycles away from his office, on his last day as Prime Minister of the Netherlands, tv47  
Yes Minister, BBC TV, Comedy Greats

**SAT 19:15 The Infinite Monkey Cage (m00282q3)**

Series 32

Journey to the Centre of the Earth - Phil Wang, Ana Ferreira and Chris Jackson

Brian Cox and Robin Ince slice deep into the lesser-explored world beneath us. To join them on the journey from the crust to the core they are joined by seismologist Ana Ferreira, geologist Chris Jackson and comedian Phil Wang.

School children learn about the make-up of the Earth with an image depicting the Earth's core, mantle and crust layered neatly on top of each other, but is this an oversimplification? Our experts reveal that the Earth's innards are less uniform than we might think and mysteries still abound, including the make-up of some continental-sized blobs deep inside the Earth. We learn about the incredible heat and pressure as we descend and why that has limited how far humans have been able to explore these deep realms first-hand. We explore the chemistry of the interactions between the Earth layers and how they influence the formation of continental plates and volcanoes. Phil has an existential crisis about falling inside gaps between the plates but is reassured his worries are unfounded as Ana explains the latest

techniques being used to understand the world deep beneath us.

Producer: Melanie Brown  
Executive Producer: Alexandra Feachem  
Researcher: Olivia Jani

**SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m0028997)**

Trouble Staying Still: ADHD's Identity Crisis

ADHD has been drawn into the media spotlight many times over the past 75 years since it was first described as Hyperkinetic Impulse Disorder. Treatment with the amphetamine Ritalin has added to the controversy with confusion that it, counterintuitively, 'calms kids down'. The condition has taken on many identities over its lifetime, having been renamed several times, each new term reflecting something different about how the disorder was then understood by science.

The argument over whether ADHD even exists remains as strong today as it was 75 years ago, with the condition sometimes being associated with 'wokeness'. Yet the waiting list for an assessment is at an all time high, with girls, adults and older people waiting, often years, along with 'naughty' boys who were originally thought to be the only ones who suffered from the condition.

In Trouble Staying Still, Professor Sally Marlow, explores the archive to reveal the changing faces of ADHD, and asks why it still grabs the headlines and why there are so many contradictions surrounding it.

And what impact has the media and, more recently, social media had? Sally looks at the rise of podcasts and celebrity diagnoses. She also tracks the developments in neuroscience which does reveal differences in the brains of people with ADHD.

Sally is also curious about whether she could have the condition and considers getting tested.

Presenter: Professor Sally Marlow  
Producers: Beth Eastwood and Geraldine Fitzgerald  
Production Co-Ordinator: Elisabeth Tuohy  
Sound Engineer: Richard Courtrice  
Executive Producer: Rami Tzabar  
A TellTale production for BBC Radio 4

Details of organisations offering information and support with ADHD are available at [bbc.co.uk/actionline](http://bbc.co.uk/actionline)

**SAT 21:00 AntiSocial (m002837f)**

Nudity - the great cover up?

How comfortable are we with nudity and why does the naked body still have the power to shock?

This month we've seen Bianca Censori break the internet after her red carpet appearance in a transparent dress and artists in north London upset about their life drawing class being moved. What actually happened and why were people so censorious about Bianca? Also, what is the history of nudism in the UK?

To discuss the power of the naked body Adam is joined by Dr Victoria Bateman – an economist and author of Naked Feminism: Breaking the cult of female modesty and Stephanie Murray, a freelance journalist and contributing writer for The Atlantic.

Presented by Adam Fleming  
Produced by Emma Close, Beth Ashmead and Clare Williamson  
Studio manager: Annie Gardiner  
Production coordinator: Janet Staples  
Editor: Penny Murphy

**SAT 21:45 Naturebang (m0021hcg)**

Dr Orangutan and the Evolution of Medicine

Becky Ripley and Emily Knight explore the ancient origins of medicine. What makes us sick? What makes us well again? And do animals medicate like we do?

Deep in the rainforest of Sumatra, one clever orangutan called Rakus has pretty much got it figured out. Astonished researchers spotted him making and then applying a plant-based medicinal paste to a painful wound. It was anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, and it numbed his pain, helping him to heal in record time. This might be one of the more sophisticated examples out there, but Rakus is far from the only one; lots of animals are incredibly skilled at using the plants and minerals around them to heal wounds, treat infection, or stave off nasty bugs. It's called, wait for it... zoopharmacognosy.

In the human world, we've honed our own medicinal skills into something slick, sterile and very high-tech, but so many of the

medicines we use today have natural origins. The age-old skills of the shamans and herbalists of the past are still extremely relevant, and we have yet to fully unlock all the healing secrets of the plants around us.

Featuring Dr Isabelle Laumer, cognitive biologist and primatologist at the Max Planck Institute for Animal Behaviour, and Sarah Edwards, Plant Records Officer from Oxford Botanic Gardens and an ethnobotanist from the University of Oxford. Produced and presented by Emily Knight and Becky Ripley.

**SAT 22:00 News (m002899b)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 22:15 The Food Programme (m0028377)**

Regenerative farming and food. What does it mean?

It's a term used by the smallest farmers and the world's biggest food businesses. But what does 'regenerative agriculture' mean?

Produced and presented by Dan Saladino.

**SAT 23:00 What? Seriously?? (m002899d)**

8. Spies, Lies and a Political Prize

In this episode, Dara and Isy are joined by the star of Slow Horses, Chris Chung, to learn about the magic of Monopoly - with some diverting conversations about secret smuggling, what it takes to join MI5, and what exactly do M11, 2, 3 and 4 do?

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 Christopher Chung.  
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 (m002821j)**

Series 38

Heat 8, 2025

(8/13)

Three more music-lovers take their place on the Counterpoint stage as Paul Gambaccini puts them through their paces on a wide variety of music, from the classical repertoire to show tunes, jazz, movie scores and sixty years of the pop charts. Today's winner will take another of the places in the 2025 semi-finals.

They'll not only have to demonstrate their musical general knowledge, but also pick a special musical topic on which to answer a round of individual questions. They have no warning of which subjects will come up, and no chance to prepare, so they'll have to choose carefully.

Today's competitors are:

Matt Isaacs, from Poynton in Cheshire  
Mohan Mudigonda, from Wolverhampton  
Joanna Munro, from Liverpool.

Counterpoint is a BBC Studios Audio production.

Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner  
Producer: Paul Bajoria

**SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2025****SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m002899g)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 00:15 Take Four Books (m002821g)**

Susan Barker

Presenter James Crawford speaks to the writer Susan Barker on

Take Four Books this week about her new novel, *Old Soul*, and the three other works that have helped to shape its creation. Susan's new book, published by Penguin, is made up of seven testimonies that cross centuries and continents, but they have one thing in common - a beguiling woman, who is much older than she looks, and leaves a trail of death and disappearance in her wake. The books Susan chose for her episode were: *Under The Skin* by Michel Faber (2000); *Ghostwritten* by David Mitchell (1999); and *Cat's Eye* by Margaret Atwood (1988).

The supporting contributor was the writer and Strathclyde University Creative Writing lecturer, Rodge Glass.

During the episode, a short clip of the audiobook version of *Under The Skin* is played. The publisher is Canongate Books Ltd.

Producer: Dom Howell  
Editor: Gillian Wheelan  
This was a BBC Audio Scotland production

**SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002899j)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002899i)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**SUN 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m002899n)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 05:30 News Briefing (m002899q)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m002899s)**

The church of Saint Milburga in Stoke St Milborough, Shropshire

Bells on Sunday comes from the church of Saint Milburga in Stoke St Milborough, Shropshire. The village and church take their name from Saint Milburga, the early eighth century Abbess of Wenlock Priory, whose feast day is the 23rd February. The church has thirteen bells in total including a recent ring of eight bells cast by the Allancoini foundry in Italy, which were tuned and installed by Matthew Higby and Company in 2020. The tenor bell weighs just over twelve hundredweight and is tuned to the note of G. We hear them ringing "Stoke St Milborough Surprise Major".

**SUN 05:45 In Touch (m002830l)**

Myths and Assumptions about Blindness

Natalie Doig is fascinated by myths and legends. Indeed, such is her passion for that which is "weird, wonderful and a little off kilter" that she stepped back from her career working in the disability rights sector to make a podcast about it. Called "Weird in the Wade", a recent episode explored the tale of "Blind George of Anstey". Natalie joins us to discuss Blind George and the issues the story raises about how blindness is perceived.

Also joining the discussion are Dr Rod Michalko and Professor Tanya Titchkosky. Both have studied societal attitudes to blindness and have written extensively about it. They share their feelings about Blind George and their take on what blindness actually is versus common assumptions.

Presenter: Peter White  
Producer: Fern Lulham  
Production Coordinator: Liz Poole

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 overlying 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

**SUN 06:00 News Summary (m0028b5n)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 06:05 Thinking Allowed (m00282zz)**

Underwear

Laurie Taylor talks to Nina Edwards, the author of a new study which unravels the intimate narratives woven into the fabric of our most personal garments. Is there a profound and surprising significance to the garments we wear beneath our outer

clothing? Also, Shaun Cole, Associate Professor in Fashion at the University of Southampton, considers the enduring question aimed at men over the choice of boxers or briefs and explores the future direction of men's undergarments.

Producer: Jayne Egerton

**SUN 06:35 On Your Farm (m0028b5q)**

Climber, Contractor, Farmer: The Man Who Does Everything

Ioan Doyle never stops. He's one of the best shearers, dry-stone wallers, and fencers – as well as being a world-class climber and mountaineer. He's scaled the toughest peaks in the world and has twice attempted the so-far unclimbed South Ridge of K7 in the Himalayas.

Ioan and his wife Janie own and run a busy contracting business in Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park, alongside farming sheep, pigs and chickens and raising their two young children, Evan and Eidda.

Yet, for all his energy, self-belief and determination, Ioan feels torn between two worlds: farming and climbing. He opens up to Anna Jones about the conflict he feels trying to balance the "pride and tradition" of Welsh hill farming with the "hard graft" of contracting while pushing his body and mind to the limit on the world's most inaccessible and dangerous rock faces.

Produced and presented by Anna Jones

**SUN 06:57 Weather (m0028b5s)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m0028b5v)**

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

**SUN 07:10 Sunday (m0028b5x)**

Pope Francis; Ukraine; Sowing for God

On the eve of the third anniversary of the war between Ukraine and Russia, Ukrainian Christians reflect on the past three years and on their hopes for the future as relations between Ukraine and the United States of America deteriorate.

Emily Buchanan talks to biographer Austen Ivereigh about Pope Francis as he remains seriously ill in hospital and discusses whether the Pope might resign as a consequence of ill health.

With AI transforming industries and daily life, concerns over ethics, public trust, and governance are growing. But how can we ensure that AI serves humanity responsibly? Dr. Mohammed Ahmed, Research Manager at the AI, Faith & Civil Society Commission, discusses the ethics of this evolving landscape.

Sowing for God - how handmade vestments are big business.

Producers: Amanda Hancox and Saba Zaman  
Studio managers: Helen Williams and Simon Highfield

**SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m0028b5z)**

Trauma Treatment International

Actor Christopher Harper makes the Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of Trauma Treatment International. The charity has a pool of paid clinical psychologists who provide online treatment for clients from around the world who need help after a traumatic life event.

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 'Trauma Treatment International'.  
- Cheques should be made payable to 'Trauma Treatment International'.  
- You can donate online at [bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4](https://bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4)

Registered Charity Number: 1175429. If you'd like to find out more about the charity's work visit [\\*https://tt-intl.org](https://tt-intl.org)  
\*The BBC is not responsible for content on external websites.

Producer: Katy Takatsuki

**SUN 07:57 Weather (m0028b61)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m0028b63)**

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

**SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m0028b65)**

The Central Church of the RAF

A service from St Clement Danes, the Central Church of the Royal Air Force, marking the 25th anniversary of the lifting of the ban on LGBTQ+ personnel serving in His Majesty's Armed Forces. The preacher is the Deputy Chaplain-in-Chief Personnel, the Reverend Ruth Hake, who joins the Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force and the Reverend Andy Chapman, the Padre to the LGBTQ+ defence community. The service is introduced by the Resident Chaplain, the Reverend Mark Perry.

The Central Band of the Royal Air Force is directed by Flight Lieutenant Michael Parsons and the Choir of St Clement Danes is directed by Charlie Hubbard, with organist Jamie Andrews.

Readings: Galatians 3: 23-29; 1 Samuel 18:1-5

Producer: Andrew Earis.

**SUN 08:48 A Point of View (m002838d)**

Print the Legend

Tom Shakespeare explores the pitfalls of dramatised history and its influence on real life - but confesses to his own minor role in rewriting the past.

"We turn to stories when the reality we desire fails us," he writes, "but if the legend is not based in fact, then history is in deep trouble, and so are we all."

Producer: Sheila Cook  
Sound: Peter Boshier  
Production Co-ordinator: Gemma Ashman  
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

**SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (m0028b67)**

Trai Anfield on the Osprey

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.

One bird above all others has captivated wildlife photographer Trai Anfield since childhood, the osprey. Family holidays to Scotland involved endless searching the skies looking for these summer visitors above Abernethy or Loch Garten. Once seen the thrill of watching osprey dive for fish was only matched by their struggle to soar into the sky carrying prey which sometimes matched its own weight. This lion of the skies arrived phoenix like in the spring to enthrall Trai and her family, even if their call is a little bit to be desired.

Producer : Andrew Dawes, BBC Audio, Bristol  
Studio Engineer : Ilse Lademann

**SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m0028b69)**

High stakes in the States as Starmer meets Trump

Sir Keir Starmer's travelling to meet Donald Trump next week. What will be seen as success? Former UK National Security Advisor Sir Mark Lyall Grant gives his assessment.

**SUN 10:00 Desert Island Discs (m00289vf)**

Sir Jony Ive, designer

Sir Jony Ive is a designer who is best known for his pioneering work at Apple alongside his friend and colleague, the late Steve Jobs. Jony's creative vision is behind some of the company's seminal products which have transformed the way we live today including phones, music players and watches.

He was born in Chingford in east London and loved drawing and spending time in his father's workshop where the two of them made the young Jony's Christmas presents including a go-kart, a treehouse and a toboggan.

He studied Industrial Design at Newcastle Polytechnic and moved to San Francisco to work for Apple in 1992. In 1997 Steve Jobs returned to the company, having been ousted several years earlier, and the two of them set about revolutionising the landscape for home computers with the creation of the iMac. In 2019 Jony set up his own company LoveFrom with the industrial designer Marc Newson. In 2023 Jony and his team designed a foldable Red Nose for Comic Relief and in the same year the company launched a scholarship programme aimed at increasing representation in the design industry.

In 2012 he was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to design and enterprise.

DISC ONE: Really Saying Something (US Extended Version) - Bananarama, Fun Boy Three  
DISC TWO: De Do Do Do, De Da Da Da - The Police  
DISC THREE: Main Theme - Carter Takes a Train - Roy Budd

DISC FOUR: Singin' in the Rain - Harry Ive  
DISC FIVE: Don't You (Forget About Me) - Simple Minds  
DISC SIX: Define Dancing - Thomas Newman  
DISC SEVEN: Debussy: Suite bergamasque, L.75: 3. Clair de lune. Composed by Claude Debussy and performed by Claudio Arrau (piano)  
DISC EIGHT: "40" - U2

BOOK CHOICE: The complete set of Jeeves & Wooster novels by P G Wodehouse  
LUXURY ITEM: A bed  
CASTAWAY'S FAVOURITE: "40" - U2

Presenter Lauren Laverne  
Producer Paula McGinley

**SUN 11:00 The Archers Omnibus (m0028b6c)**

WRITER: Keri Davies  
DIRECTOR: Jessica Bunch & Dave Payne  
EDITOR: Jeremy Howe

Helen Archer.... Louiza Patikas  
Jolene Archer.... Buffy Davis  
Kenton Archer.... Richard Atlee  
Natasha Archer.... Mali Harries  
Pat Archer.... Patricia Gallimore  
Tom Archer.... William Troughton  
Tony Archer.... David Troughton  
Mick Fadmoor.... Martin Barrass  
Clarrie Grundy.... Heather Bell  
Emma Grundy.... Emerald O'Hanrahan  
Tracy Horrobin.... Susie Riddell  
Joy Horville.... Jackie Lye  
Alistair Lloyd.... Michael Lumdsen  
Khalil Malik.... Krish Bassi  
Zainab Malik.... Priyasasha Kumari  
Kirsty Miller.... Annabelle Dowler  
Fallon Rogers.... Joanna Van Kampen  
Robert Snell.... Michael Bertenshaw  
Celia Sparrow.... Toni Midlane

**SUN 12:15 Profile (m0028995)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

**SUN 12:30 Just a Minute (m00282hz)**

Series 94

5. Does a Strawberry Have Dreams?

Sue Perkins challenges Paul Merton, Laura Smyth, Julian Clary and Desiree Burch to speak for 60 seconds without repetition, deviation or hesitation. Subjects include London To Brighton, Hand-me-downs, and The Life of a Strawberry.

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 (m0028b6f)**

The latest weather forecast

**SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m0028b6h)**

Trump's overhaul of Washington

President Macron and Prime Minister Keir Starmer head to Washington to attempt to bring President Trump onside over Ukraine, but just how different will the US government be after one month of the new administration as the restructure of government, led by Elon Musk, takes effect.

**SUN 13:30 Road Wars: Cycling in Paris (m0028j6n)**

On 15th Oct 2024, a 27-year-old cyclist was killed in a bike lane in Paris. His name was Paul Varry. He was run over by a car after an argument with a driver. What happened to Paul was extreme, but it resonated with many Parisians. For Paris is undergoing a cycling revolution. The city has created a vast network of bike lanes, introduced new restrictions for cars. The number of cyclists has soared. But there have also been conflicts, as cars, bikes and pedestrians try to navigate the new balance of power. So is Paris's plan working? Is this transformation the future for other major cities? Anna Holligan goes to Paris to find out.

Presenter: Anna Holligan  
Producer: Alex Last  
Paris producer/translator : Léontine Gallois  
Sound mix: Neil Churchill  
Production Co-ordinator: Gemma Ashman  
Editor: Penny Murphy

**SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002837r)**

Walsall: Rainwater v Tap Water, Caffeinated Ants and Daffodil Diaries

How do we get rid of red ants? Rainwater or tap water? How can I stay motivated in the garden when it's wet and windy?

Kathy Clugston and her team of gardening gurus visit Walsall to solve some horticultural problems. Joining Kathy to answer the questions are garden designers Bunny Guinness, Marcus Chilton Jones and Matthew Wilson.

Later in the programme, Peter Gibbs visits RHS Wisley where principal scientist Kálmán Kónyves educates him on their Daffodil Diaries initiative. A strategy which logs where, what and when rare and endangered narcissi bloom.

Producer: Bethany Hocken  
Assistant Producer: Rahnee Prescod  
Executive Producer: Jerry Maile

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 14:45 Opening Lines (m0028b6k)**

Spring Awakening - Episode 1

John Yorke examines the radical 1891 play Spring Awakening by German dramatist Frank Wedekind.

A cautionary, nightmarish portrait of teenage angst and rebellion against oppressive social structures and family pressures, the play's explicit content was so shocking that it was not performed for 15 years after its publication. In the decades since, it has often been cut or censored. Wedekind's original play became the inspiration for a 2006 hit Broadway musical of the same name.

In this first of two episodes, John looks at who Frank Wedekind was, and how he contributed to the expressionist movement that swept through Europe in the early 20th century - and how that collision created such an enduring work.

John Yorke has worked in television and radio for 30 years and shares his experience as he unpacks the themes and impact of the books, plays and stories that are being dramatised in BBC Radio 4's Sunday Drama series. As former Head of Channel Four Drama and Controller of BBC Drama Production he has worked on some of the most popular shows in Britain - from EastEnders to The Archers, Life on Mars to Shameless. As creator of the BBC Writers Academy, he's trained a generation of screenwriters - now with over 70 green lights and thousands of hours of television to their names. He is the author of Into the Woods, the bestselling book on narrative, and he writes, teaches and consults on all forms of narrative - including many podcasts for R4.

Contributors:  
Jonathan Franzen, author and essayist  
Dr Karen Leeder, Professor of Modern German Literature, University of Oxford

Producer: Lucy Hough  
Executive Producer: Caroline Raphael  
Sound: Sean Kerwin  
Production Hub Coordinator: Nina Semple

Audio: Spring Awakening (Frühlings Erwachen), translated by Tom Osborn and adapted for BBC Radio 4 by John Tydeman and first broadcast 26th March 1973 on BBC Radio 4.

Actors:  
Wendla: Helen Worth  
Mrs Bergmann: Diana Olsson  
Georg: Brian Hewlett  
Melchior: Christopher Guard  
Ernst: Michael Cochrane  
Lammermeir: Andrew Rivers  
Hans: Christopher Good  
Moritz: John Moulder-Brown

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 15:00 Drama on 4 (m0028b6m)**

Spring Awakening

Part 1

A fresh take on Frank Wedekind's shocking and provocative classic about teenagers discovering sex and identity in a repressive society. By Theo Toksvig-Stewart.

Teenagers Wendla, Melchior, and Moritz are taking their first steps into adulthood. But in a world where everyone is haunted by the battle between shame and pleasure, openness feels impossible.

How can their parents offer help when conversations around

sex, desire and relationships are so taboo? Lost, hungry for the truth, our teenagers have only each other for guidance. But knowledge can only take them so far. Their choices will have tragic repercussions.

In Part One, Moritz is disturbed by dreams, and worried about falling behind at school. Wendla is eager for her life to start, and burning with questions. She meets Melchior, who seems to offer some answers.

This drama includes strong sexual content.

CAST  
MELCHIOR ..... Jake Kenny-Byrne  
WENDLA ..... Shreya Lallu  
MORITZ ..... David Angland  
ILSE ..... Madeleine Gray  
HANSCHEN ..... Patrick Dineen  
ERNST ..... Aaron Gelkoff  
FANNY ..... Lisa McGrillis  
GABOR ..... Sam James  
BERGMANN ..... Jasmine Hyde  
GROUNDSKEEPER/KAHLBAUCH/KNOCHENBRUCH ..... John Bowler

Spring Awakening is a new version by Theo Toksvig-Stewart of a play by Frank Wedekind  
Directed by Anne Isger  
Sound by Keith Graham and Mike Etherden  
Production co-ordination by Gaelan Davis-Connolly

German playwright Frank Wedekind's original play Spring Awakening was written in 1891. Critical of the sexually oppressive culture of the time, it offers an unflinching portrayal of topics including sexuality and suicide, and has frequently been the subject of censorship. Theo Toksvig-Stewart is an award-winning writer for stage, screen and audio. He is known for nuanced and humane narratives that tackle contemporary questions. His play Endless Second dealt with consent in the context of a relationship (described as "The best, most thought-provoking show at this year's Fringe.") His recent Radio 4 drama The Great Delay, about the toxic legacy of climate denial, starred Luke Treadaway, Olivia Williams and Rhoshan Stone.

**SUN 16:00 Take Four Books (m0028b6q)**

Laurent Binet

Presenter James Crawford speaks with multi-award-winning, Booker-longlisted French author Laurent Binet about his latest novel, Perspectives, and the three other works that influenced its creation.

Set in 16th-century Florence, the novel follows an investigation into the mysterious death of a renowned painter, found lying on a church floor with a fatal stab wound to the heart. Above him, the masterpieces he dedicated over a decade to completing. But who is responsible for his murder?

Laurent's influences were: Dangerous Liaisons by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos (1782); The Story of my Escape from the Prisons of Venice by Giacomo Casanova (1788); and The Florentine Histories by Niccolò Machiavelli (1532).

The supporting contributor was poet, translator and lecturer in Creative Writing at Loughborough University, Dr Kerry Featherstone.

Producer: Rachael O'Neill  
Editor: Gillian Wheelan  
This was a BBC Audio Scotland production

**SUN 16:30 Counterpoint (m0028b6s)**

Series 38

Heat 9, 2025

(9/13)

Paul Gambaccini puts the questions to three more competitors in the last of the 2025 heats. Today's winner will take the one remaining place in the semi-finals. To get there they'll have to demonstrate the breadth of their musical knowledge, and will also have to choose a category on which to answer specialist questions, without the slightest inkling of what subjects are going to be offered.

The programme was recorded at the headquarters of the BBC Philharmonic, at Media City in Salford.

Taking part are:  
Joe Andrew, from Stoke on Trent  
Christine Harrison, from Bury in Lancashire  
Sarah Trevarthen, from Manchester.

Counterpoint is a BBC Studios Audio production.

Assistant Producer: Stephen Garner

Producer: Paul Bajoria

**SUN 17:00 Witness History (w3ct5ynh)**  
Charlie Hebdo attack

On 7 January 2015, 12 people were shot dead at the offices of a satirical magazine in Paris, the capital of France.

The two gunmen had targeted Charlie Hebdo because it had published cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

Rachel Naylor speaks to Riss, a cartoonist who was shot in the shoulder.

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 Gaudí and the design of the Sagrada Família; 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: A mural of some of the victims of the attack, near the former office of Charlie Hebdo. Credit: Bertrand GUAY / AFP)

**SUN 17:10 The Verb (m0028b6x)**

Rebecca Watts, Brian Bilston, Cristina Rivera Garza, Deryn Rees-Jones

Rebecca Watts has just published her third poetry collection - The Face In The Well. She discusses writing poems that engage with the work of an earlier generation of poets, turning a cherished childhood memory into poetry, and Emily Brontë's love of ironing.

Poet and writer Brian Bilston is as much a fan of the American writer, artist, and designer Edward Gorey as The Verb. He accepted our commission to create an updated version of one of Gorey's most celebrated poems - The Gashlycrumb Tinies. He premieres his approach to Gorey's alphabetical and flatly macabre list of children's final fates - The Garbledoom Tiddlers.

Cristina Rivera Garza is a Pulitzer Prize-winning Mexican writer, poet and professor. Her new book, Death Takes Me, fuses crime fiction, literary theory, and the poems of Argentinian poet Alejandra Pizarnik. She discusses the power of language to reflect, proscribe, and change society.

Deryn Rees-Jones is a poet, a professor, and editor at Pavilion Poetry. She talk to Ian about the art of creating a poetry collection and how deciding on the order of the poems in a new collection can be a surprisingly physical activity.

Presenter: Ian McMillan  
Producer: Ekene Akalawu

**SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m0028b6z)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 17:57 Weather (m0028b71)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0028b73)**

Exit polls from Germany's election suggest the conservative Christian Democrats have won

**SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m0028b75)**

Pat Nevin

This week Pat Nevin brings you the tales of two very different billionaires, reveals in some of the best, and most toe curling, comic moments, reveals the best musical moment in football history, and discovers a man who has shown the world truly limitless love.

Oh, we learn all about what happens when a bird collides with a

plane... though maybe he shouldn't have listened to that one while waiting in an airport.

All that and more of the best BBC audio this week!

Presenter: Pat Nevin  
Producer: Elizabeth Ann Duffy  
Production Coordinator: Jack Ferrie

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland production for BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 19:00 The Archers (m00289hj)**

Frustrated Natasha thinks Emma's wasting her time pursuing the water company when she should be focusing her efforts increasing footfall at the Tearoom. Later she apologises for being snippy, admitting she's worried. They're losing money and it's demoralising. She's pleased to see Kirsty, joking she's at least one paying customer. Kirsty wonders whether Natasha and Tom have had a chance to progress the house purchase. Natasha promises they'll all sit down together soon. Her priority currently is getting the business back on a firm footing. Emma suggests a Pancake Day initiative, and after some debate they settle on a pancake eating contest. What have they got to lose? Azra confides to Lynda there's no chance they'll be back in their own house in time for Ramadan – the house smells and the utility room is still damp. Kirsty reports she's got a professional company in to clean her house. They're doing a complete refit. She can't afford to wait, she just needs the house sold. Later Azra explains to interested Lynda how she manages her and the family's fasting arrangements, admitting that this year will be particularly challenging with all the stress of the house. Lynda suggests contacting Justin to see if he can advise on who should take responsibility for the sewage issues. Meanwhile she offers Azra the use of her kitchen as much as she needs it – she and Robert will work round her. In a moment of inspiration Lynda offers to fast alongside Azra so that they're synchronised.

**SUN 19:15 Illuminated (m0028b77)**

Thirty Eulogies

The story of how a heterosexual, Indian immigrant to England, ignorant of the gay scene, ended up delivering heartfelt eulogies to 30 homosexual men at the height of the AIDS crisis.

The experiences of Suresh Vaghela take us behind the headlines of the infected blood scandal and into a transformative relationship between a hemophiliac and the people who he came to regard as his new family.

(Including extracts from the BBC Sound Archive and from the 1975 World In Action documentary Blood Money, Granada TV)

Music by Jeremy Warnsley  
Produced by Nicolo Majnoni  
Executive Producer: Alan Hall  
A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 19:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001w86r)**

Get an Early Night

Michael discovers his long-time penchant for an early night could have some real health benefits. If you are someone who could go to sleep earlier and simply put it off with an extra episode or phone scrolling, Michael recommends going to bed an hour earlier than normal because getting enough sleep deeply impacts your brain, protecting against depression and other neurological problems. Professor Esra Tasali at the University of Chicago's Sleep Centre, shares her research that sleeping an extra hour a night has been found to have an incredible effect on our appetite, reducing cravings often linked to weight gain. Our volunteer Dylan, who is very health and exercise conscious, is surprised to find a little more sleep every night could benefit his fitness routine.

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 (m00282ry)**

Old English, New English

Michael Rosen explores the evocative Old English words used in daily life a thousand years ago, many of which are still in use now. He's joined by the linguist author of The Wordhound, Hana Videen. Hana has been hoarding words from Old English (450 AD to 1150 AD) for a decade, when she began tweeting one a day. Now she has lots of people following her to find out more about the language, and a new book out called The Deorhord: An Old English Bestiary.

<https://oldenglishwordhound.com>

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/b006qtz>

**SUN 20:30 Last Word (m002837w)**

Rick Buckler, Margaret Miles-Bramwell, Harry Stewart Jr, Maureen Halton

John Wilson on

Rick Buckley, the drummer in The Jam, one of the most popular and influential British bands of the 70s and 80s.

Margaret Miles-Bramwell who founded Slimming World in response to what she saw as humiliation tactics by weight loss groups.

World War Two fighter pilot Harry Stewart Jr, part of the all-African American Tuskegee Airmen who despite huge successes in aerial combat, faced discrimination and segregation on the ground.

Maureen Halton, the biology lecturer who introduced and popularised the Frisbee in the UK.

Producer: Ed Prendeville

Archive:

Interview with WW2 Veteran Harry Stewart Jr" From: Friends of the National World War II Memorial, uploaded **21.02.2024**; Red Tails (2012) HD Movie Trailer - Lucasfilm Official Trailer, Uploaded to Youtube by Rotten Tomatoes, **29.07.2011**; Remembering the Tuskegee Airmen From: U.S. Department of the Interior; Slimming World podcast, Permission granted by Rebecca Robinson – Director of Comms at Slimming World; Rock On!, BBC Radio 1, **21.05.1977**; THE JANICE FORSYTH SHOW: THE JANICE FORSYTH SHOW, BBC, **11.12.2017**; Sounds of the 70s with Johnnie Walker : Rick Buckler, BBC Radio 2, **06.02.2018**

**SUN 21:00 Money Box (m002898j)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

**SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m0028b5z)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

**SUN 21:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002898d)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:30 on Saturday]

**SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m0028b79)**

Ben Wright and his panel discuss the German election and Keir Starmer's trip to Washington

Ben Wright is joined by the Labour MP Polly Billington, Conservative former Cabinet minister Kit Malthouse and Professor Anand Menon from the UK in a Changing Europe think tank. They respond to the early results from the German election and look ahead to Sir Keir Starmer's trip to Washington for his first talks with Donald Trump since the President returned to the White House. The programme includes an interview with the former British Ambassador to the US, Sir Peter Westmacott. The political editor of The Spectator, Katy Balls, brings additional insight and analysis.

**SUN 23:00 In Our Time (m00282pq)**

Oliver Goldsmith

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the renowned and versatile Irish writer Oliver Goldsmith (1728 - 1774). There is a memorial to him in Westminster Abbey's Poet's Corner written by Dr Johnson, celebrating Goldsmith's life as a poet, natural philosopher and historian. To this could be added 'playwright' and 'novelist' and 'science writer' and 'pamphleteer' and much besides, as Goldsmith explored so many different outlets for his talents. While he began on Grub Street in London, the centre for jobbing writers scrambling for paid work, he became a great populariser and compiler of new ideas and knowledge and achieved notable successes with poems such as The Deserted Village, his play She Stoops to Conquer and his short novel The Vicar of Wakefield.

With

David O'Shaughnessy  
Professor of Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of Galway

Judith Hawley  
Professor of Eighteenth-Century Literature at Royal Holloway, University of London

And

Michael Griffin  
Professor of English at the University of Limerick

Producer: Simon Tillotson

Reading list:

Norma Clarke, *Brothers of the Quill: Oliver Goldsmith in Grub Street* (Harvard University Press, 2016)

Leo Damrosch, *The Club: Johnson, Boswell, and the Friends Who Shaped an Age* (Yale University Press, 2019)

Oliver Goldsmith (ed. Aileen Douglas and Ian Campbell Ross), *The Vicar of Wakefield: A Tale, Supposed to Be Written by Himself* (first published 1766; Cambridge University Press, 2024)

Oliver Goldsmith (ed. Arthur Friedman), *The Vicar of Wakefield* (first published 1766; Oxford University Press, 2008)

Oliver Goldsmith (ed. Arthur Friedman), *The Collected Works of Oliver Goldsmith*, 5 vols (Clarendon Press, 1966)

Oliver Goldsmith (ed. Robert L. Mack), *Oliver Goldsmith: Everyman's Poetry*, No. 30 (Phoenix, 1997)

Oliver Goldsmith (ed. James Ogden), *She Stoops to Conquer* (first performed 1773; Methuen Drama, 2003)

Oliver Goldsmith (ed. James Watt), *The Citizen of the World* (first published 1762; Cambridge University Press, 2024)

Oliver Goldsmith (ed. Nigel Wood), *She Stoops to Conquer and Other Comedies* (first performed 1773; Oxford University Press, 2007)

Michael Griffin and David O'Shaughnessy (eds.), *Oliver Goldsmith in Context* (Cambridge University Press, 2024)

Michael Griffin and David O'Shaughnessy (eds.), *The Letters of Oliver Goldsmith* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

Roger Lonsdale (ed.), *The Poems of Gray, Collins and Goldsmith* (Longmans, 1969)

In Our Time is a BBC Studios Audio production

**SUN 23:45 Short Works (m002837t)**  
Nothing Happened by David Szalay

Indira Varma reads an original short story for Radio 4 by the award-winning writer David Szalay.

In Abu Dhabi airport, in the middle of the night, two people are thrown together again for the first time in decades. Now both middle-aged, they ponder missed chances...

Writer: David Szalay is an acclaimed writer of novels and short stories. He was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and has won the Betty Trask Award and the Edge Hill Short Story Prize. He lives in Budapest.  
Reader Indira Varma  
Producer: Justine Willett

**MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025**

**MON 00:00 Midnight News (m0028b7c)**  
The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 00:15 The Battersea Poltergeist (p0955cfy)**  
Episode 3: Interview with a Ghost

Danny explores possible links between the Battersea case and the Enfield Poltergeist, a famous alleged haunting from 1977.

He meets two reporters who covered the case, one of whom claims to have been attacked by the poltergeist. We hear more from the real-life Shirley Hitchings as, back in 1956, teenage Shirley appears to communicate with Donald the Poltergeist, and her story becomes front page tabloid news, gripping the nation.

Written and presented by Danny Robins, starring Dafne Keen (*His Dark Materials*), Toby Jones (*Detectorists*), Burn Gorman (*Torchwood*) and Alice Lowe (*Sightseers*).

With original theme music by Mercury-nominated Nadine Shah and Ben Hillier, this gripping 8-part series interweaves a chilling supernatural thriller set in 50s London with a fascinating modern-day investigation into Britain's strangest ever haunting – a mystery unsolved... until now.

Shirley Hitchings.....Dafne Keen  
Harold Chibbett.....Toby Jones  
Wally Hitchings..... Burn Gorman  
Kitty Hitchings.....Alice Lowe  
Ethel Hitchings.....Sorcha Cusack  
John Hitchings.....Calvin Demba  
Ronald Maxwell.....Rufus Wright  
Joyce Lewis.....Miranda Raison

Written and presented by Danny Robins  
Experts: Ciaran O'Keefe and Evelyn Hollow  
Sound Designer: Richard Fox  
Music: Evelyn Sykes  
Theme Music by Nadine Shah and Ben Hillier  
Produced by Danny Robins and Simon Barnard  
Directed by Simon Barnard

Consultant: Alan Murdie

With thanks to James Clark, co-author of *The Poltergeist Prince of London*

A Bafflegab production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in March 2021.

**MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m002899s)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

**MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0028b7g)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0028b7j)**  
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**MON 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0028b7i)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**MON 05:30 News Briefing (m0028b7n)**  
The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0028b7q)**  
Taking the biscuit  
  
Good morning.

A woman is waiting in the departure lounge, rummaging through her bag to pull out her book and her packet of biscuits, a man sits down beside her and a few minutes later she picks up the biscuits nestled between them. The man smiles at her, then reaches into the packet and helps himself to a biscuit! "The cheek!" With every biscuit she takes, he takes one too until they reach the last biscuit. He smiles, picks up the packet, and tilts it towards her. Outraged, she snatches the packet ready to unleash, but an announcement interrupts, calling the next flight.

The man leaves quickly, she misses her chance and then her flight is announced. She gathers her bag, opens it to swap her book for her boarding pass, and freezes. Her own packet of biscuits is still at the bottom of her bag. The man had not been shamelessly pilfering from her packet but graciously sharing from his!

We are taught in the Muslim tradition to make 70 excuses for others and that even if we somehow do, to imagine they had an additional one we missed. In a world that has become hyper polarised, extending this sort of magnanimous thinking has become even more important. It's not to say we agree on everything, but that we can say, I do not agree with what you are doing, but I can see where you're coming from, and if I can't, I'm going to try hard, because that's how I hold on to your humanity and mine. That's how I reject this unholy fracturing that is killing us.

I pray for a heart that assumes the best in others, that seeks to understand rather than condemn, and that remembers I am only as human as I allow others to be. Ameen.

**MON 05:45 Farming Today (m0028b7s)**  
24/02/25 Avian flu vaccines; bulb growing in Cornwall

Bird flu is continuing its spread, with an ever growing list of English counties - and the whole of Northern Ireland - now under restrictions which mean all poultry has to be kept indoors. And stricter bio-security measures have been imposed across the whole of the UK.

We hear from a farmer in Devon who has had to cull his birds because of a disease outbreak. And the chair of virology at Edinburgh University's Roslin Institute, Professor Paul Digard, discusses the avian flu vaccine situation in the UK and elsewhere.

Our theme this week is bulbs - Spring isn't far away! We're with daffodil pickers near Truro in Cornwall.

Presenter: Charlotte Smith  
Producer: Sarah Swadling  
Farming Today is a BBC Audio Bristol production

**MON 05:57 Weather (m0028b7v)**  
Weather reports and forecasts for farmers

**MON 06:00 Today (m00289gv)**  
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**MON 09:00 Start the Week (m00289gx)**  
Community and industrial decline

The story of Liverpool's once thriving port is one of spectacular rise, and spectacular fall. In Liverpool and the Unmaking of Britain, the historian Sam Wetherell looks at the city post-WWII, as the decline in the port led to the poverty and neglect of its population, the deportation of Chinese sailors, and the discrimination against the city's Black population. It's a history as prophecy for what the future might hold for the communities caught in the same trap of obsolescence.

As manufacturing has declined in the UK it has grown exponentially in China, which is now known as 'the world's factory'. Dr Yu Jie is a senior research fellow at Chatham House and an expert in China's economic diplomacy. She considers what the mega-cities that have emerged out of China's rise, and the communities living in them, can learn from the history of Liverpool.

Corby in the Midlands was once at the heart of British steelmaking, with one of the largest operations in Western Europe. But once the plant was closed in the 1980s, the 'clean-up' became known as one of the worst environmental scandals, causing serious birth defects in the town. The four-part series, *Toxic Town*, written by Jack Thorne (on Netflix from 27th February) tells the story of the families as they fight for justice.

Producer: Katy Hickman

**MON 09:45 Shadow World (m0025vhf)**  
The Willpower Detectives

2. A Trust Betrayed

Maisie was struggling to cope and thought giving someone control of her finances would help: she later regretted signing that Power of Attorney order and tells Sue Mitchell why.

The hidden scandal of Power of Attorney - Concerned neighbours ask Sue Mitchell for help.

Giving someone else control of your finances and decisions – through Lasting Power of Attorney – is meant to come with a guarantee that they always act in your best interest. In this series, BBC investigative reporter Sue Mitchell explores a widespread business practice where some people are moved out of their homes and left with no idea what is happening to their money.

It often involves people with little or no family to ask questions about where they are moved to, or to challenge the fees involved. It can be people who've accumulated wealth over a lifetime, whose assets are now helping to fund those who are taking decisions for them.

Shadow World: Gripping stories from the shadows - BBC investigations from across the UK.

Presented by Sue Mitchell  
Produced by Sue Mitchell, Joel Moors and Winifred Robinson

**MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m00289gz)**  
Southport dance teacher Leanne Lucas, Indira Varma, German elections, Nnedi Okorfor

It was a crime that horrified the nation. Three young girls murdered and another eight children and two adults seriously injured at a yoga and dance workshop in Southport in July 2024. Teacher Leanne Lucas, who was running the event, has agreed to speak for the first time about what happened. She's been speaking to the BBC's special correspondent Judith Moritz who joins Nuala McGovern.

The German election results are in and there's now a female-led, far-right party in opposition. Journalist and Visiting Research Fellow at Kings College London Katja Hoyer tells Nuala about the role of women in the new German political landscape.

Indira Varma is an Olivier-award-winning actor who has starred in everything from West End hits to Game of Thrones. She is currently on stage at the Old Vic in London, playing Jocasta to Rami Malek's Oedipus. She joins Nuala in the Woman's Hour studio.

Nigerian American science fiction author Nnedi Okorafor's new book is Death of the Author. It follows the story of Zelu, a novelist who is disabled, unemployed and from a very judgmental family. Nnedi and Nuala talk about the book within her book, success, and the influence on her writing of being an athlete in her earlier years.

**MON 11:00 Artworks (m00289h1)**  
Roleplay

Cleopatra

One big dramatic role. Actors from across the world tell us what the part means and what it means to them. This time: Cleopatra.

In the first episode of this new series, Dame Judi Dench, Dame Janet Suzman, Doña Croll and Nadia Nadarajah describe what it's like to play Cleopatra, taking us through the character's journey in William Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra.

Cleopatra 7th of Egypt is one of the ancient world's most famous figures. But it was William Shakespeare who first made her an iconic dramatic role and shaped our ideas of this historical leader - in his play Antony and Cleopatra.

The play's lines have stayed in the mind of Dame Judi Dench who initially doubted whether she could play the part. She tells stories of escaping snakes, secret suppers, and spectacular speeches. It's a part which has also fascinated Dame Janet Suzman, who has returned to the play and to the complex beguiling Cleopatra time and again over the last five decades.

The play travels from Egypt to Rome and back again - Doña Croll, thought to be the first black actor to play the role, talks about why Cleopatra is a part important to black actors, a role known for her power and her supposed beauty. Our image of the Egyptian ruler has perhaps been influenced more by one actor than any other: Elizabeth Taylor. Roger Lewis reveals the parallels between the lives of Taylor and Cleopatra.

Antony and Cleopatra's final act is known for its wonderful language and theatrical difficulty. Nadia Nadarajah, a Shakespearean actor who uses British Sign Language, explores Cleopatra's famous final moments, surrounded by snakes.

Produced by Camellia Sinclair and Sam Grist for BBC Audio, Bristol  
Edited by Emma Harding  
Mixed by Ilse Lademann

Archive:

Antony and Cleopatra, National Theatre, 1987  
Director - Sir Peter Hall  
Cleopatra - Judi Dench  
Alexas - Robert Arnold

Antony and Cleopatra, ATV (ITV), 1974  
Director - Jon Scoffield  
Cleopatra - Janet Suzman  
Antony - Richard Johnson

Caesar and Cleopatra (Followed by Antony and Cleopatra), BBC Network Radio, 12th August 1951  
Producer - Ayton Whitaker  
Cleopatra - Vivien Leigh  
Antony - Laurence Olivier

Antony and Cleopatra, BBC Radio 3, 28th December 2014  
Director - Alison Hindell  
Cleopatra - Alex Kingston  
Antony - Kenneth Branagh  
Agrippa - Simon Armstrong  
Octavius Caesar - Geoffrey Streatfield

Make Death Love Me: Antony and Cleopatra Re-imagined, BBC Radio 3, 24th April 2022  
Director - Neil Bartlett  
Producer - Turan Ali  
Cleopatra - Adjoa Andoh  
Antony - Tim McInermy

World Drama - Antony and Cleopatra - Part 1, BBC Radio 3, 30th Jan 1977  
Director/Producer - John Tydemann  
Cleopatra - Sian Phillips

Antony and Cleopatra, BBC Network Radio, 12th July 1965  
Producer - R.D. Smith  
Enobarbus - Rupert Davies

Additional archive:

Kaleidoscope, BBC Radio 4, 13th November 1981; Prefaces to Shakespeare, BBC Radio 4, 2nd May 1981; What's New?, BBC Television, 3rd April 1962; Radio Two Arts Programme: Burton and Taylor, BBC Radio 2, 13th March 1994 including clips from Cleopatra, film, 1963 directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, Elizabeth Taylor as Cleopatra, Richard Burton as Antony; Film 74 Special: Richard Burton, BBC TV, 6th September 1974 including clips from Cleopatra 1963 film.

**MON 11:30 Naturebang (m0021j9t)**

Burying Beetles and the Politics of Parenting

Becky Ripley and Emily Knight tackle a topic we love to fight about: parenting. How should we raise our kids? How much love is too much?

Good parenting begins at home. And 'home', in this case, is a decomposing mouse corpse, rolled into a ball and buried 5 inches beneath the soil of the forest floor. Naturally. This is the home of one of nature's most diligent little parents, the black and orange Gravedigger, or Burying Beetle. The two parents team up to feed, nurture and care for their grubs until they're old enough to make it alone. But is there such a thing as too much parenting? Could a little LESS motherly (and fatherly) love, actually help the grubs be a little more self-reliant?

In the human world, we can't seem to agree on the best way to raise our babies. Across time and across cultures, there have been parenting strategies that seem bonkers to us now, while our ways of doing things might raise alarm bells elsewhere. One factor here is that humans spend a lot of time parenting; we're one of the most heavily investing parents the natural world has ever produced. But our babies are needy for a reason: it takes an awfully long time to make a human.

Featuring Rebecca Kilner, Professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Cambridge, and Dr Brenna Hassett, biological anthropologist at University College London and the author of 'Growing up Human: The Evolution of Childhood'. Produced and presented by Emily Knight and Becky Ripley.

**MON 11:45 The Many Lives of James Lovelock by Jonathan Watts (m00289h3)**  
Episode 1

James Lovelock is probably best known today for being the creator of the Gaia Theory - the idea that life on Earth is a self-sustaining system in which organisms interact with their environments to maintain a habitable ecosystem.

But this controversial and complicated man lived many lives over the course of the 102 years he spent on this planet.

He was born just after the end of the First World War to parents who had little interest in having a family and preferred to leave their new born child with his grandparents. His early years were often spent alone in nature and this helped to establish his lifelong affinity for the natural world. But he was also an autodidact - fascinated with science and in particular chemistry. Despite struggling at school he went on to become one of the great polymaths of the 20th century.

During the Second World War he worked at the National Medical Research Institute, where his life-long interest in chemical tracing began. In the 1960s he worked at NASA. He worked for MI5 and MI6 during the Cold War. He was a science advisor to the oil giant Shell, who he warned as early as 1966 that fossil fuels were causing serious harm to the environment. He invented the technology that found the hole in the Ozone layer. And all of this shaped Gaia Theory - a theory that could not have been developed without the collaboration of two important women in his life.

Based on over 80 hours of interviews with Lovelock and unprecedented access to his personal papers and scientific archive, Jonathan Watts has written a definitive and revelatory biography of a fascinating, sometimes contradictory man.

Jonathan Watts is a British journalist with an interest in the environment. He is also the author of When a Billion Chinese Jump: How China Will Save the World - or Destroy It.

Written by Jonathan Watts  
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters  
Read by Richard Goulding  
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

**MON 12:00 News Summary (m00289h6)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 12:04 You and Yours (m00289h8)**

Service Charges, Korean Skincare, Pet-Nups

The annual service charge for a flat in England and Wales rose

by 11% in 2024, to £2,300. In some extreme cases, there have been annual increases close to 250%. We discuss why these rises are occurring and what options leaseholders have.

During a breakup or divorce, it's not uncommon for couples to argue over who gets the television or the car. But what about the pets? As the law regards pets as possessions, there has been an increase in the number of people opting for pet-nups - a prenuptial agreement that includes pets. However, are they worth it?

A growing number of news websites are asking users to pay a monthly fee if they don't want to accept online cookies. We hear from the Information Commissioner's Office about its consultation on the topic and why it will continue to be allowed.

Korean Skincare is proving extremely popular, with Boots reportedly selling one item every 30 seconds. Beauty columnist Sali Hughes explains what sets it apart and what the other health and beauty trends are right now.

Drivers across the country are reporting difficulties in keeping their cars safe from damage by animals. Brakes and ABS wires are particularly susceptible to being chewed, causing thousands of pounds of damage in the process. Erin Baker, editorial director of AutoTrader, explains what drivers can do to protect their cars - and their wallet.

PRESENTER: SHARI VAHL

PRODUCER: CHARLIE FILMER-COURT

**MON 12:57 Weather (m00289hb)**

The latest weather forecast

**MON 13:00 World at One (m00289hd)**

Ukraine's allies re-affirm support on third anniversary of invasion

On the third anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, we hear from former foreign secretary and chancellor Jeremy Hunt who says UK defence spending should increase to 3.4% of GDP. We also have a report from Germany after the conservative Christian Democrats won Sunday's election, with the far-right Alternative for Deutschland coming second.

**MON 13:45 You Do Not Have to Say Anything (m00289hg)**  
Episode 6: Telling Stories

After weeks, months, sometimes years of preparation, the case enters the courtroom. Here, two narratives will be told. Twelve people, selected at random, will be asked to decide.

Defence Barrister Joanna Hardy-Susskind lifts the curtain on the real criminal justice system and the real people working within it - beneath the wigs, behind the uniforms and in the dock.

Presenter: Joanna Hardy-Susskind  
Producer: Georgia Catt  
Assistant Producer: Danita McIntyre

**MON 14:00 The Archers (m00289hj)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

**MON 14:15 Conversations from a Long Marriage (m001j47n)**  
Series 4

1. She Drives Me Crazy

Joanna Lumley and Roger Allam return with the fourth series of Jan Eatherington's award-winning comedy about a long-married couple in love with life and each other.

This week, Amy moves in. She has long, thin legs and lots of black hair, which is why their new rescue dog is called after Amy Winehouse. Joanna's attempts at training are scuppered by Roger and Amy's 'lovefest', prompting her to observe 'There are three in this marriage.'

Conversations from a Long Marriage is written by Jan Eatherington.  
It's produced and directed by Claire Jones.  
And it is a BBC Studios Production.

Wilfredo Acosta - sound engineer  
Jon Calver - sound designer  
Katie Baum - production coordinator

Conversations from a Long Marriage won Voice of the Listener & Viewer Award for Best Radio Comedy in 2020.

'Sitcom is what most marriages are really like - repetitive and



ridiculous – and Jan’s words are some of the best ever written on the subject’ RICHARD CURTIS  
 ‘This gives me hope that life and marriage might permanently include taking the absolute piss while simultaneously dancing in the kitchen’. EMMA FREUD  
 ‘Can Joanna Lumley and Roger Allam ever have done anything better than Jan Etherington’s two hander? Sublimely funny, touching... This is a work of supreme craftsmanship.’ SIMON O’HAGAN, RADIO 4 TIMES  
 ‘An endearing portrait of exasperation, laced with hard won tolerance – and something like love.’ THE GUARDIAN  
 ‘The delicious fruit of the writer, Jan Etherington’s experience of writing lots of TV and radio, blessed by being acted by Joanna Lumley and Roger Allam. This series makes people laugh’ GILLIAN REYNOLDS. SUNDAY TIMES  
 ‘You’ve been listening at my window, Jan’. JOANNA LUMLEY

**MON 14:45 The Island (m00283zv)**  
 Series 1

Episode 2: The threatening note

A threatening note threatens to threaten Stephen’s new island lifestyle, and Sandi Toksvig speaks through a worm.

From Bill Dare (Dead Ringers), Jon Holmes (The Skewer) and writers Tom Oxenham and Simon Alcock, actor Stephen Mangan washes up on the actual island from Desert Island Discs, only to discover that he is not alone.

Living among the palms and rocky outcrops and thousands of copies of the Bible lying in the sand is every former guest of the show – and it’s all gone a bit Lord of the Flies.

Through Stephen’s audio diary, we learn that all TV chef Nadiya Hussain wants to do is hunt, that Richard Madeley’s gone feral, and that Sandi Toksvig has the Conch. But there’s something lurking in the forest, and when Stephen suspects foul play in the power struggle to be chief, he soon finds himself making a dangerous enemy.

Can he win over his fellow islanders before it’s too late? What lengths will he go to to survive? And what the hell is he going to do with this useless coffee machine he chose as his luxury item?

Written by Tom Oxenham and Simon Alcock  
 Starring Stephen Mangan as himself

Sound Design: Tony Churnside  
 Executive Producer: Jon Holmes  
 Producer: Bill Dare

An unusual production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 15:00 A Good Read (m00289hl)**  
 Julia Bradbury and Ramita Navai

How to Stop Time by Matt Haig, chosen by Julia Bradbury  
 A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry, chosen by Ramita Navai  
 An Enchanted April by Elizabeth von Arnim, chosen by presenter Harriett Gilbert

TV presenter, author and walking enthusiast Julia Bradbury recommends a fiction book by Matt Haig, How to Stop Time, which brings to life the idea of living forever.

Award-winning British-Iranian investigative journalist, documentary maker and author Ramita Navai shares the epic novel A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry, his Dickensian masterpiece of modern India.

And Harriett’s choice is An Enchanted April by Elizabeth von Arnim, capturing four ladies’ unforgettable holiday on the Italian Riviera.

Produced by Beth O’Dea for BBC Audio Bristol  
 Follow us on instagram: agoodreadbbc

Photo credit David Venni

**MON 15:30 History’s Heroes (m00289hn)**  
 History’s Youngest Heroes

Terry Fox’s Marathon of Hope

Can 21 year-old Terry Fox, a cancer survivor with a prosthetic leg, run the length of Canada?

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: Suniti Somaiya  
 Assistant Producer: Lorna Reader  
 Executive Producer: Paul Smith  
 Written by Alex von Tunzelmann  
 Commissioning editor for Radio 4: Rhian Roberts

**MON 16:00 Road Wars: Cycling in Paris (m0028j6n)**  
 [Repeat of broadcast at 13:30 on Sunday]

**MON 16:30 The Kitchen Cabinet (m0028989)**  
 [Repeat of broadcast at 10:30 on Saturday]

**MON 17:00 PM (m00289hq)**  
 Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day’s headlines.

**MON 18:00 Six O’Clock News (m00289hs)**  
 The US votes against an EU resolution at the UN condemning Moscow’s actions in Ukraine

**MON 18:30 Just a Minute (m00289hv)**  
 Series 94

6. Limoncello and Portobello

Sue Perkins challenges Josie Lawrence, Ivo Graham, Sara Pascoe and Daliso Chaphonda to speak for 60 seconds without repetition, deviation or hesitation. Subjects include Dollywood, When The Dust Has Settled, and My Get Pumped Playlist.

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 (m00289hx)**

Freddie’s spotted an opportunity he thinks might appeal to Vince for Casey Meats. It involves working with an academy trust to supply locally sourced produce to schools for their meals. After some persuasion Vince sees the benefits and agrees to Freddie getting the ball rolling, starting with inviting trustees for a tour of the abattoir.  
 Stressed Fallon’s struggling on a particularly busy evening at the Bull. Diners Robert and Lynda discuss Ramadan. Robert supports Lynda’s plan to fast but is taken aback when she assumes he’ll be joining her. Tracy’s eager to know from Lynda who’s going to replace Harrison as cricket captain. She reckons she could convince Chris to reconsider, but Lynda declines her offer. Spurred on by Tracy, Freddie shares with Lynda his own tips for what makes a good captain. Vince is impressed – Freddie should go for the captaincy himself. He’s a natural at building team morale – a talented bloke in fact. Freddie’s touched.

Robert compliments Fallon on her food. He shares that the quality at the Tearoom has suffered since she left. Fallon genuinely worries about how they’re coping. She doesn’t like to see the Tearoom losing custom, but is sure Natasha will have a solution. Tracy’s less sympathetic; Chelsea’s being made to work silly hours, and Fallon was treated badly by Natasha and Tom. She thinks Fallon should capitalise and open up the Bull earlier for food. Fallon reckons that sounds a bit cut throat, but Tracy retorts she should strike while the iron’s hot.

**MON 19:15 Front Row (m00289hz)**  
 25 Years of 21st Century: Theatre

We look back at the quarter century in performing arts, exploring the changes in live stage performance and asking how the theatrical landscape has changed over those years. Samira Ahmed hears about some of the big trends that have changed the experience – such as immersive theatre and discusses the challenges the sector has faced. She is joined by playwrights Mark Ravenhill and Lolita Chakrabarti, who is also an actor, by the producer and CEO of Nimax Theatres, Nica Burns and by the critic Sarah Crompton. Plus we hear from Felix Barrett, founder of Punchdrunk Theatre and Nikolai Foster the artistic director of the Leicester Curve.

Presenter: Samira Ahmed  
 Producer: Ruth Watts

**MON 20:00 Rethink (m00282s4)**  
 Rethink... the global economy

You would be forgiven for thinking that inflation, interest rates, GDP and tariffs drive the global economy.

But there are a whole set of interconnected underlying systems that work quietly in the background to keep economies running

smoothly. It’s not just countries that rely on them, but individuals as well. These systems allow workers to get paid, banks to make transfers, and the free-flow of information on the internet.

These immaterial systems have a presence in the physical world, from fibre optic cables to the servers that host our data. Building and maintaining this infrastructure, and everything else that makes up modern civilisation requires a constant and reliable supply of raw materials.

But in this globalised world, both the underlying systems online and the supply chains in the material world have pinch points – places where if just one thing gets squeezed, then there are immediate and dramatic effects on the economy.

And whoever controls those pinch points wields a vast amount of power.

In this episode of Rethink, Ben Ansell explores those pinch points, how the USA and China are realising their power, and what this means for the UK.

Presenter: Ben Ansell  
 Producer: Ravi Naik  
 Editor: Clare Fordham

Contributors:  
 Henry Farrell, SNF Agora Professor of International Affairs at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and co-author of Underground Empire.  
 Abe Newman, professor in the School of Foreign Service and Government Departments at Georgetown University, and co-author of Underground Empire.  
 Ed Conway, economics and data editor of Sky News and author of Material World.

**MON 20:30 BBC Inside Science (m00282sb)**  
 Biotech Risks and Asteroid Anxiety

Scientists gather this week to tackle emerging risks from cutting-edge biotech, echoing the landmark Asilomar conference that shaped genetic engineering safety 50 years ago. What new threats face us, and how can the scientific community stay ahead of them?

Also in the programme: are you feeling asteroid anxiety? We take a closer look at the chances that ‘2024 YR4’ will hit us... We get the latest calculations on this space rock’s potential collision course with Earth in 2032.

And, as members of the Royal Society debate whether to expel Elon Musk from their ranks, we explore past fellows who rattled the establishment. Fellows meet next month to decide his fate.

If you want to find out more about the history of genetic engineering – from the Asilomar conference to the present day – search for Matthew Cobb’s series ‘Genetic Dreams, Genetic Nightmares’ on BBC Sounds.

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

Presenter: Victoria Gill  
 Producers: Ilan Goodman, Sophie Ormiston & Ella Hubber  
 Editor: Martin Smith  
 Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

**MON 21:00 Start the Week (m00289gx)**  
 [Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**MON 21:45 The Bottom Line (m002648w)**  
 The Decisions That Made Me

Decisions That Made Me: Jordan Brompton (Myenergi, Co-founder)

When your background differs from the people working with and around you, it’s easy to feel judged by the assumptions people make about you from class to gender. Whatever your upbringing, it’s something we all deal with – our backgrounds are always with us, either to be embraced, accepted, or fled from. Jordan Brompton, entrepreneur and co-founder of the smart energy tech company Myenergi, shares her experience as a working class woman and her love of solar panels.

Production team:  
 Producers: Simon Tulett and Michaela Graichen  
 Researcher: Drew Hyndman  
 Editor: Matt Willis  
 Sound: Rod Farquhar  
 Production co-ordinator: Katie Morrison

**MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m00289j1)**

"Peace must not mean surrender," Macron tells Trump

James Coomarasamy reports live from Berlin at a pivotal moment for European security. French President Emmanuel Macron visited Donald Trump in Washington and urged him not to force a peace on Ukraine that would be tantamount to surrender. Meanwhile, after German elections, the Chancellor-in-waiting Friedrich Merz says he'll seek "independence" from the United States, in comments he has since softened.

Also on the programme: the man who set a new world record for the fastest marathon while using crutches, though he didn't know it at the time.

And has Donald Trump's rapprochement with Russia undermined attempts to seek justice for the invasion and war crimes in Ukraine. On the third anniversary of the invasion, we ask Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aleksandra Matviichuk.

**MON 22:45 The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier (m00289j3)**

Episode 6

Apprentice Antonio has fled Murano with the secrets of the glassmakers after Orsola's brother brokered his reluctant sister's engagement to Stefano. The young woman is reluctant to commit to her fiancé, waiting instead for the clandestine tokens of Antonio's love that the post occasionally brings.

The spellbinding new novel from the acclaimed author of 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' is read by Emily Bruni.

Written by Tracy Chevalier  
Abridged by Siân Preece  
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

Tracy Chevalier is the author of eleven novels, including 'A Single Thread', 'Remarkable Creatures' and 'Girl with a Pearl Earring', an international bestseller that has sold over five million copies and been made into a film, a play and an opera.

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 23:00 Limelight (p0dy5yr0)**

The Incident at Ong's Hat

The Incident at Ong's Hat - Episode 4: The Schematic

Secrets about both Charlie and Sarah are revealed as the investigation takes another turn.

Charlie travels to Sarah's hometown in search of answers.

Cast:  
Charlie - Corey Brill  
Sarah - Avital Ash  
Rodney Ascher - Himself  
Det. Stecco - James Bacon  
Casey - Hayley Taylor  
Ringo - Benjamin Williams  
Kit - Randall Keller  
Denny Unger - Himself  
Joseph Matheny - Himself

Newscasters: Elizabeth Saydah, Dean Wendt

Created and Produced by Jon Frechette and Todd Luoto  
Inspired by Ong's Hat: The Beginning by Joseph Matheny  
Music by Blue Dot Sessions, Jon Frechette, Chris Zabriskie, Anthéne, Alessandro Barbanera, Blanket Swimming, Macrogramma (under Creative Commons)  
Editing and Sound Design - Jon Frechette  
Additional Editing - Brandon Kotfila and Greg Myers  
Special Thanks - Ben Fineman

Written and Directed by Jon Frechette  
Executive Producer - John Scott Dryden

"Ong's Hat Survivors Interview" courtesy of Joseph Matheny  
Visit [thegardenofforkedpaths.com](http://thegardenofforkedpaths.com) & [josephmatheny.com](http://josephmatheny.com)

A Goldhawk production for Radio 4 and BBC Sounds

**MON 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00289j5)**

Alicia McCarthy reports as Foreign Secretary David Lammy announces new sanctions against Russia on the third anniversary of its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

**TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2025****TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m00289j7)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**TUE 00:30 The Many Lives of James Lovelock by Jonathan Watts (m00289h3)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Monday]

**TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m00289j9)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m00289jc)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**TUE 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m00289jf)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**TUE 05:30 News Briefing (m00289jh)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m00289jk)**

A Prayer on the Treadmill

Good morning.

Did you know it's Ramadan? Some people know it as the holy month of fasting for Muslims, and if you're astute, you might remember being taught at school that Muslims fast the month to empathise with the poor. And whilst there may be some truth to that, there's really so much more.

The Prophet Muhammad said, 'Fasting is a shield, so when one of you fasts, they may not be obscene. If someone insults you or fights you then simply say I am fasting. I swear that the breath coming from the mouth of a fasting person is more pleasant to God than the scent of musk.'

The tradition teaches us that fasting is about more than abstaining from food and water, we have to watch our manners and actions, we have to turn away from the ignorant and rude, and I'm always struck by the part of the tradition that tells us that the breath of a fasting person is more fragrant to God than perfume - because objectively speaking, it can get quite bad! But it's a reminder that to get what we want, we often have to suffer less enjoyable moments. Ramadan reminds us of what we really want to achieve and knowing that the path to it will often be testing, but the fruits will be well worth it.

I pray for the optimism and confidence to set myself worthy goals, and the wisdom to know nothing worth achieving comes easy. Ameen.

**TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m00289jm)**

25/02/25 - Land classification, UK grown tulips and driverless tractors

As farmers know, not all fields are equal, and in England and Wales the Agricultural Land Classification system is used to define how productive farmland is. The best land has more protection from development in the planning system. But according to a report commissioned by the CPRE - the countryside charity - that classification system in England, is based on data from as long ago as the 1940s...so it's somewhat out of date.

There's only one farm left in the UK that still grows its tulip bulbs outdoors - PS and J Ward, near Kings Lynn. Anna Hill visits the farm to see the process: after the tulips have flowered in the field, the bulbs are harvested and stored, then they're brought into glasshouses, where they produce the flowers we buy in the shops.

And we dive straight into the future, to see a crop of parsnips, sown, grown and harvested - by robots.

Presented by Anna Hill  
Produced by Heather Simons

**TUE 06:00 Today (m00289nm)**

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

**TUE 09:00 The Life Scientific (m00289nr)**

Tori Herridge on ancient dwarf elephants and frozen mammoths

Elephants are the largest living land mammal and today our planet is home to three species: the African bush elephant, the African forest elephant, and the Asian elephant.

But a hundred thousand years ago, in the chilly depths of the Ice Age, multiple species of elephant roamed the earth: from dog-sized dwarf elephants to towering woolly mammoths.

These gentle giants' evolutionary story and its parallels with that of humankind has long fascinated Dr Tori Herridge, a senior lecturer in evolutionary biology at the University of Sheffield, where - as a seasoned science broadcaster - she's also responsible for their Masters course in Science Communication.

Tori has spent much of her life studying fossil elephants and the sites where they were excavated; trying to establish facts behind relics that are far beyond the reach of Radio Carbon Dating. To date she's discovered dwarf mammoths on Mediterranean islands, retraced the groundbreaking Greek expedition of a female palaeontologist in the early 1900s, and even held an ancient woolly mammoth's liver. (Verdict: stinky.)

But as she tells Professor Jim Al-Khalili, this passion for fossil-hunting is not just about understanding the past: this information is what will help us protect present-day elephants and the world around them for future generations.

Presented by Jim Al-Khalili  
Produced for BBC Studios by Lucy Taylor

**TUE 09:30 Inside Health (m00289nw)**

Allergies: How to support young people as they grow up

When we hit our teens it's often a time when everything starts to change. We meet new friends through work or studies, we start going out more at night and we're often in new situations independent from our parents. For people with severe allergies it can be a risky time because they have all this change in their life, on top of what Priya Matharu calls the 'full time job' of managing your condition. Presenter James Gallagher talks to Priya about her experience of having severe allergies from a young age and how she has coped with reactions that mean just touching her face after chopping a carrot has put her in hospital. For Priya, when she reached adolescence and moved out of her family it was a scary time and she had to grow up quickly to take responsibility for her allergies.

In a recent debate in the House of Lords it was discussed that moving young people out of the paediatric allergy services they have grown up with the support of and into adult services, just as everything else in their life is changing too can be really difficult for patients, and potentially dangerous.

Dr Claudia Gore from Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust shared her experience of working in a children's allergy clinic in London for that debate and she joins James along with Dr Paul Turner from Imperial College London to discuss how this transition from children's to adult services could be made safer and smoother for patients.

Also in the programme, James is joined again by Dr Vanessa Apea, Consultant in Genito-Urinary and HIV medicine at Barts Health NHS Trust to answer more of your questions on genital herpes, UTIs and urinary incontinence.

Presenter: James Gallagher  
Producer: Tom Bonnett  
Assistant Producer: Anna Charalambou  
Editor: Colin Paterson

**TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m00289p0)**

Tamsin Greig and Celia Imrie, Carers march, Botox and friendships

Care and support providers are coming together around the UK in a series of protests over the government's plans to increase employer National Insurance contributions. They are warning that care providers may go out of business unless they receive more support. Nadra Ahmed, co-chair of the National Care Association, which represents smaller and medium-sized care providers, joins Nuala from Westminster.

Nuala is joined live in the studio by two of the country's best-loved stage and screen Olivier award-winning actors - Celia Imrie and Tamsin Greig. They are currently playing mother and daughter in Backstroke, a new play at the Donmar Warehouse in London, that unpicks the complications of their relationship over a lifetime.

Barely two months after the end of the sex abuse scandal which gripped France last year, another horrific trial has begun there. The case of the former surgeon Joël Le Scouarnec, will be the biggest child sex abuse hearing in the country. He is accused of raping or sexually assaulting 299 people, mainly child patients. Some were under anaesthetic as he was operating on them. BBC reporter Laura Gozzi was in court in Brittany and explains how this latest case has affected the French nation.

Music writer Stevie Chick pays tribute to Roberta Flack who has died, aged 88.

At a party recently, journalist Kate Mulvey found it hard to relate to her old friends because of the amount of Botox and filler they had. So now she's decided to dump those friends. Kate talks to Nuala about the prevalence of these 'tweakments',

and how it's affected her friendships.

Presenter: Nuala McGovern  
Producer: Emma Pearce

**TUE 11:00 Add to Playlist (m0028388)**

Julian Joseph and Aoife Ní Bhriain open the new series

Irish violinist Aoife Ní Bhriain and jazz pianist and composer Julian Joseph are the first guests in the new series with Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe. Together they add the first five tracks, taking us from the Mercury Prize-winning jazz group Ezra Collective to a celebrated pair of sisters at the piano, via a 1975 pop classic heavily influenced by Frédéric Chopin.

Producer: Jerome Weatherald  
Presented with musical direction by Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe

The five tracks in this week's playlist:

God Gave Me Feet For Dancing by Ezra Collective  
Nocturne No. 20 in C-Sharp Minor by Frédéric Chopin  
Could it be Magic by Barry Manilow  
Kabir by John McLaughlin, Shankar Mahadevan & Zakir Hussain  
Double Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra: Mvt 1 by Philip Glass, performed by Katia & Marielle Labèque

Other music in this episode:

Everywhere by Fleetwood Mac  
Dollar Wine by Colin Lucas  
Feeling Good by Nina Simone  
Prelude in C Minor, Op 28, No 20 by Frédéric Chopin  
Could it be Magic by Donna Summer  
Could it be Magic by Take That

**TUE 11:45 The Many Lives of James Lovelock by Jonathan Watts (m00289p4)**  
Episode 2

James Lovelock is probably best known today for being the co-creator of the Gaia Theory - the idea that life on Earth is a self-sustaining system in which organisms interact with their environments to maintain a habitable ecosystem.

But this controversial and complicated man lived many lives over the course of the 102 years he spent on this planet.

He was born just after the end of the First World War to parents who had little interest in having a family and preferred to leave their new born child with his grandparents. His early years were often spent alone in nature and this helped to establish his lifelong affinity for the natural world. But he was also an autodidact – fascinated with science and in particular chemistry. Despite struggling at school he went on to become one of the great polymaths of the 20th century.

During the Second World War he worked at the National Medical Research Institute, where his life-long interest in chemical tracing began. In the 1960s he worked at NASA. He worked for M15 and M16 during the Cold War. He was a science advisor to the oil giant Shell, who he warned as early as 1966 that fossil fuels were causing serious harm to the environment. He invented the technology that found the hole in the Ozone layer. And all of this shaped Gaia Theory – a theory that could not have been developed without the collaboration of two important women in his life.

Based on over 80 hours of interviews with Lovelock and unprecedented access to his personal papers and scientific archive, Jonathan Watts has written a definitive and revelatory biography of a fascinating, sometimes contradictory man.

Jonathan Watts is a British journalist with an interest in the environment. He is also the author of When a Billion Chinese Jump: How China Will Save the World - or Destroy It.

Written by Jonathan Watts  
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters  
Read by Richard Goulding  
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 12:00 News Summary (m00289p9)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 12:04 You and Yours (m00289pf)**

Call You and Yours: Social Media

At Westminster, senior people from TikTok, Meta and X are giving evidence to MPs. So we're asking: How does social media work for you? How important is it in your life?

Perhaps you use Facebook, Instagram or TikTok to buy or sell

things. We hear about scams a lot on this programme - have you ever been caught out? Or maybe you have a positive story to share about social media and its ability to connect people. How confident are you using these networks?

Please tell us - email youandours@bbc.co.uk, and please leave a number so we can call you back. From 11am on Tuesday you can call us on 03700 100 444.

PRESENTER: SHARI VAHL

PRODUCER: TOM MOSELEY

**TUE 12:57 Weather (m00289pk)**

The latest weather forecast

**TUE 13:00 World at One (m00289pm)**

UK cuts aid to increase defence spending

The UK cuts its aid budget to increase spending on defence. The Prime Minister says the changes will be immediate. Cabinet Minister Pat McFadden explains the decision.

**TUE 13:45 You Do Not Have to Say Anything (m00289pp)**

Episode 7: No Further Questions

When a witness is called to give evidence, twelve pairs of eyes from the jury fix on them as they take up their position in the witness box. What comes next can be difficult: cross-examination. The difficult questions need to be asked and answered.

Defence Barrister Joanna Hardy-Susskind lifts the curtain on the real criminal justice system and the real people working within it - beneath the wigs, behind the uniforms and in the dock.

Presenter: Joanna Hardy-Susskind  
Producer: Georgia Catt  
Assistant Producer: Danita McIntyre

**TUE 14:00 The Archers (m00289hx)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

**TUE 14:15 Body Horror (m001qf2r)**

Episode 1

The transplant industry is in full swing, but can a new body ever fulfil the life-changing expectations of lowly mortician Caroline McAleese?

Lucy Catherine's three-part dystopian thriller is set in London in 2050.

Caroline ..... Jill Halfpenny  
Gloria ..... Shelley Conn  
Rowan ..... Adam Courting  
Anastasia ..... Samantha Dakin  
Tom ..... Ian Conningham  
Waiter ..... Greg Jones  
Bar Guy ..... Ikky Elyas  
Virtual James ..... Will Kirk  
Government Computer ..... Neil McCaul  
Work Computer ..... Sinead MacInnes  
Lift Voice ..... Lucy Reynolds

Director: Toby Swift

Developed through the Wellcome Trust Experimental stories scheme

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in March 2020.

**TUE 15:00 The Gift (m00289pr)**

Series 2

Bonus Episode: Searching

A family's race against time to find the baby they believe DNA testing proves was switched at birth.

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 second series of The Gift, Jenny Kleeman looked deeper into the unintended consequences - the aftershocks - set in motion when people when people take at-home DNA tests like Ancestry and 23andMe.

This included "Switched"; the stories of two women who discovered they had been accidentally swapped at birth in a

West Midlands hospital in 1967 – all due to an Ancestry DNA test, received as a Christmas gift.

As soon as the episode aired, people began to contact Jenny with tales of other incidences of accidental baby swaps - and one in particular stood out.

Presenter: Jenny Kleeman  
Producer: Becca Bryers  
Executive Producer: Joe Kent  
Production Coordinator: Gill Huggett  
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 (m00289pt)**

Crowds

Laurie Taylor talks to the writer, Dan Hancox, about the part that crowds play in our lives and how they made the modern world.

From Notting Hill carnival-goers and football matches to M25 raves and violent riots, what do we know about the madness of the multitude? Also, Lisa Mueller, Associate Professor of Political Science at Macalaster College, Minnesota, asks why protests succeed or fail. Examining data from 97 protests, she finds that more cohesive crowds are key. Drilling down into two British protests, Occupy London and Take Back Parliament, protesters who united around a common goal won more concessions than ones with multiple aims.

Producer: Jayne Egerton

**TUE 16:00 Artworks (m00289h1)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:00 on Monday]

**TUE 16:30 When It Hits the Fan (m00289pw)**

PR in the disinformation bubble, Mandelson's doorstep and breaking cover

David Yelland and Simon Lewis discuss how best to navigate the 'disinformation bubble' that appears to be parked over Washington DC. Could business take a lead from the media on drawing lines in the sand?

Following Peter Mandelson's apparently off-the-cuff remark that Donald Trump's speech, in which he called Volodymyr Zelensky a dictator, was "interesting", what's the best way to deal with uninvited questions from a reporter? Is silence always golden?

And, how long should people who've held positions of power and influence wait before they spill the beans on their old organisation?

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 (m00289py)**

PM gives statement on defence spending increase

Keir Starmer addresses the nation after announcing he'll boost defence budget to 2.5% of GDP by 2027, and cut the aid budget. We'll bring you reaction.

**TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m00289q0)**

The Prime Minister has slashed the overseas aid budget to fund a big increase in defence spending

**TUE 18:30 Heresy (m00289q2)**

Series 13

Episode 2

Victoria Coren Mitchell is joined by Sarah Kendall, David Mitchell and Chris McCausland to discuss lifestyle programmes, dancing and AI.

Written and presented by Victoria Coren Mitchell with additional material from Dan Gaster and Charlie Skelton Produced by Victoria Coren Mitchell and Daisy Knight Series created by David Baddiel

Sound Design - David Thomas  
Broadcast Assistant - Jenny Recaldin

An Avalon production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 19:00 The Archers (m00289q4)**

Kirsty still hasn't heard from Tom and Natasha about the house sale. Lillian ventures that their hesitation's understandable given the sewage spill incident. Joy suggests giving them a nudge. Lillian's intrigued to discover Joy and Mick are currently residing at Home Farm. Later she pays Joy a visit, taking Justin with her, on the pretext that she's interested in an item in the garden. To Justin's horror she's soon asking if she might come in and see the Gills' kitchen while she's here. Joy cites the no visitors rule and relieved Justin readily complies. Lillian won't be discouraged however, and pokes around the garden trying to get a view inside the house, setting off some garden sprinklers in the process.

Natasha presents busy Tom with a single fairy cake with a candle for his birthday. Tom's touched; he'll eat it on his rounds. Natasha suggests some video promotion for their Pancake Day event. Emma agrees to ask Brad to do them. Later Tom and Natasha meet Kirsty. They tell her they need to get another drain survey done – the sewage situation changes everything. Moreover, they think Kirsty should pay for it. They can't give her an answer on whether they're buying until it's done. Emma finds Natasha poring over some negative social media. With this and their rapidly reducing income, things are getting on top of her. Emma counsels the importance of keeping focus and tries to get Natasha back on track with Pancake Day. Buoyed by this, Natasha agrees and they start to work on a plan.

**TUE 19:15 Front Row (m00289q6)**

New medical drama Berlin ER, Stacy L Smith, German Elections, Santanu Bhattacharya

As the Oscars hove into view this weekend, the news is the women are coming - Stacey L Smith from the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative on their research showing more women leading Hollywood box office hits.

Berlin ER is the new medical drama from Apple set in a run down A&E department in the German capital. Creator and former doctor Samuel Jefferson on swapping his medical scrubs for television scripts.

Berlin-based arts and culture journalist Catherine Hickley on the impact of the German federal elections on the country's creative sector.

Writer Santanu Bhattacharya discusses Deviants, his new novel set in India which explores three gay love stories against the backdrop of anti-homosexuality legislation introduced by the British.

Presenter: Nick Ahad  
Producer: Ekene Akalawu

**TUE 20:00 File on 4 Investigates (m00289q8)**

Generation K: Kids on Ketamine

File on 4 Investigates goes to Burnley in Lancashire to meet the young people and their families as they grapple with a ketamine epidemic.

Used in human and veterinary medicine as an anaesthetic, experts say the drug is being used by increasing numbers of young people because it's cheap, easy to obtain and fashionable. But the health implications can be catastrophic - even fatal. It can cause mental health problems and irreversible bladder and kidney damage. Reporter Jane Deith hears from the Burnley vicar who has had to set up a support group for desperate parents; families whose children have experienced addiction, grooming, abuse and ill health and a young man who is being forced to undergo gruelling medical treatment for what's known as "ketamine bladder".

Reporter: Jane Deith  
Producers: Jill Collins and Nicola Dowling  
Technical producer: Richard Hannaford  
Production coordinator: Tim Fernley  
Editor: Carl Johnston

**TUE 20:40 In Touch (m00289qb)**

Consultation Exercise at RNIB; Blind Baker

In an episode broadcast last summer, the RNIB's CEO, Matt Stringer joined us to discuss financial pressures facing the charity and the consequent need to save millions of pounds. Since then, we have invited RNIB back to talk to us about their subsequent plans, but they declined, citing confidentiality issues. Meanwhile, In Touch has received information about a consultation exercise, said to be causing concern about jobs and future service provision among RNIB staff. We speak to Steve Tyler, who worked at RNIB for over 20 years and who held senior planning and strategy positions to get his reaction.

Being registered blind hasn't dimmed Annie Spooner's passion for baking. Indeed, since her sight loss diagnosis, she has set up her own business called Annie's Cake Creations. Reporter Hetal Bapodra visited her to find out more.

Presenter: Peter White  
Producer: Fern Lullham  
Production Coordinator: Liz Poole

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 (m0026jxt)**

The Bad Guru

The Bad Guru: 5. The Breakthrough

"I was admitting it was a sex cult," says Miranda. She meets up with her mother Penny to tell her what she's really been up to. When she tells her story to students from the yoga school where her journey started, the guru Gregorian denounces her as a liar.

This episode contains 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 The Bottom Line (m00282qk)**

London's Stock Exchange: why aren't companies listing in Britain anymore?

After a year in which a number of big companies decided to list in New York rather than the UK, Evan Davis asks what can be done to attract firms to the London Stock Exchange. With Julia Hoggett, CEO at the London Stock Exchange, Charles Hall, Head of Research at the investment bank Peel Hunt and Conor Lawlor, Managing Director, Global Banking Markets and International Affairs at UK finance.

**TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m00289qd)**

Will Starmer's defence boost win over Trump?

The prime minister has announced billions more for defence spending as he said Britain faces grave new threats. We ask a former head of the army how that money could be spent - and a US Republican whether the prime minister's decision will win over President Trump - who he meets later this week.

Ukrainian officials say a deal has been reached between Kyiv and Washington over Ukraine's minerals and other resources. We have the latest.

Also on the programme:

A baby who was abandoned in a shopping bag in east London last year has taken her first steps. We reflect on the challenges for deserted children with the Olympic medalist Fatima Whitbread, who herself was abandoned as a child.

And catching a glimpse of the rare sight of a planetary parade, as seven planets became visible in tonight's sky.

**TUE 22:45 The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier (m00289qg)**

Episode 7

The Rosso family struggle to recover from their ruinous brush with Casanova, not helped by recent political events bringing Venice to her knees.

The spellbinding new novel from the acclaimed author of 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' is read by Emily Bruni.

Written by Tracy Chevalier  
Abridged by Siân Preece  
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

Tracy Chevalier is the author of eleven novels, including 'A Single Thread', 'Remarkable Creatures' and 'Girl with a Pearl Earring', an international bestseller that has sold over five million copies and been made into a film, a play and an opera.

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 23:00 X Man: The Elon Musk Origin Story (m000xdxb)**

2. Dimension X

Elon Musk wants to shape the future. How did science fiction shape him?

Jill Lepore continues untangling the strange sci-fi roots of Elon Musk and Silicon Valley's extreme capitalism, with its extravagant, existential and extra-terrestrial techno-libertarianism. Many of the origins of those seemingly futuristic ideas lie in science fiction, some of it a century old.

Musk is reinventing himself as a kingmaker for the United States and the world. He wants to shape the future. But in this episode, Lepore goes back to his past - to his childhood and family history. As a boy growing up in apartheid South Africa, Musk developed a fascination with science fiction - especially Douglas Adams' 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'. One of Musk's grandfathers was the leader of a strange sci-fi inspired movement known as Technocracy. Technocrats found democracy inadequate to modernity, and wanted engineers and scientists to run governments. Lepore argues Technocracy bears an uncanny resemblance to some things going on today in Silicon Valley and Washington today: from de-regulation of the economy to the rise of crypto-currency.

Jill Lepore is the Kemper Professor of American History at Harvard University and Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. She's also a staff writer at The New Yorker and an acclaimed author.

Series Producer: Viv Jones  
Researchers: Simon Leek, Oliver Riskin-Kutz, Thomas Farmer  
Editors: Richard Vadon, Hugh Levinson  
Sound design and mix: James Beard, Graham Puddifoot  
Commissioning Editor: Dan Clarke  
Original music by Corntuth  
Production Coordinators: Jack Young, Maria Ogundele

**TUE 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00289qk)**

Sean Curran reports as the prime minister tells MPs he's increasing defence spending.

**WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2025****WED 00:00 Midnight News (m00289qm)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 00:30 The Many Lives of James Lovelock by Jonathan Watts (m00289pd)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Tuesday]

**WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m00289qp)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m00289qr)**

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**WED 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m00289qt)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 05:30 News Briefing (m00289qw)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m00289qy)**

Faith is not Suffering, sometimes it's have your cake and eat it

Good morning.

There's a Prophetic tradition I love about a man who comes to the Prophet Muhammad during Ramadan distressed that he has ruined himself. When asked why, he confesses to being intimate with his wife during fasting hours. The Prophet reassures him and asks, 'Ok, can you set a slave free?' the man says no. 'Ok can you fast two months in a row?' No. 'Can you feed 60 poor people?' Again, no.

Thankfully the awkwardness is broken by the arrival of a person bringing the Prophet a gift of a basket of dates. Ah ha! The Prophet turns once more to the man and says, 'ok, give these in charity'. To which the man still has a reply: 'Is there anyone poorer than us? There is no family between the two plains of Medina that is poorer than mine.' Instead of frustration the Prophet guffaws, laughing so hard that those who saw this whole episode play out describe being able to see his molars. When he gathers himself, he says to the man 'go ahead and feed your family'.

I'm not sure Prophetic traditions are meant to make you swoon, but this one really does. A Holy Prophet of God continuously

tested by the unwavering incapacity of this sinful-by-his-own-estimation follower and meeting it with good humour and a committed ethic of care. To know that sometimes a person just needs to be able to have their cake and eat it because that is what justice sometimes looks like.

I pray to have such grace that even with the most demanding and uncooperative of people, I can find humour instead of frustration. Ameen.

**WED 05:45 Farming Today (m00289r0)**

26/02/25 - NFU Conference 2025: Inheritance tax, technology funding, farm profitability

The re-introduction of inheritance tax on farm assets dominated this year's National Farmers Union Conference in London. The Union President told delegates farming is facing its biggest crisis of confidence in his lifetime. Facing a frosty reception, the DEFRA Secretary Steve Reed announced a new Farm Profitability Unit to be set up with the department, but told farmers he couldn't give them the answers they wanted on inheritance tax.

Elsewhere, the conference focused on growth in agriculture - through investment, exports and tech. We hear how the latest scientific innovations could help farmers in the future.

Presented by Charlotte Smith  
Produced by Heather Simons

**WED 06:00 Today (m0028bhp)**

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

**WED 09:00 Sideways (m00289x4)**

73. Reliving History

In a theatre in Buenos Aires, six veterans from opposite sides of the Falklands War united to re-enact their experiences of the conflict in front of hundreds of people. The play was called Minefield, and it was an ambitious experiment by the Argentinian theatre director, Lola Arias.

Former Royal Marine Dr David Jackson was one of the veterans who flew across the world to act out his memories of war alongside men he'd fought against over three decades earlier. There were hundreds of people watching, including mothers who had lost their sons in the conflict.

The play took a risk - it was opening up a part of history that people still didn't agree on. But in the process, it ended up forging connections between groups that had once been divided.

Matthew Syed explores the power and potential of re-enactment, and asks what happens when we try to bring the past back to life.

With veteran, counsellor, and academic Dr David Jackson; director and writer Lola Arias; researcher, educator and humanitarian aid worker Dr Nena Močnik; and Professor of Modern Culture and Media at Brown University, Rebecca Schneider.

Presenter: Matthew Syed  
Producer: Caroline Thornham

Editors: Georgia Moodie and Hannah Marshall  
Sound Design and Mix: Daniel Kempson  
Theme music by Ioana Selaru  
A Novel production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 09:30 Intrigue (m0028bhr)**

Word of God

Word of God: 3. Holy Grail

A biblical scholar's dramatic last-minute announcement at a packed debate hints at a fragment that could rewrite history.

On a winter's night in 2012, an extraordinary claim electrifies a university auditorium in North Carolina - the discovery of what could be the earliest known Christian text, written within decades of Jesus's life.

Through exclusive interviews, investigative journalist Ben Lewis reveals how this announcement connects to a meeting one night in an Oxford professor's chambers, where precious gospel fragments were laid out on a pool table.

He uncovers how the Green family's fervent quest for biblical artefacts intersected with the world of elite academia. Their representatives were desperate to buy the four gospel fragments - including one potentially dating to the first century. But as scholars wait years to find out more, questions mount about that fragment in particular and what exactly is the professor's role.

From the gothic halls of Christ Church Oxford to heated debates in American universities, Lewis follows papyrologist-turned-detective Roberta Mazza as she pieces together clues from social media posts, YouTube videos, and academic papers. What she uncovers raises troubling questions about the relationship between wealthy collectors, prestigious scholars, and the verification of sacred texts.

Presented by Ben Lewis  
Produced by Clem Hitchcock  
Executive producers: Philip Abrams and Jago Lee  
Story editor: Andrew Dickson  
Sound design by Richard Courtice  
Original music by Max de Wardener  
Commissioning editor: Daniel Clarke  
Commissioning executive: Tracy Williams  
Assistant commissioner podcasts/digital: Chris Walsh-Heron

A TellTale production for BBC Radio 4

Episodes of Intrigue: Word of God are released weekly on Wednesdays, wherever you get your podcasts, but if you're in the UK, you can listen to the latest episode a week early, first on BBC Sounds.

**WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0028bht)**

Tim Westwood, Same Dress Different Bodies, LeighAnn McCready, Fatma Said

The BBC board has apologised over "missed opportunities" to tackle "bullying and misogynistic behaviour" by the former BBC Radio 1 DJ Tim Westwood. Nuala discusses with BBC correspondent ChiChi Izundu.

Same Dress Different Bodies began when fashion-loving friends Laura Adlington and Lottie Drynan realised they were both having problems finding clothes they felt comfortable in, Lottie because of bloating caused by IBS, and Laura because she was limited by what was available in plus sizes. They tell Nuala about turning their positive approach to fashion into a live show.

The mother of the Royal Artillery Gunner Jaysley Beck, who took her own life, tried to discourage her from joining the army. Assistant Coroner Nicholas Rheinberg ruled Jaysley died by suicide and that the Army's handling of a sexual assault complaint against Battery Sergeant Major Michael Webber was 'more than a minimal contributory part in her death'. She was later subjected to relentless harassment by her line manager, Former Bombardier Ryan Mason. He sent her over 4,600 messages confessing his feelings for her and showed her a 15 page love story about her. The Army's failure to take action after she was harassed by him also contributed to her death. Her mother LeighAnn McCready tells us about her daughter and the army's investigation.

Fatma Said is a renowned classical singer - she was the first Egyptian soprano to perform on La Scala's famous stage in Milan. She has also sung alongside Elton John and Ed Sheeran and was the first female artist to perform at the Grand Egyptian Museum in 2023. Fatma sings in several languages, and her albums span an eclectic mix of genres: El Nour celebrated her cultural heritage, and Kaleidoscope, featured everything from opera to Whitney Houston. She joins Nuala to discuss her latest album - *Lieder* - in which she turns to 19th Century German romantic music.

Presented by Nuala McGovern. Produced by Melanie Abbott.

**WED 11:00 File on 4 Investigates (m00289q8)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 11:45 The Many Lives of James Lovelock by Jonathan Watts (m0028bhx)**

Episode 3

James Lovelock is probably best known today for being the co-creator of the Gaia Theory - the idea that life on Earth is a self-sustaining system in which organisms interact with their environments to maintain a habitable ecosystem.

But this controversial and complicated man lived many lives over the course of the 102 years he spent on this planet.

He was born just after the end of the First World War to parents who had little interest in having a family and preferred to leave their new born child with his grandparents. His early years were often spent alone in nature and this helped to establish his lifelong affinity for the natural world. But he was also an autodidact - fascinated with science and in particular chemistry. Despite struggling at school he went on to become one of the great polymaths of the 20th century.

During the Second World War he worked at the National Chemical Research Institute, where his life-long interest in chemical tracing began. In the 1960s he worked at NASA. He

worked for MI5 and MI6 during the Cold War. He was a science advisor to the oil giant Shell, who he warned as early as 1966 that fossil fuels were causing serious harm to the environment. He invented the technology that found the hole in the Ozone layer. And all of this shaped Gaia Theory - a theory that could not have been developed without the collaboration of two important women in his life.

Based on over 80 hours of interviews with Lovelock and unprecedented access to his personal papers and scientific archive, Jonathan Watts has written a definitive and revelatory biography of a fascinating, sometimes contradictory man.

Jonathan Watts is a British journalist with an interest in the environment. He is also the author of *When a Billion Chinese Jump: How China Will Save the World - or Destroy It*.

Written by Jonathan Watts  
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters  
Read by Richard Goulding  
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

**WED 12:00 News Summary (m0028bhx)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**WED 12:04 You and Yours (m0028bj1)**

Knitted cardigan scams, Stout, Sim swaps

Back in September we revealed the knitted cardigan scam. Millions have been taken in by social media ads of expensive looking knitwear for a reasonable price. Victims hear nothing until something cheap and nasty arrives in the post months later. But it's more than a simple con. Shari Vahl reveals what its really about.

Sales of stout show no sign of stopping as more young women are turning to it. Guinness blames increased demand with supply chain issues for a recent shortage. Its rivals in the dark beer world are jumping on the opportunity with some success. Will it work?

Finally, a listener tells us how his energy company gave his mobile number to a criminal who went on to steal £40,000. We find out how you can prevent this happening to you.

Presenter: Shari Vahl  
Producer: Kevin Mousley

**WED 12:57 Weather (m0028bj3)**

The latest weather forecast

**WED 13:00 World at One (m0028bj5)**

Government commits to Grenfell Inquiry recommendations

Housing Secretary Angela Rayner says the government will "drive change and reform the system" following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017. Plus: what will the Climate Change Committee's carbon budget mean for you?

**WED 13:45 You Do Not Have to Say Anything (m0028bj7)**

Episode 8: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury

After the cacophony and the chaos of the trial, the jury retire, and the agonising wait begins.

Herding twelve strangers into a room and asking them to solve a crime would end in mayhem if we did not provide them with some rules. And the person who sets the rules is the Judge.

Defence Barrister Joanna Hardy-Susskind lifts the curtain on the real criminal justice system and the real people working within it - beneath the wigs, behind the uniforms and in the dock.

Presenter: Joanna Hardy-Susskind  
Producer: Georgia Catt  
Assistant Producer: Danita McIntyre

**WED 14:00 The Archers (m00289q4)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 14:15 Drama on 4 (m0028bjc)**

Moorgate - Part One: Outside

A play in two parts: Outside and Inside.

At 8.46am on Friday February 28, 1975, a packed rush-hour tube train smashed into a dead-end tunnel at Moorgate station. The front carriage was forced upwards into the tunnel roof, instantly killing the driver, Les Newson. Forty-two passengers also died and, to this day, nobody knows why Les Newson did what he did.

On that wintry morning, for Chief Inspector Brian Fisher, Head of Disaster Planning for the City of London Police, the priority was the rescue of the survivors, trapped in the dark, many in terrible pain or suffocating for lack of fresh air. It was to be the biggest call out since the Blitz for the emergency services across London.

Firemen, ambulance crews and medical staff had to work in dark, cramped conditions, in intense heat, and without any means to communicate quickly between the tunnel and the surface. The team from Clerkenwell Fire Station, led by Brian Goodfellow, endured extremes of stress and danger, with Brian almost dragged to his death at one point.

In the devastated front carriage there were just a handful of survivors, waiting and praying in the dark, desperately trying to keep their spirits up as the distant sound of rescue ebbed away. One by one the survivors' voices fell silent until there were only two left alive - City worker Jeffrey Benton and newly qualified appointed Policewoman Margaret Liles. Crushed together by the impact, unable to see one another yet in the most intimate closeness, they had no choice but to try and keep each other alive, in the faint hope of rescue.

Written by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran.  
In 1975, Laurence was a young journalist working for the Sunday Times, charged with investigating how this disaster occurred. He had more than just a professional desire to discover the facts - his father had been a passenger in the second carriage and was among the fatalities.

Moorgate - Part One: Outside  
Brian Fisher ..... Jonathan Aris  
Brian Goodfellow ..... Lorne MacFadyen  
Margaret Liles ..... Lizzy Watts  
Jeffrey Benton ..... Tyger Drew-Honey  
Trevor ..... Matt Addis  
Mrs Liles ..... Joanna Brookes  
Val Benton ..... Jessica Dennis  
Dave ..... Paul Panting  
Jimmy Young ..... Alistair McGowan

Producer: Liz Anstee  
A CPL production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 15:00 Money Box (m0028bjg)**  
Money Box Live: Home Ownership Dreams

Politicians, banks and builders all talk about the dream of homeownership, but it's not easy to get on the property ladder.

New figures given to Money Box Live show that, even though the Bank of England has reduced interest rates, it's now more expensive for a first-time buyer with a 10% deposit than it was two years ago.

In this Money Box Live we hear from someone trying to save enough for a deposit, someone trying to navigate through conveyancing to complete their sale - and someone who overcame the obstacles and challenges to move into their dream home.

Felicity Hannah is joined by Sarah Tucker, Director and Founder of the broker the Mortgage Mum and Emily Williams, Director, Residential Research at the estate agent Savills.

Presenter: Felicity Hannah  
Producers: Sarah Rogers and Catherine Lund  
Editor: Jess Quayle

(First broadcast at 3pm on Wednesday 26th February 2025)

**WED 15:30 The Rally (m0028bjl)**

The process of dying is rarely simple, and seldom a linear process. There's a rare, elusive, and completely fascinating phenomenon that can occur towards the end of life, that you might not have heard of. Hospice staff know it as 'the last rally', or perhaps 'the final surge'. It used to be known as 'a Lazarus moment', and in the 19th century some referred to it as 'the last light shining'.

The medical literature has another name for it. Terminal Lucidity.

This term describes brief and fleeting moments in the last moments of patient with terminal degenerative conditions (dementia, but also stroke, meningitis, schizophrenia and others), who suddenly appear to 'come back to themselves' towards the end of their lives, for brief moments.

For example, patients who have been unable to make sense of their surroundings or recognise loved ones, might suddenly be able to do those things again for a short time. Patients who experienced profound personality change are 'themselves' again, briefly. Sometimes, there is an opportunity to share memories one last time, or to say goodbye. And often, this is followed within days or weeks by the patient's death. It's often a deeply

moving event for the family of a patient, and it sometimes provides families with an opportunity to interact with their loved one for the final time.

This utterly fascinating but so far little-studied phenomena gives tantalising clues as to the nature of degenerative disease, and occasionally allows us to say goodbye to those we thought already long gone. It's rare - thought to occur in 1-3% of terminal patients. But why, and how does it happen? What mysterious processes could be happening in the body and brain as we wind down towards our end? And can we use our understanding of these conditions to treat them BEFORE the final curtain?

Emily Knight explores the final rally, and asks what it can tell us about life, consciousness, and the process of death. Perhaps if we can unravel the way it works, we might get clues into how to bring people back, way BEFORE death.

**WED 16:00 The Media Show (m0028bjn)**  
Mehdi Hasan, BBC Gaza doc controversy, Peter Thiel profile

Social media bosses from Meta, X, TikTok and Google were grilled by the House of Commons Science, Innovation and Technology Committee yesterday. We speak to Labour Chair of the committee, Chi Onwurah, for her reaction. Also on the programme, a career interview with the British-American broadcaster Mehdi Hasan. He discusses his new media business Zeteo, his departure from MSNBC and the importance of opinion journalism. As the BBC faces criticism about its Gaza documentary - it's emerged that the boy who narrates the film is the son of a Hamas official - we discuss the controversy with former Head of News & Current Affairs at Channel 4, Dorothy Byrne, and TV executive Leo Pearlman. Plus, Max Chafkin, Bloomberg reporter and author of *The Contrarian*, profiles Paypal co-founder Peter Thiel.

Guests: Chi Onwurah, MP, Labour; Mehdi Hasan, broadcaster and CEO, Zeteo; Dorothy Byrne, former Head of News and Current Affairs, Channel Four; Leo Pearlman, Co-CEO, Fulwell Entertainment; Max Chafkin, tech reporter and author, Bloomberg

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

**WED 17:00 PM (m0028bjq)**  
Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

**WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0028bjs)**  
The energy giant, BP, has announced it will slash its renewable targets. And, Ukraine has struck a deal for its mineral wealth with the United States.

**WED 18:30 ReincarNathan (m0028bjv)**  
Series 4

3. Elysium

It's the endgame for Nathan (Daniel Rigby), in this final ever episode of ReincarNathan. Will he ever escape the endless cycle of reincarnation and make it to Elysium? Will he ever meet Carol, his Spiritual Liaison Officer (Ashley McGuire)? What will the Panel decide when they are faced with Nathan's abject failure? What is George Orwell doing running a secret police force? And who is Englebert Humperdonk?

This is a dramatic finale of the reincarnation comedy, which asks fundamental questions about the nature of life, death, celebrity... and toasters.

Cast:  
Ashley McGuire - Carol  
Daniel Rigby - Nathan  
Tom Craine - George Orwell  
Tom Crowley - Englebert Humperdonk  
Henry Paker - Mozart  
Freya Parker - Florence Nightingale

Writers: Tom Craine and Henry Paker

Producers: Harriet Jaime

Sound: Jerry Peal

Music Composed by: Phil Lephherd

A Talkback Production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 19:00 The Archers (m0028bjx)**  
Things aren't getting any better for Natasha as she worries to Joy about both the Beechwood house and the lack of returning

business at the Tearoom. She's missing Fallon keenly. She can't help thinking that if she was there, they'd get more support. Joy's not so sure about that; and it's not like Natasha could have done anything differently. Natasha thanks Joy for the chat.

Zainab bumps into Brad and asks if they can talk. After some initial awkwardness they agree they can't avoid one another forever. They talk about the last time they met up; Zainab comments it's actually a good idea to ask someone out early on. Brad thanks her for being nice about Chelsea's previous matchmaking efforts. Both are happy to move on. Natasha approaches and Brad tries to escape but is forced by Zainab into admitting he can't do the Tearoom promotional videos due to his workload. Zainab sweetens the pill by volunteering them both for the pancake eating contest. Natasha's delighted.

At the Bull Joy mentions her trampled flowerbeds to Lilian, wondering if she saw anyone else hanging about yesterday. Guilty Lilian offers her lunch on the house. Natasha's amused as Fallon sees off some customers who were deriding the Tearoom. Lilian raises an eyebrow at Fallon's attitude but Natasha declares it's cheered her up. However her mood changes once she realises the Bull's doing breakfasts. She hopes they're not trying to take advantage of the Tearoom's downturn. Fallon reassures her, but Natasha knows what she's seeing. Miffed, Natasha leaves.

**WED 19:15 Front Row (m0028bjz)**  
Anjelica Huston, Tim Roth and British Museum Director Nicholas Cullinan

Kirsty Wark talks to Anjelica Huston about playing a magnificent matriarch in the adaptation of Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero*, which begins on BBC One this weekend.

The director of the British Museum, Nicholas Cullinan, talks about the appointment of an architectural firm who will be redeveloping the Museum's galleries, about the pressures of running a national cultural institution and about recent controversies.

And actors Tim Roth and Koki discuss their roles in the opening film at the Glasgow Film Festival, director John MacLean's reinvention of the samurai movie tradition, *Tornado*.

Presenter: Kirsty Wark  
Producer: Mark Crossan

**WED 20:00 Moral Maze (m0028bk1)**  
How should Britain deal with Donald Trump?

Three years on from the invasion of Ukraine, President Trump has called President Zelensky a 'dictator', leaving many to conclude that the US has sided with Russia. We have entered a new phase of an already unstable global order. Keir Starmer meets Donald Trump this week. How should Britain respond? Emphasise friendship in the hope of gaining influence in Washington or stand up to Trump in the knowledge that it will damage relations?

On Ukraine, there are those who argue it's clear cut: Putin is the dictator, Zelensky is a war hero, and sometimes we have to fight for our values no matter the sacrificial cost. But Trump's supporters believe ending the war is the moral priority, and if peace comes at the cost of land, that's a deal worth doing.

But History tells us that realpolitik only gets us so far. Bluntly, Trump's detractors don't see him as a rational actor on the world stage, pointing to his plan for Gaza. Domestically, they say, he's behaving like an authoritarian dictator. To his followers, Trump is an important disrupter who is shaking America and the West out of its complacency.

Where should lines in the sand be drawn in negotiations? When is it better to be pragmatic than principled? When should moral conviction trump realpolitik?

Chair: Michael Buerk  
Producer Dan Tierney  
Assistant producer: Peter Everett  
Editor: Tim Pemberton

Panel:  
Giles Fraser  
Mona Siddiqui  
Inaya Folarin-Iman  
Tim Stanley

Witnesses:  
Mykola Bielieskov  
Peter Hitchens  
Brian Klaas  
Jan Halper-Hayes

**WED 21:00 The Life Scientific (m00289nr)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 21:30 Inside Health (m00289nw)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 on Tuesday]

**WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m0028bk3)**  
President Trump holds first cabinet meeting

At Donald Trump's first cabinet meeting since returning to office, he confirmed President Zelensky will head to Washington on Friday.  
We look ahead to Keir Starmer's meeting with President Trump on Thursday and hear from a senior US and senior UK diplomat.  
Also: a fired federal worker who's worried about the influence of the world's richest man.  
Why the Merlin of medieval poetry was very different to the white-bearded magician portrayed on screen.  
And we remember Henry Kelly, the news and entertainment presenter, and former reporter on The World Tonight.

**WED 22:45 The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier (m0028bk5)**  
Episode 8

The Rosso workshop rebuilds as glass beads come to the family's rescue yet again. But new personnel are causing waves in Orsola's settled life.

The spellbinding new novel from the acclaimed author of 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' is read by Emily Bruni.

Written by Tracy Chevalier  
Abridged by Sián Preece  
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

Tracy Chevalier is the author of eleven novels, including 'A Single Thread', 'Remarkable Creatures' and 'Girl with a Pearl Earring', an international bestseller that has sold over five million copies and been made into a film, a play and an opera.

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 23:00 Bunk Bed (m0028bk7)**  
Patrick Marber and Peter Curran grapple in the dark with the wonders and woes of life.

**WED 23:15 Jamie MacDonald: Life on the Blink (m000w340)**  
Series 1

To the Stage

Jamie MacDonald is a Glaswegian stand-up comedian who found himself rapidly going blind in his teens. This series shows how Jamie used humour to turn denial into acceptance.

He managed to find the spotlight as the darkness descended and has turned some pretty dark experiences into hilarious stories and anecdotes. This week, he shares the story about his first few attempts at stand up comedy.

Produced by Julia Sutherland  
A Dabster production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0028bk9)**  
Alicia McCarthy reports on the weekly bout of Prime Minister's Questions where Keir Starmer and Kemi Badenoch clash over defending spending.

#### THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2025

**THU 00:00 Midnight News (m0028bkc)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 00:30 The Many Lives of James Lovelock by Jonathan Watts (m0028bhx)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Wednesday]

**THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0028bkf)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0028bkh)**  
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**THU 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0028bkk)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**THU 05:30 News Briefing (m0028bkm)**  
The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0028bkp)**  
Bird Feeder Lessons

Good morning.

My dad was devoted to his garden, and at its heart was his bird feeding station. When he passed in 2021, I recreated it in my own garden, tending to it as he did, and over the years, I've learned a few lessons from the birds:

1. As the little birds eat, they drop seeds on the floor from where the bigger birds who don't have the dexterity to perch on the feeder can find their share. Eat in a way that allows others to eat also.

2. When the food runs out there's a Robin that actually comes and sits at my window and chirps at me. Don't be afraid of asking for your needs to be met.

3. When a crow spotted a cat stalking the smaller birds, it swooped down and started crowing loudly, scaring the cat away and warning the birds. Look out for others who are different to you and possibly more vulnerable.

4. When the smaller birds eat, they sit in a row on the back fence and take turns to swoop down to eat. As a few eat, a few more stand guard. Look out for your flock.

5. Starting my day off watching birds of various sizes, colours and breeds, eating from the feeders as I have breakfast is so joyful and often entertaining. I love providing for them and know that the One Who provides for me does so with even greater love and joy. There is plenty in the world for us all to thrive.

I pray to be able to make community with all around me, to not succumb to a scarcity mindset but to embrace plenitude for us all. Amen.

**THU 05:45 Farming Today (m0028bkr)**  
27/02/25 Climate Change Committee report, daffodil bulbs to reduce methane, illegal waste.

The Climate Change Committee has called for a transformation in agriculture in its latest report. The CCC advises the UK government on ways to reduce emissions in order to meet net zero by 2050. Its 7th report sets out a plan from 2038 to 2042, and recommends a 27% drop in the number of cattle and sheep, and that we all eat less meat. It wants to see more woodlands, more peatlands re-wetted and more energy crops like miscanthus.

Scientists at Scotland's Rural College have been feeding cattle an extract from daffodil bulbs to help reduce methane. The ground-breaking research aimed at reducing emissions is called "dancing with daffodils".

Fly tipping is on the up - the latest Environment Agency figures for England show more than a million incidents of rubbish being dumped on public land last year, up 6% from the year before. Those stats don't include fly tipping on farms, and the Country Land and Business Association says in its latest survey, 90 per cent of respondents reported having rubbish - from fridges to tyres - dumped on their land in the past year. Rural groups and councils are calling for tougher penalties for fly tippers.

Presenter = Charlotte Smith  
Producer = Rebecca Rooney

**THU 06:00 Today (m0028bnd)**  
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**THU 09:00 In Our Time (m0028bng)**  
Kali

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the Hindu goddess Kali, often depicted as dark blue, fierce, defiant, revelling in her power, and holding in her four or more arms a curved sword and a severed head with a cup underneath to catch the blood. She may have her tongue out, to catch more blood spurting from her enemies, be wearing a garland of more severed heads and a skirt of severed hands and yet she is also a nurturing mother figure, known in West Bengal as 'Maa Kali' and she can be fiercely protective. Sometimes she is shown as young and conventionally beautiful and at other times as old, emaciated and hungry, so defying any narrow definition.

With

Bihani Sarkar

Senior Lecturer in Comparative Non-Western Thought at Lancaster University

Julius Lipner  
Professor Emeritus of Hinduism and the Comparative Study of Religion at the University of Cambridge

And

Jessica Frazier  
Lecturer in the Study of Religion at the University of Oxford and fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies

During this discussion, Julius Lipner reads a translation of a poem by Kamalakanta (c.1769–1821) "Is my black Mother Syama really black?" This translation is by Rachel Fell McDermott and can be found in her book *Singing to the Goddess, Poems to Kali and Uma from Bengal* (Oxford University Press, 2001)

Producer: Simon Tillotson

Reading list:

Mandakranta Bose (ed.), *The Goddess* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

John S. Hawley and Donna M. Wulff (eds.), *Devi: Goddesses of India* (University of California Press, 1996)

Knut A. Jacobsen (ed.), *Brill's Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, vol 1 (Brill, 2025)

David Kinsley, *Hindu Goddesses: Visions of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition* (University of California Press, 1986), especially chapter 8

Rachel Fell McDermott and Jeffrey J. Kripal (eds.), *Encountering Kali in the margins, at the center, in the west* (University of California Press, 2003)

In Our Time is a BBC Studios Audio Production

**THU 09:45 Strong Message Here (m0028bnj)**  
Everybody's Miserable

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

Farage says everybody is miserable, Trump says everything is a 'disaster', and Liz Truss chimed in saying Britain is a 'failed state', so Helen and Armando are trying to find out why those who claim to be patriots are keen to talk the country down. And why Starmer and Reeves' downbeat language has had real-life consequences.

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](mailto: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 (m0028bnl)**  
Pornography review, Padel, Esther Ghey, Rory

The government has published an independent review into the world of online pornography. Creating a Safer World - the challenge of regulating online pornography, written by the Conservative Peer Baroness Gabby Bertin. It proposes outlawing "degrading, violent and misogynistic content," including making it illegal to possess or publish pornography showing women being choked during sex. Anita Rani talks to the BBC's Home Editor, Mark Easton and Fiona Vera-Gray, Professor of Sexual Violence at London Metropolitan University, about the review's findings.

Padel – a cross between squash and tennis - is said to be the fastest growing sport in the world. So what about the women in the game? Whether it's on the local padel court or the business and money-making side, women are currently massively under-represented. Joining Anita are Eloise Tait – GB's #5 women's player – who will be competing at 2025's Britain Padel Tour in London tomorrow – and Astrid Tamms from Spain's Hexagon Cup.

Singer-songwriter and ADHD YouTube influencer RØRY, who has co-written three top 10 hits for other artists including

Charlie XCX, has finally broken through the charts with a top 10 album of her own at the age of 40. She takes Anita on her journey from being addicted to drugs and alcohol to her recovery and new found success, and performs her song, One Drink Away, live in the studio.

Esther Ghey's transgender daughter Brianna was murdered in February 2023 by two 15 year olds. The killers were radicalised online, and 16-year-old Brianna herself was harmfully addicted to her phone, despite all of her mum's efforts to limit her usage. Esther has now become a campaigner for the safer use of smartphones for children, and for the use of mindfulness in schools. She also decided to forgive her child's killers, and is now friends with one of their mothers. Esther joins Anita in the Woman's Hour studio to talk about her new memoir, Under a Pink Sky.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Rebecca Myatt

**THU 11:00 The Infinite Monkey Cage (m0028bnn)**  
Series 32

How selfish are we really? - Jo Brand, Matti Wilks and Steve Jones

Brian Cox and Robin Ince kindly open the door for each other as they step into understanding altruism, asking why humans have evolved to help each other. Joining them to explore the human tendency to be kind is evolutionary biologist Steve Jones, psychologist Matti Wilks and comedian Jo Brand.

Starting with the animal kingdom, we probe the biological underpinnings of why organisms might act to help others at an energetic cost to themselves and where this fits alongside the theory of evolution. We explore how the development of human societies has necessitated altruistic behaviours and how these manifest in our modern lives. Matti introduces the idea of moral circles as we ask why are we more generous to some people than others. We explore how children feel about being kind to those close and far away with some surprising recent findings and finally consider what can encourage more altruistic behaviour.

Producer: Melanie Brown  
Exec Producer: Alexandra Feachem  
Assistant Producer: Olivia Jani

**THU 11:45 The Many Lives of James Lovelock by Jonathan Watts (m0028bnq)**  
Episode 4

James Lovelock is probably best known today for being the co-creator of the Gaia Theory - the idea that life on Earth is a self-sustaining system in which organisms interact with their environments to maintain a habitable ecosystem.

But this controversial and complicated man lived many lives over the course of the 102 years he spent on this planet.

He was born just after the end of the First World War to parents who had little interest in having a family and preferred to leave their new born child with his grandparents. His early years were often spent alone in nature and this helped to establish his lifelong affinity for the natural world. But he was also an autodidact – fascinated with science and in particular chemistry. Despite struggling at school he went on to become one of the great polymaths of the 20th century.

During the Second World War he worked at the National Medical Research Institute, where his life-long interest in chemical tracing began. In the 1960s he worked at NASA. He worked for MI5 and MI6 during the Cold War. He was a science advisor to the oil giant Shell, who he warned as early as 1966 that fossil fuels were causing serious harm to the environment. He invented the technology that found the hole in the Ozone layer. And all of this shaped Gaia Theory – a theory that could not have been developed without the collaboration of two important women in his life.

Based on over 80 hours of interviews with Lovelock and unprecedented access to his personal papers and scientific archive, Jonathan Watts has written a definitive and revelatory biography of a fascinating, sometimes contradictory man.

Jonathan Watts is a British journalist with an interest in the environment. He is also the author of When a Billion Chinese Jump: How China Will Save the World - or Destroy It.

Written by Jonathan Watts  
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters  
Read by Richard Goulding  
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

**THU 12:00 News Summary (m0028bns)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 12:04 The Bottom Line (m0028bnv)**  
Self-checkouts: Have Shops Reached Peak Self-Scan?

Self-checkouts have become a staple in supermarkets, fast food chains and other shops, but now some companies are reconsidering their use. Evan Davis explores the technology's role in the retail landscape and asks whether we've reached peak self-checkout, or if they're just a step on the way to an even more digitised shopping future. With insights from industry leaders and experts, he examines the economics behind unmanned tills, generational differences in consumer acceptance, and their links to a recent rise in shoplifting. Plus, is automation actually making our lives easier, and what's lost if the personal touch disappears from shopping?

Guests:  
Julian Metcalfe, founder, Itsu;  
Robert Elsey, chief digital and information officer, Co-op  
Natalie Berg, retail analyst and host of the Retail Disrupted podcast

Presenter: Evan Davis  
Producers: Simon Tulett and Eleanor Harrison-Dengate  
Sound: Rod Farquhar  
Production Coordinator: Katie Morrison  
Editor: Matt Willis

**THU 12:32 Sliced Bread (m0028bnx)**  
Dough - Game Consoles

Game consoles have come a long way since the 1970s but could their days now be numbered?

The entrepreneur, Sam White, returns with a new series of Dough - the BBC Radio 4 show which looks at the business behind profitable everyday products and where the smart money might take them next.

In each episode, Sam, and the futurist, Tom Cheesewright, are joined by product manufacturers and industry experts whose inside knowledge gives a new appreciation for the everyday things that we often take for granted.

Together they look back on a product's earliest (sometimes ridiculous!) iterations, discuss how a product has evolved and the trends which have driven its profitability.

In this episode on video game consoles, the pair hear from expert guests including:

Seamus Blackley - the original creator of Microsoft's Xbox  
Keza MacDonald - video games editor at the Guardian

James McWhirter - a senior analyst specialising in video games for the research firm, Omdia.

They trade opinions on the game console's 'game-changing' innovations and its most pointless, or least effective, ones too, before Tom steps in, drawing on his expertise as a futurist, to imagine where consoles might end up in the decades to come.

Dough is produced by Jon Douglas and is a BBC Audio North production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds.

Sliced Bread returns for a new batch of investigations in the spring when Greg Foot will investigate more of the latest so-called wonder products to find out whether they really are the best thing since sliced bread.

In the meantime, Dough is available in the Sliced Bread feed on BBC Sounds

**THU 12:57 Weather (m0028bnz)**  
The latest weather forecast

**THU 13:00 World at One (m0028bp1)**  
Pornography "rewiring" behaviour of young people

A new report recommends banning degrading, misogynistic and violent online pornography. We speak to its author. Plus: President Trump's former national security advisor puts Keir Starmer's chance of a successful meeting in Washington as "absolutely zero".

**THU 13:45 You Do Not Have to Say Anything (m0028bp3)**  
Episode 9: The Defendant can be taken down

The moment before a verdict has a quality to it that is hard to describe. It is a moment heavy with consequence. Depending on just one or two words, lives will change.

Barristers are called upon to find the appropriate words for what comes next: what do you say to someone about to be sent to prison?

Defence Barrister Joanna Hardy-Susskind lifts the curtain on the real criminal justice system and the real people working within it - beneath the wigs, behind the uniforms and in the dock.

Presenter: Joanna Hardy-Susskind  
Producer: Georgia Catt  
Assistant Producer: Danita McIntyre

**THU 14:00 The Archers (m0028bjx)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

**THU 14:15 Drama on 4 (m0028bp5)**  
Moorgate - Part Two: Inside

A play in two parts: Outside and Inside.

At **8.46am** on Friday February 28, 1975, a packed rush-hour tube train smashed into a dead-end tunnel at Moorgate station. The front carriage was forced upwards into the tunnel roof, instantly killing the driver, Les Newson. Forty-two passengers also died and, to this day, nobody knows why Les Newson did what he did.

On that wintry morning, for Chief Inspector Brian Fisher, Head of Disaster Planning for the City of London Police, the priority was the rescue of the survivors, trapped in the dark, many in terrible pain or suffocating for lack of fresh air. It was to be the biggest call out since the Blitz for the emergency services across London.

Firemen, ambulance crews and medical staff had to work in dark, cramped conditions, in intense heat, and without any means to communicate quickly between the tunnel and the surface. The team from Clerkenwell Fire Station, led by Brian Goodfellow, endured extremes of stress and danger, with Brian almost dragged to his death at one point.

In the devastated front carriage there were just a handful of survivors, waiting and praying in the dark, desperately trying to keep their spirits up as the distant sound of rescue ebbed away. One by one the survivors' voices fell silent until there were only two left alive - City worker Jeffrey Benton and newly qualified appointed Policewoman Margaret Liles. Crushed together by the impact, unable to see one another yet in the most intimate closeness, they had no choice but to try and keep each other alive, in the faint hope of rescue.

Written by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran.  
In 1975, Laurence was a young journalist working for the Sunday Times, charged with investigating how this disaster occurred. He had more than just a professional desire to discover the facts - his father had been a passenger in the second carriage and was among the fatalities.

Moorgate - Part Two: Inside  
Brian Fisher ..... Jonathan Aris  
Brian Goodfellow ..... Lorne MacFadyen  
Margaret Liles ..... Lizzy Watts  
Jeffrey Benton ..... Tyger Drew-Honey  
Dr Glyn Evans ..... Matt Addis  
Shameen ..... Barkha Bahar  
Mrs Liles ..... Joanna Brookes  
Val Benton ..... Jessica Dennis  
Dr Ashley Brown ..... Paul Panting  
David Coleman ..... Alistair McGowan

Producer: Liz Anstee  
A CPL production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 15:00 This Natural Life (m0028bp7)**  
Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is a chef, broadcaster, author and campaigner. His 'River Cottage' series ran for more than ten years on Channel 4 and he has written more than twenty food and cookery books. In this programme Martha Kearney catches up with Hugh at an event at the Abergavenny Food Festival. He tells her how his love affair with the countryside started at the age of five when his parents left London and moved to a farmhouse in Gloucestershire. He recalls a fascination with the natural world in his early years, remembering a childhood spent roaming the fields and collecting birds' eggs, and recounting an incident in which he accidentally squashed a lizard while trying to put it into a biscuit tin. As a student he intended to work in wildlife conservation and had hopes of becoming the next David Attenborough, before a job at River Café set him on a different path. The natural world still fascinates and inspires him today. He tells Martha about the emotional hold it has over him, describing a time during lockdown when he was moved to tears of joy by seeing the blue flash of a kingfisher.#

Photo copyright Abergavenny Food Festival, photographer Tim Woodier.

Producer: Emma Campbell



**THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m0028b5z)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

**THU 15:30 Feedback (m0028bp9)**

Radio 3 controller Sam Jackson on ending the 90-minute drama. Controversial song choice on Desert Island Discs

Radio 3 is cutting its long-running drama slot, and it's something that has elicited reactions from listeners, playwrights, and actors alike. Andrea Catherwood starts the new series of Feedback by discussing the changes with station controller Sam Jackson. She also speaks to the co-chair of the Writing Guild of Great Britain, Nicola Baldwin, about what made Radio 3 drama special.

Recent episodes of Desert Island Discs have been creating big reactions from listeners too - lawyer Nemone Lethbridge's choice of song 'I Wanna Go Back to Dixie' by American satirist Tom Lehrer was defended by the BBC, but was it a step too far for some listeners?

And as news teams across BBC Radio react to seismic world events, one listener gives his view on how the coverage has sounded to him.

Presenter: Andrea Catherwood  
Producer: Pauline Moore  
Assistant Producer: Rebecca Guthrie  
Executive Producer: David Prest

A Whistledown Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 16:00 Rethink (m0028bpc)**  
Liberalism

Across the West, the long-established liberal order appears to be struggling to adapt to the economic and social challenges of the 21st century. As a result, traditional politics is being rejected by voters at the ballot box, increasingly usurped by narratives once considered too radical for the mainstream.

In Europe, right wing populists and the far-right are in the ascendancy in countries such as France, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy. Across the Atlantic, Donald Trump has returned to the White House for a second term.

The roots of political liberalism can be traced back to the 18th century, with much of the modern liberal world order emerging out of the end of World War II. But as similar patterns emerge across numerous democracies, could we be witnessing the end of liberalism?

Presenter: Ben Ansell  
Producer: Ben Cooper  
Editor: Clare Fordham

Contributors:  
Jon Cruddas, author and former Labour MP for Dagenham and Rainham  
Edmund Fawcett, political journalist and author  
Sarah de Lange, Professor of Political Pluralism at the Department of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam  
Catherine de Vries, Professor of Political Science at Bocconi University  
Michael Gove, Editor of The Spectator and former Conservative MP for Surrey Heath

**THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (m0028bpf)**  
AI in Science: Promise and Peril

This week, Google has launched a new AI tool called Co-Scientist. We hear from one researcher who has tried it out with stunning results. But how much should we trust tools like this - and what are the dangers?

And what about the problem of AI generated text and images? We talk to an 'image integrity analyst' who hunts down fake or manipulated pictures in scientific papers.

Finally, the planets of the solar system are coming into an unusual alignment. Astronomer Royal for Scotland Catherine Heymans shares how to glimpse the planetary parade.

Presenter: Victoria Gill  
Producers: Ian Goodman, Sophie Ormiston & Ella Hubber  
Editor: Martin Smith  
Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

**THU 17:00 PM (m0028bph)**  
Sir Keir Starmer meets President Trump in Washington

Live reaction as leaders meet to discuss security guarantees for Ukraine. Also: as the number of young people not in education or in the workplace rises to nearly a million, we'll look at why

and what can be done? And we hear from one of the Chefs from the Lancashire village with the highest number of Michelin stars per capita.

**THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0028bpb)**  
Sir Keir Starmer and President Trump hold talks in Washington.

**THU 18:30 P.O.V. (m0028bpm)**  
Series 1

We see you, women over 40!

The internet's best comedy creators bring you a sketch show that sees you, women over 40, and hears you, Bro - which you'd know if you went on our website.

Written and performed by Davina Bentley, Jake Bhardwaj, Kylie Brakeman, Emma Doran, The Exploding Heads, Rachel Fairburn, Matt Green, Charlene Kaye, Tom Lawrinson, and Ed Night & Paddy Young.

Recorded in London, Los Angeles, New York, Manchester and Dublin.

Edited by Rich Evans at Synbox Post  
Produced by Ed Morrish

A Lead Mojo production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 19:00 The Archers (m00289wk)**

Azra's organising food and her children indulge in some low level bickering. Khalil doesn't understand why he still can't participate fully in Ramadan. He leaves to take Monty for a walk. Lynda feels for him. Zainab tries to cheer Khalil with the news that the insurance will cover their damaged tech items. Khalil can't get past being excluded from fasting. Zainab assures him they're all just looking out for him. Khalil comments that at least at his new school he's treated like everyone else.

Azra bumps into Justin and the subject of the sewage leak comes up. Justin sympathises. Azra mentions Robert's emailed him on the subject, to see if he can help. Justin reckons there's not much he can do. The liability lies with Borseshire Water, not Damara as the developers of Beechwood. He suggests it's up to the whole community to get together and persuade the water company to improve the infrastructure.

Lynda has a dilemma - Freddie's volunteered as cricket captain and she'd just secured Tom. Robert suggests she retracts the offer to Tom. Lynda will sleep on it.

Concerned for Khalil, Lynda suggests she and Robert stop fasting. Azra feels it will make no difference. She confides that Khalil had leukaemia when he was younger, and it's her need to protect her son that's frustrating him. She knows she's denying him his independence, but she can't let go of her image of the fragile little boy he was.

**THU 19:15 Front Row (m0028bpb)**

Review: Leigh Bowery exhibition. The Summer with Carmen film, Michael Amherst's novel The Boyhood of Cain

Tom Sutcliffe and his guests the film critic Ryan Gilbey and art critic and author Charlotte Mullins review the week's latest cultural releases including Tate Modern's exhibition on the unconventional artist and performer Leigh Bowery, the Greek film featuring gay romance, The Summer With Carmen and Michael Amherst's first novel, The Boyhood of Cain.

Presenter: Tom Sutcliffe  
Producer: Corinna Jones

**THU 20:00 The Media Show (m0028bjn)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Wednesday]

**THU 21:00 Loose Ends (m00274rb)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

**THU 21:45 Strong Message Here (m0028bnj)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

**THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m0028bpr)**  
Donald Trump and Sir Keir Starmer meet at the White House

Donald Trump and Sir Keir Starmer meet at the White House

The American President suggests there could be a US-UK trade deal

Andrew Tate and his brother have been allowed to leave Romania

And we pay tribute to the Hollywood legend, Gene Hackman, who has died

**THU 22:45 The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier (m0028bpt)**  
Episode 9

Marco has enjoyed pushing his artistic boundaries but increasing unrest in Europe is about to tear the Rosso family apart.

The spellbinding new novel from the acclaimed author of 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' is read by Emily Bruni.

Written by Tracy Chevalier  
Abridged by Sián Preece  
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

Tracy Chevalier is the author of eleven novels, including 'A Single Thread', 'Remarkable Creatures' and 'Girl with a Pearl Earring', an international bestseller that has sold over five million copies and been made into a film, a play and an opera.

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 23:00 The Today Podcast (m0028bpbw)**  
What will Starmer's defence spending buy from Trump?

Sir Keir Starmer's announcement that he is increasing defence spending to 2.5% of GDP has defence experts taking a sigh of relief, whilst humanitarian workers are left despairing.

Nick and Amol are joined by former US military strategist Rachel Ellehuus, the new director general of defence think-tank RUSI, to explore how the UK - and Europe - will contain Russia without so much American support.

Plus, Theresa May's former chief of staff Fiona Hill remembers an awkward first meeting between the PM and a newly elected President Trump.

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.

GET IN TOUCH:

\* 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 Tom Smithard with Nadia Gyane and Grace Reeve. Digital production was by Gabriel Purcell-Davis. The technical producer was Mike Regaard. The editor is Louisa Lewis. The executive producer is Owenna Griffiths.

**THU 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0028bpy)**

As the prime minister heads to Washington, MPs debate the war in Ukraine.

## FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2025

**FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m0028bq0)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 00:30 The Many Lives of James Lovelock by Jonathan Watts (m0028bnq)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Thursday]

**FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0028bq2)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0028bq4)**  
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

**FRI 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0028bq6)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 05:30 News Briefing (m0028bq8)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0028bqb)**  
Read!

Good morning.

I love books, I always have. Reading has formed me personally, professionally and spiritually. And how could it not, when the first words of revelation in Islam were, "Iqra, Read, in the name of your Lord". The imperative to read is singular second person, first given to the Prophet Muhammad. But because it is eternalised in the Qur'an, it speaks to each of us as an invitation, a challenge, a responsibility.

But the Prophet was himself unlettered. He couldn't read, and yet through him came one of the most studied, memorised, and transformative texts in history. And whilst he was riddled with doubt at this first experience of receiving revelation, he was met by the unwavering faith of his wife Khadija, who instilled confidence in him. Two things stay with me from this story.

First: Reading is personal. We each bring our own experiences, our own minds and hearts to the words before us. Whether it's scripture, a novel, a news article, or even reading a situation, a moment, a person, we must do so with intelligence, care, confidence and integrity.

Second: We are all capable of more than we think. If an unlettered man could be the vessel for a book that continues to change the world, then what limits do we place on ourselves? And how much of our potential is revealed not by our own certainty, but by the faith others have in us?

So today I pray for the courage to embrace my agency. To read deeply. To believe in possibility. And to be blessed with companions who see my strengths even when I cannot. Ameen.

**FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m0028bqd)**  
28/02/25 - Trade rules, native bulbs and high beef and lamb prices

The DEFRA Secretary told Farming Today the Government will be looking into ways to prevent cheap imports of crops grown in countries which allow the use of chemicals that aren't authorised for use in the UK. But how easy will that be? We ask a trade expert.

There's been a flying trade for beef and sheep this spring. The price for what's called 'dead weight' cattle is at its highest ever according to the ADHD, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, and they say sheep prices are historically high too. So what's behind these high prices? Are they likely to last? And will we be paying more for meat in the shops?

And we visit a bulb business on a smallholding in Wales where, for almost 40 years, they've been sourcing and supplying a wide range of bulbs, both native to the British Isles, and from different parts of the world.

Presented by Caz Graham  
Produced by Heather Simons

**FRI 06:00 Today (m00289v9)**  
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**FRI 09:00 Desert Island Discs (m00289vf)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Sunday]

**FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m00289vk)**  
Simone Ashley, The Tate brothers, Fostering siblings, Driving instructors

Simone Ashley plays Kate Sharma in one of Netflix's biggest shows, Bridgerton, and also graced our screens in groundbreaking comedy Sex Education. She joins Nuala McGovern to talk about her new romcom, Picture This, Bridgerton's success and her musical ambitions.

The Tate brothers - Andrew and Tristan - have arrived in the US after Romanian prosecutors lifted a travel ban. The controversial British-American social media influencers had been under the ban in Romania for more than two years after they were charged with rape and human trafficking in 2022. They have strongly denied all allegations against them. The BBC's Social Media Investigations Correspondent, Marianna Spring, joins us to discuss what their return to the US might mean in terms of their influence on social media and boys and young men.

An investigation by BBC Humberside has been hearing from young women who've experienced inappropriate behaviour from their driving instructors. We're joined by BBC reporter

Jasmine Lowe and Debbie Beadle, the CEO of the charity Fear Free, as they launch a campaign to get the position of trust law governing teachers and social workers extended to cover driving instructors too.

Listener Emma Shaw got in touch with Woman's Hour after hearing author Beth Moran discuss fostering on the programme. She joins us to share her own experience of being fostered alongside her siblings, along with Sarah Thomas, CEO of The Fostering Network, a charity that supports both foster parents and children.

And Katy Perry has revealed plans to go to space as part of an all-women flight on commercial space mission Blue Origin. She's expected to join owner Jeff Bezo's fiancée Lauren Sanchez and others on the New Shepard rocket this spring. Space journalist and author of Wally Funk: Race to Space, Sue Nelson, joins Nuala to share her thoughts.

Presenter: Nuala McGovern  
Producer: Sarah Jane Griffiths

**FRI 11:00 The Food Programme (m00289vp)**  
Closing London's 'Kitchen of the Universe'

Two of the country's largest wholesale markets are on the brink of closure. The City of London Corporation has decided to shut the historic meat market at Smithfield and the fish market at Billingsgate, bringing to an end centuries of food history. Sheila Dillon is given a tour of Smithfield market by the historian Matthew Green who describes how Smithfield features in the work of Charles Dickens and was once described as the "kitchen of the universe" by the writer Ned Ward in 1702.

The programme hears from the Smithfield traders who work through the night butchering and selling meat to restaurants and shops across London, the South East of England and beyond.

There has been considerable opposition to the closure of the markets. More than 37,000 people have signed a petition asking the City of London Corporation to keep the markets where they are including Alicia Weston who we meet at Ridley Road street market in East London. Here fishmongers are concerned about where they will source their supplies if Billingsgate closes. The City of London Corporation chairman Chris Hayward responds.

Finally, the author of Hungry City Carolyn Steel and Professor Tim Lang from City University reflect on the importance of wholesale markets in strengthening food supply chains as well as their contribution to the social and cultural fabric of a place.

Presented by Sheila Dillon  
Produced for BBC Audio in Bristol by Robin Markwell

**FRI 11:45 The Many Lives of James Lovelock by Jonathan Watts (m00289vt)**  
Episode 5

James Lovelock is probably best known today for being the co-creator of the Gaia Theory - the idea that life on Earth is a self-sustaining system in which organisms interact with their environments to maintain a habitable ecosystem.

But this controversial and complicated man lived many lives over the course of the 102 years he spent on this planet.

He was born just after the end of the First World War to parents who had little interest in having a family and preferred to leave their new born child with his grandparents. His early years were often spent alone in nature and this helped to establish his lifelong affinity for the natural world. But he was also an autodidact - fascinated with science and in particular chemistry. Despite struggling at school he went on to become one of the great polymaths of the 20th century.

During the Second World War he worked at the National Medical Research Institute, where his life-long interest in chemical tracing began. In the 1960s he worked at NASA. He worked for MI5 and MI6 during the Cold War. He was a science advisor to the oil giant Shell, who he warned as early as 1966 that fossil fuels were causing serious harm to the environment. He invented the technology that found the hole in the Ozone layer. And all of this shaped Gaia Theory - a theory that could not have been developed without the collaboration of two important women in his life.

Based on over 80 hours of interviews with Lovelock and unprecedented access to his personal papers and scientific archive, Jonathan Watts has written a definitive and revelatory biography of a fascinating, sometimes contradictory man.

Jonathan Watts is a British journalist with an interest in the environment. He is also the author of When a Billion Chinese Jump: How China Will Save the World - or Destroy It.

Written by Jonathan Watts  
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters

Read by Richard Goulding  
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 12:00 News Summary (m00289vy)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 12:04 Rare Earth (m00289w2)**  
Arctic Goldrush

For the Arctic, 2024 was the second-warmest year on record, with temperatures rising much faster than the global rate. The region's resources- oil, gas, iron ore, uranium, even diamonds and the rare earth metals used in electric cars- suddenly seem accessible. That's caught the attention of China, Russia and the US, with President Trump, eager to mount a hostile takeover bid for Greenland.

In the first of a new series of Rare Earth, physicist Helen Czerski and environment journalist, Tom Heap consider the impact of this sudden global interest on the people, wildlife and landscape of the far north.

It's not the first time that climate change has determined the fate of the region. For 500 years the Vikings occupied Greenland, using it as a base for their discovery of North America. By the late 14th century temperatures were falling, their crops failing and supply ships from Scandinavia struggling to make it through the expanding icepack. Communications faltered and then stopped completely. Historian, Eleanor Barraclough joins Tom and Helen to explore the fate of the last Norse Greenlanders- one of the great mediaeval mysteries and a warning of the power of a changing climate.

They're also joined by Duncan Depledge from Loughborough University and the Royal United Services Institute who fills them in on the military and political backdrop to the Arctic Goldrush. In 2007 Russian explorer, Artur Chilingarov led a submarine expedition to the North Pole where he planted a Russian flag on the seabed. It was a blatant land grab by the Putin regime and a warning of Russian expansionism to come. The other Arctic nations are responding, with Denmark ploughing cash into the defence of Greenland as the United States and China stake their own claims to the riches of the frozen north that isn't quite as frozen as it was.

The impact of climate change on the region's wildlife is so often encapsulated by the image of a polar bear on an ice floe, but ecologist Helen Wheeler of Anglia Ruskin University is more interested in the northward march of the beaver. These landscape engineers are actually moving ahead of the treeline, using rocks and mud to dam the rivers of the far north. The dams are blocking travel routes of Inuit hunters and fishers and may even be helping to raise the temperature of Arctic lakes.

Producer: Alasdair Cross

Assistant Producer: Toby Field

Rare Earth is produced in association with the Open University

**FRI 12:57 Weather (m00289w5)**  
The latest weather forecast

**FRI 13:00 World at One (m00289w9)**  
Aid minister quits over Starmer's budget cuts

Anneliese Dodds resigned as international development minister after the overseas aid budget was cut to fund a boost to defence spending. Labour MP Clive Lewis calls it a 'principled decision'. Plus, a tech trade deal with the US may be on the table. How would it affect the way we keep the tech sector safe? Plus: the newly uncovered pages acquired by the British Library that show how Edward Elgar composed his Introduction and Allegro.

**FRI 13:45 You Do Not Have to Say Anything (m00289wg)**  
Episode 10: Righting Wrongs

After the verdict and the sentence, people who have spent every working moment together become strangers again. But while wigs and gowns are packed away, the jury sent home and the prison van hits the road: the case is not necessarily over.

Defence Barrister Joanna Hardy-Susskind lifts the curtain on the real criminal justice system and the real people working within it - beneath the wigs, behind the uniforms and in the dock.

Presenter: Joanna Hardy-Susskind  
Producer: Georgia Catt  
Assistant Producer: Danita McIntyre

**FRI 14:00 The Archers (m00289wk)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

**FRI 14:15 Limelight (m0027vmz)**

Exemplar - Series 2

Exemplar - Episode 5

When Veritas is hit by sophisticated cyber attack, Jess and Maya have to work with DS Gray to identify the attackers and stop them. Will they do it in time to save the company?

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 Gray ..... Clare Perkins  
Jill ..... Tracey Wilkinson  
Dan ..... Malcom Ridley

Writers: Dan Rebellato, with Ben and Max Ringham  
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? (p0knwfm)**

Series 2

6. Why do we lie?

Ella Al-Shamahi asks why do we lie?

You might think that deception is a uniquely human characteristic, but does camouflage or mimicry in nature, where animals pretend to be another animal or the actual environment like the insects leaf-mimic katydids that walk around looking like a leaf. Does that count as lying? Or is it just us humans with our highly complex language that have the ability to tell a fib. Ella talks to Dr Roman Stengelin of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, who investigates children from very different cultures to discover when and how they develop this very human ability and professional poker player Liv Boeree to discover the art of bluffing.

BBC Studios

Produced by Emily Bird  
Additional production Olivia Jani and Ben Hughes  
Series Producer Geraldine Fitzgerald  
Executive Producer Alexandra Feachem  
Commissioning Editor Rhian Roberts

**FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m00289wr)**

Vale of White Horse: Heuchera, Waterlogged Gardens and Hardwood Cuttings

What's the best way to propagate Heuchera? How do i minimise the growth of my Wisteria and maximise flowers? Are there any low skilled gardening jobs that I could do?

Kathy and a team of experts return to The Hanneys where they solve more gardening 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, Matt Biggs Hardwood cuttings, an easy and reliable method of propagating plants.

Producer: Dominic Tyerman  
Producer: Matthew Smith  
Assistant Producer: Rahnee Prescod  
Executive Producer: Carly Maile

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 15:45 Short Works (m00289ww)**

Well by Manon Steffan Ros

An AI wellness app observes its user, encouraging her on daily runs and healthy shopping trips.

But when does 'wellness' become too much?

A new short story by award-winning Manon Steffan Ros (writer of The Blue Book of Nebo), read by Kezrena James, produced by Fay Lomas.

**FRI 16:00 Last Word (m00289x0)**

Roberta Flack, Dr D G Hessayon, Keith Dewhurst, Rose Hanks

John Wilson on:

Musician Roberta Flack, best known for The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face and Killing Me Softly.

Dr David Hessayon, the author of a series of gardening books known as The Expert guides. His one word advice to keen gardeners was 'mulch'.

Keith Dewhurst whose work for television and stage included the National's unconventional adaptation of Lark Rise to Candleford.

And Rose Hanks the motorcycle sidecar passenger who became the first woman to stand on the winner's podium at the Isle of Man TT in 1968.

Producer: Ribika Moktan

Archive:

Killing Me Softly: The Roberta Flack Story, BBC4, 13/06/2014; London Plus: Roberta Flack, BBC1 South East, 16/10/1984; The Albion Band, BBC 2, 17/09/1980; Pick of the Review: Artists and their Art, 05/09/1972; Munich Air Disaster, BBC News, 06/02/1958; Isle of Man 1968 TT Race Produced as part of the "Stanley Schofield Sound Stories", digitally remastered and provided by Duke Video <https://www.dukevideo.com/prd9952/TT-1968-Audio-2-CD-Set>; 1961 Sidecar TT - Isle of Man, Uploaded to YouTube by JZijlstra, 06/06/2012 <https://www.youtube.com/@jilmer1>; The 1965 Sidecar Race of the Year at Mallory Park, Duke Video, Uploaded to YouTube, 10/05/2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYut9uApeg4>; TT 1967 Diamond Jubilee Audio CD by Duke video <https://www.dukevideo.com/prd9932/TT-1967-Diamond-Jubilee-Audio-CD>

**FRI 16:30 Sideways (m00289x4)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]

**FRI 17:00 PM (m00289x8)**

President Zelensky meets President Trump at the White House

As President Zelensky and President Trump meet at the White House in the hope of reaching a deal that would bring an end to the war, we'll get reactions from Ukraine and Washington, Plus Microsoft announces that it is closing the video calling application Skype.

**FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m00289xd)**

President Trump warns his Ukrainian counterpart to make a deal with Russia "or we're out"

**FRI 18:30 The News Quiz (m00289xj)**

Series 116

8. Mr. Starmer Goes To Washington

Andy Zaltzman is joined by Scott Bennett, Sara Barron, Alex Massie and Lucy Porter for The News Quiz recorded from Scarborough. In the last of the current series, the panel unpack the Prime Ministers Washington visit, aid cuts and defence pates, silent albums and AI generated essays.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Simon Acock, David Duncan, Laura Major, Christina Riggs and Peter Tellouche.  
Producer: Rajiv Karia  
Executive Producer: James Robinson  
Production Coordinator: Jodie Charman  
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

A BBC Studios Audio Production for Radio 4

An Eco-Audio certified Production

**FRI 19:00 The Archers (m00289xm)**

Writer: Avin Shah  
Director: Julie Beckett

Editor: Jeremy Howe

Natasha Archer.... Mali Harries  
Tom Archer.... William Troughton  
Lilian Bellamy.... Sunny Ormonde  
Vince Casey.... Tony Turner  
Justin Elliott.... Simon Williams  
Emma Grundy.... Emerald O'Hanrahan  
Brad Horrobin.... Taylor Utley  
Tracy Horrobin.... Susie Riddell  
Joy Horville.... Jackie Lye  
Azra Malik.... Yasmin Wilde  
Khalil Malik.... Krish Bassi  
Zainab Malik.... Priyasha Kumari  
Kirsty Miller.... Annabelle Dowler  
Freddie Pargetter.... Toby Laurence  
Fallon Rogers.... Joanna Van Kampen  
Lynda Snell.... Carole Boyd  
Robert Snell.... Michael Bertenshaw

**FRI 19:15 Add to Playlist (m00289xp)**

Emma Rawicz and Neil Brand reach for the skies

Bandleader and jazz saxophonist Emma Rawicz and the writer and composer Neil Brand join Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe as they add the next five tracks to the playlist. The journey takes them from Frank Gehry's Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, across the English Channel in a rickety aeroplane, then right up to the moon with Les Paul and Mary Ford.

Producer: Jerome Weatherald  
Presented with musical direction by Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe

The five tracks in this week's playlist:

The Bucket's Got a Hole in it by Kid Orly  
Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines by Ron Goodwin  
Conversation by Joni Mitchell  
How High the Moon by Les Paul and Mary Ford  
Sweet Child O'Mine by Guns N' Roses

Other music in this episode:

Tamacún by Rodrigo y Gabriela  
Double Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra: Mvt 1 by Philip Glass, performed by Katia & Marielle Labèque  
My Bucket's Got a Hole In It by Hank Williams  
Bucket's Got a Hole In It by Louis Armstrong  
My Bucket's Got a Hole In It by Van Morrison  
633 Squadron: Main Title Theme by Ron Goodwin  
Amassakoul by Tinariwen  
Some Unholy War by Amy Winehouse  
Didn't It Rain by Sister Rosetta Tharpe

**FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m00289xr)**

Douglas Alexander MP, Meghan Gallacher MSP, Frances Guy, Fiona Hyslop MSP

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from Dunblane Cathedral with UK Government trade minister Douglas Alexander MP; Scottish Conservative shadow cabinet secretary for housing Meghan Gallacher MSP; Frances Guy, the chief executive of Scotland's International Development Alliance; and Scottish Government cabinet secretary for transport Fiona Hyslop MSP.

Producer: Paul Martin  
Lead broadcast engineer: Sean Mullervy

**FRI 20:50 A Point of View (m00289xt)**

Tractors in Whitehall

As farmers prepare for another march at Whitehall in protest at the government's inheritance tax plans, Michael Morpurgo discusses the growing divide between city and countryside.

"The family farm, still at the heart of rural England," writes Michael, 'is under threat, more than ever'.

Michael reflects on how, during World War Two, we needed to produce all the food we could in order to survive. He argues that, as an island nation, taking food security for granted, even today, is risky.

And he says there is a real sense these days that our pastoral roots are being 'reshaped irrevocably...by those who don't know or love the countryside.'

Producer: Adele Armstrong  
Sound: Peter Boshier  
Production coordinator: Liam Morrey  
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

**FRI 21:00 Free Thinking (m00289xw)**

A pinch of salt

Free Thinking looks at today's world with "a pinch of salt" tonight. From stories in the bible to desalination plants, preserving food to salt taxes: how does salt help us think about the past and present? We use phrases like "being worth your salt" or "dropping salt" meaning to spread rumours. With food writer Bee Wilson, materials scientist Mark Miodownik, the novelist and writer on folklore Zoe Gilbert and artist David Soin Tappeser. Plus, especially salty guest Baga Chipz. Matthew Sweet hosts.

David Soin Tappeser, along with Himali Singh Soin, is one half of *Hylozoic/Desires*, whose exhibition *Salt Cosmologies* is at Somerset House in London until the 27th April.

Producer: Luke Mulhall

**FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m00289xy)**

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

**FRI 22:45 The Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier (m00289y0)**

Episode 10

Orsola's Venetian shop is thriving but, as flood and disease batter the city once more, she will finally learn the truth about the glass dolphins that have been sent across the centuries.

The spellbinding new novel from the acclaimed author of 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' is read by Emily Bruni.

Written by Tracy Chevalier  
Abridged by Siân Preece  
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

Tracy Chevalier is the author of eleven novels, including 'A Single Thread', 'Remarkable Creatures' and 'Girl with a Pearl Earring', an international bestseller that has sold over five million copies and been made into a film, a play and an opera.

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 23:00 Americast (m00289y2)**

Did Starmer win over Trump at the White House?

How successful was Sir Keir Starmer's meeting with President Trump at the White House on Thursday? Trump praised the Prime Minister as a "tough negotiator", but did Sir Keir get the key concessions needed over the war in Ukraine and trade? Justin, Sarah and Marianna analyse what was said - and not said - between the two leaders, and how Sir Keir Starmer played the ultimate royal card with Donald Trump.

**HOSTS:**

- Justin Webb, Radio 4 presenter
- Sarah Smith, North America Editor
- Marianna Spring, Social Media Investigations Correspondent

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- Or use #Americast

This episode was made by Rufus Gray, Catherine Fusillo and Claire Betzer. The technical producer was Michael Regaard. The series producer is Purvee Pattni. The senior news editor is Sam Bonham.

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Newscast: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/p05299nl>

Ukrainecast: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0bqztzm>

**FRI 23:30 Today in Parliament (m00289y4)**

Susan Hulme takes a first look at the government's major new legislation on crime and policing in England and Wales