

**SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2025****SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m002j64m)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 00:30 Mother Mary Comes to Me by Arundhati Roy (m002j62x)**

Episode 5: A Declaration of Love

This is the first memoir by the acclaimed Indian writer and political activist Arundhati Roy, best-known for her Booker-prize-winning novel *The God of Small Things*. It is the account of a remarkable and difficult childhood which was dominated by Arundhati's formidable mother, Mary Roy.

This was a time in South India when women had very proscribed roles, and Mary Roy challenged them profoundly: 'In that conservative, stifling little South Indian town, where, in those days, women were only allowed the option of cloying virtue – or its affectation – my mother conducted herself with the edginess of a gangster.'

Mary Roy's achievements are extraordinary - she founded a co-educational school which challenged sexist gender roles, and she brought a legal challenge which gave South Indian women equal inheritance rights with men. But at home, as Arundhati reveals, she's cruel and bullying; she hits her children and belittles them constantly. At 18, Arundhati left home and didn't see or speak to her mother for seven years. But when Mary Roy died in 2022, Arundhati was distraught, and even a 'little ashamed' at the intensity of her loss. In an attempt to make sense of their relationship, she began to write *Mother Mary Comes to Me*.

In this final episode, Arundhati describes her 'brittle, tentative' reunion with her mother after a seven-year absence from home. She becomes a published writer and wins the Booker Prize with her first novel, *The God of Small Things*:

'The only person I called after the prize was announced was my mother. It would have been about **2am** for her in Kottayam. She was up, watching the news on tv. "Well done, baby girl." An incredible expression of love. I'd caught her on a good day.' In September 2022, after a period of increasing frailty, Mrs Roy died.

'I spun unanchored in space with no coordinates. I had constructed myself around her. I had grown into the peculiar shape that I am to accommodate her. I had never wanted to defeat her, never wanted to win. I had always wanted her to go out like a queen. And now that she had, I didn't make sense to myself any more.'

Read by Shaheen Khan

Produced and abridged by Elizabeth Burke

Studio Production and Sound Design by Jon Calver

Executive Producer: Sara Davies

Photo courtesy of Arundhati Roy

A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002j64p)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002j64r)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**SAT 05:30 News Summary (m002j64t)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002j64w)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002j64y)**

Young and Courageous

Good morning.

Today would have been the birthday of the author Roald Dahl, who was born in Cardiff in 1916. For decades, his stories have captured the imaginations of children around the world. Though in recent years both Dahl and his works have faced controversy, the enduring charm of his books remains undeniable. Many of us will be able to recall a time in life when we were impacted by his stories - whether through the pages of his novels or the adaptations on stage and screen. In my own home, I remember when my book-loving daughter took great delight in discovering the character of Matilda - a girl who also has a deep passion for reading.

Amid the fantastical worlds of friendly giants, magical chocolate factories, and giant peaches, one theme surfaces again and again: the courage and resilience of children. Dahl's young heroes are brave and clever. They stand at the centre of the story, overcoming hardship and, at times, even guiding or challenging the adults around them.

The Bible reminds us that to God, every person has value - no matter their age. Jesus welcomed little children into His presence, showing both His love and their importance in the kingdom of God. The Apostle Paul urged young Timothy, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young," encouraging him not to see youth as a weakness but as an opportunity to set an example through faith, conduct, and character. These words remind us that God delights to work through both the young and the old, calling each of us to make a difference in the world.

Lord, thank you for the children and young people in our lives. Open our eyes to their potential, and help us encourage them in faith and life. Strengthen the younger generation to be courageous and wise, shining your light wherever they go. Amen.

**SAT 05:45 Uncharted with Hannah Fry (m0022z9f)**

19. A Different Kind of Justice

How does a small informal survey lead to shocking truths about the US justice system thirty years later?

Producer Lauren Armstrong Carter

Sound Designer: Jon Nicholls

Story Editor: John Yorke

**SAT 06:00 News and Papers (m002jdp4)**

The news headlines, including a look at the newspapers.

**SAT 06:07 Open Country (m002j751)**

The Menai Strait

Martha Kearney visits the Menai Strait - the stretch of water which separates Ynys Môn or Anglesey from mainland Wales. She learns about its treacherous tides and hears about the history of its two bridges, both built in the 19th century to improve travel between London and Ireland. The Menai Suspension Bridge was designed by Thomas Telford and will celebrate its 200th anniversary at the start of 2026. The newer Britannia Bridge had to be completely rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1970.

Martha meets an academic from Bangor University who explains how ocean physics make the waters of the Strait so dangerous. At low tide she braves the pouring rain to go rock-pooling with a wildlife expert, who explains why the Strait is such a special habitat for marine life. She also visits Church Island - a tiny island in the middle of the Strait which is home to an ancient church - and meets the people who look after it.

Producer: Emma Campbell

**SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m002jdp6)**

13/09/25: Farmland Birds, Wild Summit, Illegal Meat

Populations of birds which live on farmland have declined sharply since the 1970s, although there are signs the rate of decline is now slowing. We visit projects to improve habitats for Nightjars in Staffordshire and Corncrakes on the Isle of Lewis.

This week a Wild Summit bought together voices from all sides of the debate to discuss how to reverse the biodiversity crisis. Farming Today hears from conservationists and farmers, agreeing that current policies are 'fractured'.

The Commons' Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs committee has published a highly critical report claiming that illegal meat imports are increasing and that the authorities don't have adequate resources to tackle the problem.

And, is the appointment of a new Secretary of State for DEFRA a chance to reset the relationship between farmers and the Government?

Presenter: Caz Graham

Producer: Sarah Swadling

**SAT 06:57 Weather (m002jdp8)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 07:00 Today (m002jdpb)**

Today (Saturday)

**SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m002jdpd)**

Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith, Beekeeping, Basketball, and Dan Brown's Inheritance Tracks

Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith have worked together for three decades on the likes of *The League of Gentlemen* and *Inside No. 9*. But, despite creating some of television's most twisted characters the pair are, as far as we can tell, relatively normal off-screen - Reece is a keen home-baker and Steve loves a good cryptic crossword.

Today John Amaechi is a psychologist and leadership consultant, but in a previous life he was an NBA star. But, John spent most of his childhood in Stockport feeling lonely, bullied for his height and weight, he hated sport. But a chance encounter with a basketball coach in the street that saw this 6'10" teenager stars align.

One of Molly Earl's earliest memories as a child is rescuing bees with her amateur beeping father. Today she rescues swarms of bees destined for extermination for a living and has given refuge to millions of bees creating 250 established hives around St Austell - where she turns their efforts into award-winning honey.

All that, plus the Inheritance Tracks of *The Da Vinci Code* author, Dan Brown.

Presenter: Adrian Chiles

Producer: Ben Mitchell

**SAT 10:00 You're Dead to Me (m002jdpj)**

Jane Austen: the life of a Regency literary icon

Greg Jenner is joined in Regency England by historian Dr Lucy Worsley and actor Sally Phillips to learn all about the life and works of literary legend Jane Austen on the 250th anniversary of her birth in December 1775. It is a truth universally acknowledged that Austen is one of England's best-loved authors, and the creator of such indelible characters as Elizabeth Bennet, Mr Darcy, Emma Woodhouse and Elinor and Marianne Dashwood. Whether you have read one of her six books – *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Persuasion*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Mansfield Park* – or seen one of the many adaptations, most of us have some experience with Austen. But her life story and how it influenced her writing is perhaps less well-known. This episode explores her early life as the daughter of a rural clergyman, takes a peek inside the books a teenage Jane was reading, and delves into her romantic and familial relationships to see what shaped Austen into the formidable literary talent she was. And it asks a key question: was Jane Austen, who wrote such wonderful women characters, a feminist?

If you're a fan of iconic authors, Regency romances and women succeeding in a man's world, you'll love our episode on Jane Austen.

If you want more incredible women authors with Dr Lucy Worsley, check out our episode on Agatha Christie. For more from Sally Phillips, listen to our episode on Fairy Tales. And for more Regency romance, there's our episode on Georgian Courtship.

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: Clara Chamberlain and Charlotte Emily Edgeshaw

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: Philip Sellers

**SAT 10:30 The Kitchen Cabinet (m002jdpj)**

Series 49

Episode 4

Jay Rayner hosts a culinary panel show packed full of tasty tidbits.

**SAT 11:00 The Week in Westminster (m002jdpI)**

Radio 4's assessment of developments at Westminster

**SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002jdpn)**

Israel's ultimatum over Gaza City

Kate Adie introduces stories from Gaza, France, the Thailand-Cambodia border, Iraq and Slovenia.

Around a million Palestinians have been told to leave Gaza City ahead of a new Israeli offensive - though many are wary of leaving, saying there is nowhere to go. Lucy Williamson was granted rare access to Gaza by the Israeli army, and was taken to see its planned new aid distribution site.

Days after French PM, François Bayrou, was ousted from office after losing a confidence vote, street protests took place across France as people voiced anger over proposals to remove two national holidays and impose a pensions freeze. Andrew Harding watched events unfold in Paris.

Thailand also has a new prime minister – its third in just over a year - following a political crisis that ignited a short, sudden conflict with Cambodia. Our Southeast Asia Correspondent Jonathan Head has been looking into this catastrophic breakdown of relations.

Ten years ago, 71 migrants from Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan died in the back of a refrigerator truck abandoned on a motorway lay-by near the Austrian border with Hungary. Nick Thorpe travelled to northern Iraq to meet relatives of some of those who died - and interviewed the smugglers convicted for their role in their deaths.

Slovenia has produced some of the best male cyclists in the world today - including Tadej Pogacar. Every year, the four-time Tour de France champ hosts a cycling festival in his home town of Komenda - and Guy De Launey went along for the ride.

Series Producer: Serena Tarling  
Production Coordinator: Rosie Strawbridge  
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith

#### **SAT 12:00 News Summary (m002jdpq)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

#### **SAT 12:04 Money Box (m002jdps)**

Mortgage Charter and Unclaimed Benefits

New figures reveal that more than a quarter of a million homeowners have temporarily reduced their mortgages payments, or extended their mortgage term, since lenders agreed to offer better support to customers in June 2023 through what was called the Mortgage Charter.

There's been a sharp rise in people taking their tax-free lump sum out of their pension over the past year. Since 2015 people over the age of 55 could take 25 per cent of their pension pots tax-free and then use the rest as they wished. These figures from the regulator the Financial Conduct Authority show tens of thousands more people made that choice - why?

Millions of people are missing out on tens of billions of pounds worth of help ranging from benefits to social tariffs from utility companies. That's according to the latest analysis Policy in Practice suggests. What type of benefits are people missing out on?

And the £100 limit on contactless card payments looks set to be scrapped. The regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority, published plans this week to let banks set their own limit - or indeed have no limit at all.

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

(First broadcast **12pm** on Radio 4 on Saturday 13th September 2025)

#### **SAT 12:30 The News Quiz (m002j63s)**

Series 118

2. Cards revealed and Reshuffle

Andy Zaltzman is joined by Daliso Chaponda, Susie McCabe, Geoff Norcott and Ash Sarkar to break down the week in news. Expect discussion on the Labour Deputy Leader Election, the return of the Mandelson, strikes on Qatar, Russian drones in Poland and telepathic Google searches.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Simon Alcock, Carwyn Blayney, Ruth Husko and Alex Kealy.

Producer: Rajiv Karia  
Executive Producer: James Robinson  
Production Coordinator: Carolina Barlow  
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

#### **SAT 12:57 Weather (m002jdpv)**

The latest weather forecast

#### **SAT 13:00 News (m002jdpx)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### **SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (m002j645)**

Lord Deben, Miranda Green, Timandra Harkness, Luke Pollard MP

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from Liskeard Public Hall in Cornwall, with the Conservative peer Lord Deben; Miranda Green of the Financial Times; writer and broadcaster Timandra Harkness; and the defence minister and Labour MP for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport, Luke Pollard.

Producer: Paul Martin  
Lead broadcast engineer: Nick Ford

#### **SAT 14:05 Any Answers? (m002jdpx)**

Listeners respond to the issues raised in the preceding edition of Any Questions?

#### **SAT 14:45 The Archers (m002j63x)**

Writer: Nick Warburton  
Director: Helen Aitken  
Editor: Jeremy Howe

Ben Archer.... Ben Norris  
Pip Archer.... Daisy Badger  
Tom Archer.... William Troughton  
Ruairi Donovan.... Arthur Hughes  
Amber Gorden.... Charlotte Jordan  
Brad Horrobin.... Taylor Uttley  
Adam Macy.... Andrew Wincott  
Azra Malik.... Yasmin Wilde  
Freddie Pargetter.... Toby Laurence  
Lily Pargetter.... Katie Redford  
Stella Pryor.... Lucy Speed  
Fallon Rogers.... Joanna Van Kampen  
Lynda Snell.... Carole Boyd  
Dane.... Stavros Demetraki

#### **SAT 15:00 The Magic Mountain by Thomas Mann (m000v83t)**

2. Claudia

Visiting Hugh Casthorpe has now become a patient in the sanatorium.

His rise in temperature may have something to do with the fact that he is utterly, hopelessly besotted with the lovely Madame Claudia.

She is married, she is ill, he's scared to speak to her and Hugh's companions on the Magic Mountain, are far from happy with the infatuation.

Despite the obstacles - will love find a way?

Thomas Mann's novel is a literary icon, a tragi-comedy, a masterpiece of deep thought, sly irony, sex, love and death.

Written from a translation by John E Woods

Dramatised by Robin Brooks

Narrator ..... Lucy Robinson  
Hugh Casthorpe ..... Luke Thallon  
James Simpson ..... Hugh Skinner  
Doctor Crowmarsh ..... Sandy Grierson  
Professor Jones ..... Richard Harrington  
Claudia Civet ..... Genevieve Gaunt  
Edie Robinson ..... Keziah Joseph  
Marjorie ..... Georgina Strawson  
Stour ..... Ed Jones  
Nurse ..... Kate Paul

Producer: Fiona McAlpine

An Allegra production for BBC Radio 4

#### **SAT 16:00 Woman's Hour (m002jdq1)**

Weekend Woman's Hour: Davina McCall, Papua New Guinea, Jung Chang, Fawning, Sophie Ellis Bextor

Davina McCall, one of TV's most popular presenters has a new book out, *Birthing*, co-written with the midwife, Marley Henry. Davina joined Anita Rani to talk about her stellar career so far, including hosting *Big Brother* for 10 years, campaigning for better menopause care and building a fitness empire. What makes her tick? And what drives her forward to clear hurdles such as an usual childhood, drug addiction and most recently, brain surgery for a benign tumour that she nicknamed Jeffrey?

As the 50th anniversary of Papua New Guinea's independence from Australia approaches later this month, we hear why the country is currently one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman. Two-thirds of women in PNG have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime, which is almost twice the global average. Nuala McGovern was joined by Tahina Booth, a former elite athlete and founder of Grass Skirt Project who is trying to break the cycle of gender-based violence through sport and Joku Hennah, a journalist and activist.

Jung Chang's *Wild Swans*, the epic family memoir that followed the lives of Jung, her mother and grandmother through China's 20th century, was banned in mainland China, but was a smash hit worldwide upon publication in 1991. Now Jung's sequel, *Fly, Wild Swans*, brings her family's story up to date and she joined Nuala to talk about its themes.

We've all heard of the fight or flight response in the face of danger, but there's also freeze, and then there's fawn, also known as people pleasing, or appeasing. Clinical psychologist Dr Ingrid Clayton has written about this in her new book, *Fawning - Why the Need to Please Makes Us Lose Ourselves and How to Find our Way Back*. Nuala spoke to Ingrid about her own experiences that made her want to help others overcome this form of trauma response and what fawning looks like in practice.

In 2023 Sophie Ellis-Bextor's *Murder on the Dancefloor* went viral on TikTok after Emerald Fennell used it in a key scene in the film, *Saltburn*. That resurgence, along with her popular *Kitchen Discos* that got lots of us through the Covid lockdown set the scene for her new album, *Perimenopop*, which is released tomorrow, a celebration of womanhood in middle age. Sophie joined Anita in the Woman's Hour studio.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Annette Wells  
Editor: Rebecca Myatt

#### **SAT 17:00 PM (m002jdq3)**

Full coverage of the day's news

#### **SAT 17:30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson (m002jdq5)**

'Build Baby Build': The new housing secretary, Steve Reed

Steve Reed was given the job of Housing Secretary as the result of crisis, after the resignation of his close friend Angela Rayner.

But he has been part of the inner circle preparing Keir Starmer's rise to power from the beginning, having recruited the man who ended up as the prime minister's Chief of Staff.

In this interview, he gives Nick a behind-the-scenes account of coming to power and the "whirlwind" of an emergency reshuffle.

They also discuss how to reconnect with the voters, putting up flags and who he'll have to fight to succeed in building the homes that Labour has promised

Producer: Daniel Kraemer  
Researcher: Chloe Desave  
Sound editing: Hal Haines  
Editor: Giles Edwards

#### **SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m002jdq7)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

#### **SAT 17:57 Weather (m002jdq9)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

#### **SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002jdqc)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### **SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m002jdqf)**

Moir Buffini, Josh Jones, George Egg, Urielle Klein-Mekongo, Black Country, New Road

Stuart Maconie's guests in Salford include comedian Josh Jones on his new tour 'I Haven't Won The Lottery So here's Another Show'. We find out what happens if he wins the lottery mid-run. Actor and writer Moira Buffini has just won the YA Book Prize for her debut novel *Songlight*. George Egg is the Snack Hacker, brining us goodies from his kitchen and Urielle Klein-Mekongo is the author of a new musical, *Black Power Desk*. And there's music from Black Country, New Road from their critically acclaimed album *Forever Howlong*.

Presenter: Stuart Maconie  
Producer: Jessica Treen

**SAT 19:00 Profile (m002jdqh)**

Peter Mandelson

Peter Mandelson has been sacked from his role as British Ambassador to the US over his association with the late convicted paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. It is the third time he has been forced to leave government.

An instrumental part of Tony Blair's landslide election victory in 1997, Mandelson was rewarded with a seat in the cabinet. But he was soon forced to resign as Business Secretary after failing to declare a six-figure loan from a fellow minister.

His second resignation came in 2001 after making his way back into the cabinet as Northern Ireland Secretary. Mandelson was accused influencing the passport applications of the wealthy Hinduja brothers, although was later exonerated.

Mark Coles examines how despite these controversies, the man once dubbed the "Prince of Darkness" was able to keep getting himself into powerful positions.

Presenter: Mark Coles

Producers: Ben Crighton, Alex Loftus and Adriana Urbano

Editor: Justine Lang

Sound Editor: Gareth Jones

**SAT 19:15 This Cultural Life (m002j74j)**

Alicia Vikander

Swedish-born Alicia Vikander won global acclaim in 2015 for playing Vera Britten in Testament Of Youth, and a humanoid robot in the thriller Ex-Machina. The following year she won an Academy Award for her supporting role with Eddie Redmayne in The Danish Girl, along with a Screen Actors Guild Award and BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations. Since then her diverse range of screen roles have included playing a spy boss in the film Jason Bourne, computer game heroine Lara Croft in Tomb Raider, and Gloria Steinem in the biopic The Glorias. The daughter of acclaimed stage actor Maria Fahl, she tells John Wilson how she first performed on stage at the age of seven in a musical written by Benny and Bjorn of ABBA. She also appeared in Swedish television dramas and films as a child actor. In 2025 Alicia Vikander makes her return to the stage in a new version of Ibsen's The Lady From The Sea at The Bridge in London, her first theatre role since she was a child.

Producer: Edwina Pitman

**SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m002jdqk)**

Nine Votes that Count

The US Supreme Court plays a central role in American political and judicial life and will help define Donald Trump's presidency. Now, it's confronted by an activist President keen to use his executive powers to transform America.

Mark Damazer asks whether the Court's nine Justices, with the conservatives a clear majority, will push back against the President. Critics fear that it will roll over and endorse his measures on everything from immigration, the definitions of citizenship, how universities should behave, the sacking of tens of thousands of government employees - and much more.

Using extensive archive recordings of Supreme Court justices, politicians and protestors - and with a contribution from a recently retired Supreme Court justice - Mark shows that the Court has time and again generated electrifying drama. Presidents from both sides have raged about its decisions. None more so than the great liberal, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who in the 1930s was so furious with a conservative Court that he devised a plan that convulsed the entire nation - to add extra judges who would support him. He lost.

Mark Damazer also looks at the liberal Warren court of the 50s and 60s - which saw the largest step forward for civil rights in American legal history and met with fierce resistance from those who thought it was trampling over the Constitution - and the rights of individual states. And he sees how the nominations process, once calm and orderly, has now become raucous, deeply ideological and corrosive.

With thanks to Oyez, a free law project by Justia and the Legal Information Institute of Cornell Law School, the Miller Center and the Supreme Court Historical Society.

Producer: Sasha Edye-Lindner

Executive Producer: Robert Nicholson

A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 21:00 Moral Maze (m002j5w6)**

Is 'net zero' a moral pursuit?

The party conference season kicked off with claims and counter claims about the viability of Nigel Farage's proposals for

government. One issue that unites Reform and Kemi Badenoch's Conservatives is scrapping the 2050 net zero target, echoing US President Donald Trump's pledge to "drill, baby, drill" and embark on new oil and gas exploration.

This is a turbulent time in international politics. The prospect of achieving a global consensus on climate action seems a forlorn hope. What's more, critics of the UK net zero target argue that the costs will cause a decline in living standards for little overall benefit.

Forget economic arguments: what is the moral thing to do in the face of a warming planet, rising sea levels, more extreme weather, food and water insecurity, and human displacement?

Readers of Immanuel Kant might be tempted to invoke his 'categorical imperative', a moral rule that says you should act in a way that you would want to apply to everyone, regardless of your personal desires or the potential outcomes of your actions. In climate terms, it means pursuing net zero as a moral good in itself. Utilitarian ethics, however, says that the right action is the one producing the most happiness and the least unhappiness for the greatest number of people. Therefore, it could be argued that the detrimental consequences of pursuing net zero in the UK, combined with its questionable global benefit, make it immoral.

Is 'net zero' a moral pursuit?

Chair: Michael Buerk

Panellists: Matthew Taylor, Ella Whelan, Giles Fraser and Anne McElvoy.

Witnesses: Maurice Cousins, Alice Evatt, Tony Milligan and Sorin Baiasu.

Producer: Dan Tierney

**SAT 22:00 News (m002jdqm)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 22:15 The Food Programme (m002j62v)**

Follow the Food: The Rise of Food Tourism

Sheila Dillon investigates the growing number of food tours and trails in the UK as consumers show more and more interest in the provenance of what is on their plate. She heads to Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire - a town that boasts the title of Rural Capital Of Food - and joins a walking tour that spans pork pie producers, stilton sellers, a samosa wallah and a prizewinning brewery.

Produced by Robin Markwell for BBC Audio in Bristol

**SAT 23:00 Icklewick FM (m002j89c)**

Series 2

## 3. The Reunion

Icklewick FM are reporting live from Hogan High where the students are anxiously awaiting their A level results. Amy meets a newly qualified teacher on the edge and Chris is shaken when he runs into someone from his past. Meanwhile, Simon gets sent to the Head Master's office and Mr Patel suffers from stage fright.

Icklewick FM is created and written by Chris Cantrill and Amy Gledhill, with additional material from the cast.

Starring:

Amy Gledhill

Chris Cantrill

Mark Silcox

Colin Hoult

Janice Connolly

Phil Ellis

Lucy Beaumont

Rachel Fairburn

Paddy Young

Molly McGuinness

Sharon Wanjohi

Jin Hao Li

Tom Burgess

Nicola Redman

Tai Campbell

Em Humble

James Carbutt

Series Artwork by Sam O'Leary

Music, sound design and additional material by Jack Lewis Evans.

Line Produced by Laura Shaw

Produced by Benjamin Sutton.

A Daddy's Superyacht production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 23:30 Nature Table (m001gk81)**

Series 3

Episode 6

Celebrating the natural world and all it's funny eccentricities.

Taking the simple format of a 'Show & Tell', in each episode Sue Perkins is joined by celebrity guests from the worlds of comedy and natural history.

Nature Table has a simple clear brief: to positively celebrate and promote the importance of all our planet's wonderfully wild flora and fauna in a fun and easily grasped way... whilst at the same time having a giggle.

Recorded at ZSL London Zoo.

In this episode, Sue welcomes:

\* Lead Keeper at ZSL London Zoo Jessica Jones

\* Fungarium Curator at Kew Gardens Lee Davies

\* Comedian Shaparak Khorsandi

Written by Catherine Brinkworth, Jon Hunter, Jenny Laville and Nicky Roberts

Additional material by Kat Sadler.

Producer Simon Nicholls.

A BBC Studios production for BBC Radio 4.

**SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2025****SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m002jdqp)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 00:15 Bookclub (m002j5nb)**

Paula Hawkins

Presented by James Naughtie, Radio 4's Bookclub, speaks to the writer Paula Hawkins about her debut thriller The Girl On The Train. The book was published by Doubleday in 2015 to great acclaim and has sold millions of copies. Told in the first-person the novel's protagonist is Rachel Watson, a 33-year-old divorcee with addiction issues. The book was made into film in 2016 directed by Tate Taylor and starring Emily Blunt as Rachel. This episode was recorded at the Edinburgh International Books Festival.

Producer: Dominic Howell

Editor: Gillian Wheelan

This was a BBC Audio Scotland production.

**SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002jdqr)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002jdqt)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**SUN 05:30 News Summary (m002jdqw)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002jdqq)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m002jdr0)**

The Church of Saints Mary and Gabriel in South Harting, West Sussex

Bells on Sunday comes from the Church of Saints Mary and Gabriel in South Harting, West Sussex. The large cruciform church is mostly early 14th century with some signs of earlier work. The tower houses a ring of six bells which were all cast by the Chapman and Mears foundry of London in 1782. The Tenor weighs twelve hundredweight and is tuned to the note of F sharp. We hear them ringing Norwich Surprise Minor.

**SUN 05:45 In Touch (m002j6zp)**

Guided Holidays

In Touch visits the Lake District and tags along to Ellie Bennet's holiday. Ellie booked a sighted guide through a free guiding service called Cumbrian Visions. Cumbrian Visions provides visually impaired holiday makers with a guide to accompany them on their various activities. There is also a similar service happening in Cornwall and Devon, called The Cliffden Buddies, which came first. Julian Griffen, of The Cliffden Buddies and

Lee Hodgson of Cumbrian Visions tell In Touch about their services and how it all got started.

For more information:  
Cumbrian Visions  
Founder and Coordinator: Lee Hodgson  
Tel: 07976 669708  
Email: hodgson@liverdogs.co.uk

Cliffden Buddies  
Founder and Coordinator: Jules Griffen  
Tel: 07500 206948  
Email: cliffden.buddies@outlook.com

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

#### **SUN 06:00 News Summary (m002jghm)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### **SUN 06:05 Heart and Soul (w3ct6vp5)**

Freddie's Second Verse

Freddie once signed to a major record label. He appeared in high-production music videos and looked set for fame. But the pressure and pace of that life left him feeling hollow. In one of the world's busiest cities, he now follows a very different path - one built on silence, discipline, and spiritual growth.

Freddie reflects on his decision to leave the music industry behind and embrace Buddhism. He now works as a nail technician and shares how his beliefs shape his daily life. Alongside him is Carl, his partner, who offers moving insights into how their shared values deepen their relationship.

The episode captures striking contrasts: the buzz of the city versus the calm of local temples; a nail salon's chatter against the resonance of monastery chanting. Through honest conversations and ambient recordings, we step into Freddie and Carl's world, where Buddhist practice offers an anchor amid chaos.

Their story explores what it means to redefine success, maintain spiritual discipline in a hyperactive city, and find peace through faith. It also touches on themes of identity, mindfulness, and how love and belief can thrive under pressure.

Freddie's journey is not one of retreat, but of radical reorientation - a decision to slow down in a world that keeps speeding up. This is a rare and intimate portrait of life shaped by stillness, purpose, and the search for something more lasting than applause.

Producer/Presenter: John Offord  
Executive Producer: Rajeev Gupta  
Editor: Chloe Walker  
Production Coordinator: Mica Nepomuceno

#### **SUN 06:35 On Your Farm (m002jghp)**

Oat Milk Farmers

We meet brother and sister Phil and Rebecca Rayner who grow oats on their Cambridgeshire farm to turn into oat milk and other products. They're thriving after winning a David and Goliath trademark battle against a multi-million pound business. Oatly had claimed the name of the Rayners' product - PureOaty - was too similar, but a judge ruled in their favour. Now they use their own and other local farmers' oats to make gluten free products.

Produced and presented by Sally Challoner.

#### **SUN 06:57 Weather (m002jghr)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

#### **SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m002jght)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### **SUN 07:10 Sunday (m002jghw)**

A look at the ethical and religious issues of the week

#### **SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m002jfcc)**

Zimbabwe Educational Trust

Writer Africa Brooke makes the Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of Zimbabwe Educational Trust. The charity helps families in Zimbabwe get birth certificates for their children, enabling them to access healthcare, education and have more legal rights later in life.

The Radio 4 Appeal features a new charity every week. Each appeal then runs on Radio 4 from Sunday 0755 for 7 days.

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 'Zimbabwe Educational Trust'.  
- Cheques should be made payable to 'Zimbabwe Educational Trust'.  
- You can donate online at [bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4](http://bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4)  
- Please ensure you are donating to the correct charity by checking the name of the charity on the donate page.

Registered Charity Number: 327519. If you'd like to find out more about the charity's work visit

\*<https://zimbabweeducationaltrust.org.uk/>

\*The BBC is not responsible for content on external websites

Producer: Katy Takatsuki

#### **SUN 07:57 Weather (m002jghy)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

#### **SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m002jgj0)**

The news headlines, including a look at the newspapers.

#### **SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m002jgj2)**

The Invitation of Heaven

This week's Sunday Worship comes from the historic Mynyddbach Chapel in North Swansea, home to the Calon Lan Centre. The renowned Morriston Orpheus Choir marks its 90th anniversary with intimate performances that echo decades of Welsh choral tradition. The preacher is Heulwen Davies, Pastor at Century Church in Llanelli. The service is led by musician, songwriter and broadcaster Mal Pope.

Readings:

John 10:1-11 and Psalm 51:1-10

Music:

Amazing Grace - archive recording (taken from 'Morriston Orpheus Choir: 60 Years of Song')

Deus Salutis (Lief)

Y Tangnefeddwyr by Waldo Williams

Calon Lan

Benedictus by Robat Arwyn

Arglwydd Dyma Fi - Cerys Matthews (taken from 'Cockahoop')

The Playlist:

'Aberystwyth' arranged by Alan Rees and played by Ieuan Jones.

Accompanist: Helen Roberts

Playlist: Ieuan Jones

Music Director: Nathan Jones

Producer: Jonathan Thomas

#### **SUN 08:48 Witness History (w3ct74q5)**

President Clinton plays the sax in Prague

In January 1994, two presidents enjoyed a memorable night in the Czech Republic - ending with an impromptu jazz performance.

Five years after the fall of communism, the US president Bill Clinton visited Prague to share his hopes for a new transatlantic alliance.

Key to his vision was his friendship with the Czech president Vaclav Havel, a playwright who had been imprisoned for dissidence during the Cold War.

During the visit, Havel arranged a series of surprises for Clinton including a reunion with the family he had stayed with on a visit to Prague in 1970.

The final surprise took place at the city's famous Reduta jazz club. Havel presented Clinton with a saxophone and the two friends performed together on stage - a moment which came to symbolise the new partnership between East and West.

Vicky Farncombe uses archive from the Vaclav Havel Center and the William J Clinton Presidential Library to relive the big

night out.

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

Recent episodes explore everything from football in Brazil, the history of the 'Indian Titanic' and the invention of air fryers, to Public Enemy's Fight The Power, subway art and the political crisis in Georgia. We look at the lives of some of the most famous leaders, artists, scientists and personalities in history, including: visionary architect Antoni Gaudi and the design of the Sagrada 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: Presidents perform at the Reduta jazz club. Credit: Office of the President of the Czech Republic)

#### **SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (m002jgj4)**

Jo Wimpenny on the Moorhen

Standing on a lake edge and eager to spot some wildlife, zoologist and author Jo Wimpenny is disappointed to just find a moorhen. But then she stops herself - why does no one get excited about seeing these birds? From climbing trees to promiscuity and egg dumping, Jo finds out there is far more to moorhen life than his humble status suggests.

Presented by Jo Wimpenny and produced by Sophie Anton for BBC Audio in Bristol

This programme features recordings from Xeno-Canto by Simon Elliott (Common Moorhen - XC572582 and XC572900)

#### **SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m002jgj6)**

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

#### **SUN 10:00 The Reunion (m002jgj8)**

Royal Ballet School

In 1926, a young dancer called Ninette De Valois set up a school in London that would become a unique breeding ground for ballet talent. It took generations of the most promising young dancers and moulded them into great performers. In 1955, what became the Royal Ballet School, moved into White Lodge in Richmond Park, a grand, former hunting lodge of George II. At the age of 16, pupils were formally assessed, and, if selected, would go on to "upper school" in Baron's Court, and, since 2003, in Covent Garden.

From here a lucky few could go on to carve out a career as professional dancers with the Royal Ballet Company. The school's alumni is a decades long roll call of ballet's greats - Margot Fonteyn, Darcey Bussell, Antoinette Sibley, Monica Mason, Lynn Seymour, and, for the boys, Anthony Dowell, David Wall, Adam Cooper and Wayne Sleep.

Joining Kirsty Wark are Dame Monica Mason who went to the Royal Ballet School at the age of 14 in 1957, Dame Darcey Bussell, was 13 when she joined the Royal Ballet School in 1982, Jonathan Gray was, briefly, a pupil in the 1970s - he went on to edit Dancing Times. Iain Mackay, current Artistic Director of the Royal Ballet School is another alumni, from the nineties and Vincent Hantam was a young black dancer, sent from Capetown to join the school in the early 70s.

Archive courtesy of Voices Of British Ballet

Presenter: Kirsty Wark

Producer: Natalie Steed

Editor: David Prest

A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4

#### **SUN 11:00 The Archers Omnibus (m002jgjb)**

Writer: Nick Warburton

Director: Helen Aitken

Editor: Jeremy Howe

Ben Archer.... Ben Norris  
Pip Archer.... Daisy Badger  
Tom Archer.... William Troughton  
Ruairi Donovan.... Arthur Hughes  
Amber Gorden.... Charlotte Jordan  
Brad Horrobin.... Taylor Uttley  
Adam Macy.... Andrew Wincott

Radio 4 Listings for 13 – 19 September 2025		Page 5 of 16
<p>Azra Malik..... Yasmin Wilde Freddie Pargetter..... Toby Laurence Lily Pargetter..... Katie Redford Stella Pryor..... Lucy Speed Fallon Rogers..... Joanna Van Kampen Lynda Snell..... Carole Boyd Dane..... Stavros Demetraki</p> <p><b>SUN 12:15 Profile (m002jdqh)</b> [Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]</p> <p><b>SUN 12:30 Just a Minute (m002j5r5)</b> Series 95</p> <p>4. What's that wonderful smell?</p> <p>Sue Perkins challenges Gyles Brandreth, Tony Hawks, Emma Sidi and Desiree Burch to speak for 60 seconds without repetition, deviation or hesitation. Subjects include Dame Maggie Smith, my favourite pizza topping and Wimbledon.</p> <p>Production Coordinator: Sarah Nicholls Sound Editor: Marc Willcox Producer: Georgia Keating Executive Producer: James Robinson Additional material by Eve Delaney</p> <p>An EcoAudio certified production. A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.</p> <p><b>SUN 12:57 Weather (m002jgjd)</b> The latest weather forecast</p> <p><b>SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m002jgjj)</b> Radio 4's look at the week's big stories from both home and around the world.</p> <p><b>SUN 13:30 Currently (m002j5n8)</b> Corn Belt People</p> <p>Amid the crowds and bustle of the 2025 Iowa State Fair, Anna Jones takes the temperature of rural Iowans almost a year into Trump's second term. Anna finds out how the farming constituency - largely Trump supporting in 2024 - are feeling about global trade tariffs and promises to Make America Great Again. She explores their perceptions of America's position in the world - and how they feel the rest of the world views the rural Midwest.</p> <p>Produced and presented by Anna Jones for BBC Audio Bristol</p> <p><b>SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002j63c)</b> Summer Garden Party: Potting Shed</p> <p>What is this mysterious vegetable growing in my vegetable patch? Can you identify this mysterious plum? How can I make my cottage garden look full of life?</p> <p>Kathy Clugston hosts a lively Potting Shed edition of Gardeners' Question Time, recorded at the vibrant GQT Summer Garden Party held at RHS Garden Hyde Hall in Essex.</p> <p>Joining her is the show's renowned panel of horticultural experts — Bob Flowerdew, Christine Walkden, James Wong, Bunny Guinness, Dr Chris Thorogood, Matthew Wilson, and Pippa Greenwood — ready to tackle gardening dilemmas from enthusiastic visitors.</p> <p>From tackling vine weevils and dealing with contaminated soil, to coaxing supermarket-bought pear trees into fruiting, the panel shares practical advice, clever solutions, and plenty of gardening wisdom throughout the programme.</p> <p>Junior Producer: Rahnee Prescod Assistant Producer: Suhaar Ali</p> <p>A Somethin Else Production for BBC Radio 4.</p> <p><b>SUN 14:45 Opening Lines (m002jgjl)</b> The Cherry Orchard - Episode One</p> <p>John Yorke looks at The Cherry Orchard, Anton Chekhov's final play and a landmark in 20th century theatre.</p> <p>It's 1903 and Liubov Andryeevna Ranyevskaya is returning to the family estate in southern Russia. As the head of this aristocratic household, she faces a crisis. The family is in serious financial difficulty and it seems inevitable that the estate will have to be sold to pay their debts. A local businessman, Lopakhin, offers a solution, but it would mean the loss of their beloved cherry orchard.</p>	<p>In this first of two episodes, the focus is on these two main protagonists, who embody the tensions between the old aristocracy and the emerging merchant class, and the student Trofimov whose revolutionary ideas point prophetically towards the path that Russia was soon to take.</p> <p>John has worked in television and radio for 30 years, and shares his experience with Radio 4 listeners 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.</p> <p>Contributors: Benedict Andrews, director of an acclaimed production of The Cherry Orchard at the Donmar Warehouse in London in 2024 Rosamund Bartlett, a cultural historian with expertise in Russian literature, music and art. Her books include Chekhov: Scenes from a Life and she has also translated and edited selections of his stories and letters.</p> <p>Excerpt taken from the BBC Radio 3/Palimpsest production of The Cherry Orchard, directed by Toby Swift, with Neil Dudgeon as Lopakhin and Saffron Coomber as Dunyasha. It was first broadcast on Radio 3 on 18th November 2018.</p> <p>Music: Torquil MacLeod Sound: Sean Kerwin Researcher: Henry Tydeman Production Hub Coordinator: Nina Semple Producer: Torquil MacLeod Executive Producer: Sara Davies</p> <p>A Pier production for BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>SUN 15:00 Drama on 4 (m002jgjn)</b> The Yafa Cherry Orchard</p> <p>Part 1</p> <p>Chekhov's timeless masterpiece translates easily to Palestine in 1948 as an aristocratic family try to hang on to their estate during partition.</p> <p>Madame Selma, (Ranevskaya in the original), arrives at her ancestral home in Yafa just as the British are withdrawing from Palestine and the state of Israel is being established. Armed Zionist militia, soon to become the IDF, are roaming the country and will surely turn their attention to Selma's house and its beloved Cherry Orchard.</p> <p>Hassan Abdulrazzak's adaptation retains Chekhov's story of a family struggling to cope with the change that threatens to sweep them away and is given an urgent resonance by setting the story against the seismic events of 1948, whose consequences echo down the years to this day.</p> <p>The Yafa Cherry Orchard adapted by Hassan Abdulrazzak</p> <p>Selma: Lara Sawalha Gamal: Sami Abu Wardeh Yousef: Philip Arditti Tariq: Ammar Haj Ahmad Said: Nayef Rashed Alia: Sara Masry Widad: Sarah Agha Colonel Wilson: Joel Samuels Khalid: Motaz Malhees Dunya: Sofia Asir Yassir :Joe Haddad Salah: Zaydun Khalaf Firas: Raad Rawi</p> <p>Original Composition: Kareem Samara Traditional music performed and arranged by Kareem Samara (Oud and percussion) and Gabriel Polley (Ney Baladi) Consultant: Gardner Thompson Production Assistant: Lucie Regan Sound design by Alisdair McGregor Produced and directed by Boz Temple-Morris</p> <p>A Holy Mountain production for BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>SUN 16:00 Take Four Books (m002jgjr)</b> Ian McEwan</p> <p>Booker prize winning author, Ian McEwan, speaks to Take Four Books, about his new novel, What We Can Know, and explores its connections to three other literary works. What We Can Know is set almost a hundred years in the future in a Britain</p>	<p>much of which is now underwater, and it follows the character of Tom Metcalfe, a scholar of the University of South Downs, who is looking back at the literature of the early twenty-first century.</p> <p>For his his three influences Ian chose: a poem called Marston Meadows: A corona for Prue by John Fuller, first published in the Times Literary Supplement in 2021; The Immortal Dinner by Penelope Hughes-Hallett from 2000; and Footsteps by Richard Holmes from 1985.</p> <p>The supporting contributor for this episode is the writer Denise Mina, and it's recorded during the Edinburgh International Books Festival.</p> <p>Presenter: James Crawford Producer: Dominic Howell Editor: Gillian Wheelan</p> <p>This was a BBC Audio Scotland production.</p> <p><b>SUN 16:30 The 3rd Degree (m002jgjt)</b> Series 15</p> <p>1. University of Bristol</p> <p>This episode coming from the University of Bristol, The 3rd Degree is a funny, upbeat and brainy quiz show.</p> <p>The specialist subjects this week are Environmental Science, Drama, and History, so naturally we'll be discussing Boron/Calcium pH proxy analysis, Noël Coward's wartime satire and St Cuthbert's A-level results. All this and the world's hottest chili pepper to boot. If not to eat.</p> <p>The show is recorded on location at a different University each week, and pits three Undergraduates against three of their Professors. The General Knowledge rounds include a quickfire bell-and-buzzer finale and the Highbrow &amp; Lowbrow round cunningly devised to test not only the students' knowledge of history, art, literature and politics, but also their Professors' awareness of TV, music and sport. Meanwhile there are the three specialist subject rounds, in which students take on their Professors in their own subjects, and where we find out whether the students have actually been awake during lectures.</p> <p>In this series, universities include Bristol, Queen Mary University of London, Kent, Worcester College Oxford, and Manchester Metropolitan University.</p> <p>Producer: David Tyler A Pozzitive production for BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>SUN 17:00 Witness History (w3ct74jq)</b> 9/11: The generosity of Gander</p> <p>On 11 September, 2001, a small Canadian town called Gander became a haven for thousands of airline passengers and crew stranded after the 9/11 terror attacks.</p> <p>The attacks on the World Trade Center had forced the closure of US airspace leaving many flights unable to land. Within hours, 38 planes with 7,000 passengers, had been diverted to Gander, effectively doubling the town's population. But what happened next showcased the extraordinary kindness and generosity of the Newfoundlanders.</p> <p>For five days, local residents provided beds, food, medicine and clothing for those stranded during the crisis, and didn't ask for a cent. They even put on music evenings, barbecues and canoe trips to keep their visitors entertained.</p> <p>Beverley Bass, one of the plane captains, tells Jane Wilkinson about Gander's extraordinary hospitality during one of the most traumatic events in modern history.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Recent episodes explore everything from the death of Adolf Hitler, the first spacewalk and the making of the movie Jaws, to celebrity tortoise Lonesome George, the Kobe earthquake and the invention of superglue.</p> <p>We look at the lives of some of the most famous leaders, artists, scientists and personalities in history, including: Eva Peron – Argentina's Evita; President Ronald Reagan and his famous 'tear down this wall' speech; Thomas Keneally on why he wrote Schindler's List; and Jacques Derrida, France's 'rock star' philosopher.</p>
Supported by <a href="https://bbc.co.uk/programmes/">bbc.co.uk/programmes/</a>		

You can learn all about fascinating and surprising stories, such as the civil rights swimming protest; the disastrous D-Day rehearsal; and the death of one of the world's oldest languages.

(Photo: Passengers and crew at Gander airfield, 2001. Credit: Town of Gander)

**SUN 17:10 En-Gulfed (m002gztm)**  
Tourism

Activist and satirist Heydon Prowse explores how Gulf countries have become some of the biggest tourism success stories ever, receiving almost 70m visitors in 2024.

From Saudi Arabia's plans to build their own astonishing new buildings like Neom - a vast walled city in the desert, to Dubai's Palm Jumeirah, one of the most audacious engineering project the world has ever seen, Heydon asks what's behind the drive to attract more tourists, and what it means for those who visit.

Written and presented by Heydon Prowse  
Producer: Alison Vernon-Smith

**SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m002jgix)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 17:57 Weather (m002jgjz)**  
The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002jgk1)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m002jgk3)**  
Robin Ince

This week, we're asking – did the Internet kill off counter culture? That's what Stewart Lee is investigating on Radio 4. However, it did help spark a secondhand clothing revolution from Lithuania worth 5 billion euros, and pin down the location of a hiker stranded in remote Norway. Plus we're hearing a challenging account of motherhood in Arundhati Roy's latest written work, and the little joys of being a mother in the poetry of Holly McNish.

Presenter: Robin Ince  
Producer: Anthony McKee  
Production Coordinator: Caroline Peddle

A BBC Audio Northern Ireland production for BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 19:00 The Archers (m002jgk5)**  
There's a surprise twist at the Flower and Produce Show, and Lily has to face the music.

**SUN 19:15 Illuminated (m002jf5j)**  
Where the Distance Shimmers

Forty years ago, Route 66, the highway that ran the 2448 miles from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California, was formally decommissioned, usurped by a more modern, high-speed interstate. But the road has lived on in the collective imagination — a symbol of freedom, adventure, and new beginnings, of America's concept of itself.

In this meditation on the Mother Road, as John Steinbeck christened it, Laura Barton explores 66's shifting identity, from migratory route to America's Main Street.

With contributions from Angel (the "Angel of Route 66") and his daughter Clarissa Delgadillo in Seligman, Arizona; Mike Cowen who set up his own Historic Route 66 museum in Williams, Arizona; Leigh Anne Isbell of the Devil's Rope Museum in Texas and Candacy Taylor, who's written about Route 66 in relation to The Green Book.

Written and presented by Laura Barton  
With extracts from John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath read by Corey Johnson.  
Location recording producer, Diane Hope  
Produced by Alan Hall  
A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 19:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001744m)**  
Take a Nap

Michael reveals how getting some shut-eye during the day could boost your memory and your heart health - and even help your productivity! Research reveals that a simple daily nap could slash your risk of heart attack by half, and have a noticeable impact on your brain, by helping improve your emotional

control and boosting memory. In this episode, our volunteer Caroline catches some Zzzs in between work meetings, while nap expert Dr Sara Mednick delves into the different stages of sleep, telling Michael when to nap, and for how long, for the greatest benefit.

**SUN 20:00 Word of Mouth (m002j753)**  
Crash Bang Wallop: The Sound of Words

Michael Rosen is joined by linguist Dr Catherine Laing to discuss onomatopoeia and other words that sound like their meanings. Not just words for sounds like 'crash' and 'bang', or words for animal noises like 'woof' and 'quack', but also other words which perhaps hold something of their meaning within their form. Is there something rough about the word 'rough'? Does 'smooth' feel smooth? And how can we play with this in everyday speech and in poetry?

Produced by Becky Ripley, in partnership with the Open University.

**SUN 20:30 Last Word (m002j63h)**  
The Duchess of Kent, Giorgio Armani, Valerie Pearlman, Rick Davies

John Wilson on:

The Duchess of Kent, who stepped back from royal duties to teach music in primary schools.

Giorgio Armani whose suit designs help define the look of the 1980s and beyond.

Valerie Pearlman who made legal history by being the first judge in the UK finish a trial via fax machine and video link from her hospital bed.

Rick Davies, who sold millions of records in the 70s and 80 as one of the two singers in the band Supertramp.

Producer: Ed Prendeville

Archive used:  
The Royal Wedding: HRH Duke of Kent and Miss Katharine Worsley in York Minster, BBC, 08/06/1961; Real Story, BBC One, 15/03/2004; Royal Wedding, BBC Archives, 08/06/1961; Desert Island Discs, BBC Radio 4, 21/12/1990; Ladies' Singles, 1993 Wimbledon Championships, BBC Archives; Desert Island Discs, BBC Radio 4, 21/12/1990; BBC Look North Hull, BBC, 06/09/2025; The Clothes Show, BBC; Rick Davies Interview, WLNG 92.1FM, "Lunch on the Deck"; Bark Out Loud Dogs Media, LLC – Supertramp Interview

**SUN 21:00 Money Box (m002jdpd)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

**SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m002jfcc)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

**SUN 21:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002jdpn)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:30 on Saturday]

**SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m002jgk7)**  
Radio 4's Sunday night political discussion programme.

**SUN 23:00 Illuminated (m002h9np)**  
Into the West

The red-billed chough is the most dashing crow in the world. These rare, flamboyant, scarlet-legged, scarlet-billed denizens of Britain's Celtic coasts are communal and comic, intelligent and daring. They're also sublime aeronauts, riding the breeze as though they're made of it.

For writer Horatio Clare, the chough is his totem. He's loved the bird since he first encountered it in the 1980s during childhood holidays to Pembrokeshire. And more than forty years on from that joyous first encounter he still seeks them out. It's his annual pilgrimage.

In this episode of Illuminated, we join Horatio on that pilgrimage as he tells the story of a bird with a beak and legs the colour of a saint's blood... or perhaps a king's blood; whose cry says its name and whose presence symbolises a nation's identity. It's the story of a bird which embodies myths... and creates new ones; a bird which fled into the West over two centuries ago and which is finally returning to a wider world.

Horatio begins his journey on Pen Llŷn, the westernmost spur of North Wales and one of the red-billed chough's strongholds. His guide as he walks the sea cliffs is naturalist and folklorist Twm Elias. Twm lived alongside chough as he grew up on Llŷn

and remembers a childhood visit to Caernarfon Castle, where his friend Dic John made a grab for the Castle's 'tame' chough – and got a painful pecking in return.

Twm sees chough as a symbol of the wild coastal areas of north Wales. But it's also wrapped up in ideas of Cornish identity too. Dr. Loveday Jenkin grew up on stories of King Arthur becoming a chough when he died. Yet, just as she heard those stories, the very last choughs were dying out in Cornwall.

But then, in 2001, thirty years after the last chough disappeared, three birds from Ireland made landfall in the far west of Cornwall. The following year two of them built a nest and the population grew from there. Hilary Mitchell from Cornwall Birds tells the story of how the avian symbol and spirit of the county returned.

The chough is associated now with the western Celtic coasts. But once upon a time it ranged right across the British Isles. And maybe it will again. Horatio heads in the opposite direction... east... to a place which hasn't seen chough for at least two centuries, despite the bird being embedded in its iconography.

In Dover he meets Paul Hadaway from Kent Wildlife Trust to discover how a bird which was a symbol of the martyr and saint Thomas a Becket is once again flying in Kentish skies. And Jenny Luddington from the Trust explains how she's drawn on an old tradition of hooden creatures – carved wooden animal heads on poles – to create a hooden chough and tell the story of the bird's return to Kent.

Horatio Clare discovers that the chough's story has come full circle as old myths rehatch and new ones take wing.

Presenter: Horatio Clare  
Producer: Jeremy Grange  
Editor: Chris Ledgard  
A BBC Audio Wales production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 23:30 The History Podcast (m0024bgh)**  
The Lucan Obsession

10. The Final Act?

Alex trawls through Lord Lucan's belongings from his speedily abandoned flat.

She finds incriminating books where he's torn out pages on how to kill your wife, and is taken aback by photos that make her reconsider the story.

She draws together what makes this a compelling crime, and asks what would give it the perfect ending.

And in a remarkable interview with a former Met Police Detective, she discovers that we could perhaps get an answer to one of the two mysteries tomorrow.

Presenter: Alex von Tunzelmann  
Content Producer: Becca Bryers  
Series Producer: Sarah Bowen

**SUN 23:45 Short Works (m002j63f)**  
Fairy Penguin by Rachel Trezise

Original short fiction by Rachel Trezise.

Keisha tries to survive a school trip to Bristol Zoo. She doesn't have the right hair, the right friends or the latest electronic pets.

Reader: Georgia Henshaw  
Sound: Nigel Lewis  
Producer: John Norton

A BBC Audio Wales Production

**MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**MON 00:00 Midnight News (m002jgk9)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**MON 00:15 Crossing Continents (m002j6zr)**  
Saving Gaza's Past

The history of Gaza dates back more than 5000 years. In antiquity, it was a key port on the Mediterranean coast. Assyrians, Ancient Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and the Ottomans have all left their mark on this small territory. This rich history is seen by Palestinians as central to their identity. Amid the death and destruction of the war, the BBC's Middle East Correspondent Yolande Knell meets the Palestinians who've desperately tried to save what remains of Gaza's past.

Reporter: Yolande Knell  
 Producer: Alex Last  
 Sound mix: Neil Churchill  
 Production Coordinator: Katie Morrison  
 Series Editor: Penny Murphy

**MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m002jdr0)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

**MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002jgkc)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002jgkf)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**MON 05:00 News Summary (m002jgkh)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**MON 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002jgkk)**

Alicia McCarthy reports from Westminster as peers debate assisted dying

**MON 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002jgkm)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002jgkp)**

The Search That Satisfies

Good morning.

It's amazing to think how much technology has advanced within just a few decades. On this day in 1997, the domain name google.com was registered. What began as a simple search engine has grown into one of the most influential tools in modern life. It's claimed that 9.5 million searches are made every minute. "To Google" has even become a verb, so common is our habit of turning to it whenever we need information. And now, with the rise of artificial intelligence, our ability to search, learn, and discover is expanding faster than ever before.

We live in a world that is constantly searching – looking for information, for connection, for meaning. Yet the deepest questions of life cannot truly be answered by a search engine. Who am I? Why am I here? What is my purpose? These aren't questions of data but of the heart. And the Bible reminds us that the one who holds the answers is God Himself.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God speaks this promise: "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart". Jesus assures us that those who seek will find. Unlike an internet search, which can return countless results of varying accuracy, the search for God leads us directly to truth. In Him we discover love, forgiveness, guidance, and purpose.

Perhaps today, as we type questions into search boxes and scroll through results, we might be reminded of the greater search - the one for God Himself.

Lord, thank you that when we search for you, you promise to be found. Help us to seek you above all else, to know your love, and to live with the purpose you give. Amen.

**MON 05:45 Farming Today (m002jgkr)**

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

**MON 05:57 Weather (m002jgkt)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for farmers

**MON 06:00 Today (m002jgnn)**

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

**MON 09:00 Start the Week (m002jgnq)**

Afghanistan and the DRC

Lyse Doucet tells the history of Afghanistan in recent decades through the story of the Inter-Continental hotel, which opened in the capital in 1969. The BBC's international correspondent stayed there frequently from the late 1980s, and she details how the Soviet occupation, civil war, US invasion and the rise, fall and rise of the Taliban have all left their mark on 'The Finest Hotel in Kabul', and the people who worked there.

There's plenty of pink champagne and fine dining in Michela Wrong's study of the rise and fall of Mobutu Sese Seko, the charismatic dictator of Congo/ Zaire at the end of the 20th

century. It's 25 years since her biography, 'In the Footsteps of Mr Kurtz', was published, and as the Democratic Republic of Congo appears to be on the brink of another civil war, she reflects on this latest cycle of violence.

There have been calls for international help in the DRC, but just how effective is military intervention in the long run? Ashleigh Percival-Borley served in Afghanistan in 2010 but had to watch from the sidelines as the US and UK abruptly pulled out a decade later, leaving a vacuum filled by the Taliban. Now, as a military historian and one of BBC Radio 4's researchers-in-residence, she's interested in giving voice to women in war – not just as the victims, but as active participants. The New Generation Thinkers scheme, which puts research on radio, is a partnership between BBC Radio 4 and the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Producer: Katy Hickman  
 Assistant Producer: Natalia Fernandez

**MON 09:45 Café Hope (m002jgns)**

Wellbeing in the waves

Ian Bennett, from the charity Wave Project, tells Rachel Burden how they make the ocean and surfing accessible to people of all physical abilities, and how surf therapy can improve people's confidence.

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

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

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

Presenter: Rachel Burden  
 Series Producer: Uma Doraiswamy  
 Sound Design: Nicky Edwards  
 Researcher: Maeve Schaffer  
 Editor: Clare Fordham

**MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002jgnv)**

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

**MON 11:00 The Great Influencer Experiment (m002jgnx)**

A Catch 22

Emily, Alun and Danyah throw themselves deeper into the experiment — but the excitement of creating soon collides with the realities of being online.

As their journey continues, the emotional toll of social media begins to show. The chase for attention proves relentless, online scrutiny is hard to endure, and the demand to appear authentic becomes its own performance.

Can they withstand the emotional strain that social media demands? How much will the pursuit of visibility end up costing them?

Presenter: Osman Iqbal  
 Editor: Matt Willis  
 Sound: Tony Churnside  
 Production co-ordinator: Brenda Brown

**MON 11:45 The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet (m002jgnz)**

Episode 1 - The Golden Years at the Inter-Con, Kabul

Lyse Doucet reads her vivid account of how Afghanistan has survived decades of conflict by telling the stories of the staff who kept the doors of Kabul's Inter-Continental Hotel open. Today, it's 1971 and the hotel boasts luxury, sophistication and breath-taking views across the Hindu Kush.

Lyse Doucet is the BBC's Chief International Correspondent and an award winning journalist who has reported from many of the world's war zones. She has covered stories from Afghanistan since 1988 when she first checked into the Inter-Con, and from where she has witnessed the impact of unceasing conflict that has scarred this nation for half a century.

Her book is a history of Afghanistan told through the lives of the people who have worked at the Inter-Con, some since it opened in 1969. Despite enduring several coups, a Soviet occupation, civil war, a US invasion, and the rise and fall and

rise of the Taliban, the Inter-Con is still standing. In telling the stories of the hotel's housekeepers, chefs, managers and engineers Lyse shows how us how ordinary Afghans have managed to live through the destruction and disruption in their workplace and their country.

The music is Wa wa Leili - Leili, how wonderful! from the album Sweet Nomad Girl. Abdul Wahab Madadi (vocal), Veronica Doubleday (vocal and daireh) and John Bailly (14-stringed dutar).

Abridged by Julian Wilkinson  
 Produced by Elizabeth Allard  
 Image by Paula Bronstein

**MON 12:00 News Summary (m002jgp1)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 12:04 You and Yours (m002jgp3)**

News and discussion of consumer affairs

**MON 12:57 Weather (m002jgp5)**

The latest weather forecast

**MON 13:00 World at One (m002jgp7)**

News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4

**MON 13:45 The History Podcast (m002jgp9)**

The Fort

6. Call Sign: Ugly

For Apache helicopter pilots Tom O'Malley and Ed Macy - the mission has changed.

Their new objective is to prevent the stricken Lance Corporal Mathew Ford from becoming a prisoner of The Taliban. So they take the fight to them.

But Tom is growing increasingly frustrated. With fuel and ammunition limited - how long can they sustain their airborne protection of the fallen marine?

He devises a new plan. Only ever conceived as a last-ditch emergency escape plan for downed pilots, Tom wants to land, pick up four volunteers from HQ, and fly them into the battlezone on the side of their helicopters. They will rush to Mathew, secure him to the helicopter - and they will fly him out.

The volunteers have been chosen. Royal Marines Chris, Gary and Colin and Royal Engineer Dave are now tasked with what their commander Rob Magowan calls - the most dangerous mission these men would ever embark upon.

The Fort is told solely by current and former members of the Armed Forces.

Produced by Kev Core

**MON 14:00 The Archers (m002jgk5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

**MON 14:15 Alone (m00094lp)**

Series 2

A Cry For No Help

Mitch is desperate to have his wedding anniversary pass unnoticed to avoid any awkwardness in the house.

Unfortunately, Will lets the anniversary cat out of the bag.

So Mitch, who is endeavouring to find someone to hold on to his spare keys, encounters very strange reactions to this seemingly simple request.

Sitcom about five single, middle aged neighbours living in flats in a converted house in North London.

Mitch is a widower and part-time therapist, looking to put his life back together now that he is single and living with Will, his younger, more volatile and unhappily divorced half-brother.

Elsewhere in the building is schoolteacher Ellie who is shy, nervous and holds a secret candle for Mitch.

Overly honest, frustrated actress Louisa, and socially inept IT nerd Morris complete the line-up of mis-matched neighbours.

Written and created by Moray Hunter.

Mitch ..... Angus Deayton  
Will ..... Pearce Quigley  
Ellie ..... Abigail Cruttenden  
Louisa ..... Kate Isitt  
Morris ..... Bennett Arron

Producer: Gordon Kennedy

Based on an original idea developed in association with Dandy Productions

An Absolutely production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in October 2019.

**MON 14:45 Mrs Bridge by Evan S Connell (m0019kf2)**  
Episode 5

Evan S. Connell's Mrs Bridge is an extraordinary tragicomic portrayal of suburban life and one of the classic American novels of the 20th century.

Mrs Bridge, a conservative housewife in Missouri, has three children and a kindly lawyer husband. Her married life begins in the early 1930s – and soon after she and her young family move to a wealthy country club suburb of Kansas City. She spends her time shopping, going to bridge parties and bringing up her children to be pleasant, clean and have nice manners. The qualities that she values above all else. And yet she finds modern life increasingly baffling, her children aren't growing up into the people she expected, and sometimes she has the vague disquieting sensation that all is not well in her life.

In a series of comic, telling vignettes, Evan S. Connell illuminates the narrow morality, confusion, futility and even terror at the heart of a life of plenty.

First published in 1959 it was perhaps overshadowed by the critical attention paid to contemporaries like Philip Roth and John Updike – although Mrs Bridge was a finalist for the National Book Award in that year. Ten years later Connell published Mr Bridge which follows that same events largely from the point of view of Walter Bridge. In 1990, James Ivory directed the film Mr and Mrs Bridge based on both novels and starring Paul Newman and his wife Joanne Woodward. Fans of the book today include the novelist David Nicholls and Tracey Thorne, author and singer.

Read by Fenella Woolgar  
Written by Evan S Connell  
Abridged by Isobel Creed and Jill Waters

A Waters Company production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 15:00 Great Lives (m002jf4c)**  
Comedian Stewart Lee on Derek Bailey

"The area I mostly work in is generally known as free - the free music area. And free is one of those four letter words, like rock or jazz or punk maybe. It started out meaning something."  
Derek Bailey

Born in 1930 in Sheffield, Bailey worked as a session musician in dance bands and orchestras before turning his back on that world. Free improvisation was where he made his name, and he took inspiration from whatever he heard. Stewart Lee first heard him in the 1990s and spoke at his funeral in 2005.

"Are there any parallels between his approach and yours?"  
"There probably are ... in that I've copied him."

Also contains the voices of Ian Greaves and Tim Fletcher, a brief clip of Mastermind, and a recording of Derek Bailey's collaborator in the Joseph Holbrooke Trio, Gavin Bryars. Stewart Lee is a comedian and writer, the presenter is Matthew Parris and the producer for BBC Studios is Miles Warde.

We regret that this description barely scrapes the surface of the wonder of this episode - the ideas, the music, the archive, the brief row.

**MON 15:30 BBC National Short Story Award (m002jgpc)**  
BBC National Short Story Award 2025

Rain: a history by Andrew Miller

Rain: a history is the first story in contention for the 2025 BBC National Short Story Award. Toby Jones reads this tender and vivid story about a father who, along with his small rural community, is forced to confront a tragedy. The unseasonably warm and wet weather mirrors the unease which permeates everything.

The judges praised Miller's 'wonderful', 'precise' and 'elliptical' writing which examines 'the mystery of how we survive when our old structures of faith are eroded,' and ends with a small, but hopeful act of connection.

Andrew Miller is the author of ten novels, including most recently The Land in Winter, which won the Walter Scott Prize for historical fiction and is longlisted for the Booker Prize 2025. Andrew is an elected fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His novels have been awarded The James Tait Black Memorial Prize, the International IMPAC and the Costa Book of the Year amongst others.

The 2025 BBC National Short Story Award with Cambridge University (BBC NSSA) shortlist was announced on Thursday 11 September 2025 live on BBC Radio 4's Front Row, as the prestigious award celebrates its 20th anniversary. The shortlist, featuring multi-award winning writers and 'astonishing' new talent, was praised for its 'intimate,' 'elegant' and 'nuanced' explorations of relationships, community and the specificities of place set against a world in crisis.

Selected by a panel of previous winners and returning judges from across the Award's 20-year history, the five-strong shortlist are: Costa Book of the Year 2011 and Booker Prize 2025 longlisted author Andrew Miller; multi-award winning Irish writer Caoilinn Hughes, Desmond Elliott Prize winning novelist and short story specialist Edward Hogan; and new names, British-Lebanese author Emily Abdeni-Holman, and Colwill Brown whose debut novel was published this year.

Set in locations from Derbyshire and Doncaster to Jerusalem and County Kildare, the stories explore 'self-contained' worlds often inspired by personal memories and experiences, from the complexities of marriage, to the mysteries of survival in crisis; from newly formed inter-generational bonds, to the quiet tension between people and place, each reveals the short story's 'unparalleled' power to reflect 'the times we are living through.'

For two decades this award has celebrated writers who are the UK's finest exponents of the form. James Lasdun secured the inaugural Award in 2006 for 'An Anxious Man'. In 2012 when the Award expanded internationally for one year, Miroslav Penkov was victorious for his story, 'East of the West'. Last year, the Award was won by Ross Raisin for 'Ghost Kitchen', a tense, cinematic story narrated by a bicycle courier and inspired by the gig economy and the 'dark kitchens' of the restaurant industry.

In its 20-year history, Sarah Hall, K J Orr, Naomi Wood, Jonathan Buckley, Julian Gough, Clare Wigfall, Cynan Jones, Lucy Caldwell, Ingrid Persaud, Saba Sams and David Constantine have also carried off the Award with shortlisted authors including Zadie Smith, Jackie Kay, William Trevor, Rose Tremain, Caleb Azumah Nelson, Naomi Alderman, Kamila Shamsie, K Patrick and Jacqueline Crooks.

This year's judging panel was chaired by Di Speirs who has sat on every judging panel since the Award's inception and is joined by the very first chair of judges, William Boyd as well as former winners and shortlisted writers Lucy Caldwell, Ross Raisin and Kamila Shamsie.

In a time when literary awards come and go, and can struggle for funding and airtime, the BBC National Short Story Award with Cambridge University continues to be a cause for joy

From 15th to 18th September four of the shortlisted stories can be heard at 3.30 each afternoon with the fifth story in contention for the award broadcasting on Friday, 19th September, at 11.30pm. The winner of the 20th BBC National Short Story Award will be announced live on BBC Radio 4's Front Row on Tuesday 30th September 2025.

Produced by Elizabeth Allard

**MON 16:00 Currently (m002j5n8)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 13:30 on Sunday]

**MON 16:30 The Kitchen Cabinet (m002jdjp)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:30 on Saturday]

**MON 17:00 PM (m002jgpf)**  
News and current affairs, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines

**MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002jgph)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**MON 18:30 Just a Minute (m002jgpk)**  
Series 95

5. Whoopsie-daisy

Sue Perkins challenges Lucy Porter, Paul Merton, Zoe Lyons and Stephen Mangan to speak for 60 seconds without repetition, deviation or hesitation. Subjects include give it 110%, Oasis tickets and I wish I didn't know that about you.

Production Coordinator: Sarah Nicholls  
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox  
Producer: Georgia Keating  
Executive Producer: James Robinson  
Additional material by Eve Delaney

An EcoAudio certified production.  
A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

**MON 19:00 The Archers (m002jf2y)**

Ruairi makes an emotional admission, and Justin finds his arm twisted.

**MON 19:15 Front Row (m002jgpm)**

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

**MON 20:00 Rethink (m002j755)**

Rethink: how can flying be less polluting?

Aviation has a problem: it's reliant on fossil fuels which release greenhouse gases when they're burned in a jet engine. Other industries are worse polluters, but in the next few decades, they are likely to decarbonise much faster than the airline sector.

Why? Because kerosene is a light enough fuel for planes to get off the ground, while producing enough thrust for them to do so. Also it enables airliners to carry passengers to the other side of the world.

International flight has only been around for less than 100 years, but research suggests that it's responsible for 4% of total global warming to date. It's not just that airliners pump out carbon dioxide, but they also emit nitrous oxides and soot. Even contrails, which are mostly water vapour, have a warming effect high up in the atmosphere.

Can efficiencies in jet engines, optimal routes and air traffic control lead to less fuel being used? What technologies are available to make flying cleaner? Is the pace of change fast enough to meet net zero by 2050?

Presenter: Ben Ansell  
Producer: Ravi Naik  
Editor: Lisa Baxter

Contributors:  
David Lee, Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of the Centre for Aviation, Transport and the Environment, Manchester Metropolitan University.  
Dr Mark Bentall, Head of the Research and Technology Programme, Airbus  
Dr Naomi Allen, Head of Research at the Royal Aeronautical Society,  
Alice Larkin, Professor of Climate Science and Energy Policy in the School of Engineering at the University of Manchester.  
Duncan McCourt, Chief Executive, Sustainable Aviation

Rethink is a BBC co-production with the Open University

**MON 20:30 BBC Inside Science (m002j757)**

Could we have evidence of life on Mars?

News broke this week that rocks picked up by NASA's Perseverance rover on Mars may have found chemical signatures left by living organisms.

With the search for life on the red planet capturing our imaginations for decades, Victoria Gill is joined by science journalist Jonathan Amos to look at what we know about the history of life on Mars, and what could be different about this discovery.

As commemorations take place this week for the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we hear about the project helping to protect birds in New York from the effects of a giant annual light display in memory of the victims of the tragedy.

Dr Andrew Farnsworth, from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, tells us how they're working with the organisers of the Tribute in Light memorial to help save the lives of a wide range of birds.

Victoria is joined by managing editor of the New Scientist, Penny Sarchet, to look through this week's most exciting scientific discoveries.

And in our series profiling the six books shortlisted for this year's Royal Society Trivedi Book Prize, we speak to neuroscientist and clinical neurologist Professor Masud Husain about his book Our Brains, Our Selves, and what his encounters with patients reveal about how our brains make up who we are.

Presenter: Victoria Gill  
Producers: Clare Salisbury, Dan Welsh, Jonathan Blackwell,



Radio 4 Listings for 13 – 19 September 2025		Page 9 of 16
<p>Tim Dodd Editor: Martin Smith</p> <p><b>MON 21:00 Start the Week (m002jgnq)</b> [Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]</p> <p><b>MON 21:45 Café Hope (m002jgns)</b> [Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]</p> <p><b>MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m002jgpp)</b> In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective</p> <p><b>MON 22:45 Mrs Robinson by Helen Cross (m002jgpr)</b> Episode 1: Temptation</p> <p>At the height of a TB epidemic, Lydia Robinson lives on her remote North Yorkshire estate, with four children and a preacher husband. Mr Robinson has decreed that the family isolate themselves, in fear of the sickness. Their only company? Gloomy Anne Brontë, governess to the children. That is, until Anne's dissolute brother, Branwell, arrives...</p> <p>Mrs Robinson's name and story partly inspired the film, The Graduate.</p> <p>Helen Cross's five-part original fiction is read by Anne-Marie Duff. Producers: Fay Lomas and Mair Bosworth</p> <p><b>MON 23:00 Tracking the Planet (m001x54d)</b> A Changing Climate</p> <p>Our planet is alive. A dynamic, moving, pulsating organism. Air pressure rises and falls, ocean currents meander, and the climate continues, by tiny increments, to warm.</p> <p>And at the same time, billions of animals are on the move.</p> <p>All over the planet, animals are fitted with sophisticated tracking devices by teams of dedicated scientists, which tell us so much about what they're up to. From rhinos in bulky satellite collars, to microscopic chips glued to the back of a bee, they record where the animals go, what they eat, and how and why they migrate across the globe.</p> <p>But they record so much more than that too – modern trackers can also log local climatic conditions, windspeed, temperature, even some measures of the animal's own health; heartbeat, or skin temperature. Every tagged animal is transformed into a tiny dynamic weather station, collecting data on climatic conditions and the health of ecosystems, which would be impossible to collect otherwise.</p> <p>Diving Weddell seals bring back data on the melting speed of a deep water glacier. Roving Tiger Sharks uncover previously unknown sea-grass habitats. High-flying sea-birds on annual migration tell us about changing wind patterns across the tempestuous equator, and farm animals in the mountains of Italy, moving nervously in their fields, give a silent alert: an earthquake is on the way.</p> <p>In this series, Emily Knight explores some of the stories that can be told about the animals that call this world home, and the much larger over-arching story too: How the changing conditions on this planet are transforming THEIR lives, changing their migration routes, re-positioning their food-stocks, bringing new diseases or challenging weather. We can track how they're coping with it all, and how, sometimes, they're not.</p> <p><b>MON 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002jgpt)</b> News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament</p> <p><b>TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2025</b></p> <p><b>TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m002jgpw)</b> National and international news from BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>TUE 00:30 The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet (m002jgnz)</b> [Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Monday]</p> <p><b>TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002jgpy)</b> The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping</p> <p><b>TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes</b></p>	<p><b>(m002jgq0)</b> BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.</p> <p><b>TUE 05:00 News Summary (m002jgq2)</b> National and international news from BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>TUE 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002jgq4)</b> News, views and features on yesterday's stories in Parliament</p> <p><b>TUE 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002jgq6)</b> The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping</p> <p><b>TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002jgq8)</b> Unexpected Seasons</p> <p>Good morning.</p> <p>September signals a change of season as we move from summer into autumn. The days grow cooler and the evenings darker. Yet this year, nature seemed to change faster than expected. In July, I was surprised to see ripened blackberries already hanging on the bushes, ready for picking. By August, leaves had already begun to turn and fall.</p> <p>Experts at the University of Worcester have described this as a "false autumn." After the unusually hot and dry summer, plants and trees began showing signs of stress, shedding their leaves not as a mark of seasonal change, but as a desperate response for survival. The Met Office even described it as nature's "bid to survive."</p> <p>Life can sometimes feel like that. We may believe we're in a season of warmth and ease, only to suddenly find ourselves facing unexpected hardship. Loss, disappointment, or pain can catch us by surprise, leaving us reeling, much like trees dropping their leaves out of season.</p> <p>Jesus prepared His followers for this reality. In John <b>16:33</b>, He says: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Trouble will come, but it does not have the final word. Christ's victory assures us that even when the seasons of life shift without warning, we are not left without hope. His presence steadies us, His peace comforts us, and His power enables us to keep going. So, when difficulties strip away what feels safe or familiar, let's cling to the one who has already overcome.</p> <p>Lord, thank you that when hardships catch us by surprise, your presence is constant. Help us to take heart, to trust in your victory, and to walk with courage through every season. Amen.</p> <p><b>TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m002jgqb)</b> The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.</p> <p><b>TUE 06:00 Today (m002jf23)</b> News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.</p> <p><b>TUE 09:00 The Life Scientific (m002jf25)</b> Sonia Gandhi on building model brains to tackle Parkinson's disease</p> <p>Many people will be familiar with Parkinson's disease: the progressive brain disorder that causes symptoms including tremors and slower movement, leading on to serious cognitive problems. You might not know that it's the fastest-growing neurological condition in the world. Today it affects around 11.8 million people and that's forecast to double by 2030.</p> <p>Dr Sonia Gandhi is one of the scientists working to change that trend. As Professor of Neurology at University College London and Assistant Research Director at the Francis Crick Institute, her work involves using stem cells to build models of the human brain, helping to drive the development of drugs and other therapies for Parkinson's patients.</p> <p>Talking to Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Sonia explains why this destructive condition is on the rise - and the promising routes they're studying to find new ways to tackle it.</p> <p>Presented by Jim Al-Khalili Produced by Lucy Taylor for BBC Studios</p> <p><b>TUE 09:30 Universities Challenged (m002jf27)</b> A first-degree fallout</p> <p>Universities are in crisis. They're facing social and financial pressures that threaten to undermine the foundations they're built on, maybe even their very existence. Sophia Smith Galer won Celebrity University Challenge last</p>	<p>year as part of the Durham team. As the first in her family to go to university she's a big fan of higher education. Now Sophia's asking the questions and they're big difficult questions for British Universities. Is a major university at risk of going bust and what happens if it does? It the battle for free speech tearing universities apart? And is a degree still worth it? Over three episodes, Sophia speaks to students, staff and leaders across the higher education sector.</p> <p><b>TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002jf29)</b> Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.</p> <p><b>TUE 11:00 Add to Playlist (m002j641)</b> Catrin Finch and Rhodri Marsden on absence and resilience</p> <p>Welsh harpist Catrin Finch and musician and composer Rhodri Marsden join Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe as they add five more tracks, with unexpected and surprising connections. The eclectic music choices range from an Americana classic knocked off in just 30 mins to the winner of this year's Ivor Novello Award for Best Album, via a reworking of a Bach organ sonata for piano.</p> <p>Producer: Jerome Weatherald Presented with musical direction by Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe</p> <p>The five tracks in this week's playlist:</p> <p>Louie Louie by The Kingsmen I Will Survive by Gloria Gaynor Organ Sonata No.4 movt II (Andante) by Bach, played by Vikingur Ólafsson My Dearest Dear by Ivor Novello – sung by Mary Ellis WHO AM I by Berwyn</p> <p>Other music in this episode:</p> <p>P.I.M.P. by Bacao Rhythm &amp; Steel Band Killing Me Softly With His Song by Fugees El Loco Cha Cha by René Touzet Louie Louie by Richard Berry Fly Me To The Moon by Bart Howard, sung by Frank Sinatra Someone Like You by Adele Hotel California by The Eagles It's a Sin by Pet Shop Boys Organ Sonata No.4 movt II (Andante) by Bach, played by Robert Quinney</p> <p><b>TUE 11:45 The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet (m002jf2c)</b> Episode 2 – Amanullah's Ambition</p> <p>Lyse Doucet reads her vivid account of how Afghanistan has survived decades of conflict by telling the stories of the staff who kept the doors of Kabul's Inter-Continental Hotel open. Today, we are introduced to nineteen-year-old Amanullah in the winter of 1981 where life at the hotel goes on in the shadow of a Soviet Invasion.</p> <p>Lyse Doucet is the BBC's Chief International Correspondent and an award winning journalist who has reported from many of the world's war zones. She has covered stories from Afghanistan since 1988 when she first checked into the Inter-Con, and from where she has witnessed the impact of unceasing conflict that has scarred this nation for half a century.</p> <p>Her book is a history of Afghanistan told through the lives of the people who have worked at the Inter-Con, some since it opened in 1969. Despite enduring several coups, a Soviet occupation, civil war, a US invasion, and the rise and fall and rise of the Taliban, the Inter-Con is still standing. In telling the stories of the hotel's housekeepers, chefs, managers and engineers Lyse shows how us how ordinary Afghans have managed to live through destruction and disruption in their workplace and their country.</p> <p>The music is Wa wa Leili - Leili, how wonderful! from the album Sweet Nomad Girl. Abdul Wahab Madadi (vocal), Veronica Doubleday (vocal and daireh) and John Bailly (14-stringed dutar).</p> <p>Abridged by Julian Wilkinson Produced by Elizabeth Allard Image by Paula Bronstein</p> <p><b>TUE 12:00 News Summary (m002jf2g)</b> The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.</p> <p><b>TUE 12:04 You and Yours (m002jf2j)</b> News and discussion of consumer affairs</p>
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Radio 4 Listings for 13 – 19 September 2025		Page 10 of 16
<p><b>TUE 12:57 Weather (m002jf2l)</b> The latest weather forecast</p> <p><b>TUE 13:00 World at One (m002jf2p)</b> News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>TUE 13:45 The History Podcast (m002jf2t)</b> The Fort</p> <p>7. In the Zone</p> <p>Precariously positioned on the side of two Apache attack helicopters Dave, Chris, Colin and Gary are flying straight into danger.</p> <p>Apaches are absolutely not supposed to land in the conflict zone, and as the helicopters take off, more helicopters provide crucial "top cover".</p> <p>We meet Charlotte Madison, a woman with a unique place in UK military history.</p> <p>A heavy bomber is tasked with creating a massive diversionary explosion for the crews of Ugly 50 and Ugly 51 - and the pilots and their passengers fly back to the Taliban stronghold under cover of a thick dust storm.</p> <p>Charlotte Madison spoke to the BBC in 2010.</p> <p>The Fort is told solely by current and former members of the Armed Forces.</p> <p>Produced by Kev Core</p> <p><b>TUE 14:00 The Archers (m002jf2y)</b> [Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]</p> <p><b>TUE 14:15 Drama on 4 (m0018837)</b> Life Rights</p> <p>by Nicholas Meiklejohn</p> <p>A play about the reunion between two estranged friends - now in their early forties. One's been stuck in the small Scottish town where they grew up, having grudgingly taken over his family's moribund business, while the other found modest and fleeting success as an indie filmmaker. When the filmmaker shows up with an unusual request it sparks contradictory memories of the past.</p> <p>A play about the fragility of memory, ambition, familial expectations, and the frustrations of looming middle age.</p> <p>Jack ..... Robert Jack Danny ..... Sandy Grierson</p> <p>Director Gaynor Macfarlane</p> <p><b>TUE 15:00 History's Heroes (p0lhq0q7)</b> Saving Face with Harold Gillies</p> <p>A young doctor, with a seemingly impossible task: rebuild the shattered faces of World War One soldiers.</p> <p>Stories of bold voices, with brave ideas and the courage to stand alone. Historian Alex von Tunzelmann shines a light on remarkable people from across history.</p> <p>A BBC Studios Audio production.</p> <p>Producer: Suniti Somaiya Written and presented by Alex von Tunzelmann Executive Producer: Paul Smith Commissioning editor for Radio 4: Rhian Roberts</p> <p><b>TUE 15:30 BBC National Short Story Award (m002jf34)</b> BBC National Short Story Award 2025</p> <p>Yair by Emily Abdeni-Holman</p> <p>Emily Abdeni-Holman's lyrical story is up for the 2025 BBC National Short Story Award. Centred around a young woman recently arrived in Jerusalem this understated story explores the relationship between people and place, power and vulnerability in a locale where history and belonging are so tangibly fraught. The reader is Isabelle Farah.</p> <p>Emily Abdeni-Holman is a writer and critic. Her first book, <i>Body Tectonic</i> (Broken Sleep Books, 2024), on Lebanon's socioeconomic crisis, is an experiment in exploring structural disaster through poetry.</p> <p>The 2025 BBC National Short Story Award with Cambridge</p>	<p>University (BBC NSSA) shortlist was announced on Thursday 11 September 2025 live on BBC Radio 4's Front Row, as the prestigious award celebrates its 20th anniversary. The shortlist, featuring multi-award winning writers and 'astonishing' new talent, was praised for its 'intimate,' 'elegant' and 'nuanced' explorations of relationships, community and the specificities of place set against a world in crisis.</p> <p>Selected by a panel of previous winners and returning judges from across the Award's 20-year history, the five-strong shortlist are: Costa Book of the Year 2011 and Booker Prize 2025 longlisted author Andrew Miller; multi-award winning Irish writer Caoilinn Hughes, Desmond Elliott Prize winning novelist and short story specialist Edward Hogan; and new names, British-Lebanese author Emily Abdeni-Holman, and Colwill Brown whose debut novel was published this year.</p> <p>Set in locations from Derbyshire and Doncaster to Jerusalem and County Kildare, the stories explore 'self-contained' worlds often inspired by personal memories and experiences, from the complexities of marriage, to the mysteries of survival in crisis; from newly formed inter-generational bonds, to the quiet tension between people and place, each reveals the short story's 'unparalleled' power to reflect 'the times we are living through.'</p> <p>For two decades this award has celebrated writers who are the UK's finest exponents of the form. James Lasdun secured the inaugural Award in 2006 for 'An Anxious Man'. In 2012 when the Award expanded internationally for one year, Miroslav Penkov was victorious for his story, 'East of the West'. Last year, the Award was won by Ross Raisin for 'Ghost Kitchen', a tense, cinematic story narrated by a bicycle courier and inspired by the gig economy and the 'dark kitchens' of the restaurant industry.</p> <p>In its 20-year history, Sarah Hall, K J Orr, Naomi Wood, Jonathan Buckley, Julian Gough, Clare Wigfall, Cynan Jones, Lucy Caldwell, Ingrid Persaud, Saba Sams and David Constantine have also carried off the Award with shortlisted authors including Zadie Smith, Jackie Kay, William Trevor, Rose Tremain, Caleb Azumah Nelson, Naomi Alderman, Kamila Shamsie, K Patrick and Jacqueline Crooks.</p> <p>This year's judging panel was chaired by Di Speirs who has sat on every judging panel since the Award's inception and is joined by the very first chair of judges, William Boyd as well as former winners and shortlisted writers Lucy Caldwell, Ross Raisin and Kamila Shamsie.</p> <p>In a time when literary awards come and go, and can struggle for funding and airtime, the BBC National Short Story Award with Cambridge University continues to be a cause for joy</p> <p>From 15th to 18th September four of the shortlisted stories can be heard at <b>3.30</b> each afternoon with the fifth story in contention for the award broadcasting on Saturday, 20th September, at <b>11.30pm</b>. The winner of the 20th BBC National Short Story Award will be announced live on BBC Radio 4's Front Row on Tuesday 30th September 2025.</p> <p>Produced by Justine Willett</p> <p><b>TUE 16:00 Artworks (m002jf3b)</b> Love's Moment: RS Thomas and Mildred Eldridge</p> <p>Known as one of Wales' greatest 20th-century poets, RS Thomas is often characterised as a difficult, even cantankerous figure. 25 years since his death, fellow poet and friend Gwyneth Lewis uncovers a hidden, private side to his life and work - as she explores the tension and tenderness within his marriage to the painter Mildred Elsie Eldridge.</p> <p>RS Thomas wrote dozens of poems to his first wife, from early reflections on their courtship to moving elegies following her death. Yet his marriage, like much of his life, was complex and unusual – defined as much by silence and distance as by affection.</p> <p>When they met, Mildred Eldridge was the star - an established and award-winning painter - while RS Thomas was still finding his poetic voice. Gwyneth Lewis follows the journey of their life together and considers why their career trajectories diverged so sharply - his path as a poet ascended to ever greater heights, hers as an artist dwindled.</p> <p>With access to Mildred Eldridge's unpublished journals, we hear her voice in the marriage for the first time – a perspective largely absent until now. Gwyneth considers what this remarkable relationship tells us not only about art but, more importantly, about love.</p> <p>Presenter: Gwyneth Lewis Producer: Huw Meredydd Executive Producer: Steven Rajam Mildred Eldridge's journal is narrated by Sharon Morgan</p> <p>An Astud production for BBC Radio 4</p>	<p>Poems by RS Thomas included in the programme: A Marriage - Collected Later Poems 1988-2000 (Bloodaxe Books, 2004) Pilgrimages – Collected Poems 1945-1990 (Orion Books, 1993) The Way of It – Collected Poems 1945-1990 (Orion Books, 1993) He and She – Collected Poems 1945-1990 (Orion Books, 1993) Anniversary - Collected Later Poems 1988-2000 (Bloodaxe Books, 2004)</p> <p><b>TUE 16:30 What's Up Does? (m002jf3g)</b> How can you strengthen your back?</p> <p>Welcome to What's Up Does?, the podcast where doctors and identical twins Chris and Xand van Tulleken tackle the confusion around every aspect of our health and wellbeing.</p> <p>On the agenda this week is back pain. It's a condition that will affect around 80% of us at some point during our lives, with low back pain being the single leading cause of disability worldwide.</p> <p>Joining Chris and Xand in the studio to discuss the science behind these statistics is Dr Mindy Cairns, Specialist Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist and Associate Professor at the University of Hertfordshire. She explains what causes back pain, how it can be managed and treated, and what we can do to protect our backs.</p> <p>If you want to get in touch, you can email us at <a href="mailto:whatsupdocs@bbc.co.uk">whatsupdocs@bbc.co.uk</a> or WhatsApp us on 08000 665 123.</p> <p>Presenters: Drs Chris and Xand van Tulleken Guest: Dr Mindy Cairns Producer: William Hornbrook Executive Producers: Rami Tzabar and Jo Rowntree Editor: Kirsten Lass Assistant Producer: Maia Miller-Lewis Tech Lead: Reuben Huxtable Social Media: Leon Gower Digital Lead: Richard Berry Composer: Phoebe McFarlane Sound Design: Melvin Rickarby</p> <p>At the BBC: Assistant Commissioner: Greg Smith Commissioning Editor: Rhian Roberts</p> <p>A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>TUE 17:00 PM (m002jf3l)</b> News and current affairs, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines</p> <p><b>TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002jf3q)</b> National and international news from BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>TUE 18:30 Mark Steel's in Town (m001217m)</b> Series 11</p> <p>Blyth, Northumberland</p> <p>The famous Blyth Staithes (created for off-loading coal into ships) were the backdrop for one of the grimmest scenes in the Michael Caine classic <i>Get Carter</i> - the smoggy industrial view at the time described by the director as an "absolute vision of hell". Undaunted, comedian Mark Steel travels to this part of Northumberland and finds a fascinating industrial legacy, a posh pub, a very nice beach and prominent indications of its role in the first and second World Wars. Does a town blighted by so many closures show any evidence of green shoots? Mark presents his findings to a local audience at The Phoenix Theatre and as ever gets away with just the right amount of affection rudeness and we learn more about a very distinctive coastal town in the UK.</p> <p>The full box set of all episodes (with well over 50 towns visited) is available now wherever you get your podcasts.</p> <p>Written by and starring...Mark Steel With additional material from Pete Sinclair Production Coordinator...Beverly Tagg Producer...Julia McKenzie A BBC Studios Production.</p> <p><b>TUE 19:00 The Archers (m002jf3v)</b> Fallon jumps in the deep end, and Azra has a suggestion to make.</p> <p><b>TUE 19:15 Front Row (m002jf3z)</b> Live magazine programme on the worlds of arts, literature, film, media and music</p>
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**TUE 20:00 File on 4 Investigates (m002jf33)**

A Prison Inspector Calls

In a broadcasting first, the BBC has followed a team from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons as it investigates conditions in a prison near Rugby in Warwickshire. The result is a unique insight into the problems faced by the prison system.

This portrait of a prison on trial reveals how under-resourced prison staff are failing to stop copious amounts of drugs being brought in, and are struggling to provide a safe and productive environment in which prisoners can be prepared for release back into society.

His Majesty's Prison Onley is a category C, medium security prison, housing 740 inmates. Its governor, Mark Allen, says Onley is among the top ten prisons for incursion of drugs via drones and admits many of his staff are too inexperienced to handle the inmates, resulting in frustration among prisoners, and violence.

In its last inspection three years ago, Onley was found to be struggling in various areas, and it doesn't take the inspection team long to find out that things are, if anything, getting worse.

Inspectors meet prisoners who complain about everything from lack of laundry facilities to failure to provide meaningful work opportunities, or help with their offender behaviour.

One inspector has to intervene when she finds a prisoner 'spiced up' and in need of immediate help. Another prisoner is refusing to leave the relative safety of the segregation wing, because he's being threatened with violence over his debts to drug dealers within the prison. Inspectors discover evidence that officers are too ready to resort to force to deal with difficult prisoners and failing to keep accurate records of their restraining methods.

Prison officers talk about the challenges of trying to deal with violence within the prison and of trying to prevent drugs coming in.

In a lighter moment, lead inspector Angus Jones visits the prison library and discovers a surprising inclusion among books the prisoners are not allowed to read.

The inspection ends with the team meeting to agree how to score Onley against their key criteria for a 'healthy prison' and then presenting their conclusions to the Governor.

Presenter: Rex Bloomstein

Producers: Brian King and Rex Bloomstein

A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 20:40 In Touch (m002jf43)**

News, views and information for people who are blind or partially sighted

**TUE 21:00 Crossing Continents (m002jf47)**

Kenya: A Battle for Gen Z

Over the past year, Kenya has been rocked by anti-government protests. What started as a demonstration over proposed tax increases soon turned into a nationwide, youth-led protest over the state of the economy, alleged political corruption and police brutality. But it's come at a cost. Dozens of protestors have been killed in clashes with the police, and human rights groups say many activists have been abducted and tortured by agents of the states. Michael Kaloki meets the young Kenyans who are caught in a battle for change.

Presented by Michael Kaloki

Produced by Alex Last

Studio mix by Neil Churchill

Editor Penny Murphy

**TUE 21:30 Great Lives (m002jf4c)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 15:00 on Monday]

**TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m002jf4h)**

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

**TUE 22:45 Mrs Robinson by Helen Cross (m002jf4m)**

Episode 2: Heat

As Branwell brings some welcome change to life at Thorp Green, Lydia discovers new sides to herself. But she doesn't know quite what to make of the charismatic, artistic Branwell.

Helen Cross's five-part original fiction is read by Anne-Marie Duff. It explores the real story that partly inspired the film, The Graduate.

Producers: Fay Lomas and Mair Bosworth

**TUE 23:00 Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics (m0020xv4)**

Series 10

Cleopatra

Natalie Haynes returns with a new series of sparkling stories from the ancient world which shed light on the world today.

Cleopatra was a brilliant politician, a ruthless leader and a massive brain-box, who spoke nine languages. The Queen of Egypt had charisma to burn, but she probably didn't look like Elizabeth Taylor. Her intelligence and magnetism were more than enough to attract the attentions of the world's most powerful men, and to keep her in power - in a notoriously lethal dynasty - for over twenty years.

Guests Jane Draycott and Llewelyn Morgan join Natalie to make sense of the Ptolemaic family naming system, to discover what it took to stay at the top for so long in dangerous times, and to find out just how besotted Mark Antony was with the Egyptian Queen. Cleopatra knew exactly how to make an impression: she entertained the war-weary Antony on a gold-covered luxury barge, fragrant with burning spices, decked out with fairy lights. She made him rub her feet at a banquet for losing a bet and he famously wandered out of an important lecture because Cleopatra was passing and he preferred to talk to her.

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

Producer...Mary Ward-Lowery

**TUE 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002jf4t)**

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

**WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2025****WED 00:00 Midnight News (m002jf4y)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 00:30 The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet (m002jf2c)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Tuesday]

**WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002jf54)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002jf58)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**WED 05:00 News Summary (m002jf5d)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002jf5h)**

News, views and features on yesterday's stories in Parliament

**WED 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002jf5m)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002jf5r)**

Faith That Acts

Good morning.

On this day in 1849, Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery. Having personally broken free from the injustice that denied her freedom, she chose not to keep that freedom for herself but to use it for the good of others. At great personal risk, with extraordinary courage, and with unwavering faith, she went on to help many enslaved people find freedom through the Underground Railroad. Harriet's deep trust in God sustained her. She once said, "I always told God, I'm going to hold steady on to you, and you've got to see me through." And God did see her through - empowering her to bring hope, dignity, and justice to many others.

Harriet's story reminds us that faith is not passive, it is lived out in action. Her courage was rooted in a steady grip on the God who calls His people to be instruments of hope and freedom.

That call remains for us today. Micah 6:8 tells us what God requires: "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". We may not face the same dangers Harriet did, but we live in a world still in need of justice and compassion. Whether it's confronting modern-day slavery, caring for creation in the face of climate change, or advocating for those who are overlooked and marginalised, God empowers us to make a difference.

Like Harriet, we are called to hold steady to God - to rely on His strength instead of our own. When we do, we find the courage to act justly, the compassion to love mercy, and the humility to walk faithfully with our God.

Help us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Give us your heart for justice and the courage to serve others with love. Amen.

**WED 05:45 Farming Today (m002jf5v)**

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

**WED 06:00 Today (m002jf2q)**

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

**WED 09:00 More or Less (m002jf2v)**

Tim Harford explains - and sometimes debunks - the numbers and statistics used in political debate, the news and everyday life.

**WED 09:30 Shadow World (m002hp7n)**

The People vs McDonald's

6. Judge for Yourself

At the end of the longest trial in English history, the verdict is finally delivered - and Helen uncovers who her former partner John really was.

In 1986, members of environmental group, London Greenpeace, published a leaflet called 'What's wrong with McDonald's?' It claimed McDonald's was exploiting workers, destroying rainforests, torturing animals, and promoting food that could make people sick, even cause cancer...

McDonald's said the claims in the leaflet were untrue and defamatory and the company demanded an apology.

Helen Steel, a gardener, and a former postman named Dave Morris, refused.

Mark Steel takes us into the murky world of McDonald's Corporation vs Steel & Morris - aka 'McLibel' - the longest-running trial in English history which would turn the spotlight on the way big business operates. As well as bringing issues like rainforest destruction and advertising to children into the mainstream, it would also be the moment our current Prime Minister first comes to prominence. If that isn't enough, this story would ultimately have connections with a dark and shameful secret at the heart of the British state - something which Mark discovers he himself had been a victim of.

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

Presenter: Mark Steel

Producer: Conor Garrett

Executive Producer: Georgia Catt

Development Producer: Christian Dامتو

Story Consultant: Annie Brown

Commissioning Editor: Dan Clarke

Commissioning Executive: Tracy Williams

Production Coordinator: Dan Marchini

Archive Research: Emma Betteridge

Sound Mix: Tim Heffer

Music Score: Phil Kieran

\*Archive excerpts from director Franny Armstrong's 'McLibel,' reproduced with the permission of Spanner Films

**WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002jf2z)**

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

**WED 11:00 File on 4 Investigates (m002jf33)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 11:40 This Week in History (m002jf37)**

Radio 4 Listings for 13 – 19 September 2025		Page 12 of 16
<p>September 15th - September 21st</p> <p>Fascinating, surprising and eye-opening stories from the past, brought to life.</p> <p>This week: 15th September to 21st September</p> <p>- 16th September 1620. The Mayflower sets sail from Plymouth to America - 19th September 1960. Britain deploys it's first Traffic Wardens - 21st September 1915. Cecil Chubb purchases Stonehenge</p> <p><b>WED 11:45 The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet (m002jf3c)</b> Episode 3 - Mohammad and the Mujahideen</p> <p>Lyse Doucet reads her vivid account of how Afghanistan has survived decades of conflict by telling the stories of the staff who kept the doors of Kabul's Inter-Continental Hotel open. Today, it's 1991 and Mohammad takes up work as a waiter at the Inter-Con, and a year later he is on shift when the mujahideen arrive victorious at the hotel's lobby.</p> <p>Lyse Doucet is the BBC's Chief International Correspondent and an award winning journalist who has reported from many of the world's war zones. She has covered stories from Afghanistan since 1988 when she first checked into the Inter-Con, and from where she has witnessed the impact of unceasing conflict that has scarred this nation for half a century.</p> <p>Her book is a history of Afghanistan told through the lives of the people who have worked at the Inter-Con, some since it opened in 1969. Despite enduring several coups, a Soviet occupation, civil war, a US invasion, and the rise and fall and rise of the Taliban, the Inter-Con is still standing. In telling the stories of the hotel's housekeepers, chefs, managers and engineers Lyse shows how us how ordinary Afghans have managed to live through destruction and disruption in their workplace and their country.</p> <p>The music is Wa wa Leili - Leili, how wonderful! from the album Sweet Nomad Girl. Abdul Wahab Madadi (vocal), Veronica Doubleday (vocal and daireh) and John Baily (14-stringed dutar).</p> <p>Abridged by Julian Wilkinson Produced by Elizabeth Allard Image by Paula Bronstein</p> <p><b>WED 12:00 News Summary (m002jf3h)</b> The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.</p> <p><b>WED 12:04 You and Yours (m002jf3m)</b> News and discussion of consumer affairs</p> <p><b>WED 12:57 Weather (m002jf3r)</b> The latest weather forecast</p> <p><b>WED 13:00 World at One (m002jf3w)</b> News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>WED 13:45 The History Podcast (m002jf40)</b> The Fort</p> <p>8. Bullet Magnet</p> <p>The bomber has created an enormous dust storm at The Fort.</p> <p>Disorientated and under enemy fire, the team rush headlong from the grounded Apaches which have now become sitting duck targets for the Taliban.</p> <p>Tom, alone and effectively stuck inside his aircraft spots Taliban activity ahead.</p> <p>But the objective is clear: Find the stricken Lance Corporal Mathew Ford.</p> <p>But the men on the ground are confronted with the difficult reality of that task.</p> <p>Produced by Kev Core</p> <p><b>WED 14:00 The Archers (m002jf3v)</b> [Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]</p> <p><b>WED 14:15 Drama on 4 (m002jf44)</b> Blue Envelopes</p> <p>Nick Ahad's original comedy drama with songs.</p>	<p>Bradford born British Bangladeshi teenager and rapper Bilal 'Triple B' wants to make it big in the rap music industry but his family have other ideas. Pressure mounts on Bilal as his family push him to follow a more 'sensible' career path in law while his best friend Beatboxer Ben urges him to grab the opportunity of getting into music college. Unexpected family news sends Bilal to Bangladesh with his grandmother, where he discovers the surprising history of his own grandfather that will change everything.</p> <p>Celebrating Bradford City of Culture and presented as part of BBC Contains Strong Language Festival.</p> <p>Nick Ahad is a multiple award-winning writer and broadcaster working across TV, theatre and radio.</p> <p>BILAL.....Faisal Alom AMBREEN.....Mina Anwar BIBI.....Rina Fatania ABDUL, MUKHIT, AUDITIONER.....Kulvinder Ghir SHOMSHUR, AUDITIONER.....Sagar Arya BEN.....Rhys Inwood</p> <p>Song Lyrics written by Nick Ahad Music for the opening and closing songs composed by Arun Ghosh</p> <p>Writer - Nick Ahad Director - Nadia Molinari Sound Design and Technical Production - Sharon Hughes Additional Technical Production- Amy Brennan Production Co-ordinator - Victoria Moseley and Ben Hollands</p> <p>A BBC Studios Production for BBC Radio 4.</p> <p>Nick Ahad will be in conversation as part of BBC Contains Strong Language festival at The Loading Bay in Bradford at <b>3.30</b> on Sunday September 21.</p> <p>Tickets for this and other events are free from <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/ewbv9r">https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/ewbv9r</a></p> <p><b>WED 15:00 Money Box (m002jf48)</b> The latest news from the world of personal finance</p> <p><b>WED 15:30 BBC National Short Story Award (m002jf4d)</b> BBC National Short Story Award 2025</p> <p>Two Hands by Caoilinn Hughes</p> <p>Novelist and short story writer Caoilinn Hughes has been shortlisted for the 2025 BBC National Short Story Award for Two Hands, a 'funny' and 'accomplished' story, inspired by the author's experience of a camper van crash on a Spanish motorway with her partner. The story, written to create a new set of associations around this difficult experience, follows a couple as they take a driving lesson with an elderly instructor in a quest to regain confidence after a car accident in Italy. Their move back to Ireland has skewed the dynamics of their relationship, and the story artfully explores the complexities and tensions within a marriage, with humour and poignancy.</p> <p>Caoilinn Hughes is an award-winning author and short story writer from Ireland. Her novels include The Wild Laughter (2020) which won the RSL's Encore Award and most recently, The Alternatives (2024.) Her short stories have won the Irish Book Awards' Story of the Year, The Moth Short Story Prize, and an O. Henry Prize. She was recently Oscar Wilde Writer Fellow at Trinity College Dublin and a Cullman Center Fellow at New York Public Library. Caoilinn Hughes grew up in Galway and now lives in London.</p> <p>The 2025 BBC National Short Story Award with Cambridge University (BBC NSSA) shortlist was announced on Thursday 11 September 2025 live on BBC Radio 4's Front Row, as the prestigious award celebrates its 20th anniversary. The shortlist, featuring multi-award winning writers and 'astonishing' new talent, was praised for its 'intimate,' 'elegant' and 'nuanced' explorations of relationships, community and the specificities of place set against a world in crisis.</p> <p>Selected by a panel of previous winners and returning judges from across the Award's 20-year history, the five-strong shortlist are: Costa Book of the Year 2011 and Booker Prize 2025 longlisted author Andrew Miller; multi-award winning Irish writer Caoilinn Hughes, Desmond Elliott Prize winning novelist and short story specialist Edward Hogan; and new names, British-Lebanese author Emily Abdeni-Holman, and Colwill Brown whose debut novel was published this year.</p> <p>Set in locations from Derbyshire and Doncaster to Jerusalem and County Kildare, the stories explore 'self-contained' worlds often inspired by personal memories and experiences, from the complexities of marriage, to the mysteries of survival in crisis; from newly formed inter-generational bonds, to the quiet tension between people and place, each reveals the short story's 'unparalleled' power to reflect 'the times we are living through.'</p>	<p>For two decades this award has celebrated writers who are the UK's finest exponents of the form. James Lasdun secured the inaugural Award in 2006 for 'An Anxious Man'. In 2012 when the Award expanded internationally for one year, Miroslav Penkov was victorious for his story, 'East of the West'. Last year, the Award was won by Ross Raisin for 'Ghost Kitchen', a tense, cinematic story narrated by a bicycle courier and inspired by the gig economy and the 'dark kitchens' of the restaurant industry.</p> <p>In its 20-year history, Sarah Hall, K J Orr, Naomi Wood, Jonathan Buckley, Julian Gough, Clare Wigfall, Cynan Jones, Lucy Caldwell, Ingrid Persaud, Saba Sams and David Constantine have also carried off the Award with shortlisted authors including Zadie Smith, Jackie Kay, William Trevor, Rose Tremain, Caleb Azumah Nelson, Naomi Alderman, Kamila Shamsie, K Patrick and Jacqueline Crooks.</p> <p>This year's judging panel was chaired by Di Speirs who has sat on every judging panel since the Award's inception and is joined by the very first chair of judges, William Boyd as well as former winners and shortlisted writers Lucy Caldwell, Ross Raisin and Kamila Shamsie.</p> <p>In a time when literary awards come and go, and can struggle for funding and airtime, the BBC National Short Story Award with Cambridge University continues to be a cause for joy</p> <p>From 15th to 18th September four of the shortlisted stories can be heard at <b>3.30</b> each afternoon with the fifth story in contention for the award broadcasting on Friday, 19th September, at <b>11.30pm</b>. The winner of the 20th BBC National Short Story Award will be announced live on BBC Radio 4's Front Row on Tuesday 30th September 2025.</p> <p>Produced by Michael Shannon</p> <p><b>WED 16:00 When It Hits the Fan (m002jf4j)</b> Who's in the news for all the wrong reasons? With David Yelland and Simon Lewis.</p> <p><b>WED 16:15 The Media Show (m002jf4n)</b> Social media, anti-social media, breaking news, faking news: this is the programme about a revolution in media.</p> <p><b>WED 17:00 PM (m002jf4s)</b> News and current affairs, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines</p> <p><b>WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002jf4x)</b> National and international news from BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>WED 18:30 Do Gooders (m002jf50)</b> Series 2</p> <p>3. The Force</p> <p>Clive initiates a DOGE-inspired efficiency drive at The Alzheimer's Alliance, with a key policy of outsourcing events ideas to supporters. Unfortunately this backfires when the idea of a Star Wars film marathon is suggested - Clive's idea of hell. Lauren picks up the ball and runs with it. Meanwhile Harriett reels after finding out her industry nemesis has received an OBE.</p> <p>Garrett Millerick's ensemble sitcom Do Gooders returns for another series. The show takes us back behind the curtain of fictional mid-level charity. The Alzheimers Alliance, as the fundraising events team continue their daily struggle for survival. Cue more office feuds, more workplace romances and more catastrophic fundraising blunders – all par for the course when trying to 'do good' on an industrial scale.</p> <p>Cast Gladys – Kathryn Drysdale Lauren – Ania Magliano Clive – Garrett Millerick Harriett – Fay Ripley Achi – Ahir Shah Ken – Frank Skinner</p> <p>Writer – Garrett Millerick Additional Material – Andrea Hubert Sound Engineer – David Thomas Editor – David Thomas Production Assistant – Jenny Recaldin Producer – Jules Lom Executive Producers – Richard Allen-Turner, Daisy Knight, Julien Matthews, Jon Thoday</p> <p>An Avalon Television production for BBC Radio 4</p> <p><b>WED 19:00 The Archers (m002jf5j)</b></p>
Supported by <a href="https://bbc.co.uk/programmes/">bbc.co.uk/programmes/</a>		

Ed knows the right thing to do, and Jim makes his mark.

**WED 19:15 Front Row (m002jf57)**

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

**WED 20:00 Moral Maze (m002jf5c)**

Live debate examining the moral issues behind one of the week's news stories.

**WED 21:00 The Life Scientific (m002jf25)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 21:30 Illuminated (m002jf5j)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:15 on Sunday]

**WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m002jf5n)**

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

**WED 22:45 Mrs Robinson by Helen Cross (m002jf5s)**

Episode 3: A Question

Lydia tries to uphold a respectable family home, as Branwell constantly tests that resolve. And Anne Brontë's watchful eye is never far away.

Helen Cross's five-part original fiction is read by Anne-Marie Duff. It tells the story of the character and relationship that partly inspired the film, *The Graduate*.

Producers: Fay Lomas and Mair Bosworth

**WED 23:00 Ria Lina Gets Forensic (m002jf5x)**

Series 1

2. Microneedling

Former-forensic-scientist-turned-stand-up-comedian Ria Lina examines the gap between the science we're sold by the wellness industry and the science that's done in a lab – particularly when it comes to treatments that boast anti-aging effects.

This episode, she's joined by comedian Geoff Norcott to see if Microneedling can make their faces look any younger.

Featuring Ria Lina and Geoff Norcott  
Written by Ria Lina and Steve N Allen  
Produced by Ben Walker

A DLT Entertainment production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 23:15 The Skewer (m002jf60)**

Series 14

Episode 2

Jon Holmes brings you the week's biggest stories like you've never heard them before.

**WED 23:30 Short Works (m0010xv2)**

Slow Burn by Laura-Blaise McDowell

When her parents' newly-divorced friend Stan moves in with them, a young woman has no choice but to leave the family home and find her own place.

Laura-Blaise McDowell's original short story read by Eimear Keating

Specially commissioned by BBC Radio 4.

Irish writer Laura-Blaise holds an MA in Creative Writing from University College Dublin. Her work has appeared in a number of publications, including *The Irish Times*, *The Galway Review*, *HeadStuff*, *Honest Ulsterman* and *Still Worlds Turning*, an anthology of new Irish writing from No Alibis Press.

In 2020, she received an honourable mention in the Cúirt New Irish Writing Award. In 2021, her story 'The Lobster Waltz' came second in the Costa Short Story Award.

Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Northern Ireland production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in October 2021.

**WED 23:45 Today in Parliament (m002jf62)**

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

**THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**THU 00:00 Midnight News (m002jf64)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 00:30 The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet (m002jf3c)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Wednesday]

**THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002jf66)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002jf68)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**THU 05:00 News Summary (m002jf6b)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 05:04 More or Less (m002jf2v)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]

**THU 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002jf6d)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002jf6g)**

A Gratitude Habit

Good morning.

We're well into September now, and for many of us, that means settling back into the familiar rhythms of daily life. The summer often disrupts those routines. Longer days, holidays, and a slower pace give us a break from the usual demands. As a family with school-aged children, summer for us means no school runs, no lunch orders to remember, and no uniforms to wash. But once September arrives, it can take time to find our rhythm again. Habits that were second nature only weeks ago suddenly feel harder to pick back up.

Most of us know the value of daily habits. They provide structure and often shape the way we experience each day. Whether it's that first cup of coffee in the morning, a short walk, or reading before bed, small routines can have a surprisingly big impact.

One habit I try to keep no matter the season is the practice of gratitude. The Bible reminds us to "Give thanks in all circumstances". Gratitude isn't just something we feel in passing - it's a posture of the heart and a habit we can choose to cultivate. When we pause to thank God, we shift our focus from what we lack to what we have. Gratitude reframes our perspective, softens our hearts, and helps us recognise God's presence in both the ordinary and the extraordinary.

As the busyness of autumn sets in, having a daily habit of gratitude helps me to make sure I continue to thank God for His mercies, for His blessings, and even for the challenges that grow my faith.

God, help us to keep an attitude of gratitude in every season. Teach us to be intentional about giving thanks, so that our hearts stay soft and eyes stay open to your goodness. Amen.

**THU 05:45 Farming Today (m002jf6j)**

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

**THU 06:00 Today (m002jfbg)**

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

**THU 09:00 Writing the Universe (m00207vm)**

In the beginning

From Shakespeare to Milton, writers have long been preoccupied with the birth of the universe, but there's still so much uncertainty about how the cosmos came into being. The phrase 'the big bang' is now part of our everyday language, but the astronomer Fred Hoyle coined the expression in frustration at the idea the universe burst into being and remained adamant throughout his career that it could never have happened.

So has the idea of a big bang ultimately proved unhelpful in explaining how the universe was formed? Philosopher and theoretical physicist Sean Carroll explains that not even scientists can agree what the term means, and says it's still not clear whether the big bang was even the kind of giant explosion many of us imagine.

For cosmologist Carlos Frenk, Dali's melting clocks are the best way of describing a time before time existed, and he explains how art and science are intimately intertwined, while the theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli relies on metaphor to explain concepts that are often mind-bending in their complexity.

With contributions from fellow Infinite Monkey Cage presenter Brian Cox; physicist and philosopher Sean Carroll; astrophysicist Katie Mack; cosmologist Carlos Frenk, and theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli.

Producer: Marijke Peters

Executive Producer: Alexandra Feachem

Soundscape Designer: Jane Watkins

BBC Studios Audio Production

**THU 09:45 Strong Message Here (m002jfbf)**

Armando returns to look at the use and abuse of political language.

After a busy summer, Armando will be joined by guests throughout the autumn for another dose of political jargon-busting. With talks of bilats and trilats coming out of the White House, and protests at home, and a second 'unpresidential' state visit for a US president in the offing, Armando and his guests will dig into how those in power, and those who wish to be, are using language to fulfil their political aims.

Armando's erstwhile partner in de-baffling political lexicon, Helen Lewis is away working in the United States in the Autumn and so her seat will be kept warm by a rotating cast of co-hosts.

Produced by Gwyn Rhys Davies. A BBC Studios Audio Production for Radio 4.

An EcoAudio certified production.

**THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002jfbn)**

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

**THU 11:00 This Cultural Life (m002jfbq)**

In-depth conversations with some of the world's leading artists and creatives across theatre, visual arts, music, dance, film and more. Hosted by John Wilson.

**THU 11:45 The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet (m002jfbf)**

Episode 4 - Chef Abida

Lyse Doucet reads her vivid account of how Afghanistan has survived decades of conflict by telling the stories of the staff who kept the doors of Kabul's Inter-Continental Hotel open. Today, it's 2001 and with the Taliban ousted, women resume work and chef Abida is in the kitchen at the Inter-Con Kabul.

Lyse Doucet is the BBC's Chief International Correspondent and an award winning journalist who has reported from many of the world's war zones. She has covered stories from Afghanistan since 1988 when she first checked into the Inter-Con, and from where she has witnessed the impact of unceasing conflict that has scarred this nation for half a century.

Her book is a history of Afghanistan told through the lives of the people who have worked at the Inter-Con, some since it opened in 1969. Despite enduring several coups, a Soviet occupation, civil war, a US invasion, and the rise and fall and rise of the Taliban, the Inter-Con is still standing. In telling the stories of the hotel's housekeepers, chefs, managers and engineers Lyse shows how us how ordinary Afghans have managed to live through destruction and disruption in their workplace and their country.

The music is Wa wa Leili - Leili, how wonderful! from the album *Sweet Nomad Girl*. Abdul Wahab Madadi (vocal), Veronica Doubleday (vocal and daireh) and John Baily (14-stringed dutar).

Abridged by Julian Wilkinson

Produced by Elizabeth Allard

Image by Paula Bronstein

**THU 12:00 News Summary (m002jfbv)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 12:04 Scam Secrets (m002jfbx)**

We're Coming for Your Furniture

Getting an unexpected phonecall can be unnerving. If it's from a

bailiff saying he's coming to take your possessions and is 40 minutes away, it can be terrifying.

In this episode, Shari Vahl and the Scam Secrets team hear from two people who were subjected to this scarily plausible scam. Linguistics expert Dr Lis Carter and former fraudster Alex Wood pick apart the language used, and explain how the tactics are all designed to manufacture a 'fight or flight' response that plays into the hands of the criminals.

As ever, red flags will be waved - so you'll end up better informed about this sophisticated and manipulative scam.

And on this last episode in our first series of Scam Secrets, we'll even hear exactly what happened when a scammer tried similar tactics on Shari.

If there's a scam you want the Scam Secrets team to look at, you can get in touch: scamsecrets@bbc.co.uk

PRESENTER: SHARI VAHL

PRODUCER: TOM MOSELEY

#### THU 12:32 Sliced Bread (m002jfbz)

Dough - The Future of Clothing

Could 'smart' clothing monitor our health?

Greg Foot, host of the BBC Radio 4 show 'Sliced Bread', now brings you 'Dough'.

Each episode explores future wonder products that might rise to success and redefine our lives.

Experts and entrepreneurs discuss the trends shaping what today's everyday technology may look like tomorrow, before a leading futurist offers their predictions on what life might be like within five, ten and fifty years.

This episode examines the future of our clothing.

How can manufacturers dye clothes without using water?  
Could 'smart' fabrics monitor weather conditions and provide extra warmth or cooling when we need it?  
Will our body movements, instead of bulky batteries, provide the power for clothing to monitor our health?  
Will synthetic material be completely replaced by natural fibres and those made from waste products?

Greg is joined by the futurist, Tracey Follows, and expert guests Dr Marie O'Mahony, programme leader for E-textiles and Wearable Technologies at the Winchester School of Art at the University of Southampton and Jenny Prendergast, Programme Leader for Fashion and Design Technology at Loughborough University.

This episode was produced by Jay Unger.

Dough is a BBC Audio North Production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds

#### THU 12:57 Weather (m002jfc1)

The latest weather forecast

#### THU 13:00 World at One (m002jfc3)

News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4

#### THU 13:45 The History Podcast (m002jfc5)

The Fort

9. Warrior

Under pressure and under fire, the team are faced with the task of returning Lance Corporal Mathew Ford to base.

As exhaustion sets in and the clock ticks, Ed the pilot leaves the Apache to help with the recovery.

Back at the Zulu Company lines, Mathew's colleagues await his return.

The Fort is told solely by current and former members of the Armed Forces.

Produced by Kev Core

#### THU 14:00 The Archers (m002jf53)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

#### THU 14:15 Drama on 4 (m002jfc7)

High Cockalorum

Celebrating Bradford City of Culture and as part of BBC Contains Strong Language Festival. Bradford based writer Jeremy Dyson's original comedy drama set in West Yorkshire in 1978 is inspired by a true story.

High Cockalorum tells of a touching, funny and unlikely encounter between a Hollywood superstar and a humble lad from Leeds thrown together by circumstance.

A meditation on fame, success and what ultimately matters.

MARTY / JAMES MASON.....Mark Gatiss  
HARVEY/ LIBRARIAN / DJ..... Reece Shearsmith  
PETE/ PARKING ATTENDANT/ INTERVIEWER.....Steve Pemberton  
RECEPTIONISTS/ JACKIE..... Monica Dolan  
SHARON.....Goldie Crane.

Writer - Jeremy Dyson  
Director -Nadia Molinari  
Composer-Ian Masterson  
Sound Designer - Sharon Hughes  
Technical Producers - Andrew Garratt, Neva Missirian  
Production Co-ordinators - Victoria Moseley, Ben Hollands.

A BBC Studios production for BBC Radio 4

Jeremy Dyson and Mark Gatiss will be in conversation as part of BBC Contains Strong Language Festival in St George's Hall in Bradford on Saturday September 20.

Tickets for this and other events are free from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/ewbv9r>

#### THU 15:00 Open Country (m002jfc9)

Fair Isle

Halfway between Orkney and Shetland, Fair Isle is one of Britain's most isolated inhabited islands. It's famous for knitting and birds, and those still form the basis of the island's economy, as Martha Kearney discovers.

As an inviting rock in the North Atlantic it's a magnet for migratory birds, with exhausted individuals blown off course regularly adding to a long list of unusual species recorded by the local bird observatory. Martha joins the island's Head of Ornithology, Alex Penn, to ring some visitors and sit for a while with Britain's friendliest colonies of puffin.

French knitwear designer, Marie Brahat introduces Martha to her flock of sheep and gives her a lesson in turning their wool into the unique designs of Fair Isle knitwear. School teacher Jonathan Pye is the newest arrival on the island, currently dealing with a school roll of just two pupils - brothers Luca and Anders.

Producer: Alasdair Cross

#### THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m002jfcc)

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

#### THU 15:30 BBC National Short Story Award (m002jfcf)

BBC National Short Story Award 2025

Little Green Man by Edward Hogan

Edward Hogan's tender and humorous story Little Green Man is in contention for the 2025 BBC National Short Story Award. Dorothy Atkinson reads this warm portrait of a heartbroken gardener forced into partnership with a summer temp as they tend to the green spaces of Derby.

Edward Hogan has an MA in creative writing from the University of East Anglia. From Derby, he is the author of five novels include Blackmoor (2008), which won the Desmond Elliot Prize and the highly-acclaimed The Electric (2020). His recent short stories have won the Dinesh Allirajah Prize, the Galley Beggar Press Prize, and have been published in the Best British Short Stories series. He works for the Open University as a Lecturer in Creative Writing.

The 2025 BBC National Short Story Award with Cambridge University (BBC NSSA) shortlist was announced on Thursday 11 September 2025 live on BBC Radio 4's Front Row, as the prestigious award celebrates its 20th anniversary. The shortlist, featuring multi-award winning writers and 'astounding' new talent, was praised for its 'intimate,' 'elegant' and 'nuanced' explorations of relationships, community and the specificities of place set against a world in crisis.

Selected by a panel of previous winners and returning judges from across the Award's 20-year history, the five-strong shortlist are: Costa Book of the Year 2011 and Booker Prize 2025 longlisted author Andrew Miller; multi-award winning Irish writer Caoilinn Hughes, Desmond Elliott Prize winning novelist and short story specialist Edward Hogan; and new

names, British-Lebanese author Emily Abdeni-Holman, and Colwill Brown whose debut novel was published this year.

Set in locations from Derbyshire and Doncaster to Jerusalem and County Kildare, the stories explore 'self-contained' worlds often inspired by personal memories and experiences, from the complexities of marriage, to the mysteries of survival in crisis; from newly formed inter-generational bonds, to the quiet tension between people and place, each reveals the short story's 'unparalleled' power to reflect 'the times we are living through.'

For two decades this award has celebrated writers who are the UK's finest exponents of the form. James Lasdun secured the inaugural Award in 2006 for 'An Anxious Man'. In 2012 when the Award expanded internationally for one year, Miroslav Penkov was victorious for his story, 'East of the West'. Last year, the Award was won by Ross Raisin for 'Ghost Kitchen', a tense, cinematic story narrated by a bicycle courier and inspired by the gig economy and the 'dark kitchens' of the restaurant industry.

In its 20-year history, Sarah Hall, K J Orr, Naomi Wood, Jonathan Buckley, Julian Gough, Clare Wigfall, Cynan Jones, Lucy Caldwell, Ingrid Persaud, Saba Sams and David Constantine have also carried off the Award with shortlisted authors including Zadie Smith, Jackie Kay, William Trevor, Rose Tremain, Caleb Azumah Nelson, Naomi Alderman, Kamila Shamsie, K Patrick and Jacqueline Crooks.

This year's judging panel was chaired by Di Speirs who has sat on every judging panel since the Award's inception and is joined by the very first chair of judges, William Boyd as well as former winners and shortlisted writers Lucy Caldwell, Ross Raisin and Kamila Shamsie.

In a time when literary awards come and go, and can struggle for funding and airtime, the BBC National Short Story Award with Cambridge University continues to be a cause for joy.

From 15th to 18th September four of the shortlisted stories can be heard at 3.30 each afternoon with the fifth story in contention for the award broadcasting on Friday, 19th September, at 11.30pm. The winner of the 20th BBC National Short Story Award will be announced live on BBC Radio 4's Front Row on Tuesday 30th September 2025.

Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

#### THU 16:00 Rethink (m002jfcf)

Rethink: should we stop flying?

Aviation is far more difficult to decarbonise than other sectors of the economy, because kerosene is the perfect fuel for planes. It produces enough power to enable planes to fly, yet it is light enough for them to get off the ground and cross the world.

Alternatives are thin on the ground; batteries are too heavy, clean hydrogen power is in its infancy, while Sustainable Aviation Fuel - or SAF - is expensive and in short supply. Although the Government has a "SAF-mandate", only 22% of all jet fuel supplied by 2040 will have to be sustainable.

New airliners are more fuel-efficient than ever before, and both routes and air-traffic control are being optimised. But if growth outpaces efficiencies, greenhouse gas emissions will continue to rise.

And passenger demand is back at pre-pandemic levels. In 2024 the UK was the third largest market in the world for flights.

In the absence of any immediate solution, should we fly less, if at all? How realistic and affordable are slower alternatives like the train? Could passengers be penalised for taking more than one return flight a year? And should the Government rather than individuals be taking responsibility for change?

Presenter: Ben Ansell

Producer: Ravi Naik

Editor: Lisa Baxter

Contributors:

Alice Larkin, Professor of Climate Science and Energy Policy in the School of Engineering at the University of Manchester.  
Dr Roger Tyers, UK Aviation specialist at Transport & Environment

Yannick van den Berg, postdoctoral researcher at the University of Amsterdam Law School

Tom Nevitt, project manager of Climate Perks  
Duncan McCourt, Chief Executive, Sustainable Aviation

Rethink is a BBC co-production with the Open University

#### THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (m002jfek)

A weekly programme that illuminates the mysteries and challenges the controversies behind the science that's changing our world.

**THU 17:00 PM (m002jfcf)**

News and current affairs, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines

**THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002jfcf)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 18:30 Stand-Up Specials (m002jfcf)**

Glenn Moore's Almanac Series 2

Three Glenn & A Baby

Comedian Glenn Moore looks in his almanac at world events and what he was doing at the time. Lockdown March 2020: can father-to-be Glenn learn how to use a mask and change a nappy - and crucially, tell which is which?

Perhaps best-known for his outrageously brilliant one-liners on Mock The Week, Glenn delivers a tale of comic mishaps and extraordinary scenes interwoven with a big event in history – and looks back through his almanac to find out other strange connections to the day as well.

Written by Glenn with additional material by Katie Storey (Have I Got News For You, Mock The Week, The Last Leg) and produced and directed by David Tyler (Cabin Pressure, Armando Iannucci's Charm Offensive, etc)

A Pozziive production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 19:00 The Archers (m002jfcf)**

Feelings stir for Paul, and the Harvest Festival ends in chaos.

**THU 19:15 Front Row (m002jfcw)**

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

**THU 20:00 When It Hits the Fan (m002jfdj)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Wednesday]

**THU 20:15 The Media Show (m002jfdn)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:15 on Wednesday]

**THU 21:00 Loose Ends (m002jdfq)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

**THU 21:45 Strong Message Here (m002jfbf)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

**THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m002jfcy)**

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

**THU 22:45 Mrs Robinson by Helen Cross (m002jfd0)**

Episode 4: An Argument

Lydia has thrown caution to the Yorkshire winds. But will the affair that seems the height of freedom actually be a trap in itself? As Branwell's frustration at his poetic failures grows, so does his reliance on opium. Anne has a plan of her own. And how can Lydia negotiate the opposing demands of brother and sister – who both want the impossible from her?

Helen Cross's five-part original fiction is read by Anne-Marie Duff.

Producers: Fay Lomas and Mair Bosworth.

**THU 23:00 Radical with Amol Rajan (m002jfd2)**

Conversations about tomorrow, from Today.

**THU 23:30 Short Works (m00114tp)**

Twenty-Five Years by Mona Dash

Annika, a widow, now has a well-organised life built mainly around her work in Central London. But a Facebook friend request sends her spiralling into the past.

Mona Dash's short story read by Vineeta Rishi.

Mona works and lives in London. She is the author of A Roll of the Dice: a story of loss, love and genetics (2019) which won an Eyelands International Book Award for memoir.

Her debut short story collection, Let Us Look Elsewhere, was published in June 2021. Twenty-Five Years is her first story for radio.

Producer: Jeremy Osborne

A Sweet Talk production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in November 2021.

**THU 23:45 Today in Parliament (m002jfd4)**

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

**FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2025****FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m002jfd6)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 00:30 The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet (m002jfbf)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Thursday]

**FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002jfd8)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002jfdb)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**FRI 05:00 News Summary (m002jfd5)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 05:04 Rethink (m002jfcf)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Thursday]

**FRI 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002jfdg)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002jfdj)**

The Spirit Poured Out for All

Good morning.

On this day in 1893, New Zealand became the first country to grant national voting rights to all women. Until then, half the adult population was excluded from having a voice in such an important decision-making process. New Zealand became a trailblazer, and its bold move opened the way for many other nations to follow.

Moments like this remind us of the power of inclusion. To be recognised, valued, and given equal standing is not only a matter of justice - it also reflects God's own heart. We see this clearly on the day of Pentecost. As the Holy Spirit was poured out, Peter stood before the crowd and quoted the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams".

This was a radical declaration. In God's kingdom, age, gender, or status don't limit the Spirit's work. Sons and daughters, young and old - all are invited to participate in God's mission. The outpouring of the Spirit was not for a select few, but for all of God's people.

Just as the suffragists of New Zealand opened the door for women's voices to be heard in society, Pentecost reminds us that God has already opened the door wide in His kingdom. No one is overlooked. Every voice matters. Every life has purpose.

Thank You, Lord, that you love both your daughters and your sons, and that your call and care extend to women and men, young and old alike. Help us to honour the gifts of others and to live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m002jfdl)**

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

**FRI 06:00 Today (m002jhm2)**

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

**FRI 09:00 The Reunion (m002jg8)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Sunday]

**FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002jhm4)**

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

**FRI 11:00 The Food Programme (m002jhm6)**

The Rise of Matcha

As global sales of matcha continue to boom, Leyla Kazim traces the story of the powdered green tea from centuries-old Japanese tradition to global health trend of the moment. We look behind the social media videos and headlines to find out more about the reported matcha shortage, how the matcha supply chain is reacting, and what might happen next.

Presented by Leyla Kazim and produced by Sophie Anton for BBC Audio in Bristol.

**FRI 11:45 The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet (m002jhm8)**

Episode 5 - Sadeq and the Danger Hours

Lyse Doucet reads from her new book about Afghanistan, told through daily life at the Inter-Con Kabul. It's 2020 the Taliban can taste new victory, and anxiety stalks the hotel.

Lyse Doucet is the BBC's Chief International Correspondent and an award winning journalist who has reported from many of the world's war zones. She has covered stories from Afghanistan since 1988 when she first checked into the Inter-Con, and from where she has witnessed the impact of unceasing conflict that has scarred this nation for half a century.

Her book is a history of Afghanistan told through the lives of the people who have worked at the Inter-Con, some since it opened in 1969. Despite enduring several coups, a Soviet occupation, civil war, a US invasion, and the rise and fall and rise of the Taliban, the Inter-Con is still standing. In telling the stories of the hotel's housekeepers, chefs, managers and engineers Lyse shows how us how ordinary Afghans have managed to live through destruction and disruption in their workplace and their country.

The music is Wa wa Leili - Leili, how wonderful! from the album Sweet Nomad Girl. Abdul Wahab Madadi (vocal), Veronica Doubleday (vocal and daireh) and John Baily (14-stringed dutar).

Abridged by Julian Wilkinson

Produced by Elizabeth Allard

Image by Paula Bronstein

**FRI 12:00 News Summary (m002jhm6)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 12:04 Rare Earth (m002jhm6)**

Great Migrations

New technology gives fresh insights into the great animal migrations. Tom Heap and Helen Czerski discuss the great spectacles of the bird, mammal and insect worlds and consider how they're changing in an era of climate change and habitat destruction.

They're joined by insect migration expert, Will Hawkes, David Barrie, author of Incredible Journeys and the leader of the ICARUS satellite monitoring project, Martin Wikelski from the University of Konstanz. Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent reports from the dangerous songbird migration route over Cyprus while ecologist and concept developer Mark van Heukelm reveals the secrets of the extraordinary fish doorbell and Martha Kearney visits Britain's migration hotspot, Fair Isle.

Producer: Alasdair Cross

Assistant Producers: Toby Field and Georgia Christie

Rare Earth is produced in association with the Open University

**FRI 12:57 Weather (m002jhm6)**

The latest weather forecast

**FRI 13:00 World at One (m002jhm7)**

News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 13:45 The History Podcast (m002jhm7)**

The Fort

10. Mathew

A gruelling, emotional mission draws to a close.

In the aftermath of the operation and recovery at Jugroom Fort, the risks and rewards are analysed, but some costs are incalculable.

The Fort was told solely by current and former members of the Armed Forces, many speaking for the first time.

Produced by Kev Core  
Edited by Sue Roberts  
Sound by Sharon Hughes  
Commissioning Executive Tracy Williams  
Commissioned by Dan Clarke

**FRI 14:00 The Archers (m002jfct)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

**FRI 14:15 Limelight (m002hzhw)**  
Mothercover

Episode 4: Face Off

Things take a dangerous and unexpected turn for Gwen. It's time for her to pick a side.  
An Aberystwyth-set thriller, by BAFTA Cymru nominee Fflur Dafydd, with original music by Mercury Prize nominees Gwenno and Rhys Edwards.

CAST  
Gwen.... Alexandra Roach  
Liz.... Remy Beasley  
Geraint.... Matthew Gravelle  
Dean.... Alex Harries  
Malcolm.... Gwydion Rhys

Original Music.... Gwenno and Rhys Edwards

Sound design.... Rhys Morris  
Assistant Producer: Ryan Hooper  
Production Co-ordinator.... Lindsay Rees and Eleri McAuliffe  
Technology Consultant... Gareth Mitchell  
Directed by Fay Lomas  
Produced by Fay Lomas and John Norton, BBC Audio Drama Wales

**FRI 14:45 Uncharted with Hannah Fry (m0023096)**  
20. The Confidence Trick

An ambitious portfolio manager stumbles upon a perfect graph. It outlines eye watering profits. But something doesn't quite add up - could this graph be accurate? Or does it hide a far more sinister truth?

Producer Lauren Armstrong Carter  
Sound Designer: Jon Nicholls  
Story Editor: John Yorke

**FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002jhmh)**  
Elmbridge

Horticultural programme featuring a group of gardening experts.

**FRI 15:45 Short Works (m000hhtg)**  
The Prisoner by Heidi Amsinck

Anders already suspects that the historical boat tour of Copenhagen will be a mistake, but never in the way it turns out.

An original short work for BBC Radio 4 by writer Heidi Amsinck.

Read by Tim McInnerny.

Heidi Amsinck, a writer and journalist born in Copenhagen, has written numerous short stories for radio. A graduate of the MA in Creative Writing at Birkbeck, University of London, Heidi lives in Surrey.

Her first collection of short stories, Last Train To Helsingør, was published in 2018.

Producer: Jeremy Osborne

A Sweet Talk production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in April 2020.

**FRI 16:00 Last Word (m002jhmq)**  
Matthew Bannister tells the life stories of people who have recently died, from the rich and famous to unsung but significant.

**FRI 16:30 More or Less (m002jf2v)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]

**FRI 17:00 PM (m002jhms)**  
News and current affairs, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines

**FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002jhmh)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 18:30 The News Quiz (m002jhmh)**  
Series 118

Episode 3

Topical panel quiz show, taking its questions from the week's news stories.

**FRI 19:00 The Archers (m002jhmz)**  
Writer: Sarah McDonald Hughes  
Director: Peter Leslie Wild  
Editor: Jeremy Howe

Brian Aldridge.... Charles Collingwood  
Ben Archer.... Ben Norris  
Lilian Bellamy.... Sunny Ormonde  
Alice Carter.... Hollie Chapman  
Ruairi Donovan.... Arthur Hughes  
Justin Elliott.... Simon Williams  
Alan Franks.... John Telfer  
Martyn Gibson.... Jon Glover  
Ed Grundy.... Barry Farrimond  
Jim Lloyd.... John Rowe  
Paul Mack.... Joshua Riley  
Azra Malik.... Yasmin Wilde  
Jazzer McCreary.... Ryan Kelly  
Lily Pargetter.... Katie Redford  
Fallon Rogers.... Joanna Van Kampen

**FRI 19:15 Add to Playlist (m002jhn1)**  
Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe explore the rich web of connections in music.

**FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m002jhn3)**  
Topical discussion posing questions to a panel of political and media personalities

**FRI 20:55 This Week in History (m002jff37)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:40 on Wednesday]

**FRI 21:00 The Verb (m002jhn5)**  
The Adverb

Testament presents poetry in performance from Daljit Nagra, Kate Fox, Andrew McMillan and Kirsty Taylor

The Adverb is recorded in front of a studio audience in St George's Hall, Bradford at the Contains Strong Language festival. Part of the Bradford 2025 City of Culture celebrations.

Testament is a writer, rapper, educator and world-record breaking beatboxer. Daljit Nagra won the Forward Poetry Prize for best single poem in 2004 for "Look We Have Coming to Dover!" Verb regular Kate Fox's recent books include 'Bigger on the Inside' and 'On Sycamore Gap'. Andrew McMillan won the Guardian First Book award for his debut collection Physical and Kirsty Taylor is a writer and educator inspired by her beloved hometown Bradford - she opened the City of Culture year in January performing to 20,000 people in City Park.

Presenter: Testament  
Producer: Jessica Treen  
Exec Producer: Susan Roberts

**FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m002jhn7)**  
In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

**FRI 22:45 Mrs Robinson by Helen Cross (m002jhn9)**  
Episode 5: Experience

Lydia has to confront reality. Branwell refuses to. And Anne's plan has unexpected consequences. Final episode of Helen Cross's five-part original fiction, read by Anne-Marie Duff.

Producers: Fay Lomas and Mair Bosworth

**FRI 23:00 Americast (w3ct7t5y)**  
Join Americast for insights and analysis on what's happening inside Trump's White House.

**FRI 23:30 Short Works (m0012swr)**  
The Riots

An original short work for BBC Radio 4 by the Northern Irish writer Dawn Watson. As read by Aoibhéann McCann.

Dawn Watson published her debut poetry pamphlet 'The Stack of Owls is Getting Higher' in 2019. She has short stories in anthologies including 'Still Worlds Turning' and 'Belfast Stories'. Dawn has taught undergraduate Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre in Queen's University since 2018. She is a former national tabloid sub editor and lives in Belfast.

Writer: Dawn Watson  
Reader: Aoibhéann McCann  
Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**FRI 23:45 Today in Parliament (m002jy92)**  
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament