

SATURDAY 04 OCTOBER 2025**SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m002k4qh)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 00:30 Dangerous Miracle by Liam Shaw (m002k4p9)

Episode 5: Redesigning Research

Biologist Liam Shaw explores the surprising history and uncertain future of antibiotics, one of humanity's greatest medical advances.

The week concludes with an overview of the possible future of antibiotic treatment; from bespoke phage therapy to a complete overhaul of the pharmaceutical industry.

Read by James Macnaughton

Abridged by Eileen Horne

Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002k4qk)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002k4qm)

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 (m002k4qp)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002k4qr)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002k4qt)

The seasons of our lives

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rev Lynne Gibson

Good morning.

'I'm glad I live in a world where there are Octobers'. If you recognise that quotation, you may well be of a generation which grew up reading 'Anne of Green Gables' and its sequels. The books were among my all-time favourites, and so I was ridiculously excited when my brother and family moved across Canada to settle on Prince Edward Island, where the books were both written and set.

As a result, and quite out of character, the first time I visited the island, I went both to the Anne of Green Gables musical and on the tourist trail. The books don't just portray the adventures of the eponymous heroine – Anne with an 'e' – but give us an insight into a beautiful island, where the stunning, changing colours of October inspired her.

This 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' is often the most beautiful of seasons: the low autumn sun, early morning mists and the colours, have a warmth and beauty which can ease us gently into winter.

'For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven', the writer of Ecclesiastes put it. The seasons of our lives are no less clearly defined for us by the Creator than the seasons of nature – and yet we can be slow to recognise those changes. We may celebrate our 'summer moments', the births, weddings, successes in our lives, and even the significance of spring with its new possibilities and hopes.

But God is with us in all of our seasons - in the mourning as well as the laughing. He is with us in the autumn season, as some of the certainties of life around us change, where the colours of life fade, and we move into a winter of grief and loss.

Lord, as you give us eyes to see the splendour of the autumn, give us the faith to know that you walk with us in every season of our lives, Amen

SAT 05:45 Untaxing (m0029hm0)

2. The Beatles Clause

Harry Potter star, Rupert Grint, thought he'd found a way to cut his tax bill, until an obscure law tripped him up. That law? One created because of The Beatles.

But why were the Fab Four so desperate to avoid tax? And how did their money-saving scheme end with them losing control of their own music? A story of rock, rebellion, and the long arm of the taxman.

Producer: Tom Pooley

A Tempo+Talker production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 06:00 News and Papers (m002kf43)

The news headlines, including a look at the newspapers.

SAT 06:07 Open Country (m002kf40)

Black Poplars: How to Save a Tree

Have you ever heard of a black poplar? You've probably seen one, at least in a painting, even if you didn't recognise it as such. The black poplar is Britain's most endangered tree, and features in Constable's famous work, The Hay Wain. Martha Kearney is in Suffolk to see black poplars at Plattford Mill, the location in the painting, and to talk to botanical artist Ruth Wharrier about painting from nature. With tree wardens David Appleton and Fe Morris, Martha surveys new trees on the riverbank nearby. She finishes by visiting a new clone bank of trees at Jimmy's Farm, which are thriving between the wolves and polar bears. Without active support, this native British tree could disappear from our countryside altogether.

Suffolk Tree Warden Network:

<https://www.suffolktreewardens.org.uk>

<https://ruthwharrier.com>

<https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/adult-learning/botanical-art>

Producer: Beth O'Dea

SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m002kf45)

Farming Today This Week: illegal meat, rural poverty, bluetongue, livestock marts, acorns and pigs

Twenty tonnes of illegal meat and animal products have been intercepted at Dover in September alone according to Dover's Head of Port Health and Public Protection. Lucy Manzano tells us the amount of illegal meat her staff are seizing is 'escalating'.

The way deprivation is measured in the UK means the challenges facing rural areas aren't taken into account. That's the conclusion of "Pretty Poverty", a new report from Plymouth Marjon University. It argues that rural hardship could be "hidden behind scenic views" and that factors like needing to own a car in remote areas with poor public transport aren't taken into consideration.

All week we've been looking at livestock markets, we catch up with farmers who say Cockerthorpe Mart in Cumbria is a vital social hub. We visit a mart on the English Welsh border to find out how the sector's coping with bluetongue restrictions and we speak to Dr Carrie Batten the bluetongue expert at the World Organisation for Animal Health and Head of the National Reference Laboratory for the disease at the Pirbright Institute

Every autumn pigs are released into the New Forest for the ancient tradition of "pannage". The pigs gobble up acorns from the thousands of oak trees in the Forest - and it's a bumper crop this year. Good news for fattening pigs, but bad news for ponies and cattle for whom the acorns are toxic.

Presenter = Charlotte Smith

Producer = Rebecca Rooney

SAT 06:57 Weather (m002kf47)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SAT 07:00 Today (m002kf49)

Today (Saturday)

SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m002kf4c)

Priscilla Presley, Ann Cleaves, Panning for Gold, and Davina McCall's Inheritance Tracks

Priscilla Presley met Elvis in Germany aged 14, moving with him to Graceland at 17 before their marriage, but despite the glamour surrounding their lives, Priscilla's experience was marked by emotional complexity. In her new memoir, 'Softly as I Leave You', she reveals how she felt she was "living his life".

Ann Cleaves has written 37 novels, garnering huge critical acclaim. Her work's been translated into more than 20 languages, including television, with adaptations of her work yielding ITV's Vera and the BBC's Shetland. Her latest 'The Killing Stones' sees the return of DCI Jimmy Perez.

Vincent Thirkettle gave up a secure job with the Forestry Commission to pursue a life of gold prospecting at age 40 after he calculated his life expectancy was much less than he hoped. He is now best known for discovering Britain's largest gold nugget, 97g, about the size of a small chicken egg in a shipwreck off the coast of Anglesey.

Also, Ursula Martin, the woman who decided to walk her way

past cancer. 10 years and 10,000 miles on, she's still walking.

Plus the inheritance tracks of Davina McCall.

Presenter: Adrian Chiles

Producer: Ben Mitchell

SAT 10:00 Curious Cases (m002kf4f)

Series 24

To Crab, or Not to Crab?

We can all picture a crab, but did you know that nature has reinvented those claw clicking, sideways scuttling crustaceans at least five separate times? In recent years the internet has run wild with the idea that crabs are the ultimate life-form, and that even humans might one day end up with pincers too. But is there any truth behind the memes? Hannah and Dara scale the tangled tree of life and tackle taxonomy to figure out if 'crab' really is evolution's favourite shape. Exploring coconut to spanner, ghost to hermit, soldier to spider they learn how to tell the 'true' crabs from the impostors.

You can send your everyday mysteries for the team to investigate to: curiouscases@bbc.co.uk

Contributors

Dr Joanna Wolfe – Evolutionary Biologist, Harvard University

and UC Santa Barbara

Professor Matthew Wills - Professor of Evolutionary

Paleobiology, University of Bath

Ned Suesat-Williams – Director of the Crab Museum, Margate

Producer: Emily Bird

Executive Producer: Sasha Feachem

A BBC Studios Production

SAT 10:30 The Kitchen Cabinet (m002kf4h)

Series 49

Durham

Jay Rayner and the panel are in Durham answering questions from an audience of eager home cooks. Joining Jay are chefs, cooks and food writers Rob Owen Brown, Sarah Rankin and Rachel McCormack, and local legend and hairy biker, Si King.

The panel discuss chutneys fit for a wedding, how to concoct the perfect sweet and sour pork, and aubergine recipes for someone who doesn't like aubergines.

Later, we hear the panel's verdict whether eating ice cream with cheese and onion crisps is ever acceptable.

Producer: Dan Cocker

Junior Producer: Dulcie Whadcock

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 11:00 Radical with Amol Rajan (m002k4ln)

British Identity: How Schools Can Improve Multiculturalism (Katharine Birbalsingh)

Headteacher Katharine Birbalsingh thinks multiculturalism in Britain has led to an excessive focus on our differences rather than what unites us, but she believes schools like hers can change that by teaching traditional values and British culture.

Known for enforcing strict discipline at Michaela Community School in north London, Katharine explains why she promotes unity over diversity.

She is also critical of those in power who ignore what she sees as the concerns of "white British people", which she says breeds resentment towards minorities.

And she tells Amol why she's opposed to the government's school's bill and what she makes of Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson.

In a statement the Department for Education said: "This government is delivering transformative education reforms so every child can achieve and thrive, regardless of their background or postcode because expecting a great education for all children should never be controversial.

"The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill will be a seminal moment for the safety and success of our children, introducing common-sense measures backed by parents and teachers that ensure excellence and support - from highly qualified teachers and a cutting-edge curriculum, to reduced costs for families through breakfast clubs and school uniforms."

GET IN TOUCH

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Episodes of Radical with Amol Rajan are released every Thursday and you can also watch them on BBC iPlayer: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m002f1d0/radical-with-amol-rajan>

Amol Rajan is a presenter of the Today programme on BBC Radio 4. He is also the host of University Challenge on BBC One. Before that, Amol was media editor at the BBC and editor at The Independent.

Radical with Amol Rajan is a Today Podcast. It was made by Lewis Vickers with Anna Budd. Digital production was by Gabriel Purcell-Davies. Technical production was by James Piper. The editor is Sam Bonham. The executive producer is Owenna Griffiths.

SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002kf4k)
Dubai's hidden sex trade

Kate Adie introduces stories from Dubai, The Dominican Republic, Denmark, Spain and Australia.

Dubai is often described as one of the safest cities in the world - but safe for who? In the shadows of shining skyscrapers and shopping malls is an exploitative sex trade. Runako Celina has been investigating the suspicious deaths of two women who travelled to Dubai with big dreams.

The Dominican Republic is a popular tourist destination - though not all new arrivals are welcome. The government is currently undertaking a sweeping campaign to deport illegal immigrants - in particular, those who have arrived from neighbouring Haiti. John Murphy met Haitians hiding out in the hills, to evade authorities.

Denmark is among several European countries to have reported mysterious drone incursions in recent weeks. This comes at a time when the country is already on edge over its national security, having recently decided to extend its mandatory military service to include young women. Anna Holligan met some of the new recruits.

In the Basque country, harvest festival season is underway - including some of the most enduring Pagan celebrations in Europe. These champion the land, the people deeply rooted to it, and a rich sense of local pride. Simon Busch has been joining in the festivities.

And finally, while rare, Australia sees the highest rate of shark attacks in the world, but it doesn't stop millions of people enjoying the beaches and the ocean. So, what can Australians' love of the outdoors, no matter the dangers, teach the rest of us? Katy Watson reports from her local life-saving club in Sydney.

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

SAT 12:00 News Summary (m002kf4m)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

SAT 12:04 Money Box (m002kf4p)
Paying with Cash and Pension Age Rise

Cash now accounts for less than 10% of all the retail payments we make. New figures out this week UK Finance, which represents banks and others, show the latest in the long term decline of cash. Just over a year ago new rules from the regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority said banks had to ensure customers had access to their cash and could take their money out in cash, but at the same time the number of shops putting up the card only signs has increased. What does that mean for the future of cash?

On Monday it will be 6 months until the state pension age begins to rise from 66 to 67. How will that transition work?

The price cap on electricity and gas went up this week - affecting millions of households across England, Wales and Scotland. The energy regulator, Ofgem, says gas and electricity bills will increase by an average of 2% but it's the costs of electricity that's rising, not gas.

And what can do to ensure that your pension is being invested ethically?

Presenter: Paul Lewis
Reporters: Luke Wilson and Niamh McDermott
Researcher: Eimear Devlin and Jo Krasner
Editor: Jess Quayle
Senior News Editor: Sara Wadeson

(First broadcast 12pm Saturday 4th October 2025)

SAT 12:30 The News Quiz (m002k4q0)
Series 118

5. Less Flags, More Bunting

At this week's Labour Conference, Kier Starmer warned that Britain faces a 'fork in the road'. Helping Andy Zaltzman decide which way to turn are Ian Smith, Celya AB, Hugo Rifkind and Zoe Lyons.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Cody Dahler, Eve Delaney and John Tothill
Producer: Georgia Keating and James Robinson
Executive Producer: Pete Strauss
Production Coordinator: Jodie Charman
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

SAT 12:57 Weather (m002kf4r)
The latest weather forecast

SAT 13:00 News (m002kf4t)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (m002k4q6)
Aphra Brandreth MP, Lord Carlile, George Monbiot, Emma Reynolds MP

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from The Square at Chester Zoo, with the Conservative MP and member of the Commons foreign affairs committee, Aphra Brandreth; the crossbench peer and former independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, Lord Carlile; Guardian columnist and environmental campaigner, George Monbiot; and the secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs, Labour's Emma Reynolds.

Producer: Paul Martin
Lead broadcast engineer: Michael Smith

SAT 14:05 Any Answers? (m002kf4w)
Listeners respond to the issues raised in the preceding edition of Any Questions?

SAT 14:45 The Archers (m002k4q2)
The Grey Gables job shadowing scheme is underway, and Brad tries to persuade dismissive Ian how crucial and interesting the porter's job is. Ian asserts he's never been good at sticking on a false smile. However when he notices a restaurant reviewer's booked in, he hastily offers to look after her. He reports later that she was very impressed with the shadowing idea. He apologises to Brad for his earlier sniffy attitude - it's been good for him to see the front of house stuff. Brad admits ruefully he's not looking forward to his billet on Security, shadowing Mick.

Kirsty tackles Justin about his intention to sell his Borchester Land shares. She's concerned about the implications, and for the future of Rewilding Ambridge. Justin insists it will make no difference, but Kirsty protests they'll have a much harder time of it with the Board. Justin assures her he's keeping his own personal stake in the scheme, and will always be on hand to offer advice on how to handle the Board.

George is still in suspense over the date of his hearing. He's keen to put his case, but again the officer tells him he can have his say when the time comes. Relenting slightly, the officer admits she believes George's side of the story. George gets an update from Amber about Bartleby. Covering his worries about the upcoming hearing, he lets Amber believe his subdued mood is due to the pony. Later when he finds out he could get an additional six weeks on his sentence, George is distraught.

SAT 15:00 Drama on 4 (m000wrt3)
The Last of England

A darkly comic drama by BAFTA award-winning dramatist Neil McKay, with a title inspired by Ford Madox Brown's painting. Three 60-something friends argue passionately over the course of a ferry journey from Portsmouth to Santander, returning to their expat life in Spain after attending the UK funeral of their friend Ken, who went home for a visit and would never come back.

Hywel, a loquacious Welshman, Irishman Jim from Lurgan and pugnacious ex-MP Malcolm from Glasgow are unlikely allies (and enforced drinking pals) in the small Spanish town they now call home. Fuelled by some indifferent Rioja and cheap Spanish brandy, through the course of a night they try - and fail - to come to terms with life, death, truth and Brexit.

Also on the ferry are Ken's daughter Gemma and her partner

Rashid, carrying the ashes of Ken, to scatter beneath an almond tree in his favourite spot near the village. But Gemma is furious with her father for abandoning his English family and falling for a bartender more than half his age. She's furious with her father's so-called friends for encouraging him. And she's quite cross with Rashid.

As the ferry heads for Spain and the sea gets rougher, secrets and motivations are revealed, showing nothing is quite as anyone believed and nobody is quite what they seem. Is home where you live, or where your heart is?

Neil McKay - The Moorside, Appropriate Adult, Mo, See No Evil, The Hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper - is one of our foremost television dramatists, specialising in factually-based drama. He has written many comic pieces including: Hot Money, about female Bank of England employees who robbed the bank of disused notes; Planespotters about British plane-spotters arrested for spying in Greece, starring Lesley Sharp; and, most recently, feature film Dream Horse for Film4/ Warner Bros about a female cleaner in a South Wales village who bred a champion racehorse - starring Toni Collette and Damian Lewis.

Cast
Hywel - Anthony O'Donnell
Malcolm - Gary Lewis
Jim - Dan Gordon
Rashid - George Bukhari
Gemma - Faye McKeever

Writer - Neil McKay
Director - Melanie Harris
Executive Producer - Jeremy Mortimer
Production Co-ordinator - Darren Spruce
Sound Recordist - Louis Blatherwick
Sound Designer - Eloise Whitmore

A Sparklab production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 16:00 Woman's Hour (m002kf4y)
Weekend Woman's Hour: Melinda French Gates, Rebecca Solnit, 'Carents', Actor Tracey Ullman

Melinda French Gates is on a crusade to boost research into women's health. She co-founded the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000 which has, to date, donated over \$100 billion to charitable projects. Since her divorce from Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, she has left their joint enterprise and set up her own, Pivotal Ventures, which has one purpose: to put power into the hands of women. She joined Anita Rani in the Woman's Hour studio.

Gloria Allred is one of the best known women's rights lawyers in the US. She tells Nuala McGovern what has happened to victims' voices amongst the continuous revelations in the press from the Epstein Files. We then hear from bestselling author and leading feminist thinker Rebecca Solnit, who says the released documents are reminders of a culture that decades of feminism have started to dismantle.

The conservationist and primatologist Dame Jane Goodall died this week aged 91. According to the Jane Goodall Institute, she died of natural causes in California where she was staying as part of a speaking tour in the US. There have been tributes from around the world. Wildlife biologist, National Geographic Explorer and President of the Wildlife Trust, Liz Bonnin, joins Anita Rani to remember this ground-breaking conservationist who revolutionised the study of great apes. Jillian Miller who is the director of the Gorilla Organisation, which works to save gorillas from extinction also pays tribute.

Many of us will remember the multi-award winning Tracey Ullman from her TV shows, A Kick up the Eighties, Three of a Kind, as well as The Tracey Ullman Show, which was a hit on both sides of the Atlantic. Tracey joins Nuala McGovern to discuss her latest role in the film, Steve, in which she plays the deputy head in a last chance reform school for troubled teenage boys.

A 'carent' is an adult child who is caring for one or both of their ageing parents, in-laws or elderly relatives. Many 'carents' will be balancing work and family alongside. Dr Jackie Gray, a retired GP and founder of The Carents Room, joins Nuala McGovern to discuss, along with Kendra and Rachel who provide care for their parents.

Presenter: Anita Rani
Producer: Simon Richardson

SAT 17:00 PM (m002kf50)
As the White House sends two envoys to Egypt, could there be a breakthrough on Gaza?

President Trump sends two envoys to Egypt. Could there be a genuine breakthrough on a ceasefire in Gaza? A former mediator gives their expert opinion.

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SAT 17:30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson (m002kf52) Bridget Phillipson on life as education secretary One of the two candidates to be deputy leader of Labour joins Nick at the end of party's conference in Liverpool. Bridget Phillipson opens up about how her own experience of poverty informs her political views on childcare, schools and universities. She also reveals her DJ set-list Producer: Daniel Kraemer Research: Chloe Desave Editor: Giles Edwards SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m002kf54) The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping SAT 17:57 Weather (m002kf56) The latest weather reports and forecast SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002kf58) Hopes are rising of an end to the war in Gaza Hopes are rising of an end to the war in Gaza after Hamas accepted some of the terms of a peace deal proposed by President Trump. The militant group that runs the territory has agreed to exchange all of the hostages for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Negotiations are expected to resume in Egypt as soon as tomorrow. Also: 355 people have been arrested at pro-Palestine demonstrations in central London. And: Storm Amy is continuing to bring heavy rain and strong winds to large parts of the UK. SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m002kf5b) Joanna Lumley; James Graham; Esther Walker; Bret McKenzie; Nxdia; Clive Anderson There's plenty of treasures, national and otherwise in this week's Loose Ends. Joanna Lumley describes selecting from a lifetime's worth of lists, poems and anecdotes to create a thoughtful, moving and often hilarious anthology that she says describes the workings of her mind perfectly. Playwright James Graham on updating his play Dear England to send it touring the country and why the story of England football manager Gareth Southgate is exactly the way to cheer us all, even if you never want or need to understand the offside rule. Journalist Esther Walker on being rejected umpteen times by "very mean" publishers before bringing out her debut novel that explores what it is children give us and what it is they take away. With music from ex-Flight of the Conchords frontman and Oscar-winning Muppets songwriter Bret McKenzie and Egyptian-British singer and TikTok star Nxdia. Presenter: Clive Anderson Producer: Olive Clancy Assistand Producer: Nancy Bennie SAT 19:00 Profile (b09jqdst) Sarah Mullally Sarah Mullally, appointed this week as the first woman Bishop of London, the third most senior position in the Anglican Church. A former nurse and senior civil servant, she was ordained in 2001. Her surprise appointment followed a brief spell as Bishop of Devon in Crediton. She's expected to attract criticism from more conservative elements of the Anglo-Catholic and Evangelical elements of the church. Mark Coles profiles the most senior woman in the Anglican Church. Presenter: Mark Coles Producers: Helen Grady and Siobhan O'Connell Production Coordinator: Janet Staples SAT 19:15 This Cultural Life (m002k4kh) Jonathan Anderson Jonathan Anderson was appointed as creative director of the French fashion house Dior in March 2025, becoming one of the world's most influential designers. As creative director of the luxury label Loewe for 11 years from 2013, he led a rebranding of the Spanish company, and was hailed a critical and commercial success. He's also run his own label JW Anderson since 2008, and launched collaborative lines with high street brands including Top Shop and Uniqlo. The recipient of many accolades since winning the Emerging Talent prize at the British Fashion Awards in 2012, he was named Designer Of The Year in 2023 and 2024. Jonathan Anderson tells John Wilson about his rural upbringing	in Northern Ireland at the height of The Troubles, and the influence of his father, the former Ireland rugby team captain Willie Anderson. He recalls a childhood visit to a textiles factory run by his maternal grandfather that sparked a fascination for printed fabrics. Working as a shop window designer for the luxury label Prada led him to pursue ambitions to become a fashion designer, encouraged by Prada stylist Manuela Pavesi. Jonathan Anderson also reflects on the importance of creative freedom in his industry, claiming that the radical era of fashion, epitomised by designers such as Alexander McQueen and John Galliano, has been replaced by a fear of pushing boundaries due to the risk of social media backlash. Producer: Edwina Pitman SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m002kf5g) One Last Chance to See "It's funny how often, every author I know, their own favourite book is the one that sold the least... My favourite book is what I'm here to talk about tonight." Douglas Adams is best known as a science fiction writer. But in the late 80s, the author of The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy embarked on something completely different. After a life-changing meeting with a rare lemur called an Aye-Aye, he decided he wanted to travel the world with the zoologist Mark Carwardine, in search of endangered species. Their journeys became a book and a Radio 4 series called Last Chance To See. A few years ago, Katherine Rundell stumbled upon Last Chance To See in a second hand book shop. "It was a revelation... the way that he managed to salute the intricate variety and infinite strangeness of living things and still tell some of the best jokes that you will encounter in print, that seemed to me both an extraordinary thing and the thing that we need so much more of." Here, Katherine Rundell revisits the story behind the book and Radio 4 series – as told by its co-author Mark Carwardine in a new interview, and Douglas himself, thanks to archive from the lecture Douglas gave at the University of California in 2001, just a month before his death . Ever ahead of his time, the message of the book is even more stark today. "We don't have to save the world. The world's fine. The world has been through five periods of mass extinction.... What we have to be concerned about is whether or not the world we live in will be capable of sustaining us in it. That's what we need to think about." With thanks to Mark Carwardine, the Douglas Adams Estate, and the University of California. Presented by Katherine Rundell. Produced in Bristol by Polly Weston SAT 21:00 Moral Maze (m002k3mg) Is democracy a failed experiment? Later this month, millions of demonstrators are due to take to the streets across the USA for a second time, under the banner "No Kings". Organisers say, "America has no kings, and the power belongs to the people". They are mobilizing to protest against what they see as democratic backsliding during Trump's second presidency. Faith in democracy has been shaking all over the world. Recent Pew research suggests that, since 2017, public dissatisfaction with democracy far outweighs satisfaction across 12 high-income countries, including the UK, France and Germany. There are different interpretations of what's causing this, and how to fix it. Some observers think that Trump's more controversial policies – from DOGE to attacks on elite institutions to the dismantling of DEI programmes – could have been inspired by the ideas of Curtis Yarvin, a computer engineer turned political theorist. He's known for founding an anti-democracy philosophical movement called 'The Dark Enlightenment', dismissing America's democratic values and instead calling for the return of an absolute monarchy, run by a 'CEO' figure. Are democratic values a fiction, designed to prop up the elites? Or are they the only safeguard we have against tyranny? Chair: Michael Buerk Panel: Carmody Grey, Ash Sarkar, Anne McElvoy and Inaya Folarin-Iman Witnesses: Curtis Yarvin, Mike Wendling and Andrés Velasco Producers: Dan Tierney and Peter Everett *This is a special episode of the Moral Maze recorded at 'How The Light Gets In' philosophy and music festival:	https://howthelightgetsin.org/festivals SAT 22:00 News (m002kf5j) National and international news from BBC Radio 4 SAT 22:15 The Food Programme (m002k4p7) In Search of Mustard in Norwich Five years ago, after 160 years in Norwich, the Colman's factory shut its doors for the last time. John Osborne is a writer, a poet and a performer - he's called Norwich home for 25 years. But last year, while writing a show about his city, he began to learn more about the depth of the history of Colman's, and he started to wonder why more people don't know about it. Between Jeremiah Colman, James Colman, Jeremiah James Colman and many many generations since, an entire empire was built on the back of these humble seeds. The company had a cradle-to-grave ethos, providing education, housing, healthcare and leisure for workers and their families. All of which means the factory, the school buildings, the churches, even the entire village of Trowse is still a part of the fabric of the city. Now, everywhere he looks in Norwich, from the double yellow lines, to the big yellow boxes on the pavement full of sand for de-icing the concrete in winter... John sees mustard. Hundreds of people worked at the factory, and as its doors shut in 2020, a crowdunder was underway to launch a new Norwich mustard. Five years on, the mustard is nowhere to be found. Even the famous mustard shop, where everyone went for Christmas presents for their relatives, is gone. So John wants to rediscover this history, and along the way find out what's happened to Norwich's mustard. After all, the bright yellow labels on shelves all over the world still proudly read Colman's "of Norwich". As it turns out, thanks to the determination of the local mustard farmers, mustard never really left Norwich at all... Presented by John Osborne Produced in Bristol by Polly Weston SAT 23:00 Icklewick FM (m002j89k) Series 2 6. The Barricade The long running stand off between Mayor Power and the Coalition of Concerned Pensioners threatens to boil over into an all out war. With Chris and Amy still not talking to each other, Simon is forced to cover the rapidly escalating ruckus from the studio with Mr Patel. The truth about Amy's gap year is finally revealed which leads to grave consequences that will change Icklewick forever... 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 Jen Brister Henry Paker Molly McGuinness Darren J Coles Shivani Thussu Joe Kent Walters 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 The 3rd Degree (m002k3g8) Series 15 3. University of Kent This episode coming from the University of Kent, The 3rd Degree is a funny, upbeat and brainy quiz show.
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The specialist subjects this week are Forensic Science, Architecture and English Literature, so we'll be charging James Bond under the Firearms Act, watching friendly bombs fall on Slough and chatting about the worst bits of Titus Andronicus. All this plus dinosaurs! The show is recorded on location at a different University each week, and pits three Undergraduates against three of their Professors in this fresh take on an academic quiz. The General Knowledge rounds include a quickfire bell-and-buzzer finale and the Highbrow & 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. In this series, universities include Bristol, Queen Mary University of London, Kent, Worcester College Oxford, and Manchester Metropolitan University. Producer: David Tyler A Pozzitive production for BBC Radio 4 SUNDAY 05 OCTOBER 2025 SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m002kf5l) National and international news from BBC Radio 4 SUN 00:15 Take Four Books (m002k3g6) William Boyd Booker shortlisted writer William Boyd speaks to Take Four Books this week about his new spy novel, The Predicament, and together with presenter James Crawford, and the crime writer Louise Welsh, they explore its connections to three other literary works. In his new novel, which is the second in a trilogy, travel writer turned accidental spy, Gabriel Dax, finds himself caught up in events in Guatemala, and then in Berlin, where he becomes aware of a plot to assassinate the charismatic, young president John F Kennedy. The stakes are high, the pace is fast, and Gabriel is finding the allure of his handler, Faith Green, difficult to resist. For his three influences William chose: Mountolive, published in 1958, and which is the third volume in The Alexandria Quartet series by Lawrence Durrell; Len Deighton's debut novel The Ipcress File from 1962, this was later turned into a film, of the same name, starring Michael Cane; and John Le Carre's iconic The Spy Who Came In From The Cold published in 1963. Producer: Dominic Howell Editor: Gillian Wheelan This is a BBC Audio Scotland production. SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002kf5n) The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002kf5q) 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 (m002kf5s) National and international news from BBC Radio 4 SUN 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002kf5v) The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m002kf5x) Winchester Cathedral in Hampshire. Bells on Sunday, comes from Winchester Cathedral in Hampshire. Bells have rung out from the Cathedral since Saxon times. It is recorded that King Cnut gave two bells to the Old Minster in the early 11th century. Today the Cathedral has the only diatonic ring of fourteen in the world. The tenor bell weighs thirty five and a half hundredweight and is tuned to the note of C. We hear them ringing Erin Septuples. SUN 05:45 In Touch (m002k3jp) Scottish Venues; A Career in Computer Science Sight Scotland are a charity that provide support for vision impaired and blind people in Scotland. They have recently launched a report about the state of arts access across Scotland	and a subsequent campaign that is calling for all venues across the country to be made accessible to visually impaired people. Scotland's culture secretary Angus Robertson has thrown his support behind the campaign but how will this all be done? To help answer that, Peter White is joined by Sight Scotland's Head of External Affairs and Campaigns Mark Ballard and Alistair Mackie, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, which has already been implementing some accessibility features to better cater to their visually impaired concert goers. When 24 year-old Haseeb Jabbar wanted to study computer science at GCSE and A-Levels, he was told that the course would be too visual and too difficult to adapt for someone who was totally blind. Despite this, Haseeb already had the skills necessary from teaching himself computer coding using screen reading software when he was a youngster and he now works for a global IT consultancy firm. Haseeb tells In Touch about his journey from being told no to achieving the career he'd always wanted. Presenter: Peter White Producer: Beth Hemmings Production Coordinator: Pete Liggins 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 (m002kfhm) The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4 SUN 06:05 Beyond Belief (m002k3j5) Have religions forgotten the working class? This special edition of Beyond Belief was recorded in Bradford, the 2025 City of Culture, at the Contains Strong Language festival - the BBC's annual celebration of poetry, performance and spoken word. In this episode the panel will explore have religions forgotten the working class - with creative responses from spoken word artists Sajju Ahmed and Sharena Lee Satti. Is religion fundamentally a middle-class activity? Does the church have a class problem? And, how can religious organisations play their role in making a society for all? To examine these questions, Giles is joined by: Father Alex Frost, Anglican Priest and author of 'From Argos to Altar'. Alina Khan, Vice Principal for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion at Bradford College, and winner of the British Muslim Woman of the Year 2024 at the British Muslim Awards. Dermot Bolton, Vice Chair of Bradford Standing Advisory Council on Religion Education and Humanist Advisor to Bradford University Chaplaincy. Dr Sufyan Abid Dogra - Anthropologist of Religion. He is involved in campaigns against inequalities and advocates for the upward mobility of disadvantaged minority populations. He is a board member for Active Bradford and Bradford Art Centre. He is a member of Muslims in Britain Research Network. Presenter: Giles Fraser Producer: Alexa Good Assistant Producers: Naomi Wellings and Linda Walker Editor: Tim Pemberton SUN 06:35 On Your Farm (m002kfhp) Dyfi Dairy: Rescue, Retirement and Rich Rewards Sophia Morgan-Swinhoe, Scott Sanders and Sam Lewis sell milk and cheese direct to their local community, produced from a herd of goats and some 45 head of cattle. They're young, driven and relentlessly hard working, herding their livestock up the steep hills of Powys on foot and forever looking for ways to optimise animal welfare. Many of the original dairy herd were rescue animals, they move the bull calves on as conservation grazers, and older cows are kept on farm after retirement. As a former vegan, Sophia describes the operation as an 'ethics experiment', using positive reinforcement by way of treats and scratches to build relationships with the animals and promote both safety and productivity. The farm is now not only profitable but also has a secure base. After ten years of hard graft and multiple tenancies, Dyfi Dairy at last have the keys to their first farm. The sense of security is a welcome relief. On the morning Verity Sharp visits, the new mobile, solar-powered	milking parlour the trio have designed and built is in operation. As an approved calf-at-foot dairy, the small system enables newborns to be kept with their mothers during milking. They talk through how it works and then, after a steep climb up the valley to reunite the cows with the older calves, sit down to talk farm economics whilst handing round some of Dyfi Dairy's legendary fudge. SUN 06:57 Weather (m002kfhr) The latest weather reports and forecast SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m002kfht) National and international news from BBC Radio 4 SUN 07:10 Sunday (m002kfhw) New Archbishop of Canterbury, Manchester Synagogue attack, Israel-Hamas peace deal Dame Sarah Mullally has made history by being named the first female Archbishop of Canterbury. William Crawley and guests address the talking points around the appointment. Members of the UK's Jewish community reflect on this week's deadly attack on a synagogue in Manchester. And ahead the second anniversary of the October 7th attacks by Hamas, could we be on the brink of lasting peace in Gaza? Presenter: William Crawley Producers: Dan Tierney, Rosie Dawson and Jay Behrouzi. Studio managers: Nat Stokes and Emily Ratcliffe. Editor: Tim Pemberton SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m002kfhy) Kinship Actor and ambassador for Kinship Jay Kontzle makes this week's Radio 4 appeal. When parents are unable to raise their children, the charity provides help, advice and training for kinship carers in England and Wales. The Radio 4 Appeal features a new charity every week. Each appeal then runs on Radio 4 from Sunday 0754 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 'Kinship'. - Cheques should be made payable to 'Kinship'. - You can donate online at 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: 1093975. If you'd like to find out more about the charity's work visit *https://kinship.org.uk/ *The BBC is not responsible for content on external websites Producer: Katy Takatsuki SUN 07:57 Weather (m002kfj0) The latest weather reports and forecast SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m002kfj2) The news headlines, including a look at the newspapers. SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m002kfj4) Brother Sun and Sister Moon "Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him....Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful" St Francis of Assisi's great hymn of praise, Canticle of the Creatures, is a shout of exultation, that brings together all of creation; wind, rain, plants and animals, the cosmos, and even death. For 800 years it has inspired an affinity with the natural world, placing all things into a relationship with God. In this service from Selwyn College, Cambridge, the Revd Dr Arabella Milbank Robinson explores what this 800 year old song can tell us about our responsibility to the environment in the face of climate change and ecological challenges. The service is led by the Dean of Chapel and Chaplain, Arabella Milbank Robinson. Selwyn Chapel Choir are directed by Selwyn College's Director of Music and University Organist, Sarah MacDonald. The organist is Stanley Godfrey. MUSIC
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Brother Sun, Sister Moon (Sarah MacDonald)
And the swallow (Caroline Shaw)
Benedicite omnia opera Domini (Lassus)
All Creatures of our God and King (Lasst us erfreuen)
Creation sings! each plant and tree (Melita)
Responsorial Psalm: 104

Producer: Katharine Longworth

SUN 08:48 Witness History (w3ct74n3)
The founding of USAID

On 3 November 1961, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was founded, bringing all existing aid work under one single agency.

A key proponent of it was Barbara Ward, a pioneering British economist and journalist who had the ear of presidents and prime ministers across the world.

Later known as Baroness Jackson, she spoke to the John F Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum Oral History Program in 1964 about how the newly independent West African nation of Ghana was one of the first countries to benefit with funds to construct the Volta River Project.

Surya Elango listens back to those archive interviews.

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 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.

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.

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: Barbara Ward. Credit: Getty Images)

SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (m002kfj6)
Paul Farley on the Redwing

Poet Paul Farley muses on the autumnal arrival of redwings, small thrushes that migrate here from continental and northern Europe to spend the winter. Paul watches a flock of redwings feast on a rowan tree laden with berries, and listens out for their high-pitched nocturnal call as they move under the cover of darkness.

Presented by Paul Farley and produced by Sophie Anton for BBC Audio in Bristol.

This programme features a recording from Xeno-canto by Mats Rellmar (Redwing - XC711115)

SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m002kfj8)
Prospect of peace

Amid growing hopes of a ceasefire in Gaza, we hear from Sharone Lifschitz, whose parents were taken hostage. The son of John Le Carré calls for other writers to tinker with George Smiley and reinvent him. Two authors discuss. Plus, Lord Kinnoch on Labour woes. On the newspaper review – the broadcaster Kay Burley, the actor Adam Pearson and the classicist Natalie Haynes.

SUN 10:00 Desert Island Discs (m002kfjb)
Angela Harding, artist

Angela Harding is an artist, printmaker and illustrator. Based in Rutland, Angela's work is inspired by the countryside of the British Isles, and in particular British birds. Alongside her many prints and artistic creations, her award-winning illustrations can be found adorning many a book cover.

Angela was born in Stoke-on-Trent in June 1960, the middle of three daughters to Stephen and Joan Harding. It was an artistic household: her father, a headteacher, passed on his love of poetry to Angela, her mother taught pottery, and all three sisters

would end up going to art college.

She left school at sixteen and, at her mother's behest, did a pre-nursing course before pursuing her passion for art. She studied Fine Art at Leicester Polytechnic from where she graduated with a first in 1982.

After indulging her love of travel – both on her bike around Britain as well as on a Magic Bus across Europe – Angela spent twenty years working in the art world, from teaching to consultancy. During these years, she married and raised two children, then divorced and married her second husband, Mark.

In 2008, she made the life changing decision to pursue a career as a professional artist: she abandoned the media she had previously worked in and concentrated on linocuts and silkscreen printing.

She has worked as a magazine illustrator and today her prints can be found on everything from book covers to tea towels and greeting cards. Her advent calendars – first produced in 2015 – have become a collector's item. She has also published several books of her own.

When she's not on her boat sailing around the British Isles, Angela lives in Rutland, with her husband Mark and her whippet, Oaty.

DISC ONE: I Wanna Thank Ya (featuring Snoop Dogg) - Angie Stone

DISC TWO: The Thought Fox. Written and read by Ted Hughes

DISC THREE: Britten: Songs from "Friday Afternoons", Op. 7: Songs From Friday Afternoons, Op. 7: "Cuckoo!".

Performed by Choir of Downside School, Purley, Viola Tunnard (piano), Benjamin Britten (conductor)

DISC FOUR: Rise - Public Image Ltd.

DISC FIVE: My Lady Story - Anohni and the Johnsons

DISC SIX: La conga blicoti - Joséphine Baker

DISC SEVEN: Skeleton Tree - L.Y.R

DISC EIGHT: Marie douceur - Marie Colère - Marie Laforêt

BOOK CHOICE: Complete Poetical Works and Letters of Edward Thomas

LUXURY ITEM: A lino printing set with champagne CASTAWAY'S FAVOURITE: I Wanna Thank Ya (featuring Snoop Dogg) - Angie Stone

Presenter Lauren Laverne
Producer Sarah Taylor

There are more than 2000 programmes in our archive available for you to listen to. We have cast away other notable artists including Helen Oxenbury, Maggie Hambling and Quentin Blake. You'll also find the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage in our archive too. You can find their episodes on BBC Sounds or on our Desert Island Discs website.

SUN 11:00 The Archers Omnibus (m002kfjd)
Writer: Keri Davies

Director: Marina Caldarone

Editor: Jeremy Howe

28th September - 3rd October

Brian Aldridge.... Charles Collingwood

Pip Archer.... Daisy Badger

Alice Carter.... Hollie Chapman

Ian Craig.... Stephen Kennedy

Ruairi Donovan.... Arthur Hughes

Justin Elliott.... Simon Williams

Amber Gordon.... Charlotte Jordan

Ed Grundy.... Barry Farrimond

Emma Grundy.... Emerald O'Hanrahan

George Grundy.... Angus Stobie

Brad Horrobin.... Taylor Uttley

Alistair Lloyd.... Michael Lumsden

Paul Mack.... Joshua Riley

Adam Macy.... Andrew Wincott

Kirsty Miller.... Annabelle Dowler

Stella Pryor.... Lucy Speed

Prison Officer.... Janice Connolly

SUN 12:15 Profile (b09jqdst)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

SUN 12:30 Paul Sinha's Perfect Pub Quiz (m002k391)
Series 4

Foxy Flag Facts

Paul Sinha tests his audience in Leicester on their knowledge of their home county, Trivial Pursuit-style - with all the colours of questions, from geography to entertainment, getting asked. Can they fill the wedges, and can Paul answer their favourite questions, about crisps, bells and cricket?

Written and performed by Paul Sinha
Additional material: Oliver Levy
Additional questions: The Audience

Original music: Tim Sutton

Recording engineer: Jerry Peal
Mixed by: Rich Evans
Producer: Ed Morrish

A Lead Mojo production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 12:57 Weather (m002kfjg)
The latest weather forecast

SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m002kfjj)
Radio 4's look at the week's big stories from both home and around the world.

SUN 13:30 Marianna in Conspiracyland (m002hfv1)
Marianna in Conspiracyland 2

6. The Inquest

Can Coroners' courts cope with conspiracy?

It's been more than a year since Paloma Shemirani died after rejecting chemotherapy in favour of alternative methods. Her brother Gabriel blames the beliefs of their mum Kate - who is a prominent British conspiracy theorist - for his sister's death. This summer, he's found himself face to face with his mum for the first time since Paloma died at an inquest into how and why she lost her life. After investigating - and revealing - what happened to Paloma for the first time almost four months ago, the BBC's social media investigations correspondent Marianna Spring is back following the twists and turns of an inquest that has felt like Conspiracyland colliding with the real world. In the coroner's court she see's medics questioned by conspiracy theorists and tense family feuds unfolding in real-time. Could Paloma have been saved? And can society handle Conspiracyland?

SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002k4pp)
Darley Dale: Flood Proof Plants, Hangry Heathers and Fast Climbers

What trees are flood and arid proof that will still be here in a hundred years? How can I rejuvenate my gappy Heathers? What fast growing plants could we plant to hide a wall?

Peter Gibbs and a proud panel of gardening experts venture to the Whitworth Institute in Darley Dale where they field questions from an eager live audience of gardeners. Tackling everything from hangry heathers to planting dilemmas, the panel includes head gardeners' Bethan Collerton and Marcus Chilton Jones, and garden designer Bunny Guinness

Later in the programme, James Wong provides some practical advice on how to keep your plants happy indoors this season.

Senior producer: Matthew Smith
Junior producer: Rahnee Prescod

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 14:45 Opening Lines (m002kfjn)
Star of the Sea

In the winter of 1847, the Star of the Sea sets sail from Ireland for New York. Among the refugees are a maidservant, a bankrupt aristocrat, an aspiring novelist and a maker of revolutionary ballads. It reads like a Victorian gothic novel, with murder and intrigue at its heart.

Star of the Sea by Joseph O'Connor was published in 2002 and attracted multiple plaudits as well as literary awards. O'Connor

talks about the shocked response from his publishers when he proposed writing a novel about the Irish Famine and we learn how real facts are woven skilfully into fiction.

Novelist Colm Tóibín explains how there are elements of pastiche in *Star of the Sea* and how it's written like a 19th century novel. He also states that, at a time when the Irish narrative was being re-imagined, even the great Irish playwrights such as Sean O'Casey didn't write about the Famine.

At the heart of the story is the threatening figure of Pius Mulvey – the balladeer and adventurer. Known as 'The Monster', Mulvey stalks the decks of the ship like some kind of embodiment of the tragedy that has overtaken the old country. We hear about the tragic and human stories within this novel into which O'Connor is also able weave humour and a propulsive narrative.

John Yorke explains that the skill of this novel is that, with the aid of eyewitness accounts, historical documents, letters home, passenger manifests and Captain's logs, O'Connor unravels the extraordinary relationships at the book's heart by re-stitching them into a grander tapestry – that of a terrible horror, long hidden, central to a nation's heart.

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

Contributor:
Colm Tóibín, bestselling writer

Extracts from:
The Arts Show, BBC Radio Ulster with Marie Louise Muir, 16 August 2007
Reading from *Star of the Sea* by Peter Marinker, from the audiobook of the same title published by W.F. Howes Ltd, 2011

Star of the Sea published in 2002 by Secker and Warburg

Sound: Sean Kerwin
Researcher: Henry Tydeman
Production Hub Coordinator: Nina Semple
Producer: Belinda Naylor
Executive Producer: Caroline Raphael

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 15:00 Drama on 4 (m002kfqj)
A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian

Episode 2

Episode 2 deepens the turmoil unleashed by Mykolai's marriage to the volatile and much younger Valentyna. Domestic chaos erupts as Mykolai locks himself in fear, alleging abuse, while Valentyna flaunts wealth, bullies him, and charms others with half-truths. The police dismiss the conflict as marital squabbling, but Nadya sees her father's frailty and grows desperate to intervene.

When Mykolai finally takes legal action, divorce proceedings are set in motion, though Valentyna pleads that she is merely a misunderstood immigrant trying to provide for her son, Stanislav. Her past resurfaces with the dramatic arrival of her ex-husband Dubov, who still longs for her and seeks to reunite their fractured family.

Meanwhile, suspicions mount about Valentyna's motives when she returns unexpectedly, apparently pregnant, and demands money in exchange for leaving. Mykolai, blinded by pride and confusion, insists he may be the father, fuelling bitter disputes among his daughters and Dubov.

Interwoven with this present-day drama are poignant wartime recollections. Ludmyla narrates the hardships of her early marriage, motherhood under poverty, and survival through famine, war, and forced labour. Vira, too, begins to reveal her own traumatic childhood memories from a Nazi labour camp - secrets long buried beneath her bitterness.

As tensions escalate, Mykolai clings to poetry, tractors, and delusions of love, even as his daughters push him toward safety and truth. The episode exposes not only Valentyna's manipulations but also the scars of history carried by every member of the family, where loyalty, betrayal, and resilience continue to collide.

An International Arts Partnership production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 16:00 Bookclub (m002kffjs)
John Niven

Led by presenter, James Naughtie, the writer John Niven speaks to Radio 4's Bookclub programme about his 2008 novel, *Kill Your Friends*, which is a darkly comic satire of the UK music industry, as told through the perspective of the sadistic, Steven Stelfox, an A&R executive (Artists and Repertoire) for a London record label. The year is 1997, the height of the Britpop era, and Stelfox has his eyes on promotion.

This recording takes place in the BBC Scotland studios in Glasgow, Pacific Quay.

Producer: Dominic Howell
Editor: Gillian Wheelan

It was a BBC Audio Scotland production.

SUN 16:30 The 3rd Degree (m002kffjv)
Series 15

4. Worcester College, Oxford

This episode coming from Worcester College, Oxford, The 3rd Degree is a funny, upbeat and brainy quiz show.

The specialist subjects this week are Maths, Theology and History, so naturally we'll be looking at exotic 4-spaces, the concept of homoiouision and a little heraldic bird with no feet. And a slug called Shaun. And Wittgenstein.

The show is recorded on location at a different University each week, and pits three Undergraduates against three of their Professors in this fresh take on an academic quiz. The General Knowledge rounds include a quickfire bell-and-buzzer finale and the Highbrow & 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.

In this series, universities include Bristol, Queen Mary University of London, Kent, Worcester College Oxford, and Manchester Metropolitan University.

Producer: David Tyler

A Pozzitive production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 17:00 Witness History (w3ct74q4)
Greece's debt crisis

It was a week that brought the future of Greece and the Eurozone to the brink. Ten years ago, on 6 July the Greek people voted against the terms of a financial bailout which included raising taxes and slashing welfare spending.

Greece owed €323bn to various countries and banks within Europe. Its banks were closed. A quarter of the population and half of Greece's young people were unemployed.

The morning after the vote, Euclid Tsakalotos was brought in to replace Yanis Varoufakis as finance minister. His predecessor had accused European leaders of "terrorism" in their handling of the crisis. Parachuted in to last-ditch talks with angry European leaders, Euclid Tsakalotos describes to Josephine McDermott the make-or-break 17-hour summit in Brussels.

He reveals that when Angela Merkel, the leader of Greece's biggest lender Germany, said she was leaving the room because she could not accept what was on the table, Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, actually locked the door to stop her leaving and force an agreement to be reached.

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

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

fascinating and surprising stories, such as the time an Iraqi journalist hurled his shoes at the President of the United States in protest of America's occupation of Iraq; the creation of the Hollywood commercial that changed advertising forever; and the ascent of the first Aboriginal MP.

(Photo: A queue outside a bank in Greece in 2015. Credit: Getty Images)

SUN 17:10 The Verb (m002kffjy)
The Verb from Contains Strong Language in Bradford

Ian McMillan presents *The Verb from Contains Strong Language in Bradford* - with poets Imtiaz Dharker, Kieron Higgins, Nabeela Ahmed, and Katrina Porteous (reading poems from her Laurel Prize winning collection *Rhizodont*).

Rock, stone and sediments are everywhere in this celebration of poetry and poetry in Bradford. We have millstone grit and the story of stone in a specially commissioned poem from Queen's Gold Medal winner Imtiaz Dharker, the influence of ska on the sediments of language that turned Kieron Higgins into a poet. Nabeela Ahmed reads from her new book *'From Kashmir to Yorkshire'* and explores the layers of languages, including Pahari, that helped to tune her poetry ear, and the winner of this year's Laurel Prize for Nature or Environmental poetry, Katrina Porteous, reads from her collection *'Rhizodont'*. She was described by the judges as 'always keeping faith with the north-east' and the book was praised as a 'a crucial act of the imagination. speaking as non-human entities (eg an ice core) ...loving, knowing and authoritative'.

Produced by Faith Lawrence

SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m002kfk0)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SUN 17:57 Weather (m002kfk2)
The latest weather reports and forecast

SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002kfk4)
The Home Secretary wants police to get more powers to restrict repeated protests

The Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, has set out plans to give police forces new powers to restrict what she called repeat protests. The new rules will cover demonstrations that occur several times in the same location on the same subject. Also: Several hundred people attend the funeral of one of the two men killed in the attack on a synagogue in Manchester. And: President Trump keeps up the pressure on Hamas ahead of more talks to try to agree a ceasefire deal in Gaza.

SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m002kfk6)
James Crawford

This week, James is having a spectral saunter as he listens to BBC Sounds, as we discover the mysteries of phantom islands, an 'English' cemetery in Mexico City, and a short story of a train journey without a terminus. Meanwhile, the Highland Chieftain pulls away from Inverness with Petroc Trelawney onboard as the bicentennial celebrations of the modern railway in Britain continue - and we hear from some of the winners of this year's BBC Short Story Awards.

Presenter: James Crawford
Producer: Anthony McKee
Production Coordinators: Caroline Peddle and Caoilfhinn McFadden
A BBC Audio Northern Ireland production for BBC Radio 4.

SUN 19:00 The Archers (m002kfk8)

Ruairi observes it feels good to be walking beside a field they've planted. He's never felt so fired up about going to work. Adam's surprised to learn Ruairi was with Paul last night. He agrees to have a drink with them both later. However Paul and Adam find themselves alone in the bar as Ruairi's called away, and conversation doesn't flow easily. Paul admits to Jolene that he doesn't know what to talk to Adam about. Jolene enlists the pair as guinea pigs for testing out her 'box of chatter'. Adam thinks it sounds like hell but joins in anyway. He admits afterwards to having fun, as does Paul. Jolene exclaims that's what makes the Bull award winning.

Emma tells Jolene that Clarrie's perfecting George's favourite treacle tart in readiness for his homecoming on Thursday. Jolene reiterates how much she and Kenton appreciate what George did for them. Emma still wishes they hadn't involved him, but she can't wait to finally hug her son again. Later George explains to her about the shank found in his bed, and that it might mean extra time in prison. Appalled Emma counsels that there's no point thinking beyond the hearing tomorrow. George doesn't know if he can take any more. His

mum offers him her strength – they'll get through this. She heads to the Bull and fills Jolene in. She feels like George is even more vulnerable now. Jolene goes to hug Emma but is rebuffed. Emma just wants her to pray that the hearing goes George's way.

SUN 19:15 Illuminated (m002kfkf)
Peanuts at 75

On the 75th anniversary of the iconic comic strip Peanuts, psychoanalyst and author Josh Cohen shares how Charlie Brown and the Snoopy gang have become his constant companions—and how they can help us navigate the frustrating squiggle of life.

Charles Schultz's daily newspaper comic strip is perhaps the most enduring, beloved and iconic cartoon ever penned. Even if you've never read the strip itself, you are unlikely to have escaped its famous characters' journeys across the decades and the globe. The round-headed, wobbly mouthed Charlie Brown and his dog Snoopy, often found snoozing atop his kennel, have been emblazoned across t shirts, crockery and pretty much every other conceivable piece of merchandise. They have inspired TV shows, pop songs, and even been the namesakes of Apollo lunar modules.

Far from just a bunch of cutesy doodles, as many have come to see it, Peanuts' cross-generational appeal is down to its spot-on depiction of the complex emotions that follow us all from childhood into adulthood. From Charlie Brown's humiliation on the baseball field to his frenemy Lucy's unrequited pining for her piano-playing crush, and her brother Linus' desperate attachment to his security blanket, the strip reflects the everyday pain and frustration of being human. And, with warmth and wit, offers its readers a way to live with it.

In fact, Peanuts deals so much in the intense emotional experiences of its young protagonists that one of its most recognisable recurring gags is Lucy's booth offering 'PSYCHIATRIC HELP 5p'.

Stepping out from behind his analytic couch and taking a seat at its cartoon simulacrum in that famous booth, Josh unpacks the psychological truths illustrated in the comic's four main characters - Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus and Snoopy. Hooked by a copy of Peanuts Jubilee aged five, they were his contemporaries. Today, after 50 years of avid reading, he's on the other side of the two-way channel between childhood and adulthood that Peanuts opens up. He investigates the emotional pull of the comic for him and for so many of us - including the other writers and thinkers we hear from who share his passion.

Presenter and Writer: Josh Cohen
Producer: Heather Dempsey
Executive Producer: Samantha Psyk
Editor: Kirsten Lass
A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 19:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m0017tbn)
Enjoy Oily Fish

In this episode, Michael speaks to nutritional neuroscientist Dr Simon Dyall from the University of Roehampton to get to the bottom of the many benefits behind oily fish and Omega-3s. He finds out how consuming Omega-3 could affect your mood, your brain and even your walking speed! They discuss the different types of oily fish, other sources of Omega-3 fatty acids, revealing why these fatty acids are so important.

SUN 20:00 Word of Mouth (m002k4l2)
Julia Donaldson: A life in language

Julia Donaldson, author of The Gruffalo and many other beloved children's books, tells Michael Rosen about her own writing, reading, speaking and listening. Her childhood experiences were a big influence, as was busking in Paris and writing songs which ended up on Play School and Play Away. One of the songs became her first book, A Squash and a Squeeze. They also talk about Julia's new book, Paper Chase, illustrated by Victoria Sandoy. Produced for BBC Audio Bristol by Beth O'Dea, in partnership with the Open University. Subscribe to the Word of Mouth podcast and never miss an episode: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qtnz>

SUN 20:30 Last Word (m002k4pt)
Dame Jane Goodall, Tony Harrison, Lord Menzies Campbell, Danny Thompson

Matthew Bannister on

Dame Jane Goodall, the primatologist and environmental campaigner who changed our understanding of animal

behaviour. Chris Packham pays tribute.

Tony Harrison, the Yorkshire born poet who took his writing to new audiences through theatre and TV. Michael Rosen assesses his work.

Lord Menzies Campbell, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Danny Thompson, the upright bass player who blended folk and jazz and worked with musicians ranging from Kate Bush, Paul Weller to John Martyn and Donovan - who shares his memories.

Interviewee: Chris Packham
Interviewee: Professor Ben Garrod
Interviewee: Michael Rosen
Interviewee: Magnus Linklater
Interviewee: Donovan
Interviewee: Jacqui McShee
Interviewee: Martin Simpson

Producer: Gareth Nelson-Davies

Archive used:
Tony Harrison, Meriden, BBC World Service, 21/10/1992; The Mysteries, Cottesloe Theatre, The National Theatre, Channel 4 Television, Directed by Bill Bryden, Writer Tony Harrison.,1985; V by Tony Harrison reads short extract from the poem 'V'. BBC Radio 4, 21/01/2013; Menzies Campbell Elected Leader Of The Liberal Democrats, BBC News, 02/03/06; Menzies Campbell, Desert Island Discs, BBC Radio 4, 17/10/2004; Menzies Campbell, Iraq War, BBC News, 24/02/2009; Danny Thompson plays bass, extract from, Pentangle - Blue Monk, Songs From The Two Brewers, ITV, Danny Thompson YouTube Channel, 08/05/1970;

SUN 21:00 Money Box (m002kf4p)
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m002kfhfy)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

SUN 21:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002kf4k)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:30 on Saturday]

SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m002kfkf)
Ben Wright with the latest from the Conservative conference in Manchester

Ben Wright hosts lively chat from the Conservative Conference with Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp; political commentator and former Tory adviser Jo Tanner, and Ben Riley-Smith from the Daily Telegraph. They're also joined down the line by the Labour MP for Hyndburn, Sarah Smith. They discuss Kemi Badenoch's announcement that she wants to pull the UK out of the European Convention on Human Rights, the state of the Tory party, and the central importance of the economy and public finances in current domestic politics. Ben interviews the former Justice Secretary Alex Chalk, leading pollster Professor Sir John Curtice, and hears views from grassroots Conservative Party members gathered in Manchester.

SUN 23:00 On the Run (m0023pcs)
Running the Show

Writer, poet and runner Helen Mort continues on the trail of the history of running, asking why we run and what it has meant to humanity through the ages.

In this final episode she rounds the the corner into the 20th Century, and finishes by examining the role running plays in our life today.Helen explores how distance running became the sport we know today. She heads back to the races of one hundred years ago and finds out who took part, and who wasn't allowed to.

She heads into the heart of the 'running boom' of the 1970s, which saw the emergence of 'jogging' as a phenomenon and the mass participation of running we see today, including big city marathons. One major factor was the creation of the cushioned running shoe by Nike, and Helen talks to the company's first employee, who thought up the name of the iconic sports brand.

Helen charts the emergence of running in mass media, from adverts to cinema, and considers how narrative of running have changed. As she reaches the 21st century, Helen heads inside the mind of the modern runner and finds out about the psychology of running, its benefits and also its downsides. Thousands of people line to run a Parkrun each weekend, what does that tell us?

'Mass participation' still only reaches some however, and Helen also finds out about the movements to make running more

inclusive which are gaining pace throughout the world.

Contributors:
Sabrina Pace-Humphreys, Author of Black Sheep: A Story of Rural Racism, Identity and Hope
Dr Sam Edwards, Loughborough University
Katie Holmes, Historian
Vybarr Cregan Reid, Author of Footnotes: Why Running Makes Us Human
Pro Steve Haake, Sheffield Hallam University
Jeff Johnson, early employee of Nike
Dr Peter Olusaga, Sheffield Hallam University

With thanks to Thor Gotaas, author of 'A Global History of Running', Dr Nathalie Hager, Matt Rimmer and the MyRaceKit North team.

Producer: Sam Peach
Readings by Nuhazet Diaz Cano

SUN 23:45 Short Works (m002k4pr)
This Is the Way I'm Going by Michael Amherst

"As I run for the platform at Paddington, I know that even if I make the train I will still have missed it. For all the trains are evenly spaced and if you are in time for one, it means you were just too late for another."

An original short story for radio, about one man's journey to the end of the line...

Writer: Michael Amherst, winner of the Hubert Butler Essay Prize and Stonewall Prize for Nonfiction. His debut novel, The Boyhood of Cain, was published by Faber in February.
Reader: Tayla Kovacevic-Ehong
Producer-Director: Becky Ripley

MONDAY 06 OCTOBER 2025

MON 00:00 Midnight News (m002kfkf)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

MON 00:15 Crossing Continents (m002k3jr)
Haitians Living in Fear in the Dominican Republic

How Haitians in the Dominican Republic are being targeted for expulsion.
The Dominican Republic is the Caribbean's number one tourist destination. Last year 11 million visitors came here, many enjoying the five star resorts that skirt the island's coast.

Much of the construction work building those tourist facilities is in fact done by Haitians, and many of the staff who work in them are from Haiti, which occupies the western half of this island of Hispaniola. Over recent years the tourism industry has helped make the Dominican economy the fastest growing in Latin America.

However, the Dominican government is now implementing one of the most systematic deportation policies anywhere in the world. Last year the president, Luis Abinader, announced that his country would expel illegal migrants at the rate of ten thousand a week. The chief target is Haitians and people of Haitian descent. President Abinader says he is keeping his country secure and implementing the constitution. Meanwhile Haitians in the Dominican Republic are living in fear of raids by the immigration authorities and of being sent back across the border, to a country riven by violence as well as political and economic instability.

John Murphy is in the Dominican Republic to talk to Haitians stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Producer: Bob Howard
Mix: Rod Farquhar
Programme Coordinator: Katie Morrison
Series Editor: Penny Murphy

MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m002kf5x)
[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002kfkj)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002kfkf)
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 (m002kfkf)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

MON 05:04 Last Word (m002k4pt)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:30 on Sunday]

MON 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002kfkq)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002kfkf)

More than a cup of tea

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rev Lynne Gibson

Good morning.

As I wrestle with the bigger issues of parish life, I sometimes wonder how much time we spend talking about brands of biscuits and biodegradable cups. Fellowship and friendship is deeply rooted in church life, and has always been inextricably linked with food. And yet, hospitality as an expression of our very identity runs more deeply and reaches more widely than a smile at the door and a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Hospitality as 'an expression of who we are' is even more than the warmth of our welcome, and perhaps more like our solidarity with others, even those who may not look like us or share our experiences.

In Ireland, north and south, we pride ourselves on our hospitality. It's never a problem to put another teabag in the pot or set another place at the table. Every culture is similar, with a welcome to the table for friend and stranger alike. The New Testament is full of stories of welcome and hospitality.

Jesus, an itinerant preacher with his ragtag band of disciples, incurred the judgement and even disgust of the religious authorities, as he ate and drank in the homes of the most unlikely and unsuitable of characters. It wasn't about the food, or even the fellowship but rather about sitting comfortably with strangers, those beyond our doors and beyond our experience.

Hospitality is about offering God's back to everyone. It means taking a long hard look at where our doors slam shut, our invitations are withheld and our welcome is just for those already inside enjoying the party.

Generous God, teach us to open our doors, our minds and our hearts, and to sit, as Jesus sat, with those whom we least know and who need us most. Amen

MON 05:45 Farming Today (m002kfkv)

06/10/25: Rural policing, grape harvest, Conservative Party conference

A rural crime expert tells us there's been an 'ideological and material' shift away from the problem in some police force areas. Dr Kate Tudor from Durham University says despite this there have been some positives in the fight against rural crime, following the advent of a National Rural Crime Team. All this week Farming Today is examining the issue.

The warmest summer on record for the UK has meant good yields and high-quality grapes in our vineyards, and winemakers looking forward to a vintage year.

It's the Conservative Party Conference this week, in Manchester, we hear what's on their policy agenda for farming and the countryside.

Presenter: Charlotte Smith
Producer: Sarah Swadling

MON 05:57 Weather (m002kfkx)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for farmers

MON 06:00 Today (m002kfpd)

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

MON 09:00 Start the Week (m002kfpq)

Yanis Varoufakis on Greece's civil war

The economist Yanis Varoufakis found himself in the eye of the storm as Greece's Minister of Finance in 2015, at the height of the country's debt crisis. Now he reflects on his political awakenings and the women who influenced him in Raise Your Soul. It's a family story that starts in Egypt in the 1920s and traces Greece's tumultuous century through Nazi occupation, civil war, dictatorship, socialism and economic crisis.

The historian Professor Mary Vincent focuses on the Spanish Civil War and has written about fascism, political violence and its impact on the people. She sees both similarities and stark differences between the Greek and Spanish Civil Wars and

ponders the question of how global politics influence what happens in nation states.

As a new translation of Thucydides's The History of the Peloponnesian War (by Robin Waterfield) is published, the classicist Professor Paul Cartledge explains why this ancient text has remained essential reading for military leaders and politicians for centuries. Thucydides's account of the war between Athens and Sparta that began in 431 BCE depicts the devastation of civil war and reflects on the nature of political power.

Producer: Katy Hickman
Assistant Producer: Natalia Fernandez

MON 09:45 Café Hope (m002kfpj)

Dedication to donation

Lorna Newbrook tells Rachel Burden how she is trying to get more people to give blood after frequent transfusions helped extend her husband Mike's life for 16 months. She's trying to educate young people that they can donate blood from the age of 17, and wants people to give a 'Pint for Mike'.

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

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

MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002kfpk)

Kellie Bright, Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally, Summer of Sport

EastEnders actor Kellie Bright took part in a Woman's Hour special last year which asked whether the SEND system is working for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Tonight Kellie presents a special one-hour BBC Panorama. Drawing on her own experience as the mother of an autistic son, she investigates how parents navigate the complex system to secure the right help at school. Kellie joins Nuala McGovern to talk about what she found.

Friday marked a moment in history for the Church of England, as the role of Archbishop of Canterbury was given to a woman for the first time in its near 500-year history. Dame Sarah Mullally takes the helm during a difficult period for the Church, after its former leader - Justin Welby - resigned over a safeguarding scandal almost a year ago. To discuss the significance of her appointment we hear from Bishop of Derby, the Rt Revd Libby Lane, the first woman to become a bishop in 2015, and Sally Hitchiner, Rector of North Lambeth in London.

As the glittering women's summer of sport in football and rugby transitions into the autumn of trophies, and the Women's Cricket World Cup is ongoing, what will the legacy be for women and girls' participation in grassroots sport? Nuala is joined by Sue Day, Director of Women's Football at the Football Association, and Stephanie Hillborne, CEO of Women in Sport.

Flooding caused by this year's monsoon season in Pakistan has affected the lives of over four million people in the country. Millions of people have been evacuated from the Punjab region and around 1,000 people have been reported to have died. The water has still not receded, and the situation remains difficult for many people, including pregnant women, many of whom can't get access to the healthcare they desperately need. BBC World Service Urdu reporter Tarhub Asghar, who has been visiting some of the women affected, joins us.

Presenter: Nuala McGovern
Producer: Kirsty Starkey

MON 10:55 A Carnival of Animals (m002kfpn)

The Orangutan

In this new series for BBC Sounds and BBC Radio 4, best-selling author and scholar Katherine Rundell celebrates the lives of twenty astonishing but endangered animals. Each episode includes fascinating stories that connect natural history with cultural insight, myth and science — revealing how animals

have shaped human imagination, and how our choices now shape their survival.

This first episode, The Orangutan, introduces us to Rose, who once lived in Napoleon's household, and takes us deep into the forests of Borneo, where orangutans have learned to weed paths, wash clothes, and steal canoes — simply by watching the humans around them.

But fewer than 800 Tapanuli orangutans remain in the wild. Katherine asks what it means to live alongside such beings — and what it will take to ensure they remain part of our shared future.

Written and Presented by Katherine Rundell
Produced by Natalie Donovan for BBC Audio in Bristol

MON 11:00 Three Ages of Child (m002kfpq)

Episode 2: The Middle Years

Dr Guddi Singh is a paediatrician looking for answers. She's worried about the patients whose problems can't be fixed with a prescription — babies who are not thriving because their parents can't afford to heat their home or children who are obese because they don't have access to outdoor space. Children in the UK face some of the worst health outcomes in Europe. Dr Singh wants to find solutions.

In a three-part series, she travels across England through the three ages of childhood: the early years, the primary school years and adolescence. She meets people in the community, from health workers to teachers, on a quest to discover what's going wrong and what it will take to turn things around.

In the second episode, she's in London, travelling from east to west across the capital to find out what's making the difference for children in their school years. She goes to an adventure playground in Tower Hamlets, meets community health workers in Westminster and visits a school in Feltham that puts wellbeing at the heart of education.

Presenter: Guddi Singh
Producer: Jo Glanville
Editor: Kirsten Lass
Executive Producer: Rosamund Jones
Production Executive: Lisa Lipman
Sound Engineers: Dan King and Jon Calver
Photography of Guddi Singh courtesy of Anad Singh
Commissioning Editor: Daniel Clarke

A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4

MON 11:45 Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (m002kfps)

Episode 1

In this sequel to her memoir Wild Swans, Jung Chang charts her path from arriving as a 26-year-old student in the UK in 1978, through the years of post-Mao liberalisation, to the more recent authoritarian and increasingly repressive rule of President Xi Jinping. The constant thread throughout these years has been her powerful bond with her mother, the woman to whom this book is dedicated.

Jung and her fellow students grew up in complete isolation from the West, and lived in fear as to what might happen if they broke any of the strict rules imposed upon them by their government. The chance to travel to Britain and then to study at York University was an invaluable opportunity. But the freedom of expression that she chose to exercise once she became a British citizen eventually exacted a high price.

Although for many years she was able to return to China and visit her family while researching her subsequent books, there came a point when the political situation meant permanent separation from her mother and those family members who she left behind in China. Today Jung Chang is unable to return to bid farewell to her frail mother who is now in her 90s, but she remains determined to honour the freedom that her mother encouraged her to embrace.

Written by Jung Chang
Read by Sarah Lam
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

MON 12:00 News Summary (m002kfpv)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

MON 12:04 You and Yours (m002kfpz)

Thames Water Bills, Florists, Collectibles

How safe is your data with your water company? We find out how criminals are using customer's water accounts to commit fraud - including trying to impersonate a listener and gain access to her bank accounts.

It's a difficult time to be a florist right now. Global conflicts, heatwaves and supply chain issues are causing the price of flowers to rocket, with some florists reporting increases of up to 500%. It means that florists are having to get creative to keep their business afloat, using everything from Deliveroo to TikTok.

In September, a rare Pokemon trading card was sold at auction for a staggering £411,000. In fact, it is now not unusual to see modern memorabilia on the lots of some of the oldest and most prestigious auction houses alongside traditional collectibles like coins and stamps. So, are we seeing a changing of the guard, from traditional to more modern collectibles?

According to government figures, more than 200 pubs closed in the first half of this year. Pubs are struggling with rising costs and changing consumer habits, as younger generations increasingly choose to drink less alcohol. The British Beer and Pub Association estimates that six pubs will close per day next year if more is not done to help them. Charlotte Nichols, Labour MP and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on pubs, tells us more.

MON 12:57 Weather (m002kfpz)

The latest weather forecast

MON 13:00 World at One (m002kfq1)

France's prime minister resigns

The resignation of the French Prime Minister adds to the political turmoil in the country. We speak to an MP from Emmanuel Macron's party. Also: Jilly Cooper passes away at the age of 88; her literary agent Felicity Blunt celebrates her life.

MON 13:45 Multitrack (m002kfq3)

I Am What I Ate

How can you reconnect with yourself through food?

Chantal has always relied on her mother to make traditional Jamaican meals. Now she's an adult and living away from home, she has to take the initiative.

Has her lack of knowledge in preparing these cuisines distanced her from part of her culture? She travels through London to see whether the multicultural nature of the city is up to the challenge of providing the ingredients to her favourite dish.

Presented and produced by Chantal Romain
A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4
Commissioned in association with the Multitrack Audio Producers Fellowship for new talent in feature-making

MON 14:00 The Archers (m002kfk8)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

MON 14:15 Alone (m0009yy1)

Series 2

Front Window

The neighbours become obsessed with various goings-on at the front of the house.

There's bad parking to contend with, naked neighbours at night and, worst of all, someone keeps stealing the expensive bay tree plants that sit on the porch.

An exasperated Ellie has had enough and suggests everyone gathers together on a stake out to protect their precious plants.

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.

Mitch Angus Deayton
Will Pearce Quigley
Ellie Abigail Cruttenden
Louisa Kate Isitt
Morris Bennett Arnon
Connor Fred Haig

Written and created by Moray Hunter
Produced by Gordon Kennedy
Based on an original idea developed in association with Dandy

Productions

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

MON 14:45 Mrs Bridge by Evan S Connell (m0019r5l)

Episode 8

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

Mrs Bridge by Evan S. Connell
Read by Fenella Woolgar
Abridged by Isobel Creed and Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

MON 15:00 Great Lives (m002kfq5)

Oliver Postgate

"Postgate's work is deep inside me and I think that's true for so many of my generation...His work represents nothing less than a touchstone for our national imagination and in that sense it's profoundly important"

Andrew Davenport, writer, composer, and creator of Teletubbies and In the Night Garden, nominates Oliver Postgate, who, along with his Smallfilms business partner, the artist Peter Firmin, invented the children's television shows Ivor the Engine, The Clangers and, perhaps most loved of all, Bagpuss.

Postgate was a late bloomer. Following Dartington school (which he hated) a stint in jail and working the land, several odd jobs and even odder inventions, he eventually discovered a love of stop-motion animation and created some of the most enduring worlds and best-loved characters in television, all from a cowshed in Kent.

Including clips of his programmes, contributions from singer and musician Sandra Kerr. and archive from Postgate's 2007 Desert Island Discs interview.

With cultural historian Matthew Sweet. Produced by Ellie Richold. Presented by Matthew Parris.

MON 15:30 Curious Cases (m002kfkf)

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Saturday]

MON 16:00 Marianna in Conspiracyland (m002hfv1)

[Repeat of broadcast at 13:30 on Sunday]

MON 16:30 The Kitchen Cabinet (m002kfk4h)

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:30 on Saturday]

MON 17:00 PM (m002kfq7)

France's prime minister resigns

After just 26 days, Sébastien Lecornu is gone. What's next for France? Also, a dispatch from the Conservative Party conference in Manchester. And your AI questions answered.

MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002kfq9)

The French Prime Minister has resigned

France's political system has been thrown into turmoil once more by the resignation of a third Prime Minister since snap elections last year. Sebastian Lecornu, an ally of President Macron, stepped down after 26 days. Also: Talks to try to end

the war in Gaza have begun in Egypt. And the bestselling author, Dame Jilly Cooper, has died at the age of 88.

MON 18:30 Paul Sinha's Perfect Pub Quiz (m002kfqc)

Series 4

Walking On Ayr

Paul Sinha tests his audience in Ayr on their knowledge of their home county. So, if you're not after half an hour of amazing facts about scientists, poets and football then, well... keep walking.

Written and performed by Paul Sinha.
Additional material: Oliver Levy
Additional questions: The Audience

Original music: Tim Sutton

Recording engineer: Hamish Campbell
Mixed by Rich Evans.
Producer: Ed Morrish

A Lead Mojo production for BBC Radio 4.

MON 19:00 The Archers (m002kfk90)

Susan wants to make worried Emma a drink but she has to get to a tree job. Mick's surprised to see Emma so preoccupied; he thought George was being released this week. Susan comments that nothing's ever plain sailing with George. As they're talking horrified Susan spots a rat. She brandishes a candlestick but amused Mick isn't sure that's the solution. When they flush it out of hiding Susan's convinced it's not the same rat. What if there's an infestation? Susan heads off to break the news to Alan.

Amber's topping up her social posts in between preparing the house for George's arrival home on Thursday. Will offers to help but Amber's keen to get the bedroom ready herself. She can't believe George will soon be here with her at No.1 The Green. Will reminds her things might not go their way today at the hearing; they have no control over the situation. Amber's trying to think positively. Will confesses he hasn't told Poppy yet. Amber acknowledges she'll be gutted. Will loves that Poppy gets on so well with Amber. Amber comments that Poppy's lucky to be a Grundy girl. Her own parents shut her out, and still haven't accepted George. They've never been interested in anything she's done. Will assures her she's part of their family now. Will seeks support from Emma as they await news, and she offers it unreservedly. They all wait together until the call comes – George is not guilty. Everyone's overjoyed, and Amber tells George she can't wait to be with him. They declare their love for one another.

MON 19:15 Front Row (m002kfkf)

Kathryn Bigelow and Kiran Desai

Film director Kathryn Bigelow became the first woman to win the Best Director Oscar for The Hurt Locker. She discusses her new film A House of Dynamite, which also looks at war, with Samira

Booker-winner Kiran Desai has been nominated for her new novel - 2 decades in the writing; The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny.

Islam Issa and Ben Luke join Samira to discuss 'what are the humanities for and where are they headed'?

And we pay tribute to Dame Jilly Cooper who has died at the age of 88. We speak to writer and journalist Daisy Buchanan about the "Queen of the Bonkbuster"

Presenter Samira Ahmed

MON 20:00 Rethink (m002k4l4)

Rethink... nightlife

The Night Times Industries Association says one in four venues have shut down since 2020, and the sector will face an irreversible decline unless the government provides urgent support.

The industry was one of the worst hit during the pandemic, and it's asking for cuts to National Insurance, a permanent cut in VAT and a reform of business rates to help it keep afloat.

The NTIA claims the night time economy contributes more than £153 billion to the UK economy and supports over 2 million jobs.

Culturally, the sector punches above its weight. The nightclub boom in the last 50 years gave us disco, acid house, drum and bass and grime, as well as many other sub-genres of music. But nightclubs are expensive and consumers are finding their thrills elsewhere; drink is cheaper from supermarkets, and why search for someone you fancy on the dancefloor when you can use a dating app?

And as nightclubs struggle, so do small music venues, where artists like Ed Sheeran, Dua Lipa, Coldplay, Arctic Monkeys Blur and Oasis started out, as well as many others.

People are willing to pay hundreds of pounds to see those same artists in giant venues like Co-op Live in Manchester or at Wembley Stadium, so what can be done to make sure the next wave of new artists have somewhere to play? Should the government intervene? Should big venues subsidise smaller ones, or is it up to fans to throw them a lifeline?

Or has nightlife in its current form - much like variety music halls - taken its last curtain call?

Presenter: Ben Ansell
Producer: Tom Gillett
Editor: Lisa Baxter

Contributors:

Michael Kill - CEO, Night Time Industries Association
Fat Tony - DJ
Steve Lamacq - BBC 6 Music DJ and Patron of the Music Venues Trust
Richard Simm - Co-owner, The Forum Tunbridge Wells
Jane Darougar - Psychotherapist and counselor at the Central St Martins University, London

MON 20:30 BBC Inside Science (m002k416)

Are embryos made from skin cells the future of fertility treatment?

Scientists in the US have, for the first time, made early-stage human embryos by manipulating DNA taken from people's skin cells and then fertilising them with sperm. It's hoped the technique could overcome infertility due to old age or disease.

Marnie Chesterton is joined by Dr Geraldine Jowett from the University of Cambridge and Emily Jackson from the London School of Economics to discuss the science behind the research, and the ethical and legal issues it could raise.

We also look back at the life of the pioneering primatologist and conservationist Jane Goodall, who died this week at the age of 91. Marnie is joined by one of the scientists she helped to inspire - the biologist Joyce Poole - to reflect on the huge legacy she leaves behind.

As the European Union discusses the possibility of setting up a Europe-wide 'drone wall' to protect against Russian airspace incursions, we discuss the rapid advancements in drone technology with journalist and author of the book 'Swarm Troopers: How Small Drones Will Conquer The World', David Hambling.

And Marnie is joined by journalist Caroline Steel to look through a range of this week's most intriguing scientific breakthroughs.

Presenter: Marnie Chesterton
Producers: Clare Salisbury, Ella Hubber, Dan Welsh, Jonathan Blackwell, Tim Dodd
Editor: Martin Smith
Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

MON 21:00 Start the Week (m002kfpg)

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

MON 21:45 Café Hope (m002kfpg)

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m002kfqh)

More trouble for Macron as another French PM resigns

Sébastien Lecornu was appointed France's prime minister less than four weeks ago. We explore what the political turmoil means for the country's relationship with Europe and the world.

Also in the programme: The Nobel Prize for Medicine is awarded to three researchers for groundbreaking discoveries on the human immune system. And novelist Dame Jilly Cooper has died at the age of 88 – we speak to her friend, writer Rachel Johnson.

MON 22:45 Helm by Sarah Hall (m002kfqk)

That Brief, Busy Interlude

An elemental novel from the twice-nominated Booker author of BURNTCOAT and THE WOLF BORDER. Helm, the only named wind in the UK, has scoured the Eden Valley since the dawn of time. When people arrive, Helm becomes the subject of their myth and folklore but, as the Anthropocene takes us all past the point of no return, Helm's very existence is threatened.

Read by Hattie Morahan
Written by Sarah Hall
Abridged by Siân Preece
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

MON 23:00 Limelight (m00254h0)

Aldrich Kemp and The Rose of Pamir

1. Mothers

A break-in at the Linnean Society triggers a race for the mysterious and elusive Rose of Pamir. Clara Page and the Themis Group are on one side, but who is on the other?

Aldrich Kemp and the gang are back with some new faces as the race moves from London to Paris, New York to Amsterdam and the Maldives to Tajikistan.

Chapter One: Mothers

... and daughters take centre stage.

Clara Page - Phoebe Fox
Aldrich Kemp – Ferdinand Kingsley
Mrs Boone – Nicola Walker
Nakesha Kemp – Karla Crome
Aunt Lily – Susan Jameson
The Underwood Sisters – Jana Carpenter
Mrs Bartholomew – Kate Isitt
Lionel – Steven Mackintosh
Selina – Catherine Kanter
Hazlitt & Sir Peregrine – Ben Crowe
Recruitment Consultant – Bec Boey

Written and directed by Julian Simpson
Music composed by Tim Elsenburg.

Sound Design: David Thomas
Producer: Sarah Tombling
Production Assistant: Ethan Elsenburg
Executive Producer: Karen Rose

New episodes available on Fridays. Listen first on BBC Sounds

A Sweet Talk production for BBC Radio 4

MON 23:30 Being Roman with Mary Beard (m001znpg)

10. A Bag of Snails and a Glass of Wine

An obscure carved stone dug up from a vineyard in southern Italy tells the story of a pair of publicans- the delightfully named Calidius Eroticus and Fannia Voluptas- and their bawdy adventures in the pub trade. Fans of Frankie Howard, the Carry On films and the sitcom Plebs will instantly feel at home with the Roman sense of humour, but these two characters have so much more to offer than lame jokes and a glass of rough wine- they're our window into the fascinating bar culture of the Romans.

Most urban Romans had neither the facilities nor the time to cook their own food so meals were eaten and drinks drunk from bars. New discoveries at Pompeii reveal the complex stratification of the culture, from the most basic takeaways to dining rooms that mimicked the lifestyles of the rich and famous.

Producer: Alasdair Cross

Cast: Robert Wilfort and Tyler Cameron

Expert contributors: Allison Emmerson, Tulane University, Claire Holleran, Exeter University and Sophie Hay, Archaeological Park of Pompeii

Special thanks to Antonio Valerio of Campi Valerio and Museo Archeologico di Santa Maria delle Monache, Isernia

Translations by Mary Beard

TUESDAY 07 OCTOBER 2025

TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m002kfqm)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 00:30 Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (m002kfps)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Monday]

TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002kfqp)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002kfqr)

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

TUE 05:00 News Summary (m002kfqt)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 05:04 Marianna in Conspiracyland (m002hfv1)

[Repeat of broadcast at 13:30 on Sunday]

TUE 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002kfqw)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002kfqy)

Using aright the time left to us

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rev Lynne Gibson

Good morning.

Michel Quoist, the French theologian died almost thirty years ago. Some of the language of his writing may seem a little bit dated nowadays, but his words still speak to us in a timeless way on matters of faith and life. In his reflection 'Lord, I have time', Quoist wrote that 'Time is a gift that you give us, But a perishable gift, A gift that does not keep.'

Often time is a gift that we only value when it's gone. When we lose a loved one before their 'three score years and ten', we are reminded of how precious the time which is gifted to us really is.

We are each challenged to think about how we will use the time left to us, as almost overnight, it seems, we realise that our time is to be used both carefully and generously.

'Grant us the wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left us here on earth' – words from a funeral liturgy which remind us that our time is finite and limited.

It's not just a matter of having a 'carpe diem, use your good china now' attitude, and of taking all of the enjoyment and joy that we can from life - although when Jesus declared that he came that we might have life 'in all its fullness', I am fairly sure that he meant it in every sense.

Using our time wisely means living in harmony not just with our neighbours, but with strangers and with our enemies. It means setting down those burdens that we don't need to carry through life, and making time to build bridges and restore relationships, and simply setting aside whatever would prevent us from 'using aright the time left to us'.

Lord, give us the wisdom to put you at the centre of our lives, and the grace to use to use wisely the time which is gifted to us, Amen

TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m002kfr0)

07/10/25: Skilled workers visas, Neigh-bourhood Watch, British Wool anniversary.

More than twenty five dairy farms in Scotland say their businesses could be at risk after the UK Government removed farm workers from the visa system for skilled overseas labour. In July, the government cut the jobs of 'farmer' and 'agricultural contractor' from the Temporary Shortage Occupation list.

We meet one of the horseback volunteers keeping an eye out for suspicious activity in Cumbria, and find out how the police force's Rural Crime Unit is overcoming the inherent challenges of fighting crime in the countryside.

The British Wool Marketing Board is 75 years old this year. British Wool, and the Great British Sewing Bee judge Patrick Grant, hope that wool will increasingly be seen as a solution to the very modern problem of plastic pollution.

Presenter: Anna Hill

Producer: Sarah Swadling

TUE 06:00 Today (m002kf87)

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

TUE 09:00 The Life Scientific (m002kfr9)

Eleanor Schofield on conserving Tudor warship the Mary Rose

In July 1545, King Henry VIII watched from Southsea Castle on England's south coast as his fleet sailed out to face the French - only to witness his prized warship, the Mary Rose, sink before

his eyes.

Raised on the Solent in 1982, the ship is now the centrepiece of the Mary Rose Museum, along with thousands more artefacts that were recovered from the seabed. But keeping the 500-year-old ship and its associated Tudor relics in good condition is no small task, which is where Dr Eleanor Schofield comes in. As Director of Collections at the Mary Rose Trust and a materials engineer by training, Eleanor has spent years tackling the unique scientific challenges of conserving centuries-old wood and metal. From the United States to Portsmouth, Eleanor's research is helping ensure this iconic vessel remains 'ship-shape' for generations to come.

In a special edition of The Life Scientific, recorded in front of an audience at the museum in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyards, Professor Jim Al-Khalili discovers how cutting-edge science is keeping history afloat.

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

TUE 09:30 All in the Mind (m002kf8c)
What is beliefism, and can you spot a liar?

Just looking at the news can give the feeling that today's world is more polarised than ever. And the stats show that in Britain, the majority of people believe that society is divided. How can we go about bridging this divide? Paul Dolan, professor of behavioural science at LSE, has written a book called *Beliefism* on exactly this. He chats to presenter Claudia Hammond about how we can learn to get along with people we disagree with, and how doing this can impact our lives for the better.

Also, *The Celebrity Traitors* starts this Wednesday on BBC One. To convince their fellow contestants that they're innocent, the Traitors have to be pretty good at deception. But how can the Faithfuls successfully identify their lies? Claudia speaks to Sharon Leal, senior research fellow in forensic psychology at the University of Portsmouth, to scrutinise the psychological evidence on deceit – and Sharon's research has real life impacts on how police conduct their interviews.

And Claudia is joined in the studio by Pete Olusoga, senior lecturer in psychology at Sheffield Hallam University. Pete shares new research that suggests the bigger a problem is, the smaller it seems, and how being nosy at work could be causing undue stress.

Presenter: Claudia Hammond
Producer: Sophie Ormiston
Editor: Ilan Goodman
Studio Manager: Emma Harth
Production coordinator: Jana Holesworth

TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002kf8f)
AI 'girlfriends', Japan's PM designate, Hope Reese, Musica Secreta

Elon Musk's Artificial Intelligence company xAI recently introduced two sexually explicit chatbots. He's a high-profile presence in a growing field where developers are banking on users interacting and forming intimate relationships with the AI chatbots. Nuala McGovern speaks to journalist Amelia Gentleman, who has just returned from an adult industry conference in Prague, where she saw a sharp rise in new websites offering an increasingly realistic selection of AI girlfriends, and Gina Neff, Professor of Responsible AI at the Queen Mary University of London, who tells us what this means for women.

Sanae Takaichi has been elected as the new leader of Japan's ruling conservative party, the Liberal Democratic Party, known as the LDP. Parliament is expected to confirm her as Japan's first female Prime Minister on 15 October, two days after the 100th anniversary of the birth of Takaichi's personal political inspiration – Margaret Thatcher. A former government minister, television host and drummer in a heavy metal band, she recently told a group of schoolchildren that her goal was "to become the Iron Lady." To find out what she means by this and how she is likely to lead her country, Nuala is joined by Mariko Oi, journalist and presenter of the BBC's soon-to-be launched World Service podcast *Asia Specific*.

At the turn of the 20th century in a small village in Hungary, a midwife, known as Auntie Zsuzsi, was more than a care giver, she was a confidante. Over a period of 20 years, she was central to helping women poison their abusive husbands, killing up to an estimated 300 people in the region. In her book, *The Women Are Not Fine* - the dark history of a Poisonous Sisterhood, journalist Hope Reese investigates what happened in that Hungarian village and tells Nuala why these women went to such extremes, and how they got away with it for two decades.

Following the death of romance author Jilly Cooper yesterday, we hear part of her *Woman's Hour* interview from November 2023 in which she talked about setting her novel *Tackle* in the

world of sex and football.

When you think about music from 500 years ago, you might picture monks chanting, or the voices of choirboys, but what's been largely forgotten over the course of history is that some of the most striking music during this time was being written and sung by nuns, hidden away in convents across Europe. Nuala speaks to Laurie Stras, Director of Musica Secreta, an all-female renaissance ensemble.

Presenter: Nuala McGovern
Producer: Andrea Kidd

TUE 10:55 A Carnival of Animals (m002kf8h)
The Hummingbird

In this series for BBC Sounds and BBC Radio 4, best-selling author and scholar Katherine Rundell celebrates the lives of twenty astonishing but endangered animals. Each short essay includes fascinating stories that connect natural history with cultural insight, myth and science - revealing how animals have shaped human imagination, and how our choices now shape their survival.

In this episode, Katherine introduces the hummingbird - the smallest living bird, hatched from eggs typically no bigger than a chickpea, and explains how these birds, named for the sound of their wings, see a world far more vivid than ours, thanks to ultraviolet-sensitive cones in their eyes.

We also hear how Queen Victoria's fascination with hummingbirds helped spark a craze that led to their use in jewellery - and eventually to the founding of the RSPB. Today, more than 10% of hummingbird species are endangered. Katherine explores why we need them - not only for pollination, but as dazzling proof of nature's ability to evolve in colours beyond our imagination.

Written and Presented by Katherine Rundell
Produced by Natalie Donovan for BBC Audio in Bristol

TUE 11:00 Screenshot (m002k4q4)
Painters and Painting

2025 marks 250 years since the birth of JMW Turner - the great 19th century landscape artist, whose expressive, atmospheric paintings transformed British art. His life and genius was also unforgettably brought to the screen in Mike Leigh's 2014 film *Mr Turner*, starring Timothy Spall. Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode look at the long relationship between cinema and painting.

Mark speaks to cultural historian Professor Sir Christopher Fraying on Hollywood's approach to the history of art, from Kirk Douglas as Van Gogh to Salma Hayek as Frida Kahlo. He then talks to actor Timothy Spall on how playing JMW Turner led to a parallel career as a painter.

Ellen explores the relationship between painting and cinematography with cinematographer Sir Roger Deakins. She also speaks to artist Cathy Lomax on the painterly in cinema - and the cinematic in painting.

Producer: Jane Long
A Prospect Street production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 11:45 Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (m002kf8l)
Episode 2

In this sequel to her memoir *Wild Swans*, Jung Chang charts her path from arriving as a 26-year-old student in the UK in 1978, through the years of post-Mao liberalisation, to the more recent authoritarian and increasingly repressive rule of President Xi Jinping. The constant thread throughout these years has been her powerful bond with her mother, the woman to whom this book is dedicated.

Jung and her fellow students grew up in complete isolation from the West, and lived in fear as to what might happen if they broke any of the strict rules imposed upon them by their government. The chance to travel to Britain and then to study at York University was an invaluable opportunity. But the freedom of expression that she chose to exercise once she became a British citizen eventually exacted a high price.

Although for many years she was able to return to China and visit her family while researching her subsequent books, there came a point when the political situation meant permanent separation from her mother and those family members who she left behind in China. Today Jung Chang is unable to return to bid farewell to her frail mother who is now in her 90s, but she remains determined to honour the freedom that her mother encouraged her to embrace.

Written by Jung Chang
Read by Sarah Lam

Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

TUE 12:00 News Summary (m002kf8p)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

TUE 12:04 You and Yours (m002kf8r)

Call You & Yours: 'What's your experience of buying and selling a home?'

On today's Call You & Yours we're asking: "What's your experience of buying and selling a home?"

The government has announced a major overhaul to the house buying process to speed it up and hopefully save consumers money. They're consulting on it until the end of the year.

The length of time it takes for a house sale to complete has been increasing - with delays for paperwork and reports, and chains collapsing at the last minute. Housebuyers and sellers can lose thousands of pounds in an already expensive process.

The government is proposing that sellers and estate agents will be legally required to provide key information like structural reports, about a property right at the start. The current system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is for reports to be requested after an offer is made, and it can go on for months.

And, like the Scottish system, there'd be binding contracts which would stop either party walking away once an agreement to buy is signed. The current system in other regions means parties can walk away at any time which can cause chains to collapse. They can also renegotiate the asking price at any point, sometimes right before completion and sellers feel obliged to accept to avoid the whole chain breaking.

We want to hear your experiences of buying and selling houses.

And, as it's a consultation process at the moment what are your tips on how to improve the process?

You can call us at **11am** on 03700 100 444

Our email is youandyours@bbc.co.uk

PRESENTER: WINIFRED ROBINSON
PRODUCER: LYDIA THOMAS

TUE 12:57 Weather (m002kf8t)
The latest weather forecast

TUE 13:00 World at One (m002kf8w)
Israel remembers two years since Hamas attack on Israel killed 1200

As Israel remembers two years to the day since Hamas' attack on Israel killed 1200 and took 251 hostage, we speak to the mother of a hostage still in Gaza and hear from the Palestinian Authority's Justice Minister on how ceasefire talks in Egypt are going. We report live from the Conservative conference in Manchester as the party takes aim at so called 'biased judges' and get reaction from former Justice of the Supreme court Lord Sumption.

TUE 13:45 Multitrack (m002kf8y)
Lost & Found: The Methodists

Lost & Found: The Methodists is a personal story about a Zimbabwean Mother's search for a community and spiritual home she thought she had lost forever.

"Standing on the street corner, there were seven people dressed in red and white uniforms. I knew who they were."

Tendayi Pearce, the daughter of a Methodist minister, used to travel from England to Zimbabwe just to enjoy the church songs that she had sung as a child, until one day, her son saw a group of women wearing the traditional Zimbabwean Methodist church uniforms in Southend-on-Sea.

Tendayi tells the story of her journey to Britain and the loss of her connection to the church she had grown up with, before this chance encounter resulted in her connecting with hundreds of Zimbabweans across the country, long forgotten school friends, and creating her own branch of the church in Milton Keynes.

Lost and Found: The Methodists is a story about searching for something that was intrinsic to you and the magic that can happen once it is found again. It is a story of immigration and community which is rarely talked about - the connecting of communities across the country, which has a positive ripple effect on the individuals found within it, as well as the 'traditional British' communities and institutions.

Written, presented and produced by Daniel Pearce
Featuring Tendayi Pearce, Martin Nyamupingidza & Annah Mwadiwa
Sound Design and Editing: Daniel Pearce
Choir Recording and TX Mastering: Jerry Peal
Exec Producer: Gordon Kennedy
Music recorded at Freeman Memorial Methodist Church, Bletchley
Featuring The Milton Keynes Zimbabwean Fellowship Choir and Shalom Trumpet

An Absolutely production for BBC Radio 4

Commissioned in association with the Multitrack Audio Producers Fellowship for new talent in feature-making

TUE 14:00 The Archers (m002kf90)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

TUE 14:15 Drama on 4 (m001c6tr)
I've Been So Touched

Zarah has been sexually assaulted at work. Her two best friends Aisha and Ceri are on hand with love, jokes, kids' drinks and a lift home to Wales. Leila Navabi's new hard hitting comedy drama about the healing power of real friends starts with an assault and ends with a hug.

This drama includes frank and sometimes graphic conversations about a sexual assault.

CAST
Zarah - Zadeiah Campbell-Davies
Aisha - Ashna Rabheru
Ceri - Georgia Henshaw
Hamish - Simon Armstrong

Sound by Nigel Lewis
Produced by John Norton
for BBC Audio Wales

TUE 15:00 History's Heroes (m002kf92)
History's Toughest Heroes

Peter Freuchen: Surviving the Arctic Wilderness

An arctic explorer is trapped in a snow drift the size of a coffin. How will he survive frostbite and make it out alive?

In History's Toughest Heroes, Ray Winstone tells ten true stories of adventurers, rebels and survivors who lived life on the edge.

Danish born Peter Freuchen looked like a Viking, 6ft 7, huge beard, massive furs. His life was one non-stop adventure. He started out as well-to-do young man in Copenhagen – destined for a life as a doctor. But there was a race for the North Pole going on, and explorers would pass through the city to tell their incredible stories. Freuchen was inspired. He dropped out of medical school and joined an expedition to the extreme north. From that moment on, his life was fraught with danger, severed limbs, murderous wolves and lost dogs, extreme isolation and loneliness and very unlikely survival. He was undefeated by the frozen desert of the arctic and, as the century wore on, by Nazi oppression, even by the dazzling glare of Hollywood celebrity.

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

Producer: Suniti Somaiya
Executive Producer: Paul Smith
Written by Imogen Robertson
Commissioning editor for Radio 4: Rhian Roberts

TUE 15:30 Beyond Belief (m002kf94)
Prison Conversions

In this episode of Beyond Belief, Giles Fraser explores the deeply personal and often transformative phenomenon of religious conversion in prison. From heroin addiction and violence to spiritual awakening, we hear the raw and powerful testimony of Tony Winter, whose journey to faith began behind bars & Maliki Clique aka Ali Abdul Raheem, a former US inmate whose conversion to Islam during incarceration reshaped his life and message to over 700,000 TikTok followers. Panellists Pastor Mick Fleming who leads the Church On The Street ministry based in Burnley, researcher Alex Beaumont from the University of Law, Manchester, psychotherapist Jackie Oglethorpe who's also Chair of Trustees at the Community Chaplaincy Association and Suleman Amad Project Manager Criminal Justice at Maslaha unpack the motivations behind prison conversions, discuss how prisoners find faith as a path to redemption and how to distinguish sincere transformation from strategic adaptation in the prison context?

Presenter: Giles Fraser

Producer: Bara'atu Ibrahim & Linda Walker
Editor: Tim Pemberton

TUE 16:00 Artworks (m002kf96)
Ways of Not Seeing

For decades, art galleries have provided blind visitors with audio descriptions of paintings in their collections. But these descriptions are often only dry, "objective" accounts of the fabulous artworks they aim to represent. Now, a new world of imaginative audio description is emerging, and it promises to transform the experience of art galleries for blind and sighted people alike.

Our guide to these new approaches is blind writer Joseph Rizzo Naudi, who takes us on a search for a highly unusual oil painting by the Dutch Golden Age painter, Frans Hals. Join him as this elusive painting is brought to life by a unique group of blind and not-so-blind describers, and experience for yourself a fascinating approach to visual art that depends not so much on what we see, but what we say.

Featuring Georgina Kleege, Professor Emeritus of English, University of California, Berkeley; Hannah Thompson, Professor of French and Critical Disability Studies, Royal Holloway, University of London; Maria Oshodi, writer, theatre director and CEO of Extant; Bart Cornelis, Curator of Dutch and Flemish Paintings 1600-1800, The National Gallery; artist and writer Elina Cerla; anthropologist of access Harshadha Balasubramanian; and Katy Tarbard, Gallery Educator, The National Gallery..

Writer and presenter: Joseph Rizzo Naudi
Producer: Michael Umney
Executive Producer: Susan Marling
Mixing Engineer: Chris O'Shaughnessy

Original poem written and read by Ella Frears
Standard gallery audio description read by Megan McKie-Smith

John Berger's essay "The Hals Mystery" appeared in The Threepenny Review (no. 10, Summer 1982)

Joseph Rizzo Naudi is a postgraduate researcher at Royal Holloway, University of London, where his research is funded by the Techne AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership.

With special thanks to Margherita di Ceglie, Anne Fay, Karen Elsea and Alexandra Moskalenko at the National Gallery for their support.

Programme image shows a detail from Frans Hals, Portrait of a Woman with a Fan, about 1640 © The National Gallery, London.

TUE 16:30 What's Up Docs? (m002kf98)
Is nature good for you?

Welcome to What's Up Docs?, the podcast where doctors and identical twins Chris and Xand van Tulleken tackle the confusion around every aspect of our health and wellbeing.

In this special episode, Chris and Xand are out of the studio and into the woods, exploring something a little different - the connection between nature and our health and wellbeing.

You've probably heard claims that just being in green spaces can boost your mood, help you recover from illness, and even lower your stress. But how much of that is really backed by science, and how much is the latest wellness fad? To do this they are joined by Baroness Kathy Willis, Professor of Biodiversity at Oxford University.

If you want to get in touch, you can email
whatsupdocs@bbc.co.uk or WhatsApp us on 08000 665 123.

Presenters: Drs Chris and Xand van Tulleken
Guest: Professor Kathy Willis
Producers: Rami Tzabar and Maia Miller-Lewis
Executive Producer: Jo Rowntree
Editor: Kirsten Lass
Researcher: Grace Revill
Tech Lead: Reuben Huxtable
Social Media: Leon Gower
Digital Lead: Richard Berry
Composer: Phoebe McFarlane
Sound Design: Melvin Rickarby

At the BBC:
Assistant Commissioner: Greg Smith
Commissioning Editor: Rhian Roberts

A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 17:00 PM (m002kf9b)
Jenrick criticised over Handsworth remarks

The shadow justice secretary says he has no regrets about the language he used and would not 'shy away' from issues of integration. Also, two years on from Hamas' attack on Israel, we hear from a father whose young daughter was taken hostage on October 7th.

TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002kf9d)
The shadow justice secretary has insisted racial integration has "got worse"

The shadow justice secretary has insisted he won't shy away from issues of racial integration after being accused of stoking division. Also: Millions of people who were mis-sold car finance deals could be set for seven hundred pound payouts. And thieves steal gold jewellery at one of the most popular museums in Wales.

TUE 18:30 Mark Steel's in Town (m002kf9g)
Series 14

1. Oakham

First stop of the new series is Oakham, nestled in the UK's smallest county – Rutland.

Rutland has a village that's proudly twinned with Paris (even if the Parisians don't know), has Europe's largest man-made lake (which required flooding a local village) and hangs its horseshoes the other way round (so the devil falls out, obviously).

Joining Mark is Clare Balding, who's also in town to take him on a ramble around Rutland, which you can hear in Ramblings, this Thursday on Radio 4.

This is the 14th series of Mark's award winning show where he travels around the country visiting towns that have nothing in common but their uniqueness. After thoroughly researching each town, Mark writes and performs a bespoke evening of comedy for a local audience. As well as Oakham, in this series, Mark be will also be popping to Wrexham, Cambridge, Lewisham and, Lerwick and Unst in Shetland.

There will also be extended versions of each episode available on BBC sounds.

Written and performed by Mark Steel

Additional material by Pete Sinclair
Production co-ordinator Caroline Barlow and Katie Baum
Sound Manager Jerry Peal
Producer Carl Cooper

A BBC Studios production for Radio 4

TUE 19:00 The Archers (m002kf9k)
Brad sees things from another perspective, and Neil attempts to stay positive.

TUE 19:15 Front Row (m002kf9m)
Marina Abramović on her dream creation - Balkan Erotic Epic

Artist Marina Abramović on the world premiere of her largest-scale performance artwork - Balkan Erotic Epic - at Aviva Studios in Manchester.

BBC Culture reporter Noor Nanji on the Riyadh Comedy Festival which has divided the comedy world.

Poets Max Wallis and Dr Anna Percy on poetry and mental health as their new poetry magazine, The Aftershock Review, makes an impressive debut.

Clare Wood, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the British Ceramics Biennial on the festival's new international selection of artists' films centred on clay.

Presenter: Nick Ahad
Producer: Ekene Akalawu

TUE 20:00 File on 4 Investigates (m002k3jm)
Youth Justice: The project keeping young offenders out of custody

A van selling coffee and sandwiches from an office car park doesn't sound like anything special, but there's one in Swindon helping to keep young offenders out of custody. It's part of an approach being deployed across the country trying to prevent young people from reoffending by encouraging a shift in their identity.

The idea is to get to know the young offender, figure out what makes them tick. And then, instead of locking them up, find ways of getting them involved in whatever interests them.

Selling tea and coffee from the burger van is where those with a culinary eye can learn new skills and start to feel valued for being part of legitimate endeavours. Similar interventions include social enterprises working in bicycle maintenance, hair and beauty and podcasting.

As the adult prison population has soared in England and Wales, the number of under-18s behind bars has dropped markedly in the past 20 years, from around 3000 to 400. File on 4 Investigates spends time with the Youth Justice Service in Swindon to find out how it rehabilitates young offenders in the local community, and asks if the success of the youth system could hold lessons to address chronic overcrowding problems in adult prisons.

Chris Marston, who presents shows on National Prison Radio and spent 10 months in prison discovers that what's going on in Swindon is very different from his own experiences of the adult criminal justice system.

Reporter: Chris Marston
Producer: Beth McLeod
Technical Producer: Craig Boardman
Production Co-ordinator: Tim Femley
Editor: Nick Holland

Main Image: Presenter Chris Marston in front of the Solid Ground coffee van in Swindon.

TUE 20:40 In Touch (m002kf9p)
Access to Work; Access to STEM

The rumours continue to circulate about cuts to the government's Access to Work scheme. The scheme provides additional support for disabled people to get into and maintain work - such as specialist equipment and support workers. Following a summer of consultations, Disability Minister Sir Stephen Timms is due to begin a review of the scheme but what do we know at this point? To help dig into this is Liberal Democrat spokesman on work and pensions Steve Darling, who has been trying to seek his own answers from government about what is happening to the scheme, the RNIB and Sassy Wyatt, who is a blind freelance travel journalist and accessibility consultant. Sassy describes the issues she's facing when attempting to renew her award.

Design engineering masters student and keen space enthusiast, Abi Way is in the process of setting up a new charity called Boomerang. It aims to assist and encourage more visually impaired youngsters to pursue STEM subjects. STEM being Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Abi describes how the charity will do this and about her own accessibility barriers throughout her education that led to her trying to help other students overcome them.

Presenter: Peter White
Producer: Beth Hemmings
Production Coordinator: Pete Liggins
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.

TUE 21:00 How to Play (m002hks5)
Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique with Anja Bihlmaier and the BBC Philharmonic

The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Anja Bihlmaier invite us into their rehearsal room as they prepare for a Proms performance of Hector Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique.

Hector Berlioz was a French composer and his Symphonie Fantastique - first performed in 1830 - is a work of high Romanticism. It is a dramatic five-movement symphony, using vivid orchestral colours and effects to depict the story of a young artist who, driven to despair by unrequited love, falls into an hallucinatory state after taking opium. It progresses through a series of visions and dreams, from a ball and a pastoral scene to a frightening march to the guillotine and a grotesque witches' Sabbath.

Featuring Anja Bihlmaier, conductor; Zoe Beyers, violin; Paul Patrick, percussion; and Kenny Sturgeon, oboe

Thanks to Jess Mills, Stephen Rinker and all at the BBC Philharmonic.

TUE 21:30 The Bottom Line (m002k4kp)
Spinouts: How Can Universities Turn Research Into Successful Businesses?

What happens when university research becomes a business? It's called a spin-out and it's built Silicon Valley, with Stanford University at the centre. In the UK, Oxford alone has launched more than 200 in the last 15 years.

Whether it's a new drug, software or material, brilliant university research can create huge rewards – for founders, universities and the economy. But also battles over who really owns the idea and should get a share of the equity.

Does the spin-out system deliver or does it stall? Evan Davis and a panel of guests discuss.

Guests:
Molly Allington, CEO of Albotherm
Harry Destecroix, co-founder of Ziylo and also founder of incubator Science Creates in Bristol
Amber Hill, founder of Research Grid

Production team:
Presenter: Evan Davis
Producers: Phoebe Keane and Sally Abrahams
Production co-ordinator: Rosie Strawbridge
Sound engineer: Rod Farquhar
Editor: Matt Willis

TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m002kf9r)
Two years since 7 October attacks

Israel has marked the second anniversary of the 7 October attacks. We speak to two parents - one Israeli, one Palestinian - about the impact that day has had on their families

Also on the programme:

We visit a school that scores high marks for its inclusive approach to special educational needs.

And the team of musicologists who have found previously unheard music by Henry Purcell in a local archive.

TUE 22:45 Helm by Sarah Hall (m002kf9t)
The Centre for Atmospheric Science

An elemental novel from the twice-nominated Booker author of BURNTCOAT and THE WOLF BORDER. Helm, the only named wind in the UK, has scoured the Eden Valley since the dawn of time. When people arrive, Helm becomes the subject of their myth and folklore but, as the Anthropocene takes us all past the point of no return, Helm's very existence is threatened.

Helm's peculiarities catch the eye of the intrepid Victorians while, in the present day, there are still investigations to be made near the top of Cross Fell.

Read by Hattie Morahan
Written by Sarah Hall
Abridged by Sian Preece
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 23:00 Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics (m0021j1m)
Series 10

Artemis

Natalie stands up for the goddess Artemis. She's a predator, a hunter, an archer. Goddess of wild creatures, the moon to her brother Apollo's sun, she's not averse to the odd human sacrifice. And if you forget her in your prayers, she's liable to send a really big pig to dig up your orchards.

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 Being Roman with Mary Beard (m001zv1d)
11. Three Lovers and a Funeral

Allia Potestas is a woman remembered in one of the most intriguing and affecting funeral orations of the ancient world. Her lover remembers her diligent application to housework before praising to the skies her beauty and her erotic skills. But he didn't have Allia to himself. She was shared in a ménage à trois with his male friend. It's an unusual domestic arrangement and a surprising one to advertise on a tombstone. The lines

themselves reveal an enormous amount about Roman morality and the sexual politics of the time, but the story between the lines is even more fascinating. Can we dig beneath the emotional turmoil of the man and guess what Allia herself thought about the arrangement? Mary Beard is joined in Rome by Allison Emmerson of Tulane University to examine this extraordinary funerary monument at the Baths of Diocletian.

Producer: Alasdair Cross

Expert contributors: Allison Emmerson, Tulane University; Helen King, Open University; Mairead McAuley, University College London

Cast: Tyler Cameron as Allius

Special thanks to Museo Nazionale Romano

WEDNESDAY 08 OCTOBER 2025

WED 00:00 Midnight News (m002kf9x)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

WED 00:30 Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (m002kf8l)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Tuesday]

WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002kf9z)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002kfb1)
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 (m002kfb3)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

WED 05:04 BBC Inside Science (m002k416)
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:30 on Monday]

WED 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002kfb5)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002kfb7)
Who is my neighbour?

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rev Lynne Gibson

Good morning.

I belong to a generation who grew up learning 'by heart'. At school, that meant poetry and snippets of plays, crammed into our brains before exams, never to be used again. In Sunday school, it meant that we also learned the creed, the whole catechism and the Ten Commandments by heart.

Increasingly, I find I've been reflecting on God's command to observe a holy Sabbath, and his reminder that the day of rest was for everyone – families, servants and the 'stranger who is within your gates'. The 'stranger who is within our gates' is to be welcomed, protected and will also receive Gods blessing.

There is at present, debate and disagreement about to whom we owe those obligations. Are they to be largely confined to those closest to us? In a sense, it is a similar question to that asked of Jesus "Who is my neighbour?".

When Jesus was asked that, he told the parable of the Good Samaritan. It was an uncompromising response. The neighbour to the injured man was the one who showed love and compassion. Not only did he help in a practical way while others passed by on the other side – but he stepped out of his comfort zone and took a risk in crossing the road to help 'the other'.

There are many examples of intolerance and fear-filled hatred of those who are a different race, creed, colour, gender and sexuality. The call to people of faith and none, to cross the road to help, to step out of our comfort zones and to speak up for the 'other', has never been more important.

'Who then was a neighbour to the injured man?', Jesus asked. 'The one who showed mercy on him', the lawyer replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Lord, give us courage, kindness and the compassion that we might show your mercy to everyone. Amen

WED 05:45 Farming Today (m002kfb9)

08/10/25: Rive Wye, rural crime, new nature reserve

What has been described as the biggest legal claim ever brought in the UK over environmental pollution has been filed at the High Court. Almost 4000 people have signed up to a class action lawsuit against major poultry producers and a water company over allegations of "extensive and widespread pollution" in the rivers Wye, Lugg and Usk. They argue that the state of the rivers in recent years has severely affected local businesses, property values and people's enjoyment of the area - and are seeking "substantial damages". The companies being sued - Avara Foods Limited, Freemans of Newent Limited and Welsh Water - all deny the claims.

When King Charles was crowned, a pledge was made to create 25 new or larger National Nature reserves within 5 years. The "King's series" reserves are meant to move beyond simple conservation - to be bigger, more connected and with nature recovery their primary purpose. The 12th such reserve has just opened and is a significant extension of a reserve in the Yorkshire Dales that contains one third of Britain's flowers and ferns in one biological hotspot.

And all this week we're looking at rural crime. In Scotland, insurers NFU Mutual is reporting a sudden spike in thefts of quad bikes and all terrain vehicles, or ATVs. Data released by them in September this year shows the value of quad bike thefts in Scotland has risen 90%, compared with 2024. Losses are estimated at nearly 200 thousand pounds up to September, compared to £102,000 for whole of last year.

Presented by Anna Hill and produced by Sally Challoner.

WED 06:00 Today (m002kgfv)

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

WED 09:00 More or Less (m002kfn8)

Does half the UK get more in benefits than they pay in tax?

Tim Harford investigates some of the numbers in the news. This week:

The Daily Mail says that over half of the UK population live in households that get more in benefits than they pay in tax - is it true?

Do some billionaires earn more in a night than the population of Bournemouth earns in a year? New Green leader Zack Polanski seems to think so - we scrutinise the figures.

Are older generations getting smarter?

Have 77% of Gen-Z brought a parent along to a job interview? Really?

If you've seen a number you think we should take a look at, email the team: moreorless@bbc.co.uk

Presenter: Tim Harford
Reporter: Lizzy McNeill
Producer: Nathan Gower
Series producer: Tom Colls
Production co-ordinator: Maria Ogundele
Sound mix: Duncan Hannant
Editor: Richard Vaden

WED 09:30 The History Podcast (m002kglx)

The Magnificent O'Connors

2. The Murder of Donk Ambridge

Jimmy O'Connor was a small-time thief, making the most of the opportunities war torn London presented to him. How did he end up in a condemned cell at Pentonville?

On the Easter weekend 1941, a man is murdered in a London suburb. The police have little evidence to go on, and the usual suspects are pulled in for questioning. Among them is 23-year-old Jimmy O'Connor. He's eventually charged and tried for the crime, though he maintains his innocence. Sentenced to death, the outlook is bleak as Jimmy awaits his final appointment with hangman Albert Pierrepoint.

Presenter: Ragnar O'Connor
Producer: Emily Esson, Victoria McArthur
Research: Elizabeth Ann Duffy, Louise Yeoman
Script Assistant and Additional Research: Marisha Currie
Script Writers: Emily Esson, Jack Kibble-White
Original Music: Lomond Campbell
Theme Music: Barry Jackson
Addition mixing and sound effects: Charlie McPhee, Kayleigh Raphael
Story Consultant: Jack Kibble-White
Script Editor: Graham Russell

Executive Editor: Gillian Wheelan
Commissioning Executive: Tracy Williams
Commissioning Editor: Dan Clarke

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

Archive: The Russell Harty Show, ITV, April 1976

Thanks to Cheryl Field, Richard Field and Kirsty Williams

WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002kgfz)

Kemi Badenoch's leadership. Manon Garcia on Gisele Pelicot, Joy Gregory

As Kemi Badenoch prepares to address Conservative Party conference for the second time this week, Nuala McGovern reflects on her first year as leader of the party and Leader of the Opposition, with BBC political correspondent Georgia Roberts and Conservative peer Baroness Kate Fall.

The People's Tribunal for Women in Afghanistan is convening in Madrid this week to investigate Taliban crimes against women. Since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, Afghan women and girls have endured a significant rollback of their fundamental human rights. What will this tribunal - which has no legal authority - achieve for them? We hear from Shaharzaad Akbar, former head of Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission, and Director of Rawadari, one of the organisations behind the Tribunal.

Nuala talks to the French philosopher Manon Garcia. Manon watched the court proceedings of the Pelicot case in France, in which Dominique Pelicot and 46 other men were found guilty of the rape of Dominique's wife Gisele. In her book *Living with Men*, she examines French and other societies in light of the case and questions what more needs to be done.

The visual artist Joy Gregory's retrospective exhibition *Catching Flies* with Honey opens at the Whitechapel Gallery today. As an artist Joy explores identity, history, race, gender and societal ideals of beauty all while pushing the possibilities of photography and other media. She discusses her life and work.

Presenter: Nuala McGovern
Producer: Kirsty Starkey

WED 10:55 A Carnival of Animals (m002kgm1)

The Swift

In this series for BBC Sounds and BBC Radio 4, best-selling author and scholar Katherine Rundell celebrates the lives of twenty astonishing but endangered animals. Each short essay includes fascinating stories that connect natural history with cultural insight, myth and science - revealing how animals have shaped human imagination, and how our choices now shape their survival.

In this short essay, written and read by Katherine, we meet the swift - a bird so committed to flight that it spends at least ten months of the year airborne. Over its lifetime, a swift will fly around two million kilometres: enough to reach the moon and back twice, and then once more to the moon. They even sleep on the wing, as witnessed by a First World War pilot who described flying through a motionless flock in the night sky.

Swifts belong to the family Apodidae, from the Greek *ápous*, meaning "footless" - a reflection of the belief that they had no legs. They do, but if all goes well, they rarely need them. Yet in Britain, swift numbers have dropped by 50% in the last two decades, as nesting sites vanish with the demolition of old buildings.

Written and Presented by Katherine Rundell
Produced by Natalie Donovan for BBC Audio in Bristol

WED 11:00 File on 4 Investigates (m002k3jm)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Tuesday]

WED 11:40 This Week in History (m002kfnq)

Oct 6th - Oct 12th

Fascinating, surprising and eye-opening stories from the past, brought to life.

This week: the 6th to the 12th October.
8th October 1769 - James Cook and the crew of HMS Endeavour land in New Zealand
9th October 2012 - 15 year old Malala Yousafzai survives a shooting by the Taliban.
9th October 1446 - King Sejong the Great creates the Korean Hangul alphabet.

WED 11:45 Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (m002kgm3)

Episode 3

In this sequel to her memoir *Wild Swans*, Jung Chang charts her path from arriving as a 26-year-old student in the UK in 1978, through the years of post-Mao liberalisation, to the more recent authoritarian and increasingly repressive rule of President Xi Jinping. The constant thread throughout these years has been her powerful bond with her mother, the woman to whom this book is dedicated.

Jung and her fellow students grew up in complete isolation from the West, and lived in fear as to what might happen if they broke any of the strict rules imposed upon them by their government. The chance to travel to Britain and then to study at York University was an invaluable opportunity. But the freedom of expression that she chose to exercise once she became a British citizen eventually exacted a high price.

Although for many years she was able to return to China and visit her family while researching her subsequent books, there came a point when the political situation meant permanent separation from her mother and those family members who she left behind in China. Today Jung Chang is unable to return to bid farewell to her frail mother who is now in her 90s, but she remains determined to honour the freedom that her mother encouraged her to embrace.

Written by Jung Chang
Read by Sarah Lam
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

WED 12:00 News Summary (m002kgm5)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

WED 12:04 You and Yours (m002kgm7)

EU Entry-Exit System, Winter Fuel Payment Scam, English Wine

From Sunday, British travellers to the European Union will be subject to new biometric checks. As well as showing a passport, travellers will also need to scan their fingerprint and have their photo taken. The EU is introducing this to help identify suspected criminals, combat identity fraud and to police the 90 day stay restrictions that apply to British and other nationalities. However, there are concerns over how much this extra red tape will cause delays at airports, seaports and international rail stations.

Many of you will have received phishing texts from criminals pretending to be the government, but what happens if you are a victim of this tactic? Our reporter Shari Vahl follows a fake text purporting to help people claim winter fuel payments.

RTS meters monitor electricity and hot water usage for 189,000 homes in the UK. These meters are linked to long wave radio signals but are being phased out when the long wave radio signal is turned off. As the deadline approaches, customers are reporting difficulties making the switch.

More than 50 local councils have landlord licencing schemes designed to help clamp down on rogue landlords and protect tenants. From December it will be easier for local councils to implement them, but how well do they work? We hear from a representative from the London Borough of Newham, which was the first council to introduce a scheme in 2013.

English wine has been a success story over the last decade as our climate becomes better suited to growing grapes. However, the market has slowed in the last 12 months, leading England's largest wine producer, Chapel Down, to cancel plans for a new multi-million pound winery.

PRESENTER - WINIFRED ROBINSON
PRODUCER - CHARLIE FILMER-COURT

WED 12:57 Weather (m002kgm9)

The latest weather forecast

WED 13:00 World at One (m002kgmc)

Kemi Badenoch pledges to abolish stamp duty

The Conservative leader, under pressure and with poor polling, defends her party's record. We react to Kemi Badenoch's address and discuss the state of politics at the end of party conference season. Also today, we explain the collapsed legal case against two accused of spying for China. Plus the Celebrity Traitors hits TV screens tonight - a former contestant joins us live.

WED 13:45 Multitrack (m002kgmf)

The Alcoholic's Tarot

Artist Leon Clowes traces addiction recovery through the lens of a bespoke tarot deck. In a Brighton workshop, Leon invites people touched by addiction to share candid conversations

sparked by his alcoholic misfortune-tellings.

The programme explores how addiction speaks to universal human experiences: sadness, resilience, and moments of levity. In partnership with recovery-focused arts organisations in Brighton (small performance adventures and Performing Recovery magazine), The Alcoholic's Tarot weaves in city textures and intimate storytelling to produce an intimate and poignant portrait of recovery and connection.

Music by Leon Clowes
Produced by Leon Clowes
Commissioned in association with the Multitrack Audio Producers Fellowship

A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4

WED 14:00 The Archers (m002kf9k)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

WED 14:15 Drama on 4 (m002kgmh)
Murder in Aland

Episode 2

In Episode 2, following a violent attack, Pekka awakens in the hospital, haunted by fragmented memories and nightmares. As he pieces together the events surrounding a mysterious death, uncovered audio files hint at lovers, spies and secrets that could destabilise nations.

Pekka follows the clues - but someone is watching, and the danger is closer than he thinks.

Cast:
Pekka Pelle Heikkilä
Mikael Santtu Karvonen
Astrid Laura Malmivaara
Fagerudd Jaana Saarinen

Other parts played by Pääru Oja, Satu Tuuli Karhu, Anna Airola, Thomas Dellinger, Olli Rahkonen, Joel Hirvonen, Asta Sveholm, Akseli Kouki, Riitta Havukainen, Mikko Kouki and Pihla Penttinen

Created by: Suomen Podcastmedia and Hannu-Pekka Komonen
Written by: Satu Rasila, Akseli Kouki and Mikko Kouki

Sound Design - Samuli Welin and Steve Bond
Producers - Alex Hollands and Jenni Kaunisto
Director - Mikko Kouki

Recorded in Helsinki, in Finnish and English
A Goldhawk production for YLE Finland and BBC Radio 4

WED 15:00 Money Box (m002kgmk)
Money Box Live: At the London Stock Exchange

Money Box Live hits the road and heads to the heart of the City of London for this special programme on investing. We're live at the London Stock Exchange to look at the basics and weigh up the different options.

According to the Financial Conduct Authority, about a third of adults had some sort of investment last year, but Chancellor Rachel Reeves wants savers to put more money into investments, arguing it will bring better returns and help boost the economy. But is it really for everyone? And how do you actually do it?

Felicity Hannah is joined by Julia Sage-Bell, senior policy advisor at the Personal Investment Management and Financial Advice Association (PIMFA), Philippa Hann, chief executive of financial advice firm Paradigm Morton and Louise Claro, an independent financial adviser at Circle Financial Services.

Presenter: Felicity Hannah
Producers: James Graham and Helen Ledwick
Editor: Jess Quayle
Senior News Editor: Sara Wadeson
(This episode was first broadcast at 3pm on Radio 4 on Wednesday the 8th of October 2025).

WED 15:30 The Artificial Human (m002kgmm)
Why am I sad when my AI goes away?

According to the Harvard Business Review companionship has become the number one use case for generative AI. But what if the model gets updated and the AI chum you've been confiding in and sharing your life with disappears? Who picks up the pieces and do the creators of these technologies be more careful?

Aleks Krotoski and Kevin Fong explore the latest and most high-profile incident of this when Open AI replaced GPT 4o with

GPT 5. At a stroke, all personas that users had shaped their use and careful prompting got wiped causing a wave of emotion from ranging from irritation at the lack of warning to genuine distress of people denied the opportunity to prepare and say goodbye.

They'll hear from Casey Fiesler, Professor in the Department of Information Science at the University of Colorado Boulder about how this all went down and whether Open AI could or should have done things differently. They also be joined by Alan Cowen from Hume AI about how you can create highly personable AI responsibly.

Presenters: Aleks Krotoski and Kevin Fong
Producer: Peter McManus
Sound: Tim Heffer.

WED 16:00 When It Hits the Fan (m002kgmp)
Michelle Mone: Her PR Rise and Fall

This week, David and Simon look at Michelle Mone's meteoric rise and spectacular fall - and examine the PR decisions that have come back to haunt her.

The Baroness has come out swinging after a judge ruled a company linked to her and her husband Doug Barrowman must pay £122m in damages for breaching a government contract for the supply of personal protective equipment during the Covid pandemic. She says she's been made a scapegoat and is the victim of sexism and classism. Is playing the blame game ever a good idea - and might she have a point?

Most importantly, is there any way back for someone when their reputation is on the floor?

And on the extended edition on BBC Sounds, did you hear about the first ever female Archbishop of Canterbury? The chances are the announcement may have initially passed you by - because, for several reasons, the historic moment didn't exactly land. Was it just bad timing - or bad PR?

Also, why the battle for hearts and minds is increasingly fought by cats and dogs. David and Simon are talking pet PR - and explain why there are few better opportunities to reveal your softer side than when you're interviewed alongside your beloved pet. One big reason - you can't fake it.

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

WED 16:15 The Media Show (m002kgmr)
Steve Rosenberg, Zanny Minton Beddoes, new Victoria Beckham documentary and the ethics of secret filming

Katie Razall on some of the week's biggest media stories: BBC Russia Editor, Steve Rosenberg, on winning the Charles Wheeler Award for outstanding contribution to broadcast journalism. Zanny Minton Beddoes, Editor in Chief of the Economist on their new video podcast Insider which launches this week. What are the editorial and ethical issues around secret filming as seen in the recent Panorama documentary Undercover In The Police? And as a new three part Victoria Beckham documentary drops on Netflix we consider the rise of the self produced celebrity documentary.

Producer: Lucy Wai
Assistant Producer: Elena Angelides

WED 17:00 PM (m002kgmt)
The Conservatives pledge to cut stamp duty

Conservative party conference ends with an announcement by Kemi Badenoch to cut stamp duty on main homes. The Shadow Chancellor tells us why. Also: we hear from inside Gaza City as indirect talks continue between Hamas and Israel for peace. And the late poet Seamus Heaney's editor tells us about some of his unpublished poems being released tomorrow.

WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002kgmw)
The Conservative leader has delivered her first party conference speech

In her first leader's speech to a Conservative party conference, Kemi Badenoch committed a future Tory administration to lower government spending, tougher access to benefits and the abolition of stamp duty for most purchases in England and Northern Ireland. Also: Police investigating last week's Manchester synagogue attack say the killer rang 999 and pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. And three scientists have shared this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing revolutionary new materials.

WED 18:30 Do Gooders (m002kgmy)
Series 2

6. The OBE

Harriett finds herself in a PR storm after her surprisingly high salary is leaked. Clive, ever the champion of needlessly high pay cheques, jumps to her defence. Elsewhere, the team pursue a new celebrity patron much to Ken's dismay.

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 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.

Cast

Gladys – Kathryn Drysdale
Lauren – Ania Magliano
Clive – Garrett Millerick
Harriett – Fay Ripley
Achi – Ahir Shah
Ken – Frank Skinner

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

An Avalon Television Production for BBC Radio 4

WED 19:00 The Archers (m002kgn0)

Chris shares news of how Martha's doing at school with Susan and Neil. When Susan mentions the rat situation at church, Neil reckons Susan's handling everything brilliantly. The last few months have been so tricky for the shop. Talk turns to George's release tomorrow. Susan reckons it would mean a lot to Emma if Chris could show his face at the party on Friday, but Chris is adamant he won't go. He's happy for Emma that she'll have George back, but he'll never be family to him. Susan and Neil understand.

Susan has the idea to offer deliveries while the shop's closed. Neil's not keen initially, but soon gets on board with it and helps her load up with essentials. While they're at the church they share a quiet moment of contemplation. They feel thankful and count their blessings, admitting they'll never stop loving George no matter what.

Jolene admits to Chris and Fallon she feels relieved George is being released on time, having felt dreadful about getting him involved in their troubles. Fallon agrees it wasn't fair to ask George for help; he made a brave choice. Chris can still only feel contempt. He hopes George has changed but he's not holding his breath. Later Chris opens up to Fallon about his feelings towards Alice. There's still the nagging worry that she might drink again. He admits when they were going through those times he questioned himself and knew that deep down Alice's drinking was becoming a problem. He'll never love anyone the way he loved Alice – but he can never be with her again.

WED 19:15 Front Row (m002kgn2)
Tamsin Greig on her role in Sally Wainwright's Riot Women

Actor Tamsin Greig discusses her role in Sally Wainwright's latest drama series, Riot Women, in which a group of middle-aged women in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, form a band of anarchist rock musicians.

Booker Prize-shortlisted author Susan Choi tells us about her sprawling historical epic, Flashlight, set against the backdrop of the shared history of America, Japan and Korea.

Conservation specialist Will Palin on the historic refurbishment of a series of magnificent murals by the great artist William Hogarth, which have just gone on display to the public for the first time at Bart's Hospital in London.

And one hundred years since its invention, we discuss the history and cultural significance of the analogue photobooth. How did this new technology make photography more democratic and influence major artists?

Presenter: Kirsty Wark
Producer: Mark Crossan

WED 20:00 AntiSocial (m002k4pf)
What is patriotism?

It seems like everyone wants to be a patriot this week, from Prime Minister Keir Starmer to people hoisting flags up British lampposts. But what does patriotism really mean?

At the Labour Party conference there was lots of talk of 'progressive patriotism' - a definition of the term that emphasises Britain's tolerance and multiculturalism. Others invoke patriotism when seeking a return to the past. Others reject the word entirely because of its links to nationalism.

We find out why Keir Starmer and the Labour Party are trying to formulate 'progressive patriotism', examine the history of the concept going back to the ancient Greeks, and ask what polling tells us about how patriotic British people feel.

Presenter: Adam Fleming
Production team: Lucy Proctor, Natasha Fernandes, Mike Wendling, Tom Gillet
Studio manager: Andy Mills
Production coordinator: Janet Staples
Editor: Bridget Harney

WED 20:45 Superhead (m00237h7)
Episode 1 - A Delight in Class

John Dickens has been investigating Trevor Averre-Beeson for the best part of a decade. Averre-Beeson was once one of the most prominent examples of the generation of "Superheads" that Tony Blair and Michael Gove backed in turn to help transform failing schools in Britain. He built an education empire around a large academy trust, Lilac Sky.

But in 2016, that empire suddenly and rapidly collapsed, sparking a scandal that sent shockwaves through the world of education.

John Dickens explores the inside story behind the rise and fall of one of Britain's most charismatic educators, and investigates whether the rapid growth - and precipitous collapse - of Lilac Sky exposes weaknesses in regulation that the government has failed to fully reckon with.

In Episode 1, John goes back to the beginning, hearing the story of Trevor's emergence as one of the original "Superheads".

Producers: Robert Nicholson and Charlie Towler
Sound Design: Tom Brignell
Executive Producer: David Prest
A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4

WED 21:00 The Life Scientific (m002kf89)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Tuesday]

WED 21:30 All in the Mind (m002kf8c)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 on Tuesday]

WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m002kgn5)
Trump says "very close to a deal" on Gaza

US President Donald Trump says "we are very close to a deal" to end the war in Gaza, after officials reported progress after a third day of indirect talks between Israel and Hamas in Egypt. The Times of Israel earlier reported a deal to release Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners could be imminent.

Also on the programme: as the number of people who died while homeless reached the highest on record last year, we hear from one mother on the loss of her son.

And 40 years on from its debut, the cast of Les Misérables unite for an anniversary that makes it the longest-running West End musical.

WED 22:45 Helm by Sarah Hall (m002kgn7)
Who Will Build the Cross?

An elemental novel from the twice-nominated Booker author of BURNTCOAT and THE WOLF BORDER. Helm, the only named wind in the UK, has scoured the Eden Valley since the dawn of time. When people arrive, Helm becomes the subject of their myth and folklore but, as the Anthropocene takes us all past the point of no return, Helm's very existence is threatened.

Michael Lang's divine plan becomes clearer as a diabolical threat is made against Long Meg and her Sisters.

Read by Hattie Morahan
Written by Sarah Hall
Abridged by Siân Preece
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

WED 23:00 Ria Lina Gets Forensic (m002k6q8)
Series 1

5. Electrical Muscle Stimulation (EMS)

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

This episode, she's joined by real-life Baroness Ayesha Hazarika to try Electrical Muscle Stimulation (EMS).

Featuring Ria Lina and Ayesha Hazarika
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 (m002kgn9)
Series 14

Ep 5 - It's Actually Romantic

The four-time Gold Comedy winner at the Radio Academy Awards returns as Jon Holmes remixes the news into the current affairs comedy concept album where world events meet popular culture in a satirical mash-up.

This week - Marvin the Paranoid Android goes to the Tory Conference and, thanks to Taylor Swift, Nigel Farage is Actually Romantic.

Producer: Jon Holmes
An unusual production for BBC Radio 4

WED 23:30 Being Roman with Mary Beard (m002020b)
12. The Wolf of Via Vesuvio

Lucius Caecilius Iucundus kept the economic wheels of Pompeii well greased. He was a middle man doing very nicely - part money-lender, part auctioneer, part banker, all hustler.

Thanks to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the preservation of the ruins of Pompeii, we can still visit his house, look at his bronze portrait, and read his account books. 150 tablets of receipts, carbonised in the destruction of Pompeii, lead us through the deals that keep the city's economy moving. If you want to buy a Ferrari-level horse but only have the cash for a Fiesta then Iucundus is your man. It might look like dry stuff, but it's as revealing of real life as snooping on someone's Paypal account or leafing through their credit card receipts might be now. Never mind imperial plunder and luxury lifestyles, it's a glimpse of how the economy works in a regular town.

Mary Beard visits Iucundus's home and talks to the novelist Robert Harris about his fascination with the Pompeii moneylender.

Producer: Alasdair Cross

Expert Contributors: Sophie Hay, Parco Archeologico di Pompei; Matthew Nicholls, Oxford University

Special thanks to National Archaeological Museum, Naples and Parco Archeologico di Pompei

THURSDAY 09 OCTOBER 2025

THU 00:00 Midnight News (m002kgnc)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

THU 00:30 Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (m002kgm3)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Wednesday]

THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002kgnf)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002kgnh)
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 (m002kgnk)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

THU 05:04 More or Less (m002kfn8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]

THU 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002kgnm)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002kgnp)
What would Jesus do?

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rev Lynne Gibson

Good morning.

I was browsing online when I stumbled across a small 'plushie' Jesus figure. It was being marketed as a comforting toy and a 'bedtime companion' for children. I could appreciate the sentiment, but there was something about a 'cute smiling pocket sized Jesus' which made me uncomfortable. Perhaps because a pocket-sized God tailored to meet our needs, seems to be a sadly inadequate representation of the Creator of the universe. Or perhaps because such a God, taken out when we need him to play with at Christmas and Easter, and put away again afterwards, is a little bit too close to the reality of God's place in the world and even in the church today.

So what would the real Jesus make of this frazzled, fragile and failing world? As our slick logo puts it, 'What Would Jesus Do?' We don't have to speculate – we can read it in the gospels, and so we know that he's not the Jesus of some churchgoers, who gets left behind in the pews as they leave for the week ahead.

The Jesus of the gospels is not cuddly, cute or domesticated. He cracked a whip and overturned the tables of corruption and exploitation in the temple. He touched the untouchable, welcomed the 'other', the outsider – women, Samaritans and tax collectors. He loved not just neighbours, but strangers, enemies, and those who would betray him.

He loved to death and beyond, and calls each of us to love and welcome in his name those whom we meet along the way. If we are serious about following in his footsteps, it means standing up, speaking out and overturning the tables of oppression and inequity wherever we encounter them.
What Would Jesus Do? We already know the answer.

God who overturned tables and overturns our prejudices, send us out to build a kingdom of love, mercy and acceptance in your world, Amen

THU 05:45 Farming Today (m002kgnr)
09/10/25 Trump's aid package for soyabean farmers, welfare for farmed insects, hare coursing

As President Trump plans to bail out soyabean farmers and China goes to South America for supplies, how will UK animal feed be affected by the turmoil?
How should insects be farmed? Is their welfare important? We hear from a professor of animal sentience who says the way farmed insects are being viewed is changing.
The illegal sport of hare coursing is on the rise in the Vale of Glamorgan, causing damage to farms and stress to farmers.

Presented by Anna Hill and produced by Beatrice Fenton.

THU 06:00 Today (m002kgr6)
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

THU 09:00 In Our Time (b016lh15)
The Moon

After 27 years, Melvyn Bragg has decided to step down from the In Our Time presenter's chair. With over a thousand episodes to choose from, he has selected just six that capture the huge range and depth of the subjects he and his experts have tackled. In this first pick, we hear Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss the origins, science and mythology of the moon.

Humans have been fascinated by our only known satellite since prehistory. In some cultures the Moon has been worshipped as a deity; in recent centuries there has been lively debate about its origins and physical characteristics. Although other planets in our solar system have moons ours is, relatively speaking, the largest, and is perhaps more accurately described as a 'twin planet'; the past, present and future of the Earth and the Moon are locked together. Only very recently has water been found on the Moon - a discovery which could prove to be invaluable if human colonisation of the Moon were ever to occur.

Mankind first walked on the Moon in 1969, but it is debatable how important this huge political event was in developing our scientific knowledge. The advances of space science, including data from satellites and the moon landings, have given us some startling insights into the history of our own planet, but many intriguing questions remain unanswered.

With:

Paul Murdin
Visiting Professor of Astronomy at Liverpool John Moores University

Carolyn Crawford
Gresham Professor of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge

Ian Crawford
Reader in Planetary Science and Astrobiology at Birkbeck College, London.

Producer: Natalia Fernandez

Spanning history, religion, culture, science and philosophy, In Our Time from BBC Radio 4 is essential listening for the intellectually curious. In each episode, host Melvyn Bragg and expert guests explore the characters, events and discoveries that have shaped our world.

THU 09:45 Strong Message Here (m002kgrb)
Repetition, Repetition, Repetition (with Natalie Haynes)

Did you know Keir Starmer's dad was a toolmaker? Of course you did, because he repeated it every time he was in front a microphone for years.

Armando is joined by Natalie Haynes to discuss the use of repetition. How it can be an effective rhetorical technique for the likes of Cicero and Tony Blair, but grates when coming from others? We also look at the language of the recent Tory Party conference, political chocolate bars, and have a debate about the 'debate' politicians often say we need.

Have a strong message for Armando? Drop us a line on strongmessagehere@bbc.co.uk

Executive producer - James Robinson
Production Coordinator - Jodie Charman
Sound editing - Chris Maclean

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

THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002kgrr)
Tanita Tikaram, Sally Wainwright, Nature and kids with SEND

NB: The music in this broadcast has been removed from this podcast for rights reasons.

In Sally Wainwright's new BBC drama *Riot Women*, a group of women in mid-life escape the pressures of caring for parents and kids - and the menopause - by forming a rock band. Rosalie Craig stars as the incredible singer that brings them together. Anita Rani talks to Sally and actor Rosalie about the power of female friendship.

The ongoing Covid-19 inquiry is currently looking into the impact of the pandemic on children and young people, from education, health to social wellbeing. Alison Morton, the CEO of the Institute of Health Visitors, told the inquiry this week that the NHS's decision to redeploy health visitors meant that 'children were harmed' and there were 'life-ending consequences.' The BBC's Education Reporter Vanessa Clarke has been following the inquiry and joins Anita to talk about the latest news.

As part of the BBC's Nature Week, we're encouraging you to get outside and connect with nature. Writer, advocate and skilled bike mechanic Vicky Balfour talks to Anita about how nature has become both a sanctuary and a source of strength for her as a parent of children with SEND. She describes how short moments outdoors can have a profound impact on mental and physical wellbeing, providing sensory regulation, confidence-building and resilience. Vicky also sheds light on the barriers SEND families face in accessing nature and calls for a more inclusive outdoor culture.

Singer-songwriter Tanita Tikaram shot to fame in the late 1980s aged just 18 with her debut album *Ancient Heart*, which sold millions and featured iconic hits such as *Twist in My Sobriety*, *(World Outside My Window)* and *Good Tradition*. 37-years later, Tanika considers her latest album *LIAR* (*Love Isn't A Right*), a sequel to the one that made her a household name. She talks to Anita about making this tenth album which revisits themes of identity and belonging.

Presenter: Anita Rani
Producer: Rebecca Myatt

THU 10:55 A Carnival of Animals (m002kgrg)
The Pig

In this series for BBC Sounds and BBC Radio 4, best-selling author and scholar Katherine Rundell celebrates the lives of twenty astonishing but endangered animals. Each short essay

includes stories that connect natural history with cultural insight, myth and science - revealing how animals have shaped human imagination, and how our choices now shape their survival.

In this episode, Katherine introduces us to Lulu, a black potbellied pig who once saved a human's life - a reminder of the pig's intelligence. We learn that pigs can distinguish between different types of music, and some have even learned to play video games. The largest pig on record was Big Bill, who weighed 1,100kg - as much as a VW Beetle with a lion inside. But their size can also make them dangerous: in 14th-century Normandy, one was tried and sentenced in a court of law for killing a child.

Despite their strength and intelligence, some pig species are now critically endangered. One of them, the Visayan Warty Pig, has piglets with go-faster stripes along their backs and adults with extravagant bouffant hair. The pig may even be the subject of the world's oldest known animal art - a 45,000-year-old cave painting of the Sulawesi Warty Pig, now listed as near-threatened. Whether it survives another 45,000 years - or even another hundred - is up to us.

Written and Presented by Katherine Rundell
Produced by Natalie Donovan for BBC Audio in Bristol

THU 11:00 This Cultural Life (m002kgrj)
Thomas Adès

One of the most revered and prolific British classical musicians, Thomas Adès made his name with his 1995 opera *Powder Her Face*, written when he was just 24 years old. His orchestral composition *Asyla* was nominated for the Mercury Prize for album of the year in 1999. Recordings of his opera *The Tempest* and, more recently, his score for the ballet *The Dante Project* have both won Grammy Awards. His ten symphonic works, three operas and numerous chamber pieces are performed all round the world. In 2024 Adès was presented with the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Gold Medal, previous recipients of which include Stravinsky, Brahms and Elgar.

Thomas Adès talks to John Wilson about the influence of his family, including his art historian mother who is an expert in surrealism. Through her he was introduced to the surrealist artists, the films of Luis Buñuel and met the painter Francis Bacon. His grandmother introduced him to the work of T.S. Eliot as read by Sir Alec Guinness on a cassette recording, and it was some of these poems that he was to eventually set to music for his first ever composition. Adès also recalls getting to the semi-finals of the BBC's Young Musician of the Year in 1990, a watershed moment for him as it prompted him to pursue music as a composer rather than a pianist. He also cites going regularly to the English National Opera as a formative influence and talks about writing his own operas including *Powder Her Face* about the Duchess of Argyll, and *The Exterminating Angel*, based on the film by Luis Buñuel.

Producer: Edwina Pitman

THU 11:45 Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (m002kgri)
Episode 4

In this sequel to her memoir *Wild Swans*, Jung Chang charts her path from arriving as a 26-year-old student in the UK in 1978, through the years of post-Mao liberalisation, to the more recent authoritarian and increasingly repressive rule of President Xi Jinping. The constant thread throughout these years has been her powerful bond with her mother, the woman to whom this book is dedicated.

Jung and her fellow students grew up in complete isolation from the West, and lived in fear as to what might happen if they broke any of the strict rules imposed upon them by their government. The chance to travel to Britain and then to study at York University was an invaluable opportunity. But the freedom of expression that she chose to exercise once she became a British citizen eventually exacted a high price.

Although for many years she was able to return to China and visit her family while researching her subsequent books, there came a point when the political situation meant permanent separation from her mother and those family members who she left behind in China. Today Jung Chang is unable to return to bid farewell to her frail mother who is now in her 90s, but she remains determined to honour the freedom that her mother encouraged her to embrace.

Written by Jung Chang
Read by Sarah Lam
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

THU 12:00 News Summary (m002kgrrn)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

THU 12:04 The Bottom Line (m002kgrq)
Chaos Management: Do Fewer Rules Make For Better Workplaces?

Can chaos ever be good for business? From Donald Trump's unpredictable tariff policies to Elon Musk's disruptive leadership style, some of the world's most high-profile figures seem to thrive on disorder. But does chaos drive innovation – or just confusion? In a world where start-ups often celebrate mess and speed over tidy management, we ask if “getting things done” sometimes means throwing out the rulebook. Evan Davis and guests discuss whether the best results really come from a bit of chaos.

Guests:
Jesper Brodin, CEO, IKEA (Ingka Group)
Erin Meyer, Professor at INSEAD and co-author of 'No Rules Rules'
Simon Dixon, CEO, Hatmill, supply chain and logistics consultancy

Production team:
Presenter: Evan Davis
Producers: Sally Abrahams, Phoebe Keane, Kirsteen Knight
Production co-ordinator: Rosie Strawbridge
Sound engineers: Kris Hansen and Neva Missirian
Editor: Matt Willis

THU 12:32 Sliced Bread (m002kgrrs)
Scar Gels and Oils

Greg Foot speaks to Consultant Dermatologist and Dermatological Surgeon Dr Emma Craythorne - who has plenty of skin in the game - to find some answers for listener Phil about about scars, how they occur, the different types, and what might help make them less obvious.

Each episode Greg investigates the latest ad-hyped products and trending fads promising to make us healthier, happier and greener. Are they really 'the best thing since sliced bread' and should you spend your money on them?

At Sliced Bread, we're hungry for your suggestions so we can keep making fresh batches! If you've seen an ad, trend or wonder product promising to make you happier, healthier or greener, email us at sliced.bread@bbc.co.uk OR send a voice note to our WhatsApp number, 07543 306807.

RESEARCHER: PHIL SANSOM
PRODUCERS: KATE HOLDSWORTH AND GREG FOOT

THU 12:57 Weather (m002kgrrv)
The latest weather forecast

THU 13:00 World at One (m002kgrrx)
Gaza: a ceasefire expected within hours

After two years a ceasefire in Gaza expected to be signed off this afternoon. We have reaction and analysis: is this the best chance for a lasting peace?

THU 13:45 Multitrack (m002kgrrz)
Song of the Deer

Song of the Deer reimagines the monumental 18th Century Gaelic poem, *Moladh Beinn Dobhrain* - In Praise of Beinn Dorain - a celebrated Munro in the Scottish Highlands.

We join Niall Rowantree, a modern-day forester and deer stalker, as he hunts his prey and uncovers the secrets of this revered animal. Kathleen MacInnes voices the perspective of a hind as she moves through the landscape.

The original poem was created by Duncan Ban MacIntyre and it was translated in 2021 by Gary MacKenzie. This documentary explores the relationship between highlanders, their landscape, and the ecology around them.

Producers: Uilleam MacCormaic, Flora Zajicek
Produced in Scotland by The Big Light for BBC Radio 4

Commissioned in association with the Multitrack Audio Producers Fellowship for new talent in feature-making

THU 14:00 The Archers (m002kgrrn)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

THU 14:15 Drama on 4 (m002kgrrs)
The Lovers

By Andy Grace Edwards.

Poignant drama about love, art and the healing power of a big

old walk.

Sam and Liv's are a couple and a performance artist collective. But their personal and artistic relationships have reached a fork in the road, so they turn to their favourite performance artists in search of inspiration.

Marina Abramovic and Ulay once walked The Great Wall of China for their art. Now Sam and Liv will walk the Southern Upland Way...

Cast in Order of Appearance:

Liv ... Chloe Ann Tyler
Sam ... Reuben Joseph
Dee ... Wendy Seager
Helen ... Anne Lacey

Original music by Fraser Jackson
Sound Design by Andy Hay

Production Co-ordinator: Rosalind Gibson
Directed by Kirsty Williams

THU 15:00 Ramblings (m002kgs3)

Clare Balding's in Town!

Clare Balding's In Town! To kick off the new series, Clare is walking in Rutland with comedian Mark Steel. Since they're in the same place at the same time, Clare is also making a cameo appearance on Mark's hugely successful Radio 4 show, Mark Steel's In Town, in Oakham, Rutland's largest town.

Mark has been making In Town for 450 years (he told us) and each show involves intense research before he performs a stand-up routine about the area to a local audience. As Clare and Mark amble around the Hambleton Peninsula, which stretches into Rutland Water, Mark and his producer Carl Cooper discuss what it takes to pull together an episode of In Town.

Mark also discusses the theme of his new book, Leopard in My House, about his recovery from cancer. Guiding Mark and Clare is keen local walker Richard Cooper, who has lived in the area for 20 years and is both knowledgeable and passionate about Rutland. Mark Steel's In Town – Oakham, Rutland will be broadcast on Tuesday, 7 October, with Ramblings following on the 9th... with both available forever on BBC Sounds...

Map: OS Explorer 234 - Rutland Water
Map Ref: SK901075 for Ketton Road where they started the walk

Presenter: Clare Balding
Producer: Karen Gregor

A BBC Studios production for BBC Radio 4

THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m002kfhy)

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

THU 15:30 Feedback (m002kgs5)

Inside the Migrant Hotel, Train Tracks and In Our Time

The first episode in a new series of Feedback, presented by Andrea Catherwood.

A recent edition of File on 4 Investigates went inside the migrant hotels at the centre of anti-immigration protests in England to talk to residents about their experiences. But listeners were divided in what they thought of the documentary. The journalist who made programme, Sue Mitchell, joins Andrea to answer your comments and questions.

While Feedback was off air we heard the news that veteran presenter Melvyn Bragg would be stepping down from presenting In Our Time after 27 years at the programme's helm. You've been suggesting your favourite names to take over - and we talk to radio critic Simon O'Hagan about the end of Melvyn's reign.

And Radio 3 took the time to celebrate 200 years of the birth of the modern railway recently. There was a day of specially scheduled programming - Train Tracks, in which listeners heard Petroc Trelawney travelling from Inverness to London by train in the company of other Radio 3 presenters, soundtracked by themed playlists. Petroc joins us to hear what listeners had to say about the celebration.

Presenter: Andrea Catherwood
Producer: Pauline Moore
Assistant Producer: Rebecca Guthrie
Executive Producer: David Prest

A Whistledown Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

THU 16:00 The Briefing Room (m002kgs7)

Will the Gaza peace plan work?

There have been in celebrations in Israel and Gaza at the announcement of a ceasefire and the beginning of a longer term plan for peace and reconstruction in Gaza.

There have been ceasefires and hostage releases before, but then the death and destruction has resumed, so why is so much more hope being invested in the current plan? And what's actually in it?

Guests:

Rushdi Abu-a-loaf, BBC Gaza Correspondent
Sir Lawrence Freedman, Emeritus Professor of War Studies, King's College London
David Makovsky, Director of the Program on Arab-Israeli Relations at the Washington Institute of Near East Policy
Dr Sanam Vakil, director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House.

Presenter: David Aaronovitch

Production co-ordinator: Maria Ogundele

Producers: Charlotte McDonald, Kirsteen Knight, Cordelia Hemming

Studio engineer: Dave O'Neill

Editor: Richard Vadon

THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (m002kgs9)

What can the UK learn from China on renewable energy?

This week, renewables overtake coal as the world's biggest source of electricity. China is leading the renewable charge despite its global reputation as a coal burning polluter. Zulfiqar Khan, Visiting Professor at Bournemouth University and Tsinghua University in Beijing and Furong Li, Professor in the department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Bath explain what China is getting right and what UK science can learn.

The 2025 Nobel Prize winners have just been announced. The prize for physics has been awarded "for the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit." But what does that mean? Science journalist and author Phil Ball explains how the winning quantum engineering experiments in the 1980s laid the groundwork for device used in today's quantum computers.

Comedian Josie Long finds escapism in extinct megafauna. She speaks to Marnie Chesterton about her new stand up tour 'Now is the Time of Monsters'. And Managing Editor for the new Scientist Penny Sarchet brings us her pick of the week's most important new scientific discoveries.

To discover more fascinating science content, head to bbc.co.uk search for BBC Inside Science and follow the links to The Open University.

Presenter: Marnie Chesterton

Producer: Clare Salisbury

Content Producer: Ella Hubber

Assistant Producer: Jonathan Blackwell

Editor: Martin Smith

Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

THU 17:00 PM (m002kgsc)

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

THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002kgsf)

Global Reaction to Gaza Peace Deal

Leaders around the world have welcomed the ceasefire agreement. News of the deal was greeted with huge outbursts of joy in Hostages Square in Tel Aviv, where families have congregated for two years pressing for the release of Hamas captives. The overwhelming reaction in Gaza has been one of relief. Since the deadly October 7th attacks on Israel by Hamas, the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza estimates that more than 67-thousand people have been killed by Israel's offensive with nearly a third of the dead under the age of 18. But there is also anxiety that, yet again, the ceasefire may not last. In other news, the former Radio 1 DJ, Tim Westwood, has been charged with rape and sexual assault. And the Home Office says it's "ramping up" its removal of migrants to France under a trial, one in one out scheme.

THU 18:30 Call Jonathan Pie (p0fst5cb)

4. Race

After a night of riots in Sam's home town, Pie makes a stupid remark and Sam takes umbrage. Pie takes to the airwaves to prove his non-racist credentials, but ends up looking like a slice of Gammon on the side of the road. Sam and Pie make up and soon Jules is thinking that she herself might be a bit racist because she didn't like a film that Sam likes. It's all gets a bit silly really.

Jonathan Pie Tom Walker

Jules Lucy Pearman

Sam Aqib Khan

Roger Nick Revell

Agent Daniel Abelson

Voiceovers Bob Sinfield and Rob Curling

Callers ... Cole Anderson-James, Ellie Dobing, Sarah Gabriel,

Ed Kear, Hope Leslie, Thanyia Moore and Jonathan Tafler

Writer Tom Walker

Script Editor Nick Revell

Additional Material Daniel Abelson

Producers..... Alison Vernon-Smith and Julian Mayers

Production Coordinator Ellie Dobing

Original music composed by Jason Read

Additional music Leighton James House

A Yada-Yada Audio Production.

THU 19:00 The Archers (m002kfmX)

It's the day of George's release, and nervous Emma sets off with Amber to collect him. Amber's excited for all the plans she has for them both for the next few weeks. Emma reminds her it might not all be roses. Not everyone feels as they do about George. Amber counters that George has done his time and should be allowed to have some fun. Emma concedes the point and they carry on chatting happily.

Eddie can't wait to have their boy back in the fold. There's something really special about George. As they gather to welcome him home, Will feels a bit sorry for Susan and Neil. He resolves to send them a photo.

Meanwhile George is upset to find there's no sign of the clothes Amber sent him for his release. The officer apologises, but George will have to wear a prison issue discharge kit. George eventually rallies and looks forward to his journey home. He's going to treat his mum to a fry up on the way, and stop off for flowers for Amber. They'll share their first proper kiss when she greets him at the door.

Finally George is out. He's wrongfooted to see Amber despite the emotional reunion. He's ashamed of his outfit and let down that he can't now give her the flowers. But he resets and assures them it's a great surprise. There's more joy as he arrives at Grange Farm to effusive hugs from Eddie, Clarrie and Will. His dad declares he's missed him so much.

THU 19:15 Front Row (m002kgsj)

Review Show: I Swear film and The Poems of Seamus Heaney

Alexander Larman and Susannah Clapp join Tom to discuss I Swear, a film which tells the life story of John Davidson MBE who was diagnosed with Tourette's age 15.

They also talk about Thomas Pynchon's new novel Shadow Ticket.

Booker shortlisted novelist Tibor Fischer assesses the Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai who has won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

As the complete works of Seamus Heaney is published, Owen McDonnell reads the previously unpublished poem Swallow.

Plus, Tom and guests discuss Susan Sarandon's UK debut on stage in Tracy Letts' play, Mary Page Marlowe.

Presenter: Tom Sutcliffe

Producer: Claire Bartleet

THU 20:00 When It Hits the Fan (m002kgmp)

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Wednesday]

THU 20:15 The Media Show (m002kgmr)

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:15 on Wednesday]

THU 21:00 Loose Ends (m002kf5b)

[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

THU 21:45 Strong Message Here (m002kgrb)

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m002kgsl)

Israel's government meets to approve Gaza ceasefire

Israeli ministers are meeting to discuss a deal brokered by US President Donald Trump which would see a ceasefire implemented in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages by Hamas. They are widely expected to approve the plan.

In this special episode of The World Tonight we speak to a former Israeli Prime Minister as well as a mother in Gaza who

lost her husband at the beginning of the war, but speaks of her hope for the future.

Also on the programme: the chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee says if the Gaza plan works in bringing peace to the Middle East then US President Trump should "of course" get a Nobel Peace Prize. And an historian and veteran Middle East journalist discuss how significant this ceasefire agreement might be in the history of Israel and Palestine.

THU 22:45 Helm by Sarah Hall (m002kgsn)
Apocalypse/Various

An elemental novel from the twice-nominated Booker author of BURNTCOAT and THE WOLF BORDER. Helm, the only named wind in the UK, has scoured the Eden Valley since the dawn of time. When people arrive, Helm becomes the subject of their myth and folklore but, as the Anthropocene takes us all past the point of no return, Helm's very existence is threatened.

Selima meets depressingly familiar attitudes on Great Dun Fell as NaNay counfounds expectations and returns from the mountain.

Read by Hattie Morahan
Written by Sarah Hall
Abridged by Siân Preece
Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

THU 23:00 Radical with Amol Rajan (m002kgsq)
Climate Migration: Confronting the Reality of Global Warming (Gaia Vince)

As extreme weather forces people from their homes, the journalist and author Gaia Vince makes the positive case for immigration.

Projections show that billions of people will be displaced by 2050 due to the effects of global warming, a phenomenon she has reported on in her book 'Nomad Century: How to Survive the Climate Upheaval'.

She argues that if governments plan for the mass movement of people they can reap the economic rewards of immigration despite public concern about the issue.

And with news that renewable energy overtook coal as the world's leading source of electricity in the first half of 2025, Gaia tells Amol why she thinks we're approaching a "tipping point" which will see the end of our reliance on fossil fuels and green energy become the dominant source of power.

GET IN TOUCH

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Episodes of Radical with Amol Rajan are released every Thursday and you can also watch them on BBC iPlayer: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m002f1d0/radical-with-amol-rajan>

Amol Rajan is a presenter of the Today programme on BBC Radio 4. He is also the host of University Challenge on BBC One. Before that, Amol was media editor at the BBC and editor at The Independent.

Radical with Amol Rajan is a Today Podcast. It was made by Lewis Vickers with Anna Budd. Digital production was by Gabriel Purcell-Davis. Technical production was by James Piper. The editor is Sam Bonham. The executive producer is Owenna Griffiths.

THU 23:30 Artworks (m002kf96)
[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Tuesday]

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2025

FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m002kgsq)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 00:30 Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (m002kgri)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Thursday]

FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002kgsv)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002kgsx)

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 (m002kgsz)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 05:04 The Briefing Room (m002kgs7)
[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Thursday]

FRI 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002kgt1)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002kgt3)
Being Prophetic

A spiritual comment and prayer to start the day with Rev Lynne Gibson

Good morning.

It has been wisely said that a text without a context is just a con – and it is important to read the words of the prophets in their ancient context. Thousands of years ago, many had no hesitation in speaking out against failing and corrupt leaders of church and state, and people who had wandered far from God.

Words which are firmly rooted in their historical and political context still resonate on multiple levels with us today. Yet we are wary of the interweaving of politics and church or religion or faith. Some of us have grown up watching party politics sneak into our pulpits.

And yet, 'those who do believe that politics and religion do not mix, don't understand either' – words attributed to two different 'wise men': Albert Einstein and Mahatma Gandhi.

Can we detach what we believe from how we speak, act, vote and govern? How can faith, which runs deepest and most strongly through us, be compartmentalised? How can values of integrity and compassion be irrelevant in our world?

I have been humbled recently to see a new generation of brave writers, speaking out about the state of their nation: men and women unafraid to preach about the values of the kingdom of God.

While we think that we live in a ultra modern age, where we are masters of our destiny, scripture reminds us that in thousands of years, little has changed. People are still people, with all of their faults, led by failing and fallible leaders. God is still a God of love and compassion, waiting to welcome us back home to himself.

That's a message which our 21st century prophets still need to proclaim from our pulpits, and our media mountain tops.

Lord, give us a faith which speaks and witnesses to your love and mercy, and teach us when to speak and when to keep silent. Amen

FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m002kgt5)
10/10/25: Illegal waste dumping in the countryside, Plaid Cymru, HS2 compulsory purchases

We report on the increasing amounts of waste dumped in the countryside and how to tackle it.

As party conference season continues, we're hearing from most of the major parties on their farming and rural policies. Agricultural policy is devolved and with elections for the Welsh Parliament in May next year, Plaid Cymru's conference this weekend may well be seen as a launch for that election campaign.

Farmers whose land was compulsorily purchased say they're frustrated that they still can't buy it back.

Presented by Charlotte Smith and produced by Beatrice Fenton.

FRI 06:00 Today (m002kfm8)
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

FRI 09:00 Desert Island Discs (m002kfjb)
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Sunday]

FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002kfmb)
Pelicot trial, Lucy Guo, Bebe Jackson, Travel writing

A court in southern France has increased the jail term of the only man who challenged his conviction for raping Gisèle

Pelicot. Gisèle was drugged by her then-husband Dominique for over a decade and raped by dozens of men he recruited on the internet. Of the 51 men convicted of abusing Gisèle, 44-year-old Husamettin Dogan was the only one who appealed against his verdict. Anita Rani speaks to Angelique Chrisafis, Paris Correspondent for the Guardian, who was in the court at Nîmes.

In June this year, Lucy Guo, a 30-year-old American tech entrepreneur, became the youngest self-made female billionaire, according to Forbes. With a reported net worth of almost \$1.3 billion, she overtook Taylor Swift to land at number 26 on Forbes' annual 'America's richest self-made women' list. Anita spoke to Lucy from her home in Los Angeles.

100m sprinter Bebe Jackson, 19, won a bronze medal on her debut at the IPC World Para Athletics Championships in Delhi, India, last week. Bebe was born with congenital talipes equinovarus, widely known as club foot, and when she's not competing for Britain, she works nights caring for children with complex disabilities. She tells Anita how she does it.

What's it like to be a female travel writer today? Some writers would argue it's now all about the smartphone and hashtags. But the new Ilse Schepcke Prize, named after the pioneering German publisher who championed female travel writers, is pushing back and celebrating reflective travel writing by women. Journalist and writer Viv Groskop, shortlisted for her memoir, One Ukrainian Summer, and Dr Barbara Schepcke, daughter of Ilse and founder of Haus publishing, join Anita to discuss the history of travel writing by women and how it's changing.

Presenter: Anita Rani
Producer: Corinna Jones

FRI 10:55 A Carnival of Animals (m002kfmd)
The Golden Mole

In this episode acclaimed writer Katherine Rundell introduces us to the golden mole - a creature so rare in its beauty, it seems almost mythical. Iridescent fur, shifting through black, silver, turquoise and gold, makes it one of the few mammals to glow.

Golden moles are miniature powerhouses. Their kidneys are so efficient that many species never need to drink water. Their hearing is extraordinary: the bone in their middle ear is so large and sensitive that they can detect the vibrations of insects moving above them. There are twenty-one known species, all found in sub-Saharan Africa - and more than half are threatened with extinction due to pollution and habitat loss.

Perhaps the greatest mystery is why they shine. Unlike butterflies or hummingbirds, which use iridescence to communicate or attract mates, the golden mole is blind and lives almost entirely underground. Scientists believe its shimmering fur evolved for low-friction burrowing - the glow is a by-product, not a signal. They burrow, breed and hunt, unaware of their brilliance - unknowingly shining.

Written and Presented by Katherine Rundell
Produced by Natalie Donovan for BBC Audio in Bristol

FRI 11:00 The Food Programme (m002kfmg)
The Food Innovators: 2025

Dan Saladino meets people behind pioneering projects rethinking the future of chocolate, seafood and food forests. Which one will win this year's BBC Best Food Innovation Award?

Produced and presented by Dan Saladino.

FRI 11:45 Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (m002kfjm)
Episode 5

In this sequel to her memoir Wild Swans, Jung Chang charts her path from arriving as a 26-year-old student in the UK in 1978, through the years of post-Mao liberalisation, to the more recent authoritarian and increasingly repressive rule of President Xi Jinping. The constant thread throughout these years has been her powerful bond with her mother, the woman to whom this book is dedicated.

Jung and her fellow students grew up in complete isolation from the West, and lived in fear as to what might happen if they broke any of the strict rules imposed upon them by their government. The chance to travel to Britain and then to study at York University was an invaluable opportunity. But the freedom of expression that she chose to exercise once she became a British citizen eventually exacted a high price.

Although for many years she was able to return to China and visit her family while researching her subsequent books, there came a point when the political situation meant permanent separation from her mother and those family members who she left behind in China. Today Jung Chang is unable to return to

bid farewell to her frail mother who is now in her 90s, but she remains determined to honour the freedom that her mother encouraged her to embrace.

Written by Jung Chang
Read by Sarah Lam
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters
The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

FRI 12:00 News Summary (m002kfmI)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

FRI 12:04 AntiSocial (m002kfmm)
Angry middle-aged white men

Football pundit and former Manchester United star Gary Neville posted a video that he pitched as a call to national unity. But was greeted by a wave of online vitriol for one line in which he blamed "angry middle-aged white men" for creating political division. Many middle-aged white men took to social media – to deny they are angry, to describe their anger as justified, or to call Neville's comments the out-of-touch ramblings of a "champagne socialist". But the footballer has his supporters too, with some saying he put his finger on a specific group that has been pulling at the fault lines of British politics by hoisting flags and protesting against immigration. What do polling and history tell us about the political divides within our society – and when it comes to our political divisions, who's really to blame? Presenter: Adam Fleming
Production team: Emma Close, Natasha Fernandes, Mike Wendling
Studio manager: Andy Mills
Production coordinator: Janet Staples
Editor: Richard Vadon

FRI 12:57 Weather (m002kfmmq)
The latest weather forecast

FRI 13:00 World at One (m002kfms)
Gaza ceasefire begins

Palestinians are beginning to return to Gaza's north as the Israeli military says a ceasefire is now in effect. International Rescue Committee boss David Miliband tells us the scale of humanitarian challenge. Plus, physicist Brian Cox on his US tour and our long-lost interview with Richard Burton.

FRI 13:45 Multitrack (m002kfmv)
A Northerner's Guide to London

In this satirical audio fiction, in the style of a 1940s public information film, lost northerner Ben is given crucial support on a make-or-break work trip to London.

Writer, producer and sound designer: Antonia Gospel
Executive producer: Carys Wall
Script consultant: Tom McLean
Additional sound design and mixing by Jonathan Webb.
Voice acting by Freddie Bolt (Ben), Antonia Gospel (The Guide), Patrick Wallace, Amy Howard, Matt Bailey and Nick Bailey.

A Bespoken Media production for BBC Radio 4

Commissioned in association with the Multitrack Audio Producers Fellowship for new talent in feature-making

FRI 14:00 The Archers (m002kfmx)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

FRI 14:15 Limelight (m002kfmx)
The Betrayed

Episode 1. Siblings

A five-part drama about a family - and a society - divided by far-right populist extremism.

When Louise a senior officer in the Garda Síochána sees her brother Frank on the news, taking part in an aggressive far-right protest she is shocked. Not least because she is and she had no idea Frank had been influenced by the populist extremists who hurl accusations of being 'traitors' at police and politicians alike.

In the aftermath, Frank's face doesn't show up on CCTV. But when she threatens to have him arrested, he accepts the deal she reluctantly offers - she will cover for him if he promises to stay away from demos and protests.

But then Louise learns that Frank is connected to a much wider network. He's in touch with organised extremists throughout Europe, Louise realises that Frank is on a path that could bring Ireland, and other countries, to the brink of chaos. The time has come to break up his network, whatever the family consequences.

LOUISE KENNY ... Niamh Algar

FRANK KENNY ... Jonathan Forbes

KEVIN ... Stephen Hogan

TONY ... Aidan O'Callaghan

DERVLA ... Karen Ardill

MICHAEL GRIFFITHS ... Jonathan Harden

MUSA ... Amy McAllister

MARYAM ... Lara Sawalha

Directed by Eoin O'Callaghan

A Big Fish/BBC Northern Ireland Production for Limelight

FRI 14:45 Untaxing (m0029J9j)
3. Jaffa Cake or Biscuit?

A biscuit or a cake? That was the question that landed biscuit company McVities in court in 1991 - and the fate of the Jaffa Cake rested on the most unexpected piece of evidence.

But behind the absurdity lies a deeper issue - how the UK's messy VAT system distorts prices, creates baffling tax battles, and might just be costing us over £20 billion a year.

Producer: Tom Pooley
Music: Jaffa Cake Musical is by Gigglegum Theatre, with songs by Sam Cochrane, arrangements by Rob Gathercole, and Katie Pritchard singing 'Tax Man'.

A Tempo+Talker production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002kfn2)
From the Archives: Woodland

Is it possible to grow mushrooms on a living log? How do we control the spread of alder beetles in our garden? How can I remove wild garlic from a woodland garden?

Kathy Clugston delves into the rich Gardeners' Question Time archives to unearth timeless wisdom on gardening in woodland conditions.

Drawing on decades of expertise, GQT panellists and chairs - past and present - offer trusted advice for every green-fingered challenge. From ethical ways to tackle moss and effective methods to control alder beetles, to planting schemes that gently deter unwanted wildlife, the team's knowledge is as deep-rooted as the trees themselves.

Later, grow-your-own guru Bob Flowerdew rounds off our autumn feature series with a comprehensive guide to allotment tasks that will help ensure a plentiful harvest.

Producer: Rahnee Prescod

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 15:45 Short Works (m002kfn4)
The Victim

When her ex-boyfriend suddenly vanishes, forensic accountant Natalie decides to turn detective. She's done an online training course, and she's bought a vintage trench coat. So what could possibly go wrong? A brand new detective comedy from J.D. Brinkworth, read by Ada Player.

J.D. Brinkworth is an award-winning comedy writer, and the author of The Pie & Mash Detective Agency. Ada Player (BAFTA nominee) is an actress and comedian, and was nominated for Best Newcomer at the 2025 Edinburgh Fringe.

Producer: Katie Sayer

A Pozzitive production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 16:00 Last Word (m002kfn6)
Patrick Bradley, Dame Jilly Cooper, Sara Jane Moore, Dame Patricia Routledge

Matthew Bannister on

Patrick Bradley, the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland at the height of the Troubles.

Dame Jilly Cooper, the best-selling author of the racy "Rutshire Chronicles".

Sara Jane Moore, the political extremist who tried to assassinate US President Gerald Ford.

Dame Patricia Routledge, the actor best known for her portrayal of Hyacinth Bucket in the TV comedy Keeping Up Appearances.

Producer: Ed Prendeville

Archive:
With Bennett: Patricia Routledge, BBC Radio Ulster FM, 01/05/2004; Desert Island Discs, BBC Radio 4, 13/08/1999; Rivals, Walt Disney Studios, Disney Plus UK / Happy Prince, 25/09/2024; Mark Lawson Talks to Jilly Cooper, BBC4, 19/09/2006; In My Own Words: Jilly Cooper, BBC One, 30/09/2024; Hay Festival, BBC Arts, 31/08/2018; Riders, Anglia Films, ITV, 1993 (writer: Jilly Cooper, Charlotte Bingham, Terence Brady; dir: Gabrielle Beaumont), LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE, BBC One Scotland, 19/05/1989; Gerald Ford assassination attempt, YouTube; New Voices (RU) 2015/16: Time of Our Lives (Ep. 38), BBC Radio Ulster FM, 31/01/2016

FRI 16:30 More or Less (m002kfn8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]

FRI 17:00 PM (m002kfnb)
People have begun to return home in Gaza, as a ceasefire comes into force

Palestinians begin to return to Gaza's north as a ceasefire starts. The latest from the region. Also John Illsey of Dire Straits on the closure of MTV global music channels.

FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002kfnD)
Palestinians return to Gaza

Thousands of displaced Palestinians in southern Gaza have begun to return home, after a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas came into effect. Israel said its forces had pulled back to a redeployment line which had been agreed as part of the US-backed deal. Hamas is now expected to release the remaining Israeli hostages within seventy-two hours. In a televised address, Israel's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said his country's troops would remain in Gaza to keep up pressure on Hamas to disarm. Aid agencies have said the ceasefire marks a "fragile but vital moment of hope", as they plan to ramp up the delivery of humanitarian supplies.

FRI 18:30 The News Quiz (m002kfnG)
Series 118

6. Peace Deals and Police Powers

In the week where Trump brokered a peace deal in the Middle East, buzz was generated at the Conservative Party Conference (honestly), the Home Office announces greater restrictions on protests, and the world's first footballer billionaire is crowned, Andy Zaltzman is joined by Scott Bennett, Ayesha Hazarika, Kate Cheka and Ian Smith to break down this weeks news.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Jain Edwards, Ruth Husko and Alfie Packham
Producer: Rajiv Karia
Executive Producer: Pete Strauss
Production Coordinator: Giulia Lopes Mazzu
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

FRI 19:00 The Archers (m002kfnj)

Amber and George have been enjoying some quality time together before the party in honour of George's return. Amber can't wait to see him back with his mates. As everyone starts to get things ready for the evening, George decides to go for a bike ride. Brad and Amber fill in time gaming. Amber wonders if she's upset George but Brad reckons he'll just be enjoying time out in the countryside after being stuck inside a cell.

Meanwhile Ed finds George at Bartleby's field. George admits to not feeling as good as he thought he would. He had to shut his mind down in prison so as not to miss the sights and smells of home. And his romantic reunion with Amber at Grange Farm didn't happen. It wasn't the same doing it outside the prison. Ed takes him to get a big bunch of flowers for Amber. He suggests if George works hard now, he'll show his sisters

how you can make a bad thing good.

Amber wants to get changed. Emma assures her she looks lovely as she is but Amber wants to make a good impression on George's friends. As Emma and Ed leave them to party Brad ramps up the music. Later it becomes clear that no-one's coming. Amber's furious on George's behalf, but George reckons he's not bothered. He's got his two best friends here, what more does he need? He thanks Amber and Brad for keeping him going; he doesn't know if he'd have survived without them. They share a group hug.

FRI 19:15 Screenshot (m002kfnl)

Death

Viewers are so used to seeing death and dying on screen, often in dramatic or unrealistic ways. Ellen and Mark explore how films and TV are drawn to personifications of death, why we need more realistic depictions and who is making them.

Mark speaks to film critic Kim Newman about the way in which personifications of death have been portrayed throughout cinema history, from *The Seventh Seal* to the *Final Destination* series. Mark then talks to director Kristen Johnson about her film, *Dick Johnson is Dead*.

Ellen talks to academic Michele Aaron about how death and dying has been depicted in film and if we need more realistic depictions.

Producer: Hester Cant

A Prospect Street production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m002kfnm)

David Blair, Baroness Coffey, Bobby Dean MP, Kim Leadbeater MP

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from York St John University with David Blair, chief foreign affairs commentator at the Telegraph; Conservative peer and former Cabinet minister, Baroness Coffey; Liberal Democrat frontbencher Bobby Dean; and Labour MP Kim Leadbeater.

Producer: Paul Martin

Lead broadcast engineer: Phil Booth

FRI 20:55 This Week in History (m002kfnq)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:40 on Wednesday]

FRI 21:00 Free Thinking (m002kfns)

The status of science

Science is one of the major sources of authority in society today. Scientists develop technologies to make our lives easier and more comfortable. They fight diseases, they have identified and are helping to combat climate change. Yet developments like AI, and some areas of genetic science, seem to raise ethical dilemmas that scientists on their own can't address. And at a time when the authority of 'experts' has been challenged, where does that leave the authority of scientists? Shahidha Bari discusses science in society with theologian Dr Dafydd Mills Daniel, who's been working on Samuel Clarke, known as Newton's Bulldog, as a case study in the status of science in 17th century England, and Dr Sandra Knapp, researcher at the Natural History Museum and chair of the judges of this year's Royal Society Trivedi Science Book Prize. Also Hannah Devlin, science correspondent for The Guardian, Nick Spencer, Senior Fellow at Theos, and geneticist, author and broadcaster Adam Rutherford.

Producer: Luke Mulhall

FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m002kfnv)

Gazans return to their homes as ceasefire takes hold

As Israeli tanks move out, Palestinians in Gaza move back to their homes, many in ruins. We hear from civilians inside the Gaza Strip and speak to a former US general on whether the ceasefire will hold.

Also on the programme: Venezuelans react as opposition leader María Corina Machado is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; and we visit a small West London restaurant that caters to India's biggest film stars as the Prime Minister announces more Bollywood movies will be produced in the UK.

FRI 22:45 Helm by Sarah Hall (m002kfnx)

Problems, But Not Unsolvable

Shortlisted for the 2025 Goldsmiths Prize, this elemental novel is from the twice-nominated Booker author of *BURNTCOAT* and *THE WOLF BORDER*.

Helm, the only named wind in the UK, has scoured the Eden

Valley since the dawn of time. When people arrive, Helm becomes the subject of their myth and folklore but, as the Anthropocene takes us all past the point of no return, Helm's very existence is threatened.

Catherine's husband remains unmoved by the solstice harnessing power of Long Meg. Helm pays a destructive visit and leaves a gift for NaNay's tribe.

Read by Hattie Morahan

Written by Sarah Hall

Abridged by Siân Preece

Produced by Eilidh McCreadie

A BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 23:00 Americast (w3ct7t61)

Trump's new plan for America's top universities

There is a new deal on the table for universities in America. After months of fighting with the Trump administration over funding cuts, free speech and allegations of elitism and racism, the new deal is being offered to a select group of universities who are now weighing up how to respond.

Anthony and Justin unpack the proposal from the White House, which promises "substantial and meaningful federal grants" in return for signing up to Trump's new vision for American colleges. The Trump administration says it will tackle elitism and racial bias, but opponents of the deal say it damages academic freedom and limits free speech.

Inez Stepman, Senior Policy and Legal Analyst for the Independent Women's Forum and Independent Women's Law Centre joins Anthony and Justin. She is an education specialist whose views have inspired the White House and influenced its decision making when it comes to higher education in America.

HOSTS:

- Justin Webb, Radio 4 presenter
- Anthony Zurcher, North America Correspondent

GUEST:

Inez Stepman, Senior Policy and Legal Analyst for the Independent Women's Forum and Independent Women's Law Centre

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This episode was made by Purvee Pattni, Grace Reeve and Alix Pickles. The technical producer was Michael Regaard. The series producer is Purvee Pattni. The senior news editor is Sam Bonham.

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Newscast: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/p05299nl>

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Radical: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0gg4k6r>

The Global Story:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/w13xtvds>

FRI 23:30 Illuminated (m002kfkf)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:15 on Sunday]