

**SATURDAY 07 FEBRUARY 2026**

**SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m002qv8h)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 00:30 Constable's Year by Susan Owens (m002qv74)**  
Episode 5: Winter

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of John Constable's birth, Susan Owens offers a fresh look at how his life and work were shaped by his abiding love for his native Suffolk and the annual cycle of the natural world.

Today Constable is often considered to be a traditional artist, but he was a radical in his own time. Susan Owens describes how he rejected lazy, second-hand versions of nature; instead, he subjected the land, its people and its industry to intense scrutiny, and developed a new kind of painting to reflect the landscape and weather he saw with his farmer's eye. He knew intimately the lanes, fields and millponds around his childhood home in East Bergholt in Suffolk, and he painted and understood the countryside as a place of labour as well as natural beauty.

Enriched with quotations from Constable's funny, tender and acerbic letters, we follow him from his youth in the late 1700s, through the great love story of his marriage, to the final months of his life in 1837.

In this final episode we explore Constable's growing fascination with the landscapes of winter as, towards the end of his life, he embarks on an ambitious project to publish his works as a sumptuous volume of prints.

Dr Susan Owens is an expert on British landscape art, and while Curator of Paintings at the V&A she was involved in the major exhibition Constable: The Making of a Master. Her latest book, The Story of Drawing: An Alternative History, was Apollo magazine's Book of the Year in 2024.

Reader: Susannah Harker

Abrider and producer: Jane Greenwood

Executive Producer: Sara Davies

Studio Production: Jon Calver

A Lotus Media production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds

**SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002qv8k)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002qv8m)**

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 (m002qv8p)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002qv8r)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002qv8t)**

Follow the Light You Have

Good morning

Well, this week the same thing has happened as it always does in Cardiff at the start of February, my 7am walk with our dog has finally emerged out of the long winter darkness. Dawn was breaking as I slipped the leash around her neck, and I didn't need the head torch to illuminate the latch on the garden gate. By the time we returned for breakfast, the sun was fully risen as indeed had my spirits for the coming day.

The coming of light is a common enough theme in many religions, an enduring metaphor for divine guidance and spiritual illumination. In the Christian scriptures Jesus even refers to himself as being 'the light of the world' promising that those who seek him out will find their way through the days of emotional darkness that almost inevitably envelop each of us at some time or other.

One exemplar of living in that light was the Scottish minister and founder of the Iona Community, the reverend George MacLeod. He was quite familiar with some personal times in the spiritual shadowlands but out of those experiences he would often encourage folk to, 'give thanks for the light we have and pray for more light.'

I think that's pretty good advice, not just for those of us who might be walking our dog across the threshold of a new day, but for any journey you and I may need to make today. If and when it feels like we cannot find our way through a moment of doubt or despair, let's pause by giving thanks for the light we've

already been given, and, as we take the next step forward, let's pray for more light to come to our path.

Dear God of heaven's light,  
Shine upon our small corner of the earth today;  
Brighten our hearts,  
And illuminate our minds,  
That we might give thanks for all we already have  
And perhaps become the very light that others need.  
Amen

**SAT 05:45 Materials of State (m002mn0f)**

The Stone of Destiny

David Cannadine continues examining the origins, symbolism and contemporary significance of the objects and emblems that underpin the British constitution.

In this fifth episode, he's looking at the Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone - an ancient symbol of Scottish monarchy with a complex and contested history intertwined with both Scottish and British identity. The stone's earliest origins are shrouded in myth, but it was certainly used in the inauguration of Scottish kings at Scone Abbey from at least 1249. In 1296, King Edward I of England seized the stone as war booty. It was taken to Westminster Abbey and incorporated into a specially constructed Coronation Chair, which has been used in the coronation ceremonies of English, and later British, monarchs for over 700 years.

On Christmas Day 1950, four Scottish students, who supported an independent Scottish Parliament, removed the stone from Westminster Abbey to draw attention to their nationalist cause. The stone broke in two during the removal and was secretly repaired by stonemason Bertie Gray in Glasgow before being left at Arbroath Abbey and subsequently returned to Westminster. Gray was a keen Scottish nationalist and he kept fragments of the Stone during its repair to give out as relics. The historian Sally Foster has traced the whereabouts of many of these fragments which have travelled far and wide.

In 1996, the Conservative Prime Minister John Major announced the stone's return to Scotland, with the agreement stipulating that the stone must be returned to Westminster Abbey for any future coronation ceremony. The stone was brought to Westminster Abbey for the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. It is now on permanent display at the Perth Museum in Scotland, near its place of origin in Scone. It can rest more easily as a heritage object now Scotland has its own Parliament, yet David argues it is still a highly charged 'material of state' with a complex and contested history.

Contributors in order of appearance:

Mark Hall, Collections Officer, Perth Museum, Scotland

Dr Fiona Watson, historian

Professor Sally Foster, Professor of Heritage in History at the University of Stirling

Presented by Professor Sir David Cannadine

Series Producer: Melissa FitzGerald

Series Researcher: Martin Spychal

Sound Mixing: Tony Churnside

The series has been made in association with the History of Parliament Trust

A Zinc Audio production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 06:00 News and Papers (m002r38n)**

The news headlines, including a look at the newspapers.

**SAT 06:07 Ramblings (m002qths)**

Terminal Hillness in the north Lakes

Clare joins Ian Teasdale in the north Lake District for a very personal walk. Ian and his wife, Catherine, are on a mission to climb all 214 Wainwright fells as part of their 'Terminal Hillness' project which they started following Ian's diagnosis of incurable bowel cancer. He wants to raise awareness of the lack of cancer support facilities in their region and he decided the best way to do this was by completing a full round of the Wainwrights. As they hike up Longlands, Ian shares memories connected to the landscape he grew up in. The forecast was grim before they set off, but the sun shone, and the only rain that fell created the most beautiful rainbow across the valley.

They started at Longlands, Grid Ref NY266358, and completed a 6 mile circuit with views of Skiddaw and the Northern Fells.

Presenter: Clare Balding

Producer: Karen Gregor

**SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m002r38q)**

Farming Today This Week: electric shock collars, taking carbon out of agriculture, UK-EU reset, new entrants, Wagyu beef

Electronic Collars are to be banned under new rules for the RSPCA's Assured scheme for dairy cows. The collars are used instead of fencing, and make noise and then deliver a small electric shock to the cow if she goes outside the prescribed area. In April the RSPCA is also introducing other changes: a requirement for more access to pasture, a minimum of 120 days a year; changes to rules around transport of pregnant cows; and use of RSPCA Assured slaughter houses.

A new report published by the think tank The Resolution Foundation says the government's goal of 'net zero' across the UK, could force less profitable farms into debt, and lead to 3,500 farms losing money. It says progress to remove the carbon from farming has been slow and advises that policy makers should intervene to ensure costs are passed to the consumer.

MPs on the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee are calling on the Government to have a 'national conversation' on the new EU/UK agri-food trade agreement, so farmers don't end up disadvantaged.

All this week, we've been talking about starting out in farming. The cost of land and the price of renting makes it difficult for those who're not from a farming family. One young couple have realised their dream by leaving behind their city lives in York and moving hundreds of miles to Scotland, to a croft in the Western Isles.

We meet a farmer who has gone back to her family farming roots in Norfolk. After working variously as a PE teacher and journalist she now single handedly runs a herd of Wagyu beef cattle.

Presenter = Charlotte Smith

Producer = Rebecca Rooney

**SAT 06:57 Weather (m002r38s)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 07:00 Today (m002r38v)**

News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day. NB: this programme has been edited after transmission.

**SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m002r38x)**

Alexander Armstrong, Cold Cases, Small Prophets and the Inheritance Tracks of Riz Ahmed

Alexander Armstrong on life as a writer, Professor Patricia Wiltshire explains the role of a forensic botanist, Mackenzie Crook unveils the secrets behind his latest show.

**SAT 10:00 You're Dead to Me (m002r38z)**

Hypatia of Alexandria: mathematician, martyr and feminist icon

Greg Jenner is joined in late antique Egypt by Professor Edith Hall and comedian Olga Koch to learn about the life of mathematician Hypatia of Alexandria. An important mathematical and astronomical thinker, Hypatia is best known today for her brutal death at the hands of Christian fundamentalists. Born to a well-respected mathematician named Theon in fourth-century Alexandria, Hypatia received an unusually advanced education for a woman, and eventually took over her father's school. But with the city in which she lived riven by religious and political conflicts during the declining days of the Roman empire, she came to the attention of radical Christians – with fatal consequences. In this episode we explore Hypatia's trailblazing life as a philosopher and mathematician, and her afterlife as a martyr for intellectual enquiry, and as a certified feminist icon.

If you're a fan of trailblazing women from history, religious conflicts, and the twilight of the Roman empire, you'll love our episode on Hypatia of Alexandria.

If you want more ancient philosophers with Professor Edith Hall, listen to our episodes on Pythagoras and Aristotle. And for more from Olga Koch, check out our episodes on Ivan the Terrible and Vital Electricity.

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

Hosted by: Greg Jenner

Research by: Adam Simcox

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

Produced by: Dr Emmie Rose Price-Goodfellow and Greg Jenner

Audio Producer: Steve Hankey

Production Coordinator: Gill Huggett

Senior Producer: Dr Emma Nagouse

Executive Editor: Philip Sellars

**SAT 10:30 Rewinder (m002r391)**

Wuthering Flights

Greg James explores the BBC Archives using overlooked anniversaries, the big stories of the week and your suggestions to guide him to extraordinary audio.

Marking 100 years since John Logie Baird first demonstrated his Teletvisor to the public, Greg finds an interview with first man ever to appear on a TV screen. William Taynton, who worked as Baird's assistant and survived being half-roasted to make history.

As a new raunchy take on Wuthering Heights hits cinemas starring Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi, Greg explores the many, many BBC adaptations of Emily Bronte's novel - as well as the feedback from listeners distracted by the wuthering weather.

After last week's look at kids' TV programme Why Don't You, Greg receives an email which leads to a lovely surprise for a Rewinder listener.

And fifty years on from the first commercial Concorde flight, there are big bangs and booms and bad tempered Brits. Plus a very flustered Terry Wogan.

Producer: Tim Bano

An EcoAudio Certified production

**SAT 11:00 The Week in Westminster (m002r393)**

The Guardian's political editor Pippa Crerar assesses the latest developments at Westminster.

The Mandelson scandal dominated the week and Pippa discusses it with Labour MP Natalie Fleet, herself a survivor of grooming and a member of the Women and Equalities Committee and senior Conservative MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin.

To debate the government's EU reset, Pippa brought together Lord Peter Lilley, a former Conservative cabinet minister and long-term Eurosceptic. And the MP Anneliese Dodds, who is a former chair of the Labour party and was previously a member of the European parliament.

Labour MP Chris Curtis and Kate Ogden, a higher education expert from the Institute for Fiscal Studies talk about student loans.

And historian Sir Anthony Seldon and seasoned journalist and political biographer Anne Perkins discuss where the Mandelson scandal ranks in the long history of political scandals.

**SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002r395)**

Gaza: Rafah border crossing reopens

Kate Adie introduces stories from the Gaza-Egypt border, Cuba, Bangladesh, Ukraine and Slovenia.

The Rafah border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt reopened this week after being mainly kept shut since Israel captured the Gazan side in 2024. It's opening has brought relief to many Palestinians who see it as a lifeline to the world. However, there has been frustration over delays and the small number of people being allowed through each day. Yolande Knell has been following developments.

Outside Venezuela, nowhere was last month's US military action in Caracas felt more keenly than in Cuba. Venezuela has helped prop up the Communist-run island for twenty-five years, with subsidised supplies of crude oil. Will Grant reports from Havana on the island's growing economic crisis.

Bangladesh goes to the polls next week in its first election since a student uprising forced the previous Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, to flee for India. However, a new student-led political party is already in crisis. Azadeh Moshiri reports from Dhaka.

Ukraine continues to endure heavy Russian bombardment of its energy grid - in the capital more than a thousand buildings are still without power. But locals are finding innovative ways to keep warm amid freezing temperatures, as Abdjalil Abdurasulov discovered at a disco on a frozen river.

The Winter Olympic Games in Milan-Cortina are officially underway and one of Europe's smallest countries is hoping to fly higher than the rest. Guy De Launey met the Slovenian brother and sister who are favourites for ski-jumping gold.

Producer: Serena Tarling

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

**SAT 12:00 News Summary (m002r397)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 12:04 Money Box (m002r399)**

Credit Card Debt and Civil Service Pensions

Debt charity StepChange says its research suggests around 2.5mn people who have debt on a credit card have paid more in interest, fees and charges over the past 18 months than they have repaid off the debt itself. Its survey of 6,000 adults, done by the polling organisation YouGov, found 1 in 20 adults had this persistent credit card debt. Its calling on the regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority, to improve the lending rules to stop debt building up and ensure banks are intervening sooner to support customers in difficulty. The FCA says its rules mean that lenders should only provide credit to people who can afford to repay.

The government has started a hardship fund because thousands of newly retired civil servants have been kept waiting months for their pensions to be paid. The Public and Commercial Services union, which represents many civil servants, has described the situation as "catastrophic" and is calling for urgent action to put things right. In a joint statement Capita and the Cabinet Office said they are "deeply sorry for the worry, frustration, and distress this has caused." Adding they both take this responsibility "very seriously and are urgently working together to put this right."

New figures show that banks are refunding more of the money stolen from customer accounts, following new rules which force them to do so.

And as the big lenders offer mortgages worth six times people's salary, what does this mean for borrowers?

Presenter: Paul Lewis

Reporters: Dan Whitworth, Jo Krasner and Niamh McDermott

Editor: Jess Quayle

Senior News Editor: Sara Wadeson

(First broadcast 12pm Saturday 7th February 2026)

**SAT 12:30 The News Quiz (m002qv7w)**

Series 119

5. The Prince of Darkness

Is there a way out for Keir Starmer after the Peter Mandelson scandal? Who fled 'under the cover of darkness' from their royal lodgings? What exactly is a humble address? And why are iguanas falling out of trees? Helping Andy answer some of the big questions of the week are Desiree Burch, Pierre Novellie, Daniel Finkelstein and Catherine Bohart.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Cody Dahler, Eve Delaney and Sarah Mills

Producer: Georgia Keating

Executive Producers: Richard Morris and James Robinson

Production Coordinator: Giulia Lopes Mazzu

Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

**SAT 12:57 Weather (m002r39c)**

The latest weather forecast

**SAT 13:00 News (m002r39f)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (m002qv82)**

Baroness Chapman, Laila Cunningham, Richard Holden MP, Caroline Lucas

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from Highlands Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea in Essex with the International Development Minister Baroness Jenny Chapman, Reform UK's London Mayoral candidate Laila Cunningham, the Shadow Transport Secretary Richard Holden MP and the former leader of the Green Party of England and Wales Caroline Lucas.

Producer: Robin Markwell

Assistant producer: Jo Dwyer

Production co-ordinator: Ishmael Soriano

Lead broadcast engineer: Phil Zentner

Editor: Glyn Tansley

**SAT 14:05 Any Answers? (m002r39h)**

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

**SAT 14:45 The Archers (m002qv7y)**

Susan comes to see Clarrie with some early birthday treats and a proposition. Accompanying her on the school pick-up run, Susan asks whether she might be interested in taking back her old job at the dairy. They're rushed off their feet at Bridge Farm and they need help. Clarrie admits she misses the place and working with Susan, but she enjoys her work at Underwoods Local and in the school. The people are lovely, both jobs are easier on her body, and she gets to pick up Poppy. Susan's disappointed but glad to see Clarrie so content.

There's a crisis at Meadow Farm. The cows are out and Esme's struggling. George lends a capable hand and the animals are soon under control. Later George reassures Esme. He's located the cause of the escape – there's a broken gate on the winter housing. Esme's grateful. When Josh finds George fixing the gate, he admits he must have knocked it yesterday when he was scraping the yard. He feels awful but George tells him to stop worrying, it's all fine. Josh apologises to Esme, who thinks the work at Meadow Farm might be too much for him. He has his own business to keep running. She needs to stand on her own feet, and besides she has George helping now. When Josh declares he doesn't trust George, Esme doesn't share his scepticism. She believes George is genuine and that the job means a lot to him. She offers George the afternoon milking, and Josh has to reluctantly let go of the reins.

**SAT 15:00 Drama on 4 (m002r39k)**

Transcendental Wild Oats

Louisa May Alcott (Louisa Harland - Hamnet) immortalised herself and her sisters in her book Little Women. In Transcendental Wild Oats, she tells the story of her parents, Abigail (Rebekah Staton) and Bronson (Alistair Petrie - Night Manager 2), and her father's attempt to found a utopia on a farm in the New England wilderness, called Fruitlands.

Accompanied by a dour Englishman named Charles Lane (Mathew Baynton - Ghosts), and a small band of eccentrics, they believed Eden could be returned to Earth through veganism, celibacy and organic farming – which none of them knew how to do. What followed were six months of misadventure, with comedy gradually threatening to turn into tragedy.

This adaptation combines Louisa's original short story with historical record, drawing on the letters and diaries of the people involved, to tell the full story of Fruitlands.

Dramatised by Edward Rowett

Original Story by Louisa May Alcott

Directed by Gordon Kennedy and Edward Rowett

Cast:

Louisa May Alcott and Louy Alcott - Louisa Harland  
Bronson Alcott - Alistair Petrie  
Abigail Alcott - Rebekah Staton  
Charles Lane - Mathew Baynton

Christopher Godwin as Joseph Palmer

Tom Moores as Samuel Bower

Edward Rowett as Abraham Wood

Patricia Rodriguez as Ann Page

Jason Barnett as Ralph Waldo Emerson

Victoria Rigby as Anna Alcott

Production Manager - Sarah Tombling

Studio Engineer, Sound Design and Editing - Wilfredo Acosta

Produced by Gordon Kennedy

Recorded at The Soundhouse Studios, London

An Absolutely production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 16:00 Woman's Hour (m002r39m)**

Weekend Woman's Hour: Undercover Police Inquiry, Foster care expansion, AI boyfriends

The ongoing Undercover Policing Inquiry started again this week. It is believed at least 50 women were duped into intimate relationships with undercover officers over decades. Alison, not her real name, spent five years living with a man she knew as Mark Cassidy, who was in fact a married undercover Police Officer whose real name was Mark Jenner. She joins Nuala McGovern along with BBC London journalist Ayshea Buksh, who has been following this inquiry.

The government has announced plans to relax fostering rules and create 10,000 new places for vulnerable children in England. Roxy and her mum Judy, from the BBC's recent Traitors series, join Nuala to discuss. Roxy was fostered until the age of five before being adopted by Judy. They are also joined by Sarah Thomas, Chief Executive of The Fostering Network.

Paula Varjack talks to Anita about her show Nine Sixteenths. It examines the fallout from the infamous Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake 'wardrobe malfunction' incident at the 2004

Superbowl and the backlash that almost ruined Jackson's career. The play questions what this says about the demographics of who controls the media, the scrutinising of black women in the public eye and asks if anything has changed.

We hear a lot about 'mum guilt', but what about the guilt that can come along with not becoming a mother? Writer Ellen C Scott is child-free by choice but has recently experienced guilt towards her parents because she won't be providing them with grandchildren. She recently explored the topic for *Stylist* magazine and was surprised by how much it resonated with other women. Ellen and psychotherapist Professor Hannah Sherbersky discuss.

AI companions are becoming increasingly common, with one in three adults now using them for conversation, advice and support. Now recent research from Bangor University has shown that many teen AI companion users believe their bots can think or understand. That research prompted Nicola Bryan, a reporter for BBC Wales News to investigate and acquire an "AI boyfriend" of her own in the process. Nicola talks to Anita about what happened next.

The Puppini Sisters are celebrating 20 years of their antique pop, neo-burlesque swing music. Their new album *The Birthday Party* marks two decades since their debut. Betcha Bottom Dollar, spent almost a year on the Billboard chart in the US. It became the fastest-selling jazz album in UK chart history, with their fans including Robbie Williams and King Charles. They join Nuala to discuss their music.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Dianne McGregor

**SAT 17:00 PM (m002r39p)**  
Full coverage of the day's news

**SAT 17:30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson (m002r39r)**  
How to tell England's story: James Graham, playwright

James Graham joined Nick in the political thinking studio in late January, ahead of a this year's TV adaptation of his play *Dear England*.

What did Gareth Southgate get right about national identity?

What advice does the playwright have for Keir Starmer on storytelling?

And why is it important that people continue to go to the theatre?

Senior Producer: Daniel Kraemer  
Producer: Flora Murray  
Sound: Ged Sudlow and Hal Haines  
Editor: Giles Edwards

**SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m002r39t)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SAT 17:57 Weather (m002r39w)**  
The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002r39y)**  
Former PM Gordon Brown says Sir Keir Starmer is in a "serious" situation as he battles to keep his job

Gordon Brown says Sir Keir Starmer is in a "serious" situation as he battles to keep his job - but insisted the Prime Minister was the right man to "clean up the system". Sir Keir is facing scrutiny about his appointment of Lord Mandelson as the UK's ambassador to the US - after files released by the US Department of Justice suggested the peer had close links with the sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Also: President Zelensky says Russia has used more than 400 drones and around 40 missiles in its latest attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. And: At the Winter Olympics in Italy, the first gold medal has been won by the Swiss skier, Franjo von Allmen, who was crowned champion of the men's downhill in Bormio.

**SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m002r3b0)**  
Beverley Knight, Keala Settle, Michaela Strachan, Ross Noble, Melvyn Hayes

Joining Clive this week are the actress and singer Keala Settle, who's starring in a newly re-imagined production of John Ransom Phillips' *Mrs President*.

Presenter Michaela Strachan is heading off across the country with her show *Not Just A Wild Life*, to celebrate 40 years of her career in television.

Comedian Ross Noble joins us mid-tour to delve into his *Cranium of Curiosities*.

Star of stage and screen Melvyn Hayes brings along his new autobiography *It Ain't Half Late Mum*.

And there's music from Beverley Knight, who's about to grace the stage in the West End premiere of *Marie and Rosetta*.

Presenter: Clive Anderson  
Producer: Elizabeth Foster

**SAT 19:00 Profile (m002r3b2)**  
Kirsty Coventry

As the 2026 Winter Olympics kick off in Italy, we look to the most powerful woman in sport - the International Olympics Committee President, Kirsty Coventry.

The most decorated African Olympian of all time, the 42-year-old mother-of-two made history as both the first African and the first woman to hold the title when she was elected last year.

Kirsty began swimming from an early age, in the family pool in Harare, Zimbabwe, where her mother gave swimming lessons to local children. Her talent was soon spotted, and she competed in her first Olympics in at just aged 16, going on to compete in four more.

With seven Olympic medals and several World Records under her belt, she decided to take on a role at the International Olympic Committee, quickly climbing the ranks.

Her reign is being closely watched by both her supporters and her detractors - from the decisions she makes around Russian and transgender athletes being allowed to compete, to the challenge global warming creates for running the competition. So, as the Winter Olympics begin, Mark Coles examines how she got here.

Production Team:  
Presenter: Mark Coles  
Producers: Keiligh Baker and Katie Sollefeld  
Production Coordinators: Maria Ogunde and Gemma Ashman  
Sound: James Beard  
Editor: Justine Lang

Archive:  
Olympics.com  
AFP  
IOC  
Dominican Convent Primary School Harare  
Sporting Witness BBC World Service  
Sky News

**SAT 19:15 This Cultural Life (m002qth9)**  
Imogen Cooper

Dame Imogen Cooper is one of Britain's most esteemed concert pianists. Having played since the age of five, she was mentored by the great Austrian born pianist Alfred Brendel before making her name internationally with interpretations of works by Schumann, Schubert and Mozart. She is renowned as a reflective, poetic sensitive performer in the concert hall and recording studio. She was made a CBE in 2007, became the first pianist to be awarded the Queen's Medal for Music in 2020 and, the following year, became Dame Imogen. She recently announced that, at the end of the year long international tour, she would be retiring from live performance in early 2027.

Producer: Edwina Pitman

Archive used:  
Face The Music, BBC2, 12 November 1975  
Schubert, Allegretto in C minor D915 played by Imogen Cooper at the Wigmore Hall on 18 January 2026

**SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m002r3b4)**  
Landscape for a Good Infant

If we crouch down to the level of the infant, what might we learn about the evolution of the welfare state and its role in the lives of babies, young children, and the people who care for them? How have our attitudes towards it changed from its inception to the present day?

Dr Emily Baughan, historian of modern childhood and mother of two infants, explores how our ideas about infancy, motherhood, and the role of the state have shifted over the last six decades.

Today, formula milk is one of the most shoplifted items in the UK. But if you were born before 1976, your formula milk would have been provided by the state. Known as "national milk", it is just one example of how the state has shaped different generations' experiences of infancy. We already

understand how the national curriculum and school dinners have produced a distinctly British experience of childhood for older children - but what about the under-fives?

Drawing on a wealth of BBC archive from the 1960s to today, alongside her own research and personal reflections, Emily takes on this baby's-eye view of the state, discovering how it has helped shape generations. She hears how a baby born in 1980 would have spent their first hours in a Perspex crib in a hospital nursery, while a baby born in 2000 would have been delivered straight onto their mother's chest, rarely leaving her side. A baby in 1985 might have attended one of 300,000 free community playgroups; by 2025, they would be unlikely to find any non-profit play provision outside a church. Are we, as adults, the product of what the state deems important for infants?

Featuring interviews with Miriam Stoppard, Professor Carolyn Steedman (author of *Landscape for a Good Woman*), Professor of Psychology Elizabeth Meins (University of York) and Stella Creasy MP.

Producer: Eliza Lomas  
Editor: Chris Ledgard

**SAT 21:00 Artworks (m002fjn8)**  
Three Transformations of Virginia Woolf

2. Critiquing Society

'They make life intolerable, men like that.'

A century on from the publication of *Mrs Dalloway*, Fiona Shaw explores what Virginia Woolf has to say to us today. With Clarissa Dalloway as our guide, we discover how Woolf captured and critiqued a modern world that was transforming around her, treated mental health as a human experience rather than a medical condition, and challenged gender norms in ways that seem light years ahead of even our present day discourse.

In this episode, Fiona Shaw speaks with authors, academics and artists inspired by Virginia Woolf, about how Woolf critiqued systems of power and privilege.

Fiona hears from authors Alison Light, Danell Jones, Michelle de Kretser, Michael Cunningham, and Mark Haddon; Senior Lecture in Modern Literature, Dr Clara Jones; Professor of English, Mark Hussey; and artist Kabe Wilson.

Extracts read by Gwendoline Christie.

Produced by Ellie Richold for BBC Audio

**SAT 21:30 Artworks (m002ntsk)**  
The Poetry Detective

Overwintering

Vanessa Kisuule unearths the poems that speak to the big issues we are all wrestling with. This week, it's getting through winter.

"Overwintering" is a term usually reserved for plants and animals adapting in order to make it through the cold, darker months. But we humans are living beings too and perhaps we are also in need of some mulching around the roots, some bringing indoors, some hibernation.

And when life throws us a metaphorical winter, can we allow ourselves to just sit and watch through the window 'til the storm has passed? Perhaps poetry can help. Can it make us calmer, wiser, and more accepting of life's unplanned pauses?

With Katherine May, author of *Wintering* and the poets Lavinia Greenlaw, Megan Fernandes and Isabelle Baafi.

'Advent' by Patrick Kavanagh is quoted from *Collected Poems*, edited by Antoinette Quinn (Allen Lane, 2004), by kind permission of the Trustees of the Estate of the late Katherine B. Kavanagh, through the Jonathan Williams Literary Agency.

Produced in Bristol by Ellie Richold

**SAT 22:00 News (m002r3b6)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 22:15 The Food Programme (m002q72)**  
The Future of Our Food

In a special edition Dan Saladino talks to the UK's biggest food producers and retailers to hear their visions for the future of food, health, sustainability and resilience.

Along with the DEFRA minister Dame Angela Eagle, some of the most influential figures in food and farming are gathering at the annual Sustainable Foods event held in London. On the

agenda will be health and nutrition, food security, net zero and regenerative agriculture.

Will the ideas and strategies, outlined by the major supermarkets, food manufacturers and farming organisations result in significant changes to food in the UK?

Produced and presented by Dan Saladino.

**SAT 23:00 Dan Does Dating (m002r3b8)**  
Series 1

4. Celeste

Think of the worst date you've been on, or heard about. Now imagine having to go through that every week. That's what happens to Dan Dickerson in Dan Does Dating, a new non-audience sitcom by Michael Beck. And his dates feel the same way.

This week, Dan compares the first date he's on with how the first dates of his partnered-up friends went - or, at least, how they told him they went...

Dan ... Christopher Macarthur-Boyd  
Celeste ... Tina Gray

Chris ... Ray Bradshaw  
Jack ... Stephen Buchanan  
Jamila ... Nalini Chetty  
Diane ... Zara Gladman

Tattooist ... Kougar Baartarkhuu  
Angry Man ... Jonny Donahoe  
Mum ... Lubna Kerr  
Fiona ... Layla Kirk  
Dad ... Sanjeev Kohli  
Sarah ... Lisa Livingstone  
Partygoer ... Eleanor Morton  
Moviegoer ... Sophie Wilkinson

Written by Michael Beck

Recorded and edited by Diane Jardine at Sonido Studios, Clydebank

Produced and directed by Ed Morrish

A Lead Mojo production for BBC Radio 4

**SAT 23:30 Counterpoint (m002qzbb)**  
Series 39

Heat 5, 2026

Paul Gambaccini hosts radio's most challenging music quiz. Now in its 39th series, contestants from around the country have assembled to be tested on their knowledge of music from across the centuries, and across every genre.

This week, our three contestants pick from topics including 'Pop into 1976', 'Seventies isco at the movies' and 'The Wayne Shorter Report'.

Producer: Tom Du Croz  
Production coordinator: Jodie Charman

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4

## SUNDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2026

**SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m002r3bb)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 00:15 Bookclub (m002qrly)**  
Sarah Bernstein

The Canadian writer Sarah Bernstein speaks to a Bookclub audience about her Booker-shortlisted 2023 novel, *Study For Obedience*. Published by Granta, the story follows an unnamed protagonist who is moved to a remote northern country to be a housekeeper for her brother, but as soon as she arrives a series of unfortunate events occur. The novel won the Giller prize in 2023.

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

**SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002r3bd)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002r3bg)**  
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 (m002r3bj)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002r3bl)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m002r3bn)**  
All Saints church in Easton, Suffolk

Bells on Sunday comes from All Saints church in Easton, Suffolk. The church is Grade 1 listed and mostly medieval. The bell tower has a square flint base with a 15th century octagonal upper section. It holds six bells by five different founders, the oldest of which dates from the mid-15th century. The Tenor bell weighs twelve hundredweight and is tuned to the note of G. We hear them now ringing Plain Bob Doubles

**SUN 05:45 In Touch (m002qrle)**  
Update on the Macular Society

Regular In Touch listeners will know that decisions to make organisational changes by management at The Macular Society have been met with strong opposition. The changes include a reduction in the number of regional managers, a move which some in the charity say will badly damage service provision. Indeed, feelings are running so high that a group called "Save Our Society, Save our Services" or SOS has been formed. Following a recent Annual General Meeting, SOS claimed they had been denied the opportunity to properly challenge management and that controversial decisions had been forced through.

Amidst this acrimony, we were keen to give people from both sides of the argument the opportunity to explain their position. We're pleased to say that SOS members Tricia Sturgeon and Ron Barnett, and Cecilia Bufton, Chair of the Society's Board of Trustees agreed to join us to do just that.

Presenter: Peter White  
Producers: Beth Hemmings and Fern Lulham  
Production Coordinator: Helen Surtees

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

**SUN 06:00 News Summary (m002r3f5)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 06:05 Thinking Allowed (m002qrks)**  
The go-along research method

How does the environment we move through shape the way we see and experience the world?

Laurie Taylor talks to Alex Prior (London South Bank University) about his research inside Westminster, where he walked alongside MPs and staff to uncover how the corridors of power feel different depending on who you are and what your job is.

James Fletcher from the University of Bath worked on a project exploring what it's like to navigate the bus and tram routes of central Manchester while living with dementia. He looked at how familiar streets and transport systems change when memory and mobility are shifting and the implications of this.

What is the value of research conducted in this way and what are the downsides?

Producer: Natalia Fernandez

**SUN 06:35 On Your Farm (m002r3f7)**  
The One-Woman Wagyu Beef Farmer

Out on the ancient meadows just back from the North Norfolk coast graze some unusual, horned, beef animals. These velvety black, delicate-legged cattle are wagyu. Originally from Japan, they produce meat treasured for its marbled fat, which makes it tender and flavoursome. These animals are being raised by a one-woman force of nature

– Sarah Juggins. Sarah runs the North Norfolk Coastal Group of farmers, who are bringing about sustainable farming changes to hundreds of square kilometres of environmentally sensitive land. Previously a sports teacher and journalist, and now an author, Sarah tells Anna Hill about coming back to her family farming roots in Norfolk, where her father ran a mixed farm. She cares for her own 36-strong herd of wagyu animals single-handed. After ten years her beef enterprise is only just making a profit but, as she tells Anna Hill, it's given her so much more than an income. The animals have taught her to adjust her frenetic pace to match nature, be patient and mindful, and appreciate the interconnections between landscape and food production.

We join Sarah and Anna out in the field, and witness a race for the best hay bales, family squabbles, and calves playing hide and seek in the winter sun.

Presented and produced by Anna Hill.

**SUN 06:57 Weather (m002r3f9)**  
The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m002r3fc)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 07:10 Sunday (m002r3ff)**  
Epstein Files; Michelangelo; Apocalypse Tropics

The Epstein files has raised big questions beyond politics, Sunday explores the moral dimension of the latest revelations. Documents reveal that in 2017 the financier and convicted paedophile was sent fragments of a cloth used to cover the Kaaba - also known as the House of God - in the Great Mosque of Mecca. Edward Stourton discusses the revelation with Leicester imam Sheik Ibrahim Mogra.

A hammer price of 23 million dollars is quite a lot to pay for a small chalk drawing of a foot. Michelangelo sketch was part of a study for the magnificent Sistine Chapel fresco. Jarda Daman, a specialist in Old Masters at Christies, describes it for the Sunday audience.

The BAFTA awards are a fortnight away and the documentary 'Apocalypse in the Tropics' is in the running. It is a story of religion and right-wing politics set in Brazil, and focuses on the rule of Jair Bolsonaro, who was the country's president from 2019 until 2023, before he was replaced by President Lula da Silva. Petra Costa directed the film and details the rise in evangelical Christianity against the setting of Brazilian politics.

Presenter: Edward Stourton  
Producers: Bara'atu Ibrahim & Katy Booth  
Studio Managers: Lynsey Akehurst & Phillip Halliwell  
Editor: Tim Pemberton

**SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m002r3fh)**  
DeafKidz International

The Oscar-winning writer and actress Rachel Shenton makes the Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of the charity DeafKidz International.

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

To Give:  
- Freephone 0800 404 8144  
- Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal. (That's the whole address. Please do not write anything else on the front of the envelope). Mark the back of the envelope 'DeafKidz International'.  
- Cheques should be made payable to 'DeafKidz International'.  
- You can donate online at [bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4](https://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: 1151219. If you'd like to find out more about the charity's work visit [\\*https://deafkidzinternational.org](https://deafkidzinternational.org)  
\*The BBC is not responsible for content on external websites

Producer: Anna Bailey

**SUN 07:57 Weather (m002r3fk)**  
The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m002r3fm)**  
The news headlines, including a look at the newspapers.

**SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m002r3fp)**  
Seats of wisdom

A service from Exeter Cathedral as part of the Northern

European Cathedrals Conference. The music and readings reflect on the theme of 'Cathedrals: Seats of Wisdom', exploring these sacred spaces as places of Northern European identity and culture, wisdom and rootedness. The service includes a reading from Exeter Cathedral's 10th century Exeter Book – a UNESCO World Memory object, widely regarded as the oldest surviving book in the English language. The preacher is the Bishop of Exeter, and hymns include Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the King of creation, and Now thank we all our God. Director of Music: Timothy Noon. Organist: Michael Stephens-Jones. Producer: Ben Collingwood.

**SUN 08:48 Tweet of the Day (m002r3fr)**  
Polly Atkin on the Long-eared Owl

The non-fiction writer Polly Atkin is particularly fond of owls. Tawny owls surround her home in Grasmere in Cumbria, and she has observed the wintering of short-eared owls at the coast. One which remains elusive is the highly secretive long-eared owl, which Polly has never seen in the wild. Considered to be thinly but widely-spread in the UK, they are a scarce breeding species and very difficult to survey. Polly recalls stories from centuries ago of large colonies of long-eared owls resident in the Cumbrian woodland.

Polly Atkin is the author of *The Company of Owls* (Elliott & Thompson).

Produced by Sophie Anton for BBC Audio in Bristol.

**SUN 08:50 In Other News (m002r3ft)**

Welcome to the programme which sidesteps the main news headlines and delves more deeply into what's going right in the world.

**SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m002r3fw)**

Can Keir Starmer survive?

Lord Blunkett is live to discuss to the Prime Minister's position after his worst week in the job. Plus: listeners spot a Radio 4 musical coincidence and we go on the hunt for joy in seemingly endless rain.

**SUN 10:00 Desert Island Discs (m002r3fy)**

Tahra Zafar, costume and effects designer

Tahra Zafar is a costume and creature effects designer.

She designed the Paddington Bear puppet featured in the hit West End production *Paddington: The Musical*.

Born into a theatre family, she grew up with an Armenian American father who worked as a choreographer in the first West End production of *West Side Story*, and a mother who moved from a career as a ballerina to theatre work around the world. Her interest in making began early, helping her father with practical projects such as restoring their house, even learning to build walls and spending her spare time model making, with Airfix creations suspended from her bedroom ceiling.

After studying theatre design at Central Saint Martins, she began her career making theatre costumes. She spent some time at the Jim Henson creature workshop where she made some of the creatures for the first Harry Potter film including Hedwig the owl and Scabbers the rat.

After her daughter was born, Tahra worked on some of the characters for *In the Night Garden* with her daughter, a willing judge of what worked for toddlers. In 2012, Tahra was in charge of 23,000 costumes for the London 2012 Olympic opening and closing ceremonies. This role included an audience with the late Queen to ensure the wig and dress were correct for Her Majesty's stunt double when that iconic skydive was performed at the Olympic opening ceremony.

Tahra lives in London with her daughter.

DISC ONE: Thunderbirds (Main Theme) - The Barry Gray Orchestra

DISC TWO: Gee, Officer Krupke. Composed by Leonard Bernstein and performed by Leo Kharibian, Norman Furber and Vince Logan

DISC THREE: Beethoven: Symphony No. 9 In D Minor (movement six) Composed by Ludwig van Beethoven and performed by Berlin Philharmoniker, Wiener Singverein and conducted by Herbert von Karajan

DISC FOUR: Brazil - Geoff Muldaur

DISC FIVE: Sir Duke - Stevie Wonder

DISC SIX: Groove Is in the Heart - Deee-Lite

DISC SEVEN: Eclipse - Pink Floyd

DISC EIGHT: Take Five - Dave Brubeck

BOOK CHOICE: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

Complete Books by Douglas Adams  
LUXURY ITEM: A set of art materials and a storage box  
CASTAWAY'S FAVOURITE: Eclipse - Pink Floyd

Presenter: Lauren Laverne  
Producer: Sarah Taylor

Desert Island Discs has cast other costume designers away to the island over the years including Oscar winners Jenny Beavan and Sandy Powell. You can hear their programmes if you search through BBC Sounds or our own Desert Island Discs website.

**SUN 11:00 The Archers Omnibus (m002r3g0)**

Writer: Sarah McDonald Hughes  
Director: Jessica Bunch  
Editor: Jeremy Howe

David Archer.... Timothy Bentinck  
Josh Archer.... Angus Imrie  
Kenton Archer.... Richard Atlee  
Pat Archer.... Patricia Gallimore  
Pip Archer.... Daisy Badger  
Ruth Archer.... Felicity Finch  
Susan Carter.... Charlotte Martin  
Amber Gordon.... Olivia Bernstone  
Anne Marie Gordon.... Kate Ashfield  
Bill Gordon.... Matthew Gravelle  
Clarrie Grundy.... Heather Bell  
George Grundy.... Angus Stobie  
Will Grundy.... Philip Molloy  
Paul Mack.... Joshua Riley  
Esme Mulligan.... Ellie Pawsey  
Stella Pryor.... Lucy Speed  
Hannah Riley.... Helen Longworth

**SUN 12:15 Profile (m002r3b2)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

**SUN 12:30 Just a Minute (m002qrx2)**

Series 96

1. The best curry in Bradford

This week Just A Minute returns to the glorious city of Bradford, 24 years after we last recorded there way back in 2002. Comedian Chris Cantrill was born and bred in Bradford and is making his debut on the show. How will he get on when he plays with regulars Paul Merton, Lucy Porter and Zoe Lyons on subjects like singing in the shower, heartbreak hotel and Alan Bennett?

Host: Sue Perkins

Players: Paul Merton, Lucy Porter, Zoe Lyons, Chris Cantrill

Producer: Georgia Keating

Executive Producer: James Robinson

Production Coordinator: Sarah Nicholls

Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

Additional material by Ruth Husko

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

**SUN 12:57 Weather (m002r3g2)**

The latest weather forecast

**SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m002r3g4)**

US pushes Cuba to the brink

The Trump administration's oil blockade on Cuba could soon lead to a "humanitarian collapse" - according to the UN. We speak to a range of voices about US motives, including President Obama's former Cuba negotiator and a former adviser to Marco Rubio. Plus we hear from the Cuban Ambassador to the UK about how her government intends to respond.

**SUN 13:30 Currently (m002r3g6)**

Trump and Greenland: How MAGA went Arctic

Why does President Trump really want to takeover Greenland?

The Arctic territory is rich in vital minerals and oil, and it hosts an important American military base as the race for dominance in the wider Arctic heats up between China, Russia and the USA.

While the issue has become suddenly urgent, it's a proposal that has been years in the making - and drill down beneath Trump's recent stated reason of 'security' and the reasons why he wants it as the 51st state are less clear.

A financier-turned-MAGA operative, the small print of the

right-wing wish list Project 2025, and a penchant for big places on maps might better explain the recent diplomatic crisis, as the Make America Great Again project evolves into an idea to Make America Bigger.

The Coming Storm's Lucy Proctor delves into the backstory to Trump's insistence on acquiring Greenland.

Produced and presented by Lucy Proctor  
Editor: Richard Fenton-Smith  
Sound engineer: Andy Fell

**SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002qv7k)**  
Kimpton

Peter Gibbs and the GQT team are in Kimpton, Hertfordshire.

He's joined by Bob Flowerdew, Bunny Guinness and Juliet Sargeant.

With questions submitted from the local audience in Kimpton Memorial Hall, the panel take on a wide range of horticultural challenges, from alternatives to Valentine's Day roses, to selecting shrubs for a north-facing chalk-clay garden and innovative ways of harvesting horseradish.

The panellists also advise our questioners on how to grow figs in containers, prune winter honeysuckle and propagate daphne, and they tell us how best to manage the surprise appearance of fairy rings in a lawn.

Alongside these questions, Marcus Chilton Jones, Curator at RHS Bridgewater shares the Do's and Don'ts of winter pruning.

Producer: Matthew Smith  
Assistant Producer: William Norton

A 'Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 14:45 Opening Lines (m002r3g8)**

Gone with the Wind - Episode 1

In the series that takes a look at books, plays and stories and how they work, John Yorke explores Margaret Mitchell's epic Civil War romance, *Gone with the Wind*.

It was the bestselling American novel of the 20th century, it has sold 30 million copies and counting, it won the Pulitzer Prize, and the 1939 film of the book remains among the highest grossing of all time.

*Gone with the Wind* is a coming-of-age story, a love triangle, and an epic wartime romance. And it is a rollicking read, a hugely entertaining book, but one with considerable problems for today's readers – problems that John Yorke explores and analyses over three episodes.

In this first episode John considers how Margaret Mitchell tells this huge sweeping story and asks what made it such a phenomenal hit.

John is joined by the writer Rachel Joyce who has adapted *Gone with the Wind* for BBC Radio 4, and Sarah Churchill, Professor of American Literature at the University of London and the author of *The Wrath to Come: Gone with the Wind and the Lies America Tells*. Together they explore what makes the book such a captivating read and how it is driven by the central character, Scarlett O'Hara, one of the most compelling and infuriating heroines ever written.

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 Radio 4.

Contributors:  
Sarah Churchill, Professor of American Literature at the University of London  
Rachel Joyce, adapter of *Gone with the Wind* for BBC Radio 4  
Readings by Samantha Dakin

Credits: *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell, published by Vintage Books

Produced by Jane Greenwood  
Executive Producer Sara Davies  
Sound by Sean Kerwin  
Researcher Henry Tydeman

Production hub coordinator Dawn Williams

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds

**SUN 15:00 Drama on 4 (m002r3gb)**

Gone with the Wind: Episode 1

A new dramatisation of Margaret Mitchell's famous and contested novel, set against the epic backdrop of the American Civil War and the collapse of the old Southern order, and centred on the fiercely determined Scarlett O'Hara.

Part of The Story of America, a major collection of dramatisations of milestone American titles marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence and the foundation of the United States. This three-part drama revisits a foundational American story with fresh eyes.

Episode One

An iconic and stunning tale of love and loss, of a nation divided and a people forever changed.

Scarlett ..... Samantha Dakin  
Rhett ..... Jacob Fortune-Lloyd  
Ashley ..... Joseph May  
Melanie ..... Rebekah Murrell  
Prissy ..... Madeline Charlemagne  
Sam ..... Tayla Kovacevic-Ebong  
Aunt Pitty ..... Laurel Lefkow  
Peter ..... David Webber  
Dr Meade ..... Sam Dale  
Pork ..... Richard Pepple  
Frank Kennedy ..... Finlay Robertson  
Ellen/Belle ..... Clare Corbett  
The Tarleton Twins ..... Joe Jameson

And the Narrator and Mary ..... Clare Perkins

Directed by Tracey Neale

Story of America is a major collection of dramatisations of milestone American titles marking 250 years since the Declaration of Independence and the foundation of the United States.

Set against the epic backdrop of the American Civil War, Margaret Mitchell's 1936 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gone with the Wind* remains an iconic and stunning tale of love and loss, of a nation mortally divided and a people forever changed. It was an instant best seller and has now sold more than 30 million copies worldwide; the screen adaptation of 1939 became the world's biggest box office selling film. As recently as 2014 it was voted the most popular book in America after the Bible and *The New York Times* describes it as 'Beyond a doubt one of the most remarkable first novels produced by an American writer. It is also one of the best.'

The famous story of the trials of feisty, once-spoiled Scarlett O'Hara as she struggles to adapt to the shattering of her world is both an epic adventure and one of literature's greatest romances. It is about people who fight to the end for their dreams. But it is also about what happens when dreams die. How do you rebuild a life when your world is blasted into rubble? How do you bring lasting peace to a nation that is fundamentally conflicted? What does freedom mean and what does it look like when everything you knew is gone and everyone you loved is dead?

'War is men's business, not ladies,' the young men of the novel tell themselves as they prepare for battle. And yet *Gone with the Wind* gives us a young heroine whose spirit and ability to survive outstrips the male world around her. It reminds us that the repercussions of civil war continue to be felt for generations: the past has consequences in the present. This is a major retelling of a story that remains at the heart of the American experience.

Dramatist:

Rachel Joyce is a best-selling author and award winning audio drama writer. Her first novel, *The Pilgrimage* of Harold Fry has been adapted for both film and stage. Rachel adapted all of the Brontë canon for Radio 4. Her latest novel, *The Homemade God*, was published in February.

Producer and Director: Tracey Neale

Dramatist: Rachel Joyce

Script Consultant: Beverly Andrews

Sound Design: Keith Graham, Peter Ringrose, Sam Dickinson and Cole Colbert

Production Co-Ordinators: Luke MacGregor and Amy Woods

**SUN 16:00 Take Four Books (m002r3gd)**

Bryan Washington

The American writer Bryan Washington speaks to *Take Four Books* about his new novel, *Palaver*, and, together with presenter James Crawford, they explore its connections to three other literary works. *Palaver* focuses on the tense relationship

between protagonists "the son" and "the mother". The son is an American who has lived in Tokyo for the best part of a decade, teaching English as a foreign language. Throughout this period, he's been estranged from his Jamaican-American mother back home in Texas, until one day she arrives uninvited on his doorstep.

Bryan's three chosen influences in this episode are: *Kitchen by Banana Yoshimoto* from 1988; *Another Brooklyn* by Jacqueline Woodson from 2016; and *Love in the Big City* by Sang Young Park from 2021.

Producer: Dominic Howell

Editor: Gillian Wheelan

This was a BBC Audio Scotland production.

**SUN 16:30 Counterpoint (m002r3gg)**

Series 39

Heat 6, 2026

Paul Gambaccini hosts radio's most challenging music quiz. Now in its 39th series, contestants from around the country have assembled to be tested on their knowledge of music from across the centuries, and across every genre.

This week, our three contestants pick from topics including 'Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside', 'Berlin and music' and '70's rock pioneers'.

Producer: Tom Du Croz

Production coordinator: Jodie Charman

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4

**SUN 17:00 Witness History (w3ct5ydm)**

Kawarau Bridge: The first bungee jumping site in New Zealand

On 12 November 1988, the world's first commercial bungee jumping site was opened near Queenstown, New Zealand.

AJ Hackett and Henry Van Asch started out bungee jumping as a hobby with friends. They developed the bungee ropes and rigging system and found the perfect site – the historic Kawarau Suspension Bridge – which would give paying customers the chance to safely fall 43 metres.

It helped make Queenstown become the adventure tourism capital of the world. Josephine McDermott jumped from the bridge herself 20 years ago and finds out from AJ Hackett how it all came about.

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

Recent episodes explore everything from football in Brazil, the history of the 'Indian Titanic' and the invention of air fryers, to Public Enemy's *Fight The Power*, subway art and the political crisis in Georgia. We look at the lives of some of the most famous leaders, artists, scientists and personalities in history, including: visionary architect Antoni Gaudi and the design of the Sagrada Família; Michael Jordan and his bespoke Nike trainers; Princess Diana at the Taj Mahal; and Görel Hanser, manager of legendary Swedish pop band Abba on the influence they've had on the music industry. You can learn all about fascinating and surprising stories, such as the time an Iraqi journalist hurled his shoes at the President of the United States in protest of America's occupation of Iraq; the creation of the Hollywood commercial that changed advertising forever; and the ascent of the first Aboriginal MP.

(Photo: A jump from Kawarau Bridge. Credit: Getty Images)

**SUN 17:10 The Verb (m002r3gk)**

The Love Verb

Ian MacMillan has love in mind as he is joined by a swoon of poets all interested in the subject of love in lyric form.

Kim Moore's poetry collections include *The Art of Falling* and *All The Men I Never Married*. She's chosen this week's Neon Line, *The Verb's* feature on lines that shine out from their poems, from a love poem that has long moved her. She also shares a new love poem from her forthcoming collection, *The House of Broken Things*,

Deborah Alma, poet, editor, and co-founder of *The Poetry Pharmacy* is a fan of love poetry anthologies. She discusses the approach she took in her own love poetry anthology - *Words For Love*, and why she finds *The Emma Press Anthology of Love* edited by Rachel Piercy and Emma Wright, and *Something New: Alternative Poems for Alternative Weddings*

edited by Caroline Bird and Rachel Long, such appealing collections.

In Rob Macaisa Colgate's debut poetry book, *Hardly Creatures*, he models his collection of poems on the experience of a fully accessible art gallery, inspired by his work in disability arts gallery in Toronto called *Tangled*. *Hardly Creatures* features a series of love poems which Rob calls *Benches* to reflect the fact that he sees them as places of rest in a collection often concerned with the practicalities, the pain, and the politics of disability.

Mark Connors, co-founder and editor of *Yaffle Press*, on the love song inspired poetry in their latest publication - *Poems Inspired By the Best Songs of All Time*.

Presented by Ian MacMillan

Produced by Ekene Akalawu

**SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m002r3gm)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**SUN 17:57 Weather (m002r3gp)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002r3gt)**

Morgan McSweeney quits as PM's chief of staff

Morgan McSweeney has resigned as Sir Keir Starmer's chief of staff and said he takes "full responsibility" for having advised the Prime Minister to appoint Lord Mandelson as the UK's ambassador to the US last year. In a statement, Mr McSweeney said the decision had been "wrong". Also: The BBC's seen evidence that suggests Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor knowingly shared confidential information with Jeffrey Epstein when he was working as UK trade envoy. And: Hundreds of flood warnings and alerts are in place across Britain, following days of non-stop rain in some areas

**SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m002r3gw)**

Martin Geissler

Two questions: are you feeling happy, and if so, are you from Bolton? The town was part of a 1930s study on emotion; Radio 4 investigates if there's any happiness to be found there these days. Gyles Brandreth has a minute to tell us what's the matter with him, and we learn how Chaucerian fashion was a huge matter for medieval Britain - and not in a fashion forward way. Plus, Chris Packham meets the punk rockers on their way to pick up their pensions.

Presenter: Martin Geissler

Producer: Anthony McKee

Production coordinators: Caroline Peddle and Caoilfhinn McFadden

**SUN 19:00 The Archers (m002r3gy)**

Preparing for Ben's graduation celebration lunch, Ruth approaches a resistant David about a date at *The Bull* on Friday night for Valentine's. He gives excuses that it's an artificial, commercial occasion. He suggests an eat in meal-for-two from Underwoods. Ruth confides in Stella that she knows David's trying to surprise her with a booking at *The Bull* on Saturday, but she wants to surprise him with a better table there on Friday.

Ben good naturedly winds Josh up, but Josh is still feeling raw about George at Meadow Farm and it's awkward. As Ben moves on to chat to Stella about work, Josh accuses him of being holier than thou about his nursing work. Stella's uncomfortable and leaves them to it. A heated discussion ensues with Josh accusing Pip of making assumptions about who will inherit the farm.

During a tense lunch, David and Ruth reveal their decision. Having done the figures, they've worked out that Brookfield will only be able to support one family. As Pip is the dairy expert, Brookfield will go to her, starting immediately with an initial part share, with Ruth and David holding the rest. Josh will keep his thirty acres at Hollowtree plus Glebe Cottage. Ben will receive Rickyard Cottage and the bungalow.

Josh appears stoic, stating that he's not surprised. His parents remind him that he's a brilliant entrepreneur with a great head for business, and this is the best thing for Brookfield. They assure him that he will do well and they will do all they can to support him.

**SUN 19:15 Illuminated (m002r3ho)**

Functioning

If you ask many women in recovery from alcoholism what the term 'functioning alcoholic' means to them, they will laugh. In truth, a large percentage of women who end up in treatment had been, to the outside world, 'functioning'. Holding down jobs, raising children, paying their rent or mortgage. However,

internally, 'functioning' is about the last word they would use to describe their mental and emotional landscape as alcohol increasingly tightened its grip on their lives.

Here, two women share in raw and brutally honest detail their descent into alcohol dependency, which took place incrementally, behind closed doors, and, for the most part, under the radar as they continued to appear to live regular, 'functional' lives.

Functioning offers a rare insight into the experience of leading a completely dual existence - the secrecy, the agility and the alchemy required in maintaining a 'functioning' exterior, while your interior is coming apart; and a lesson in how much can go undetected when you are not what the world assumes of an alcoholic.

Sound design by Action Pyramid  
Produced by Jodie Taylor  
A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 19:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m000w3lh)**  
Stand on One Leg

In this episode, Michael is reborn as a one legged yogi to reveal why the one leg stance is one of the best things you can do for a longer and more active life. He speaks to Professor Dawn Skelton at Glasgow Caledonian University, to find out what happens to your balance as you get older, why our balance is getting worse with each generation, and how regularly making yourself wobble could help improve your body and your brain.

**SUN 20:00 Word of Mouth (m002qthv)**  
Vincentian Creole

Michael Rosen talks to linguist Teddy Mack about Vincy, a language rooted in English spoken on the Caribbean island of St Vincent, alongside standard English. But the English Teddy encountered when he moved to the UK proved to be very different (and far from standardised) and he's learned to switch throughout his life.

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 (m002qv7p)**  
Sir Nicholas White, Lord Wallace, Professor Deborah Cameron, Sly Dunbar

Matthew Bannister on

Sir Nicholas White, whose research on tropical diseases saved millions of lives.

Lord Wallace, the Liberal Democrat who served in the Scottish and Westminster parliaments and was Deputy to three First Ministers.

Professor Deborah Cameron who studied the use of language from a feminist perspective.

Sly Dunbar, the Jamaican drummer who played on hundreds of hit records and teamed up with bass player Robbie Shakespeare to form "The Riddim Twins".

Interviewee: Professor Nicholas Day  
Interviewee: Lord McConnell  
Interviewee: Professor Miriam Meyerhoff  
Interviewee: Jazzie B  
Interviewee: Kevin Le Gendre

Producer: Gareth Nelson-Davies  
Assistant Producer: Catherine Powell  
Researcher: Jesse Edwards  
Editor: Glyn Tansley

Archive used:

Nick White: Improving the treatment of infectious diseases, Mahidol Oxford Research Unit (MORU) in Bangkok, Thailand, Tropical Medicine Oxford YouTube Channel, uploaded 08/03/2024; Professor Nick White: malaria, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) interview, University of Oxford YouTube channel, uploaded 26 Jan 2012; Nicholas White, "Malaria Defeating The Curse", Horizon, BBC Two, 05/06/2005; Nick White, Fatal Latitudes, BBC Two, 23/02/1993; Jim Wallace, Scottish Devolution Referendum, Reporting Scotland, BBC Scotland 1997; Coalition, Reporting Scotland, BBC Scotland 14/05/1999; Jim Wallace, Acting first minister clip, FMOs, Scottish Parliament, 15/11/2001; Jim Wallace interview, Stark Talk, BBC Radio Scotland, 09/06/2000; Deborah Cameron interview, Woman's Hour, BBC Radio 4, 31/10/2025; Deborah Cameron interview, Speak Up, BBC Radio 4, 02/08/2024;

**SUN 21:00 Money Box (m002r399)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

**SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m002r3fh)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

**SUN 21:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002r395)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:30 on Saturday]

**SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m002r3h3)**  
Reaction to Morgan McSweeney's resignation

Ben Wright's guests are the Labour MP Rachel Blake, Conservative Neil Shastri-Hurst and Hannah White, Director of the Institute for Government. They discuss the turmoil in Government sparked by the Mandelson scandal and the resignation of Morgan McSweeney. Political journalists Ben Riley-Smith and Tom McTague bring additional expert analysis. And Ben interviews the campaigner on pornography and domestic abuse, Baroness Gabby Bertin.

**SUN 23:00 In Our Time (m002qth3)**  
Henry IV Part 1

Misha Glenny and guests discuss one of the most successful of Shakespeare's plays in his own time. Written with no Part 2 in mind as 'Henry the Fourth', the play explores ideas about who can be a legitimate ruler and why, and how anyone can rightly succeed to the throne. This was an especially pressing question for his Tudor audience as Elizabeth I had named no successor. Playwrights, banned from openly discussing the jeopardy her subjects faced, turned to these themes of power, legitimacy and succession in distant and recent history. When Shakespeare combined this relevance with the vivid characters of Falstaff, Hotspur and Hal and with the tensions between noble fathers and sons, he had a play that fascinated well into the Jacobean era and has been revived throughout the centuries.

With

Emma Smith  
Professor of Shakespeare Studies at Hertford College,  
University of Oxford

Lucy Munro  
Professor of Shakespeare and Early Modern Literature at Kings  
College London

And

Laurence Publicover  
Associate Professor in the Department of English at the  
University of Bristol

Producer: Simon Tillotson

Reading list:

Hailey Bachrach, Staging Female Characters in Shakespeare's  
English History Plays (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Warren Chernaik, The Cambridge Introduction to  
Shakespeare's History Plays (Cambridge University Press,  
2007)

Stephen Greenblatt, Tyrant: Shakespeare on Power (Bodley  
Head, 2018)

Graham Holderness, Shakespeare: The Histories (Red Globe  
Press, 1999)

Jean Howard and Phyllis Rackin, Engendering a Nation: A  
Feminist Account of Shakespeare's English Histories  
(Routledge, 1997)

William Shakespeare (eds. Indira Ghose, Anna Pruitt and  
Emma Smith), Henry IV Part I: The New Oxford Shakespeare  
(Oxford University Press, 2024)

William Shakespeare (ed. Gordon McMullan), 1 Henry IV: A  
Norton Critical Edition, 3rd edition (Norton, 2003)

In Our Time is a BBC Studios Production

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 Misha Glenny and  
expert guests explore the characters, events and discoveries that  
have shaped our world.

**SUN 23:45 Short Works (m002qv7m)**  
The Bench by Isy Suttie

Clare has recently moved to Lyme Regis with her young son as

her marriage has fallen apart. Isolated and lonely, she finds a moment of solace every morning on a seaside bench with a coffee, where she can watch the waves. One morning after forgetting her empty cup on the bench she finds a note admonishing her for doing so. She scribbles an angry reply, and thus enters into a stream of written correspondence with its sender, Daniel, who, over the weeks, reveals himself to be just as vulnerable as she is.

His letters form the highlight of her day until a difficult visit from her ex and an anonymous Valentine's package on her bench threaten to derail her fragile routine, and she has to dig deep to find the best way forward.

A story about courage and new beginnings.

Written and read by Isy Suttie  
Produced by Alison Crawford

Isy is a writer, actress and comedian and a regular on BBC Radio 4, in programmes ranging from documentaries and sketch shows to her solo series Isy Suttie's Love Letters, which won a Gold Sony Award. She has been nominated for three British Comedy Awards, and her TV acting credits include Dobby in Peep Show, Nat in Damned and Ali in Man Down, along with many appearances as herself in shows from Would I Lie To You? to Q.I. She plays Brid in CBBC's High Hoops, and has published two books, a memoir called The Actual One and a novel, Jane Is Trying.

**MONDAY 09 FEBRUARY 2026**

**MON 00:00 Midnight News (m002r3hc)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**MON 00:15 Crossing Continents (m002qrfl)**  
India's sportswomen playing to be seen

How sport is giving some young women in India a way out of child marriage and allowing them to be seen. Officially, the practice of child marriage is illegal in the country. But UNICEF estimates that over 200 million girls and women in India have been married before they turned 18. Take Munna as an example. Her mother was fifteen when she married and Munna herself was only 14 when she was told she would be a child bride. However, she fought back, using football as her weapon. She broke social norms and took up the sport, including wearing shorts on the pitch, and fended off various attempts to marry her off early. Now her rebellion has spread to her youngest sister, who has felt emboldened by her elder sister and has made it to the state football team. Sport has also helped members of a marginalised community - the Siddis, who were originally brought to India from Africa mainly as slaves - to battle against discrimination. For Shahin her route was via judo. Divya Arya reports on how sport is helping some young women to break free from the bonds of early marriage and to forge an identity for themselves.

Producer: John Murphy  
Programme mix: James Beard  
Programme co-ordinator: Katie Morrison  
Series Editor: Penny Murphy

**MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m002r3bn)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

**MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002r3hb)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002r3hb)**  
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 (m002r3hd)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**MON 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002r3hg)**  
News from in and around Westminster with Sean Curran. Sean reports on the latest debate on the assisted dying bill, he's also been hearing from the author of a new book about the campaign for a second Brexit referendum and finding out about the playwright Sheridan's other career, as an MP

**MON 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002r3hj)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002r3hl)**

Finding What's Been Lost

Good morning

It's around this time in the morning that I can often hear our Labrador begin to move downstairs, padding round the kitchen in anticipation of that first walk of the day.

This usually takes us to the nearby golf course. We wind our way through the rougher grass that grows beneath the trees that demarcate the fairways. These are the places golfers hope to avoid, their presence here bears testimony to a mis-directed swing, but because of that, this is also where the many lost balls can be found.

All of this reminds me of the stories Jesus told about things that had gone missing: a wayward sheep, a mislaid coin and even a lost and prodigal son. In every parable there is much lament over what or who cannot be found, and then the weeping gives way to great rejoicing when that which was lost is finally recovered.

Sometimes as I return a missing ball to the tee that lies closest to my house, I pause to reflect on what I may have lost sight of in my own life: what mis-hit hope or poorly swung ambition lies forgotten in the rough parts of my life, waiting to be recovered and put to use again. It's not a bad reflection with which to begin a day but perhaps it's not so good to linger there too long.

Because we are not destined to stay lost. And neither are the hopes for what we might yet become. So, as I return each recovered ball, I remember to give thanks for God, for the someone who might unexpectedly find what's been lost in me and who will bring me back rejoicing to where I truly belong.

Dear God  
who is forever searching out the good in us:  
restore to us our greatest possibilities this morning  
return us to our deepest purposes today  
and help us to discover afresh  
the lost treasures  
that lie within one another  
Amen

#### MON 05:45 Farming Today (m002r3hn)

09/02/26 Farmer protests, Defra farm training, AI in agriculture

Over the past few weeks farmers have been protesting, at ports and around supermarket distribution centres. Why? They say it's a combination of things, from concerns about the impact of imported food to the prices supermarkets pay for UK produce, along with continuing anger over inheritance tax on farms. The Government has raised the threshold, now farmers can pass on a farm worth up to £2.5m without being affected but some say that that's not enough and they want the tax scrapped.

Civil servants will be spending time on farms. The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has agreed a 4 year contract with the Allerton Project to provide training to all its staff and 'deepen their understanding of modern British Agriculture'.

Artificial intelligence is having an impact on many businesses around the world and farming is no exception, so this week we're looking at AI in agriculture. From monitoring the health of crops to measuring their uptake of water and improving animal welfare AI is already being used all around the country.

Presented by Charlotte Smith and produced by Beatrice Fenton.

#### MON 05:57 Weather (m002r3hq)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for farmers

#### MON 06:00 Today (m002r3jp)

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

#### MON 09:00 Start the Week (m002r3jr)

Fun and games

Games are supposed to be fun — so what happens when the logic of games, points and competition escapes the playground and starts reshaping everyday life? The novelist and games-writer Naomi Alderman and her guests explore how the joy of play collides with the pressures of a gamified society.

Philosopher C Thi Nguyen introduces The Score, his examination of how ranking systems and numerical targets can both sharpen and warp our values, revealing how life becomes less playful when everything is reduced to points.

Journalist and critic Keza MacDonald discusses Super Nintendo, her cultural history of the iconic console, tracing how its games, aesthetics and innovations transformed the medium and helped define what play means for generations of players.

The Financial Times' commentator Stephen Bush examines the growing role of games and game like incentives in public life, exploring how the techniques of play — from reward structures to competitive framing — are reshaping political behaviour and communication.

Producer: Katy Hickman

#### MON 09:45 Café Hope (m002r3jt)

Community fitness

Hermen Dange, the founder of Made Running, tells Rachel Burden how the club is creating a community-driven environment, inclusive to everyone, no matter what their level of fitness. The club motto is 'no-one is left behind'.

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 easier. And the key here is in the trying. Not everything works, and there are struggles along the way. But it's always worth a go.

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

Presenter: Rachel Burden  
Series Producer: Jill Collins  
Sound Design: Cameron Ward  
Editor: Clare Fordham

#### MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002r3jw)

Epstein files, Lindsey Vonn, Knife crime, Charles Dickens' women

At the end of January, the US government released new files from its investigation into the sex offender and disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein. The latest drop of material consists of three million pages, and thousands of images and videos. But why has the focus of the coverage been on the political fallout, appearing to show exchanges with high-profile men? What does this say about society's attitude to women more broadly? Some have already been voicing their concerns. Nuala McGovern is joined by Times journalist Helen Rumbelow and Penny East, Chief Executive at the Fawcett Society.

At 41, Lindsey Vonn was hoping to become the oldest athlete to win a downhill skiing medal. The American skier has dominated the sport winning 84 World Cup races along with her three Olympic Winter Games medals. Having already suffered an ACL injury ahead of the Games, but still determined to compete, during the downhill event yesterday she crashed just a few seconds into her race. She had to be airlifted off the course. To find out more, we speak to two-time Winter Olympic snowboarder and broadcaster Aimee Fuller.

Tonight BBC's Panorama focuses on the murder of two teenage boys in South London, Daejaun Campbell and Kelyan Bokassa, killed in 2024 and 2025 - both victims of child criminal exploitation and groomed by local gangs. Nuala speaks to Jodian Taylor, Daejaun's mother, and BBC's Frankie McCamley, the documentary's reporter.

A new exhibition at the Charles Dickens museum celebrates the women who influenced the great Victorian novelist's female characters, social commentary and campaigning to improve the lives of vulnerable women. But how does this sit alongside the other, darker narrative, that Dickens himself was a misogynist who mistreated his own wife? To sort the fact from the fiction, the exhibition curator Kirsty Parsons & the historian Professor Jenny Hartley are in the Woman's Hour studio.

Presenter: Nuala McGovern  
Producer: Kirsty Starkey

#### MON 11:00 Understand (m002r3jy)

An American Journey

#### 4. Life and Liberty

As James Naughtie concludes his series about the ideas tying America's birth 250 years ago to the United States today, he examines freedom, asking whose freedom, and what kind?

He begins in Gettysburg, attending a re-enactment on the battlefield made famous by an address from President Abraham Lincoln in which he asked whether the United States "could long endure". That question is being asked again now, as Americans experience profound disagreements over many of the ideas in this series - economic opportunity, justice, freedom; even what it means to be an American. As he hears, American history itself has become a battlefield. And so

speaking to historians with different perspectives, and senior political leaders from both parties, James assesses how dangerous this moment is for United States.

Producer: Giles Edwards

#### MON 11:45 The Colour of Home by Sajid Javid (m002r3k0)

Episode 1

The shouted racist abuse ricocheted off the walls of the Rochdale underpass that connected Sajid Javid's home and primary school. Even as a five year-old boy, he had learned that 1970s Britain could be a cruel and violent place for those seen as outsiders.

Leaving behind the devastation of Partition, Sajid's father moved from Punjab to the UK in the '60s. The family held on to many of their Indo-Pakistani traditions, setting them apart and often leading to rejection by their new neighbours.

In this tender but powerful memoir, Sajid Javid shares his story of a childhood marked by poverty, racism and the tension produced by trying to conform to two cultures. These led to run-ins with the police, trouble at school and eventually the risk of estrangement from his family by defying their wish for his arranged marriage in favour of choosing the woman he loved. With each new trial, Sajid learned to dig his heels in further, speaking up for himself and stubbornly refusing to accept the limits that seemed imposed by his background.

This is a story of hope, determination and survival - a tribute to the parents who gave everything and the brothers who struggled alongside him - and an invitation to every 'outsider' to keep going and dream big.

Episode One

Sajid Javid's father arrives in the UK in 1961, and works as a bus driver in Greater Manchester. Sajid's mother feels isolated and alone, speaking no English, but works hard to keep house, and to bring up her five sons.

Read by Sajid Javid  
Abridged by Libby Spurrier  
Producer: David Blount

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

#### MON 12:00 News Summary (m002r3k3)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

#### MON 12:04 You and Yours (m002r3k5)

When is a UK bank not a UK bank, lower-strength wines, and are cardigans cool again?

When is a UK bank not a UK bank? A listener tells us that she was caught out by a Facebook marketplace scam, but wasn't eligible for any fraud protection because she sent her money via bank transfer to a foreign bank account - which was using a UK sort code.

When the Sheffield-based law firm PM Law closed unexpectedly last week, hundreds of people were left in the middle of house purchases or re-mortgages, and are now in limbo. We find out what they do next - and if they'll be able to get into their new homes.

The actors Paul Mescal and Austin Butler are among those who have recently been spotted wearing a designer cardigan. We find out if an item known for being uncool is now... cool again?

Plus can you get a lower-strength wine that actually tastes good? We hear from a vintner who thinks he's worked out how to reduce the alcohol level but keeps the taste - and a wine writer who tells us what she thinks of his efforts.

PRESENTER: WINIFRED ROBINSON

PRODUCER: JAMES WICKHAM

#### MON 12:57 Weather (m002r3k7)

The latest weather forecast

#### MON 13:00 World at One (m002r3k9)

News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4

#### MON 13:45 The Hunger Game (m002r3kc)

1. The Wonder Stuff

This five-part series explores the weight loss drug revolution and the meteoric rise of the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture them.

Presented by Professor Giles Yeo, who researches how these

drugs affect the brain in Cambridge University, the series reveals the latest research, tells the story of the scientific breakthroughs that made Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) weight loss drugs possible and describes the marketing strategy that turned them into household names.

Throughout each episode Giles meets researchers, doctors and journalists to discuss the ethical dilemmas of accessibility and affordability and explains what they do and how they work. He also reveals the unexpected impacts that the widespread use of these drugs is having on our health and society.

**Episode 1: The Wonder Stuff**

Giles explains the origin of weight loss drugs and how they were developed. He speaks to Dr. Lotte Bjerre Knudsen who led research in the 1990's that developed the molecule that made them possible, and among other contributors we also meet Giles's own son Harry, who is taking them.

**Contributors:**

Professor Giles Yeo  
Giles Yeo is a Professor of Molecular Neuroendocrinology and programme leader at the MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit in Cambridge, and his research currently focuses on the influence of genes on feeding behaviour and body-weight.

**Harry Yeo**

Harry Yeo is Giles Yeo's son and is currently taking weight loss drugs.

**Dr Luke McDonough**

Luke is an associate professor at the London School of Economics Law School.

**Aimee Donnellan**

Aimee is a Reuters journalist and writes about pharmaceuticals, consumer goods groups, retail and insurance.

**Dr Lotte Bjerre Knudsen**

Lotte is Novo Nordisk's Chief Scientific Advisor, and led the research group back in the early 1990s that first invented the molecule that made them possible.

**Professor Barbara McGowan**

Barbara is a professor of endocrinology and diabetes based at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital

**Dr Graham Easton**

Graham is a Reuteurs associate GP with extensive experience in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. He also takes weight loss drugs.

**Dr Kamran Abbasi**

Kamran is editor in chief of the British Medical Journal

**Henry Dimbleby**

Henry is a British businessman and cookery writer who is a co-founder of Leon Restaurants and the Sustainable Restaurant Association. He was appointed lead non-executive board member of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in March 2018.

**Prof Frank Reimann**

Frank works at the Institute of Metabolic Science in Cambridge alongside Giles Yeo researching how weight loss drugs affect the brain.

**Cheri Ferguson**

Cheri takes weight loss drugs after a lifetime of dieting; 28 days in Cheri noticed her need to vape completely changed.

**Dr Tony Goldstone**

Tony is a clinical associate professor and consultant endocrinologist at Imperial College London.

A Changing World production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 14:00 The Archers (m002r3gy)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

**MON 14:15 Relativity (m001c000)**

Series 4

**Episode 3**

Drawing on his own family, the fourth series of Richard Herring's popular comedy drama has warm, lively characters and sharply observed family dynamics of inter generational misunderstanding, sibling sparring and the ties that bind.

Amid the comedy, Richard broaches some more serious highs and lows of family life. In this series, set during the first year of lockdown, he draws on his own experience of testicular cancer at that time, as well as the comedic escapades of the four generations of the Snell family. Love, laughter and malapropisms abound.

Richard Herring is a comedian, writer, blogger and podcaster and the world's premier semi-professional self-playing snooker player.

**Episode 3**

Ian has a series of medical tests. He and Chloe have to face up to the possibility that he has cancer. Telling his dad Ken is both unexpectedly hilarious and moving.

**Cast:**

Ken ..... Phil Davis  
Ian ..... Richard Herring  
Chloe ..... Emily Harrington  
Dr Harper ..... Fenella Woolgar  
Technician ..... Harrison Knights  
Doctor Kulkarni ..... Ahir Shah  
Nurse Amani ..... Rani Fatania  
Donny ..... Rafael Solomon

**Writer Richard Herring**

Director Polly Thomas  
Sound Design Eloise Whitmore  
Producer Daisy Knight  
Executive Producers Jon Thoday and Richard Allen Turner

An Avalon Television production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 14:45 Opening Lines (m002r3g8)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 14:45 on Sunday]

**MON 15:00 A Good Read (m002r3kg)**

Robin Ince and Philip Hensher

This week's books are:

Water Shall Refuse Them by Lucie McKnight Hardy, chosen by comedian Robin Ince

Pnin by Vladimir Nabokov, chosen by Harriett Gilbert  
Esther Waters by George Moore, chosen by writer Philip Hensher

Producer Sally Heaven, BBC Audio Bristol

**MON 15:30 You're Dead to Me (m002r38z)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Saturday]

**MON 16:00 Currently (m002r3g6)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 13:30 on Sunday]

**MON 16:30 Rewinder (m002r391)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:30 on Saturday]

**MON 17:00 PM (m002r3kj)**

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

**MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002r3kl)**

The Prime Minister faces calls to resign from the Scottish Labour leader

Sir Keir Starmer's entire cabinet has come out in a coordinated show of support for the Prime Minister after the leader of the Scottish Labour Party, Anas Sarwar, publicly called for him to step down. Also: a statement on behalf of the King has said he stands ready to support the police if needed as they investigate his brother's relationship with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. And one of Scotland's last surviving D-Day veterans, Albert Lamond, has died at the age of 100.

**MON 18:30 Just a Minute (m002r3kn)**

Series 96

2. I've never seen anything like it!

Subjects this week include if I were invisible for one hour, double denim and The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. Now which of these might include everyone speaking French?

**Host: Sue Perkins**

Players: Paul Merton, Ciarad Lloyd, Rachel Parris, Paterson Joseph

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

An EcoAudio certified production.

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

**MON 19:00 The Archers (m002r3kq)**

Brian hears Josh's Brookfield inheritance woes. He encourages Josh to be relieved to not be saddled with debt, and to build on his egg enterprise. Josh is put out that Pip will receive a farm worth millions – maybe he should look beyond Brookfield for his future?

Ruairi is planning to visit a large farm to learn about their diversity strategy. With extremes of weather, farming is volatile and grain prices are trending down. Disparaging Brian reminds him of his five decades of farming experience, which counts for a lot in planning. Later, the two discuss Josh's situation – Brian thinks a mid-size operation such as Brookfield is a poisoned chalice. Ruairi is not afraid of taking on a farm and presses Brian on his succession plan. Brian retorts that Ruairi's a long way, if at all, from filling his shoes.

Although Amber compliments Fallon on her coat in the shop, she is not sweetened and gives a barbed suggestion that Amber could help with Speedwatch, to make a mark for the victims of reckless drivers.

Fallon has a plan for Ruth's Valentine surprise. David is to come to The Bull on Friday to help behind the bar, saying they are short staffed. The secret booking is back on!  
George has heard that his accused attacker has pleaded not guilty, so the case will go to court. It raises doubt in his mind about their identity. Amber reassures him that he should not have to worry about it, the court will deal with it.

**MON 19:15 Front Row (m002r3ks)**

Kristen Stewart on her directorial debut, The Chronology of Water

Hollywood star Kristen Stewart talks about her directorial debut, The Chronology of Water, which is a searing portrait of childhood abuse and redemption that's based on the life story of author Lidia Yuknavitch.

Seurat and the Sea is a new exhibition opening at London's Courtauld Gallery. It features 26 paintings and sketches - many of which haven't been seen together since they were created - that show the pointillist painter's love for depicting the coast of northern France.

Bad Bunny has made headlines in the last week for his outspoken political comments following his victory at the Grammys, as well as his historical performance at last weekend's Super Bowl. Radio 1's Xtra's Fee Mak explains what it is about Bad Bunny's music that makes him Spotify's most streamed artist in the world.

Here There are Blueberries is a play inspired by the discovery of an album of snaps of workers relaxing and enjoying time off. But these are the staff of Auschwitz. Writer and director Moises Kaufman explains why and how he and co-writer Amanda Gronich created their extraordinary and timely drama.

Presenter: Samira Ahmed

Producer: Julian May

**MON 20:00 How Did We Get Here? (m002jtxy)**

Israel and the Palestinians

1: From Earliest Times to the Romans

In the first of ten programmes examining the origins and tracing the history of the Middle East conflict, presenter Jonny Dymond is joined by Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones, Professor in Ancient History at Cardiff University, and historian and author Simon Sebag Montefiore, author of 'Jerusalem: The Biography'. They discuss the value of the Bible as a guide to history, the concept of a "promised land", the archaeological record of the various peoples who lived in the region in ancient times, the coming of the Romans, and the Jewish revolts against them in the First and Second Centuries AD.

'How Did We Get Here? Israel and the Palestinians' is a BBC News Long Form Audio production.

The presenter is Jonny Dymond and the editor is Penny Murphy.

The Radio 4 commissioners are Hugh Levinson and Dan Clarke.

The studio engineers are Neil Churchill, James Beard, Rod Farquhar, Mike Regaard and David Crackles.

**MON 20:30 BBC Inside Science (w3ct8txy)**

Where do forever chemicals come from?

This week the UK Government decided it was worried enough about so called 'forever chemicals' to bring in it's first ever plan to tackle them. Environment Minister Emma Hardy called PFAS "one of the most pressing chemical challenges of our time". Stephanie Metzger, policy adviser at the Royal Society of Chemistry talks us through where all these chemicals have

come from, and Lucy Hart, researcher at Lancaster university, brings us new science on their sources.

Technology journalist Gareth Mitchell is in the studio with his take on this week's brand new discoveries.

And as future winter Olympians ready themselves atop Italy's snow-covered peaks, Victoria Gill hears how the chemical make up of ski wax can make or break a gold medal winning run. She hears from Jostein Vinjerui, manager of the British cross-country team, and Pat Sharples, Head Coach for GB Snowsports.

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

Presenter: Victoria Gill  
 Producer: Alex Mansfield, Katie Tomsett, Kate White and Clare Salisbury  
 Editor: Martin Smith  
 Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

**MON 21:00 Start the Week (m002r3jr)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**MON 21:45 Café Hope (m002r3jt)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

**MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m002r3kv)**

Starmer says he will not quit

Sir Keir Starmer has told his MPs that he will not quit after the leader of his party in Scotland called on him to resign. We hear from two Labour backbenchers about the future of the party's leadership.

Also on the programme: Buckingham Palace has released a statement saying it is ready to support the police as they consider allegations against Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor. And we travel to a field in south-west London to kick off our series about how interacting with the natural world affects our mental health.

**MON 22:45 James by Percival Everett (m002r3kx)**

1: Run

An electrifying re-imagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and winner of 2025's Pulitzer Prize, by one of America's greatest contemporary authors.

Mississippi, 1861. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs. Hiding on nearby Jackson Island he tries to formulate a plan. But when his friend Huck Finn arrives with the news that he's faked his own death to escape his violent father, Jim knows he will be blamed. As so begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive promise of the Free States and beyond.

Powerful, electrifying and brimming with the dark humour, this multi award-winning novel has already become a modern classic.

Today: Life as a slave on the Watson farm is hell. But when Jim hears that he's to be sold off, and separated from his family, his only option is to run...

Reader: Rhashan Stone

Writer: Percival Everett (born 1956) is the author of over thirty books, including Telephone, Dr No, The Trees, which was shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize and won the 2022 Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize, and Erasure, which was adapted into the major Oscar-winning film American Fiction. He is the Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California.

Producer: Justine Willett  
 Abrieger: Katrin Williams

**MON 23:00 Limelight (m001g9lr)**

Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Firewall

Episode 4

By James Swallow  
 Dramatised by Paul Cornell

Episode 4

A thrilling landmark adaptation set in Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell universe. Veteran Fourth Echelon agent Sam Fisher, and his daughter Sarah, attempt to infiltrate Brody Teague's T-Tech building in Lisbon. Will they be fast enough to disrupt his

destructive global plans?

Recorded in 3D binaural audio; please listen on headphones for a more immersive experience.

Sam Fisher ..... Andonis Anthony  
 Sarah Fisher ..... Daisy Head  
 Anna Grimsdóttir ..... Rosalie Craig  
 Charlie Cole ..... Sacha Dhawan  
 Brody Teague ..... Will Poulter  
 Samir Patel ..... Nikesh Patel  
 Stone ..... Mihai Arsene  
 Eighteen ..... Olga Fedori  
 First Pilot /Guard.....David Hounslow  
 Second Pilot /Guard ..... Roger Ringrose

Sound design by Sharon Hughes  
 Directed by Nadia Molinari  
 Series Co-Produced by Nadia Molinari, Lorna Newman, Jessica Mitic

A BBC Audio Drama North Production

**MON 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002r3io)**

Sean Curran reports on a day of fevered speculation at Westminster about the prime minister's future after key figures in Downing Street resign.

**TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2026**

**TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m002r3iz)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**TUE 00:30 The Colour of Home by Sajid Javid (m002r3k0)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Monday]

**TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002r3j4)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002r3j6)**

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 (m002r3i8)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**TUE 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002r3ib)**

Alicia McCarthy reports as opposition MPs pile the pressure on the Prime Minister over the Mandelson affair.

**TUE 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002r3jd)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002r3lg)**

Whispering Grass

Good morning,

This week I've noticed catkins growing on the alder trees that border our garden. There was no sign of them at all last week so it's like they've met up secretly in the night and decided, it is Spring and time to then to flourish once again. Maybe that nocturnal gathering is not so very far from the truth.

In recent years I've been fascinated by the science behind what author Peter Wohlleben has called The Hidden Lives of Trees and what is popularly called the Wood Wide Web. This is the discovery that the ground beneath our feet is actually a complex matrix of roots, fungi and bacteria all helping to connect trees and plants to one another, allowing them to share nutrients, water, chemical signals and warning signs of approaching danger. It's like the whole forest is conscious of their need to connect to one another, if they are to flourish.

We must be careful not to read too much into this phenomenon as a metaphor for human relationships and community well-being, but even so, maybe Jesus was onto something when he picked a similar image for human flourishing. 'I am the vine' he said, suggesting that each of us could be like branches, sharing in a matrix of spiritual and emotional encouragement. Staying rooted in God and connected to one another is exactly how we might grow in the important human experiences of love, joy and peace, patience, kindness and goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It's no wonder the Christian church names these virtues as the fruit of the Spirit.

If such positive characteristics are to ripen within us and then be shared between us, maybe there's a lesson to be learned from

the hidden lives of trees.

God of the vine and the branches  
 hold us together  
 in the woodlands of your love  
 and let today be the Springtime of our flourishing.  
 Amen

**TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m002r3lj)**

Flooding, alternatives to farrowing crates, crops through the 'eyes' of AI.

The Country Land and Business Association, CLA, says winter flooding is putting pressure on farm finances, coming after summer drought and during a period of poor arable and milk prices. The CLA's Deputy President, Joe Evans, describes driving past 'hundreds of acres' of 'prime arable land' under water on the outskirts of Worcester. He tells Anna Hill of instances where arable farmers in Somerset have stopped growing crops because of repeated flooding. He believes that farmers could be more resilient, and help protect nearby communities, if they were given the right policy and regulatory support.

The Government has said it plans to end the use of sow farrowing crates under proposals in the new Animal Welfare Bill. These narrow pens are used in indoor pig units, and they confine sows during birth and suckling, for around a month. Their purpose is to prevent sows killing piglets by accidentally lying on them. We visit a farm in East Yorkshire which has been trialling alternative systems for 15 years.

This week we're exploring how artificial intelligence, AI, could help farmers improve efficiency, and reduce the environment footprint of producing food. Today, a project combining AI with a camera which 'sees' things in a different way to the human eye, to understand how plants are behaving. It could eventually help farmers use nitrogen fertiliser much more precisely.

Presenter: Anna Hill  
 Producer: Sarah Swalling

**TUE 06:00 Today (m002r4r1)**

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

**TUE 09:00 Intrigue (m002q872)**

Ransom Man

4. The Zen Garden

Authorities think Julius Kivimäki could be responsible for the Vastaamo data breach and the leaking of patient records.

They want to bring him in for questioning, but he's disappeared. Kivimäki is known to brag about his international lifestyle. He could be anywhere.

Jenny meets Pasi Vainio, the prosecutor who places Kivimäki on Europol's Most Wanted List. Pasi takes Jenny through the evidence that he and his colleagues have painstakingly gathered, trying to figure out who is ransom\_man.

What they find is shocking and surprising, and takes Jenny closer to home than she ever expected.

Through all of this, one man has stood by Kivimäki's side - his lawyer, Peter Jaari. Jenny heads to Peter's Helsinki office to see if he can provide any answers.

The search for Kivimäki leads to a confrontation that no one saw coming.

Written and presented by Jenny Kleeman.

Producer: Sam Peach.  
 Executive Producer: Georgia Catt.  
 Sound Design: Sam Peach  
 Original music composed, performed and produced by Echo Collective: Neil Leiter, Margaret Hermant and Fabien Leseure.  
 A BBC Studios Production  
 Commissioning Executive is Tracy Williams  
 Commissioner: Dan Clarke

**TUE 09:30 Inside Health (m002r3nn)**

Why is it so hard to find an NHS dentist?

Dentistry is high on the public and political agenda. There have been dozens of headlines about access to NHS dentistry, with some people having to travel huge distances to find a dentist, or being put onto long waiting lists to get an NHS appointment.

In this episode of Inside Health, James Gallagher is joined by chairman of the British Dental Association Eddie Crouch, the Oral Health Foundation's Dr Rachael England, and consultant

oral surgeon Tom Thayer. Together, they drill into the issues surrounding NHS dentistry. Along the way, they discuss possible solutions, whether contract reforms will help, and the potential future of dentistry in the UK.

Presenter: James Gallagher  
Producers: Alice Lipscombe-Southwell and Thomas Hunt  
Production coordinator: Stuart Laws  
Content editor: Ilan Goodman

**TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002r4r3)**

Mia Brookes' mum. Cyberflashing. Samurai. Sex in older age

Team GB snowboarder Mia Brookes gave an amazing performance last night coming fourth in the women's snowboard big air final at the Winter Olympics in Italy. The 19-year-old had been hoping to become Great Britain's first gold medalist on snow. She went for a backside 1620 trick - featuring four-and-a-half rotations - and landed before she over-rotated and her heel edge caught in the snow. Mia's mum, Vicky Brookes, joins presenter Nuala McGovern on the line from her campervan in Livigno close to the Olympic venue.

A musician who sent lewd images of himself to two women he had never met has been given a 12-month suspended sentence for cyberflashing. Ben Gunnery, 46, sent his victims unsolicited images of his genitals and videos of him masturbating. As the scale of his offending is revealed by a BBC Investigation, we hear from BBC Midlands Investigations' senior reporter Nicola Goodwin.

A new exhibition at the British Museum, Samurai, reveals the untold history of Japan's Samurai class, including the fact that half of them were women. Known as onna bugeisha, these women trained, fought, governed and defended their communities and shaped the samurai legacy. We explore the image and myths of these iconic warriors over the past 1,000 years with exhibition curator Dr Rosina Buckland and Jennifer Coates, Professor in Japanese Studies at Sheffield University.

New research suggests that almost 70% of NHS areas in England now offer only one cycle of IVF for women under 40—despite official guidance saying three full cycles should be offered. A fertility charity says the situation is having a devastating impact on people struggling to conceive. We hear from Sarah Norcross, director of the fertility charity Progress Educational Trust.

Three in five people over the age of 50 think that sex is important in a relationship, yet many struggle to talk about it. That's according to new research from Age UK, which discovered many of the people they spoke to felt their sexual wellbeing was being sidelined by healthcare professionals, and a quarter wanted more information. As the charity publishes a new guide on sex and intimacy, we speak to Dr Lis Boulton from Age UK, and psychologist Jo Hemmings about intimacy in our later years.

Presenter: Nuala McGovern  
Producer: Sarah Jane Griffiths

**TUE 11:00 Screenshot (m002qv80)**  
Yorkshire

As a new adaptation of Emily Bronte's Yorkshire-set novel Wuthering Heights hits cinemas, Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermodie look at how the area known as God's Own Country has been depicted in film and television.

Mark speaks to Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker about his love for the 1969 Ken Loach film Kes, and about why the city of Sheffield was the perfect setting for the post-apocalyptic TV drama Threads.

And Mark also speaks to Clio Barnard - the writer-director behind such acclaimed films as The Arbor, The Selfish Giant and Ali & Ava - about why she is repeatedly drawn to Yorkshire in her film-making.

Meanwhile, Ellen talks to Sally Wainwright, the prolific TV writer who has made her name with a series of insightful, essential television dramas set in Yorkshire, from At Home with the Braithwaites to Riot Women.

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

**TUE 11:45 The Colour of Home by Sajid Javid (m002r4r5)**  
Episode 2

The shouted racist abuse ricocheted off the walls of the Rochdale underpass that connected Sajid Javid's home and primary school. Even as a five year-old boy, he had learned that 1970s Britain could be a cruel and violent place for those seen as outsiders.

Leaving behind the devastation of Partition, Sajid's father moved from Punjab to the UK in the '60s. The family held on to many of their Indo-Pakistani traditions, setting them apart and often leading to rejection by their new neighbours.

In this tender but powerful memoir, Sajid Javid shares his story of a childhood marked by poverty, racism and the tension produced by trying to conform to two cultures. These led to run-ins with the police, trouble at school and eventually the risk of estrangement from his family by defying their wish for his arranged marriage in favour of choosing the woman he loved. With each new trial, Sajid learned to dig his heels in further, speaking up for himself and stubbornly refusing to accept the limits that seemed imposed by his background.

This is a story of hope, determination and survival - a tribute to the parents who gave everything and the brothers who struggled alongside him - and an invitation to every 'outsider' to keep going and dream big.

Episode Two  
Sajid's father moves the family from Rochdale to Bristol, to realise his dream of becoming a full-time businessman. At school, Sajid experiences racism first hand.

Read by Sajid Javid  
Abridged by Libby Spurrier  
Producer: David Blount

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 12:00 News Summary (m002r4r7)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 12:04 You and Yours (m002r4r9)**

What's Your Experience of Customer Service?

More firms are using AI and chatbots to be the first point of call when you need to talk to a company or make a complaint.

But customers don't tend to like them, and by the time we've navigated the robots to get through to an agent, we're often even more annoyed than we were at the start.

It's a subject you're never shy to give us your views on - so now's your chance. For the You and Yours phone-in, we want you to tell us your experience of customer service.

Do chatbots beat sitting on hold for hours? What does good - and bad - customer service look and sound like?

We'd love to hear from you if you've worked in customer service. Tell us what it's like being at the other end of the phone.

Get in touch now - email youandyours@bbc.co.uk and please include a phone number so we can call you back. You can also call us on 03700 100 444 after 11am on Tuesday 10 February.

PRESENTER: WINIFRED ROBINSON

PRODUCER: CHARLIE FILMER-COURT

**TUE 12:57 Weather (m002r4rc)**

The latest weather forecast

**TUE 13:00 World at One (m002r4rf)**

PM Starmer thanks cabinet for support

Energy secretary Ed Miliband says the PM faced a 'moment of peril' yesterday. The World at One talks to one of Starmer's closest allies and also an MSP who backs call for him to go.

**TUE 13:45 The Hunger Game (m002r4rh)**

2. The Approval

This five-part series explores the weight loss drug revolution and the meteoric rise of the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture them.

Presented by Professor Giles Yeo, who researches how these drugs affect the brain in Cambridge University, the series reveals the latest research, tells the story of the scientific breakthroughs that made Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) weight loss drugs possible and describes the marketing strategy that turned them into household names.

Throughout each episode Giles meets researchers, doctors and journalists to discuss the ethical dilemmas of accessibility and affordability and explains what they do and how they work. He also reveals the unexpected impacts that the widespread use of these drugs is having on our health and society.

Episode 2: The Approval

In this episode Giles explains how a venomous lizard called a 'Gila Monster' helped to make weight loss drugs possible, takes us through the race between two huge pharmaceutical companies to get the drugs to market, and how the drugs were finally approved.

Contributors:  
Professor Giles Yeo  
Giles Yeo is a Professor of Molecular Neuroendocrinology and programme leader at the MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit in Cambridge, and his research currently focuses on the influence of genes on feeding behaviour and body-weight.

Harry Yeo  
Harry Yeo is Giles Yeo's son and is currently taking weight loss drugs.

Dr Luke McDonough  
Luke is an associate professor at the London School of Economics Law School.

Aimee Donnellan  
Aimee is a Reuters journalist and writes about pharmaceuticals, consumer goods groups, retail and insurance.

Dr Lotte Bjerre Knudsen  
Lotte is Novo Nordisk's Chief Scientific Advisor, and led the research group back in the early 1990s that first invented the molecule that made them possible.

Professor Barbara McGowan  
Barbara is a professor of endocrinology and diabetes based at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital

Dr Graham Easton  
Graham is an academic GP with extensive experience in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. He also takes weight loss drugs.

Dr Kamran Abbasi  
Kamran is editor in chief of the British Medical Journal

Henry Dimbleby  
Henry is a British businessman and cookery writer who is a co-founder of Leon Restaurants and the Sustainable Restaurant Association. He was appointed lead non-executive board member of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in March 2018.

Prof Frank Reimann  
Frank works at the Institute of Metabolic Science in Cambridge alongside Giles Yeo researching how weight loss drugs affect the brain.

Cheri Ferguson  
Cheri takes weight loss drugs after a lifetime of dieting; 28 days in Cheri noticed her need to vape completely changed.

Dr Tony Goldstone  
Tony is a clinical associate professor and consultant endocrinologist at Imperial College London.

A Changing World production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 14:00 The Archers (m002r3kq)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

**TUE 14:15 This Thing of Darkness (m002r4rk)**

Series 4

2. The Unsaid

by Frances Poet with monologues by Eileen Horne.

Part Two – The Unsaid

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

Lindsay has agreed to take part in family therapy in the secure unit where Kathleen is being held. Unanswered questions and long-held resentments surface as Lindsay struggles to understand her mother's actions.

Dr Alex Bridges ..... Lolita Chakrabarti  
Kathleen ..... Maureen Beattie  
Lindsay ..... Helen Mackay  
Daniel ..... Nicholas Karimi

Production Coordinators: Rosalind Gibson and Ellie Marsh  
Sound recording : Andy Hay and Fraser Jackson  
Sound Design: Fraser Jackson

Series Consultant: Dr Gwen Adshead

Series format created by Lucia Haynes, Audrey Gillan, Eileen

Horne, Gaynor Macfarlane, Anita Vettesse and Kirsty Williams.

A BBC Audio Scotland Production produced by Kirsty Williams and directed by Gaynor Macfarlane

**TUE 15:00 Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley (m002pqr1)**  
Series 4

59. Kitty Newton - Killer Daughter

Lucy Worsley meets Kitty Newton, a daughter accused of killing her very own mother. With her team of all female detectives, Lucy uncovers long buried secrets in the Newton family - but could these truly be the motive for such a terrible crime?

Would a daughter really kill her very own mother? If so, why?

It is 1848, in the chill depths of winter. In the early hours of the morning a servant, Mary Corfield, stumbles upon a grisly discovery - the lifeless, charred body of an elderly lady, Ann Newton. At first sight the death looks suspicious, and the woman's daughter, Kitty Newton, is arrested on the spot.

In this episode, historian Professor Rosalind Crone heads to the market town of Bridgnorth in Shropshire to visit the scene of the alleged crime. She also goes to Bridgnorth Town Hall where an inquest into the death of Ann Newton took place.

Back in the studio, Lucy is joined by crime writer Dorothy Koomson, author of *The Ice Cream Girls* and *All My Lies are True*. She's known for her sharp insights into the tangled dynamics between mothers and daughters, vital skills to help examine this sinister case.

Together, Lucy, Ros and Dorothy piece together the clues and the possible means, motive and opportunity.

Was the fire that killed Ann Newton a terrible accident or was it set by her daughter?

Producer: Emily Hughes

Readers: Clare Corbett, Jonathan Keeble, Ruth Sillers and Bill Hope

Sound Design: Chris Maclean

Executive Producer: Kirsty Hunter

A StoryHunter production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 15:30 Thinking Allowed (m002r4rn)**  
Prison violence, sound and survival

The winner of the British Society of Criminology Book Award in 2025 was Kate Herry. Her study looks at the way our different senses contribute to the experience of prison life and is called *Sound, Order and Survival in Prison: The Rhythms and Routines of HMP Midtown*. Her research looks at the way for many prisoners, listening becomes a vital survival practice.

Kate Gooch is a Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Bath. In her new book, *'Prison Violence - The Search for Recognition and Respect'*, she analyses the nature, causes and culture of prison victimisation in an English young offender institution for men aged 18-21 years old. Her research examines how hierarchies develop, how fear circulates, and how both staff and young men negotiate constantly shifting landscapes of threat, reputation and authority.

Laurie Taylor presents.

Producer: Natalia Fernandez

**TUE 16:00 Artworks (m002r4rq)**  
Drama in Schools: An Unfolding Tragedy?

Drama has exited stage left from many school timetables in recent years. The number of pupils in England sitting Drama GCSE and A-Level has halved since 2010. So why does it matter and should we care? The actor Christopher Eccleston investigates the demise of drama and asks whether it can be rekindled in the wake of a government curriculum review that insisted it should be given equal status to humanities and language. Christopher shares his own personal experience of drama lessons at school which he says transformed his life. He drops in on drama classes at Towers School in Ashford in Kent to hear the experiences of pupils and speaks to theatre practitioners from the National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company and National Youth Theatre. He also speaks to STEM UK about the importance of striking a balance between learning about STEM subjects and the arts.

Produced in Bristol for BBC Audio by Robin Markwell

This programme features a short clip of *Antigone* performed at the National Theatre by Christopher Eccleston and Jodie Whittaker in 2012

**TUE 16:30 What's Up Docs? (m002r4rs)**

Why do we kiss?

Welcome to *What's Up Docs?*, the podcast where doctors and identical twins Chris and Xand van Tulleken try to get to the bottom of the ideas shaping our health and wellbeing.

In this Valentine's Day-themed episode, they turn their attention to kissing. Why do humans kiss, how did it evolve, and does it offer any biological advantage? They also explore the meaning behind different types of kisses and whether kissing is truly universal among humans – and what it means if it isn't.

To help them untangle the science behind one of our most intimate behaviours, they're joined by Evolutionary Biologist, Dr Matilda Brindle.

If you want to get in touch, you can email us at [whatsupdocs@bbc.co.uk](mailto:whatsupdocs@bbc.co.uk) or WhatsApp us on 08000 665 123.

Presenters: Drs Chris and Xand van Tulleken

Guest: Dr Matilda Brindle

Producer: Maia Miller-Lewis

Executive Producer: Rami Tzabar

Editor: Jo Rowntree

Researcher: Grace Revill

Tech Lead: Reuben Huxtable

Social Media: Leon Gower

Digital Lead: Richard Berry

Composer: Phoebe McFarlane

Sound Design: Ruth Rainey

At the BBC:

Assistant Commissioner: Greg Smith

Commissioning Editor: Rhian Roberts

A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4

**TUE 17:00 PM (m002r4rv)**

Inside Iran

We hear from Iran as the first BBC journalist gets access to the nation following weeks of protest, we speak to Labour Party Chair Anna Turley as Prime Minister Keir Starmer affirms that he will stay in post and we take a look at the world of citizen journalism and give you advice on how to do it yourself.

**TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002r4rx)**

Sir Keir Starmer says he will "never walk away" from his mandate to change the country

Sir Keir Starmer has insisted he will "never walk away" from his mandate to change the country after coming under intense pressure to resign in the wake of the scandal surrounding Lord Mandelson. Also: A teenager has been jailed for at least 13 years for what police say was the random, unprovoked murder of a 12-year-old boy as he walked home from school. And a village in the Lake District says it is "dismayed" no doctors want to work there after an advert for a new GP failed to attract a single applicant.

**TUE 18:30 You Heard It Here First (m002r4rz)**

Series 3

5. 'The Worst Anyone's Ever Done'

Chris McCausland asks Lou Sanders and John Tothill to take on Kerry Godliman and Pete Wicks. The teams must decipher waveform waffle by guessing what product is being advertised, what famous movie scenes kids are describing, and what year of sounds their time machine has landed in.

Producer: Sasha Bobak

Assistant Producer: Eve Delaney

Executive Producer: Pete Strauss

Production Coordinator: Jodie Charman

A BBC Studios Production.

**TUE 19:00 The Archers (m002r3mx)**

Intrigued Tracy takes excited Chelsea to the Stables, where Alice is waiting to show them something. It's a motorised horsebox: filthy, with stiff handles and a terrible odour. Chelsea deems it perfect for her new mobile hairdressing salon. Stunned, Tracy asks what's wrong with a car, but Chelsea has a plan: cleaned and painted, with a styling chair and faux flowers across the ceiling, this would make her really stand out from the crowd. The only hitch is that it's over Chelsea's budget. She wonders if her mum could help her out with the shortfall. She's saved a lot from working hard at the Tearoom and the Orangery, and from her hairdressing clients. Tracy flatly refuses – top marks for ambition, but even if she had the money, there's no way she'd help fund something so ridiculous, especially as Chelsea can afford a decent second-hand car.

George updates Emma on Amber's mum's distressing reaction to the pregnancy. Seeing the atmosphere Amber grew up in, it's

made George reflect on the Grundy family, and he realises how lucky he's been. He asks Emma to think back to when he woke up in hospital as it's hazy – was it George who first suggested Markie's gang, or Emma or Amber? He's becoming increasingly doubtful that the accused men are guilty. Later, when helping to babysit Martha at Little Grange, flustered George insists on leaving. He has remembered something important.

**TUE 19:15 Front Row (m002r4s1)**

Yes Minister creator Jonathan Lynn on revisiting the characters in his new play

The creator of *Yes Minister* - Jonathan Lynn - on his new play *I'm Sorry Prime Minister*. Griff Rhys Jones plays Jim Hacker, the octogenarian former Prime Minister. Clive Francis plays civil servant Sir Humphrey in this elegiac comedy which draws the saga to a close.

Inside Aardman is a new exhibition opening at the Young V&A this week to mark the 50th anniversary of the creative company who have brought plasticine stop-motion animation to a global stage in the form of Wallace and Gromit. Tom is joined by stop-motion animator and director Joseph Wallace and Jez Stewart, curator of animation for the BFI National Archive to discuss the exhibition and the state of stop-motion animation today.

And director Amy Berg talks about her archive rich documentary *It's Never Over* about the late singer Jeff Buckley.

Presenter: Tom Sutcliffe

**TUE 20:00 File on 4 Investigates (m002r3md)**

Is the answer to the NHS bed crisis virtual?

Virtual Wards, where patients receive hospital care at home, were heralded as one solution to help deal with the bed crisis in NHS hospitals. The system is popular with patients and has had successes, but some health boards in England have put the brakes on and the number of virtual beds has stalled in the last 12 months. Jane Deith meets the doctors on the front line of providing care to patients with acute conditions in their own homes and the people who benefit from being able to stay out of hospital.

Supporters of virtual wards or hospital at home say it's better for patients, saves money and prevents a significant number of hospital admissions. But some doctors question whether the system can make much difference unless it is introduced at scale.

District nurses are the original method of keeping people well and out of hospital. But in the last fifteen years, their number in England has almost halved - down 43 percent. Jane goes out with one nurse on a shift to see the work they do and hears from nurse leaders about concerns that district nurses are overstretched, leading to concerns about patient care.

Reporter: Jane Deith

Producer: Paul Grant

Technical Producer: Cameron Ward

Production Co-ordinator: Tim Fernley

Editor: Tara McDermott

**TUE 20:40 In Touch (m002r4s3)**

Pavement Parking in England, Charity Law

Councils across England are to be given more extensive powers to tackle pavement parking. The new powers are due to take effect later this year, alongside guidance on how the rules can be enforced in a proportionate way. The Local Government Association provide *In Touch* with details of what these new powers might look like across the country and when. A nationwide ban was introduced in Scotland a couple of years ago; we check in on how that has been going.

Following on from last weeks update on the Macular Society controversy, an independent charity lawyer provides information about the rights of members and the roles of the trustees within a charitable organisation.

Presenter: Peter White

Producer: Beth Hemmings

Production Coordinator: Helen Surtees

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 Illuminated (m002r3h0)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:15 on Sunday]

**TUE 21:30 The Bottom Line (m002qthh)**

Dynamic Pricing: Who Profits?

Everyone wants to get the best price they can when they buy, whether that's a product, a service or an experience. But the 'best price' can look different for different people, and at different times.

Surge pricing, tiered prices, off-peak discounts, time-of-use pricing- technology has enabled more industries to employ dynamic pricing to get the best prices for their products by altering them depending on a range of sophisticated considerations.

But this has made pricing less predictable and left customers feeling like the prices are often stacked against them; most notably after the Oasis reunion tour ticket sales in 2024.

Is dynamic pricing really as bad as we all think? Evan and guests look at the psychology behind consumer perceptions of dynamic pricing, and ask how different industries can utilise the pricing model to benefit themselves and their customers.

## Guests:

Richard Howle, founder of RH Insights  
Zoisia North-Bond, CEO of Octopus Energy for Business  
Marco Bertini, Professor of Marketing at Esade Business School

## Production team:

Presenter: Evan Davis  
Producer: Mhairi MacKenzie  
Production Co-ordinator: Katie Morrison  
Sound engineers: Daniel Fox and Steve Greenwood  
Editor: Matt Willis

The Bottom Line is produced in partnership with The Open University

**TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m002r4s5)**

Has Starmer weathered the storm?

The Prime Minister may have won himself a reprieve after the departure of two of his top advisers, but many MPs will be looking for a radical reset of his government in order to maintain their support. But the fallout continued as two Labour figures were suspended for their association not with Jeffrey Epstein, but with a different sex offender.

Also on the programme: The founder of independent Russian news organisation Meduza on the impact of new restrictions on the messaging app Telegram.

And we speak to one of the Danes covering up statues of naked women with knitwear.

**TUE 22:45 James by Percival Everett (m002r4s7)**

2: Bounty

Percival Everett's electrifying re-imagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and winner of 2025's Pulitzer Prize.

Mississippi, 1861. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs. Hiding on nearby Jackson Island he tries to formulate a plan. But when his friend Huck Finn arrives with the news that he's faked his own death to escape his violent father, Jim knows he will be blamed. As so begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive promise of the Free States and beyond.

Powerful, electrifying and brimming with the dark humour, this multi award-winning novel has already become a modern classic.

Today: When Jim learns that Huck has faked his own death, he knows blame will land on him. The must run...

## Reader: Rhashan Stone

Writer: Percival Everett (born 1956) is the author of over thirty books, including Telephone, Dr No, The Trees, which was shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize and won the 2022 Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize, and Erasure, which was adapted into the major Oscar-winning film American Fiction. He is the Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California.  
Producer: Justine Willett  
Abridger: Katrin Williams

**TUE 23:00 Artworks (m002j3b)**

Love's Moment: RS Thomas and Mildred Eldridge

Known as one of Wales' greatest 20th-century poets, RS Thomas is often characterised as a difficult, even cantankerous figure. 25 years since his death, fellow poet and friend Gwyneth

Lewis uncovers a hidden, private side to his life and work - as she explores the tension and tenderness within his marriage to the painter Mildred Elsie Eldridge.

RS Thomas wrote dozens of poems to his first wife, from early reflections on their courtship to moving elegies following her death. Yet his marriage, like much of his life, was complex and unusual - defined as much by silence and distance as by affection.

When they met, Mildred Eldridge was the star - an established and award-winning painter - while RS Thomas was still finding his poetic voice. Gwyneth Lewis follows the journey of their life together and considers why their career trajectories diverged so sharply - his path as a poet ascended to ever greater heights, hers as an artist dwindled.

With access to Mildred Eldridge's unpublished journals, we hear her voice in the marriage for the first time - a perspective largely absent until now. Gwyneth considers what this remarkable relationship tells us not only about art but, more importantly, about love.

Presenter: Gwyneth Lewis

Producer: Huw Meredydd

Executive Producer: Steven Rajam

Mildred Eldridge's journal is narrated by Sharon Morgan

An Astud production for BBC Radio 4

Poems by RS Thomas included in the programme:

A Marriage - Collected Later Poems 1988-2000 (Bloodaxe Books, 2004)

Pilgrimages - Collected Poems 1945-1990 (Orion Books, 1993)  
The Way of It - Collected Poems 1945-1990 (Orion Books, 1993)

He and She - Collected Poems 1945-1990 (Orion Books, 1993)

Anniversary - Collected Later Poems 1988-2000 (Bloodaxe Books, 2004)

**TUE 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002r4s9)**

Alicia McCarthy reports from Westminster as MPs demand answers about the UK's multi-million pound defence deal with the US tech giant, Palantir.

**WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026****WED 00:00 Midnight News (m002r4sc)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 00:30 The Colour of Home by Sajid Javid (m002r4r5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Tuesday]

**WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002r4sf)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002r4sh)**

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 (m002r4sk)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002r4sm)**

Sean Curran reports as MPs question the government over what the prime minister knew about a contract with the US tech firm Palantir.

**WED 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002r4sp)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002r4sr)**

The Freedom of Forgiveness

Good morning,

On the day when, back in 1990, Nelson Mandela was released from prison in South Africa. It brought to an end, 27 years behind bars for resisting apartheid. When I was a child, I was mesmerised when adults remembered what they were doing, when the news broke of some such significant event. Now I have some memories of my own. I know where I watched the events of 9/11 and when Princess Diana died in Paris. But the memories are not all about disaster or death. I have very clear recollections of good news stories too: the Live Aid Concerts, the collapse of the Berlin Wall and I can remember so clearly, that day, when Mandela was finally set free.

Famously, as prisoner 46664 left his final prison cell, he reflected that if he did not also leave his bitterness and hatred behind, then, at least psychologically and spiritually he would remain incarcerated for life. There is perhaps nothing more difficult to do than to walk a long road to a freedom that requires us to forgive someone who has caused us harm or upset. Mandela knew well that forgiving does not mean forgetting or ignoring that the harm was done to us but it does mean, no longer allowing that harm to define who we can become. Maybe that's why, when Jesus was asked about how many times we should forgive someone, he told the disciples 'not just seven times, but seventy times seven'. Keep doing it, in other words, because perhaps it's less about how often we are hurt and more about how often our anger and pain return, threatening to imprison us again.

If like Mandela, we can find our way to forgiveness, then maybe every day will have its own good news moments of personal release.

## Forgiving God

Lead us today

on this long road to freedom

and seventy times seven

give us the grace to take another onward step.

Amen

**WED 05:45 Farming Today (m002r4st)**

Aberdeenshire inundated, Big Brother is watching moo, Welsh suckler beef in decline

Eastern Scotland is usually relatively dry but so far this year it's experienced record-breaking rainfall. Aberdeen last saw sunshine on 19th of January. We hear from arable and beef farmer Jack Stevenson in his, very wet, winter wheat fields on the East Coast. He tells us some parts of Aberdeenshire have seen about a quarter of their annual rainfall in a matter of weeks during January and February.

Artificial intelligence, AI, is starting to influence many aspects of everyday life. Farming is no exception, and this week we're looking at how the technology might be harnessed to help solve some tricky problems. Today: dairy cows' health and welfare. The University of Bristol vet school's farm is using AI and CCTV cameras to spot changes in behaviour among its dairy cows, to find out whether it can pick up potential issues sooner than human herd managers. The project has turned a barn into a bovine Big Brother House.

Beef cows grazing with their calves are a traditional part of the landscape, particularly in upland areas of the UK. But a new report says Welsh beef suckler herd numbers have decreased by nearly 40 percent over the last two decades. The National Farmers Union in Wales, - NFU Cymru - produced the report, and it says this approach to beef farming is in need of urgent support.

Presenter: Anna Hill

Producer: Sarah Swadling

**WED 06:00 Today (m002r3m6)**

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

**WED 09:00 Sideways (m002r3m8)**

80. Broody Men

Simon Burrell always imagined he'd be a dad one day. But as the years pass, it's something he dismisses. Simon is gay, single and approaching 50. But then, an honest conversation with a friend resurfaces that deep, buried desire to parent a child. And Simon goes to extraordinary lengths to make it a reality.

Matthew Syed follows Simon's unconventional journey to single fatherhood, explores why male 'baby lust' - the intense desire to be a parent - is often overlooked and how popular culture helps reinforce stereotypes that assume women yearn for a baby more than men.

With Simon Burrell; Dr Robin Hadley, a researcher in male childlessness and evolutionary anthropologist; and author of the book The Life of Dad, Dr Anna Machin.

Presenter: Matthew Syed

Producer: Vishva Samani

Editor: Katherine Godfrey

Sound Design and Mix: Mark Pittam

Theme music by Ioana Selaru

A Novel production for BBC Radio 4

Featuring archive from:

Finding Surrogacy: Real Life Gay Dads, produced and directed by Andrew Webb, for ITV Meridian Broadcasting, 2000

Father of the Bride Part II, directed by Charles Shyer, written

by Nancy Meyers, produced by Touchstone Pictures - a film label of The Walt Disney Company, distributed by Buena Vista Pictures Distribution, 1995

Bridget Jones's Diary, directed by Sharon Maguire, written by Helen Fielding, Andrew Davies and Richard Curtis, co-produced by Working Title Films, Universal Pictures and StudioCanal, distributed by Miramax Films and United International Pictures, 2001

Episode 29 Pancakes from the series Peppa Pig (Season 1), created, written and directed by Mark Baker and Neville Astley, produced by Astley Baker Davies / Hasbro Entertainment, original UK air date: 2 July 2004 (Channel 5)

**WED 09:30 The History Bureau (m002qjrt)**  
Putin and the Apartment Bombs

#### 4. The Poisoning

Two men challenging the FSB's story flee to London seeking safety, only to end up dead.

Years after the apartment bombings shook Russia a press conference is held in London, led by exiled oligarch Boris Berezovsky. Once a kingmaker who helped propel Putin to power, Berezovsky now claims the bombs were an inside job. And in the room sits another man, Alexander Litvinenko, whose own investigation into the bombings will set him on a perilous collision course with the Kremlin. As the danger moves across borders, one question lingers: how high is the price for speaking out? In this episode, Helena speaks to Jeremy Vine and Gordon Corera, two journalists who followed the story from the UK.

In Season 1 of The History Bureau, presenter Helena Merriman returns to one of the most contested - and consequential - stories in modern Russia. In September 1999, just weeks after Vladimir Putin became Prime Minister, four bombs blew up four apartment buildings across Russia. The bombs exploded in the middle of the night, killing hundreds of people while they slept. In this season, Merriman returns to the story with the reporters who were there on the ground. What did they get right first time around? And, in the chaos and confusion of unfolding events, what did they miss?

Presenter: Helena Merriman  
Series Producer: Sarah Shebbeare  
Executive Editor: Annie Brown

**WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002r3mb)**

Virginia Giuffre's co-author, SEND reforms, impact of Ian Paterson's crimes

Clare McDonnell speaks to Amy Wallace, the co-author of Virginia Giuffre's memoir, Nobody's Girl. Amy spent two years closely working with Virginia - one of the most prominent and vocal accusers of child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and an advocate of justice for survivors of sex trafficking. We hear Amy's reactions to the latest Epstein revelations.

More than 1.7 million children in England have special needs and today, the government has announced that all secondary schools and colleges will be expected to have a dedicated Special Educational Needs and Disability - or SEND - base. Called an 'inclusion base' it would be a dedicated safe space away from busy classrooms where pupils can access targeted support that bridges the gap between mainstream and specialist provision. We speak to BBC education reporter Kate McGough and Margaret Mulholland, SEND and Inclusion specialist for the Association of School and College Leaders.

Deborah Douglas has written a memoir about her experience as a victim turned campaigner in one of the biggest scandals in British medical history. Her story sits at the centre of the case of disgraced breast surgeon Ian Paterson, jailed in 2017 for performing harmful and unnecessary operations on women who believed they were being treated for cancer. An inquiry in 2020 found both NHS and private hospitals missed repeated chances to stop him. Deborah joins Clare to discuss The Cost of Trust.

The classical concert pianist Alexandra Dariescu performs in studio, and tells us why she is so dedicated to promoting the works of female composers.

Presenter: Clare McDonnell  
Producer: Helen Fitzhenry

**WED 11:00 File on 4 Investigates (m002r3md)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 11:40 This Week in History (m002r3mg)**  
9th to 15th February

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

This week: 9th to 15th February

13th February 1258 - Five centuries of Abbasid rule ends when Baghdad falls to the Mongols.  
11th February 1990 - Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.  
15th February 1971 - Britain converts to decimal currency.

Presented by Jane Steel and Ron Brown.

**WED 11:45 The Colour of Home by Sajid Javid (m002r3mj)**  
Episode 3

The shouted racist abuse ricocheted off the walls of the Rochdale underpass that connected Sajid Javid's home and primary school. Even as a five year-old boy, he had learned that 1970s Britain could be a cruel and violent place for those seen as outsiders.

Leaving behind the devastation of Partition, Sajid's father moved from Punjab to the UK in the '60s. The family held on to many of their Indo-Pakistani traditions, setting them apart and often leading to rejection by their new neighbours.

In this tender but powerful memoir, Sajid Javid shares his story of a childhood marked by poverty, racism and the tension produced by trying to conform to two cultures. These led to run-ins with the police, trouble at school and eventually the risk of estrangement from his family by defying their wish for his arranged marriage in favour of choosing the woman he loved. With each new trial, Sajid learned to dig his heels in further, speaking up for himself and stubbornly refusing to accept the limits that seemed imposed by his background.

This is a story of hope, determination and survival - a tribute to the parents who gave everything and the brothers who struggled alongside him - and an invitation to every 'outsider' to keep going and dream big.

Episode Three  
Sajid has fun setting up his own local radio station in his father's clothes shop. But things take a darker turn, when he and his brother Basit find themselves on the wrong side of the law.

Read by Sajid Javid  
Abridged by Libby Spurrier  
Producer: David Blount

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 12:00 News Summary (m002r3ml)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**WED 12:04 You and Yours (m002r3mn)**

No Work Fridays, Stolen Houses, Driving Holidays

In the UK, an increasing number of companies are offering a four-day work week. However, not every business is on board, and it seems that some workers might be taking matters into their own hands without their employer's permission. On 1 August 2025, an analysis by Virgin Media found that UK web traffic dips by 8% after 3pm on Fridays. We find out what workers are doing instead and whether this actually impacts productivity.

Four years ago, a listener emailed us to say that his house had been sold by someone else without his knowledge. Our reporter Shari Vahl has been investigating this issue for several years and found this was not an isolated case. Shari gives an update as four men appear in court charged with conspiracy to defraud.

According to YouGov, more than a third of people in the UK use wearable devices like smart watches. They're extremely popular, with market researchers Mintel forecasting that the UK market will continue to grow. However, the constant tracking and notifications are not to everyone's tastes. We hear why some people are shunning wearable technology and what it means for the traditional watch market.

Roughly a quarter of people in the UK are planning a road trip this year, according to Hilton Hotels. A large part of this is driven by camping and caravan trips, ABTA also say are on the rise. From campervan holidays around Scotland to sports car tours of the French riviera, we'll discuss why there's growth in the sector and what you should think about if planning a road trip.

**WED 12:57 Weather (m002r3mq)**  
The latest weather forecast

**WED 13:00 World at One (m002r3ms)**  
Al Fayed victims demand human trafficking probe

Isabella, who says she was assaulted by Mohamed Al Fayed in 2001, and other victims fear the Met Police's inquiry will fail to uncover the network that enabled Mohamed Al Fayed's abuse. The campaign for cases to be recognised as human trafficking is being supported by Anouska de Georgiou, who testified against Jeffrey Epstein and sees parallels between the two men. Plus, is Ukraine preparing for elections? And Greg Olejarka explains why Hampshire Council shouldn't prosecute him for allowing his 14-year-old son to cook in his food van.

**WED 13:45 The Hunger Game (m002r3mv)**  
3. Going Global

This five-part series explores the weight loss drug revolution and the meteoric rise of the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture them.

Presented by Professor Giles Yeo, who researches how these drugs affect the brain in Cambridge University, the series reveals the latest research, tells the story of the scientific breakthroughs that made Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) weight loss drugs possible and describes the marketing strategy that turned them into household names.

Throughout each episode Giles meets researchers, doctors and journalists to discuss the ethical dilemmas of accessibility and affordability and explains what they do and how they work. He also reveals the unexpected impacts that the widespread use of these drugs is having on our health and society.

Episode 3: Going Global  
Once the news was out - that drugs initially designed to help people with diabetes could make people using them also lose weight sales skyrocketed. Giles explains the strategic decisions and media campaigns that rebranded a metabolic treatment for diabetes into a multi-billion-dollar cultural phenomenon.

Contributors:  
Professor Giles Yeo  
Giles Yeo is a Professor of Molecular Neuroendocrinology and programme leader at the MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit in Cambridge, and his research currently focuses on the influence of genes on feeding behaviour and body-weight.

Harry Yeo  
Harry Yeo is Giles Yeo's son and is currently taking weight loss drugs.

Dr Luke McDonough  
Luke is an associate professor at the London School of Economics Law School.

Aimee Donnellan  
Aimee is a Reuters journalist and writes about pharmaceuticals, consumer goods groups, retail and insurance.

Dr Lotte Bjerre Knudsen  
Lotte is Novo Nordisk's Chief Scientific Advisor, and led the research group back in the early 1990s that first invented the molecule that made them possible.

Professor Barbara McGowan  
Barbara is a professor of endocrinology and diabetes based at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital

Dr Graham Easton  
Graham is an academic GP with extensive experience in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. He also takes weight loss drugs.

Dr. Kamran Abbas  
Kamran is editor in chief of the British Medical Journal

Henry Dimbleby  
Henry is a British businessman and cookery writer who is a co-founder of Leon Restaurants and the Sustainable Restaurant Association. He was appointed lead non-executive board member of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in March 2018.

Prof Frank Reimann  
Frank works at the Institute of Metabolic Science in Cambridge alongside Giles Yeo researching how weight loss drugs affect the brain.

Cheri Ferguson  
Cheri takes weight loss drugs after a lifetime of dieting; 28 days in Cheri noticed her need to vape completely changed.

Dr Tony Goldstone  
Tony is a clinical associate professor and consultant endocrinologist at Imperial College London.

A Changing World production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 14:00 The Archers (m002r3mx)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 14:15 Drama on 4 (m002r3mz)**

Rays of Darkness

Autobiographical drama from Gwyneth Lewis, the former National Poet of Wales, about how her experience of chronic migraine led her to seek the companionship of a long-dead writer, Margiad Evans. Evans' outstanding, but largely unknown memoirs, *A Ray of Darkness* (1952) and *The Nightingale Silenced* (1954) formed the first serious portrayal of epilepsy since Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*, and offer an invaluable insight into the condition.

This lyrical drama shows two writers, in different circumstances, making the best of their work, in the shadow of their respective illnesses.

G.....Eiry Thomas  
Migraine.....Sharon Morgan  
Margiad.....Clare Corbett  
Leighton.....Richard Elfyn  
Dr Golla.....Sam Dale  
Doctor.....Sam Swann

Poems read by Gwyneth Lewis and published by Bloodaxe  
Margiad Evans' *A Ray of Darkness* and *The Nightingale Silenced* published by Honno

Production Co-ordinator.....Eleri McAuliffe  
Sound Designer.....Rhys Morris

Directed by Emma Harding for BBC Audio Drama Wales

**WED 15:00 Money Box (m002r3n1)**

Money Box Live: How to Pick a Mortgage

Mortgages are one of the most important financial products most of us ever come across, but they're also complicated. With more than 7,000 products on the market, how do you pick the right one for you?

It can feel pretty overwhelming and hard to choose the best product at a time when rates are held at **3.75%** but expected to fall, and relaxed lending rules mean some people can borrow 6.5 times their salary over longer terms.

We'll answer listener questions about trackers, what term you should pick, and what to do if you're a first-time buyer.

Paul Lewis is joined by Sally Mitchell, a mortgage advisor at Versed Financial, and Paul Broadhead from the Building Societies Association.

Presenters: Paul Lewis and Felicity Hannah  
Producers: Sarah Rogers and James Graham  
Editor: Jess Quayle  
Senior News Editor: Sara Wadeson

(First broadcast **3pm** Wednesday 11th February 2026)

**WED 15:30 The Artificial Human (m002r3n3)**

AI's Bubble Trouble?

3. If the bubble bursts, where next for AI?

In the final instalment of our AI Bubble mini-series, Aleks and Kevin take a look at what it would mean if the AI bubble were to burst - not just for the industry, but for the future of AI itself.

They're joined by Adrian Lepers, Head of Monetization Operations and Strategy at Hugging Face. Sitting right at the centre of the open-source AI ecosystem, Adrian shares how Hugging Face sees its role in the market and how the industry could evolve from here.

Also on the programme is Gary Marcus - cognitive scientist, psychologist, author, and one of the earliest voices warning that the AI boom could be heading for a crash. With the landscape shifting fast, Gary gives his take on what might come next and where he thinks the AI industry is headed.

Presenters: Aleks Krotoski and Kevin Fong  
Production Team: Peter McManus, Rachael O'Neill & Elizabeth Ann Duffy  
Sound: Sarah Hockley

**WED 16:00 When It Hits the Fan (m002r3n5)**

Is the Office of PM Beyond PR?

Some jobs just can't be done. Circumstances, events and a changing world simply make them undoable.

This week, David Yelland and Simon Lewis ask whether one such job is communicating on behalf of the Prime Minister. Not just this Prime Minister, but any Prime Minister.

After only five months, the PM's Director of Communications, Tim Allan has quit. He's the fourth person to hold the role under Sir Keir Starmer.

The old levers of PR clearly aren't working and there seems to be a general bafflement as to how to get the public onboard.

Put simply, is Downing Street now beyond PR?

On the extended edition on BBC Sounds, how Buckingham Palace is rapidly changing its PR game. Widely criticised for being too slow to react to the scandal around Andrew Mountbatten Windsor, the Palace is going on the front foot - with two statements that would've been inconceivable just months ago.

Plus there's nothing like a formal letter from the Government to put you in the mood for love. That's the hope anyway. In France, all 29-year-olds are being written to - to remind them of their duty to have babies. As you might expect, there's been something of a backlash.

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 (m002r3n7)**

Revelations about the Murdoch dynasty in new book, Reporting on the Starmer crisis, Washington Post cuts, Ofcom under scrutiny

Gabriel Sherman joins Katie Razzall and Ros Atkins to discuss the real-life Murdoch family battle at the heart of his new book *Bonfire of the Murdochs*, including the secret Nevada court case that pitted Rupert Murdoch against his own children.

We assess the reporting of a turbulent week in Westminster with Catherine Neilan, Whitehall Editor at *The Observer* and Simon Nixon, publisher of the *Wealth of Nations* newsletter and a former journalist at the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Times*.

As *The Washington Post* lays off around 300 staff, we talk to one of them, reporter Marissa Lang and former senior managing editor, Cameron Barr, assesses what comes next.

And we discuss the issue of balance and due impartiality in the digital age as Ofcom faces criticism for declining to investigate a GB News interview with Donald Trump.

Producers: Lisa Jenkinson & Dan Hardoon

**WED 17:00 PM (m002r3n9)**

Gordon Brown intervenes on Epstein scandal

In a fresh intervention on the Epstein scandal, former Prime Minister Gordon Brown calls for a police inquiry into sex trafficking through UK airports. We get reaction from Labour MP for Rotherham Sarah Champion. Also on the programme, the former head of Britain's Armed Forces General Sir Nick Carter tells us why Europe needs to become a superpower, in the face of waning US support. Plus, the European robin that's been spotted in Canada - we'll speak to an ornithologist about how it could have got there.

**WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002r3nc)**

Gordon Brown calls for police to interview Andrew Mountbatten Windsor

The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown has called for police to interview Andrew Mountbatten Windsor over his links to the sex offender, Jeffrey Epstein. The former Prince has strongly denied any wrongdoing. Also: Sir Keir Starmer has said his former communications chief, Lord Doyle, didn't give a full account of his actions when he was awarded a peerage, despite his links to a paedophile. And a Ukrainian Olympic skeleton racer has worn a helmet, which features images of people killed during Russia's invasion of his country, despite it being banned.

**WED 18:30 Stand-Up Specials (m002r3nf)**

The Making of Colin Hout

An audience show in which Colin explores how his bizarre family made him the man he is today. Now, as a 45 year-old dad, he wonders if it's too late to do anything about it. Based on his hugely successful 2024 Edinburgh show, Colin weaves anecdotes and musings with all too real stories about his early life, featuring a recurring cast of characters: his perennially pessimistic mum, his not-quite-in-reality brothers and his long-suffering Dad who screams 'why can't we just be a normal family?' Colin asks 'is it a surprise my neurodiversity was missed?' But growing up in Nottingham we just had a simple phrase that covered everything - 'he's not right'. Colin paints a

picture of a childhood full of secrets and lies, dominated by Mum's terror of ending up in the local 'madhouse' whilst espousing paranoid conspiracies and pulling out the Ouija board on Christmas Day. Whilst inherently funny, the craziness is recounted with love and sympathy. A brilliant storyteller, Colin intercuts tales of that childhood life with stories about his own contemporary family and how one has been shaped by the other. What does he want to pass on and what does he absolutely not want to? How does he be the best dad he can when his basic understanding of the world is so scrambled? Each episode begins with Colin telling us how he's, possibly inappropriately, reacted to something mundane that has just happened or been said to him. He'll unpick the story across the episode tracing his reaction back to his upbringing with other themes, stories and observations along the way. Colin's stand-up is intercut with childhood and contemporary scenes. Colin plays all his family members, neighbours, distant relatives, postmen, etc.

**WED 19:00 The Archers (m002r3nh)**

Chelsea persuades Jazzer to test drive the horse box to work out what repairs would be needed. As it judders through Ambridge, Chelsea explains her wedding plan - the horse box would get the wedding party out of the house for their beauty in the 'Glam Van', and she'd park up at the venue for the day for people to get refreshed. She'll also drive to clients' homes and the painted van will act as her billboard! Jazzer outlines the van's problems - most likely the clutch, and part of the suspension is shot - enough to haggle the price down to her budget. Tracy catches them on the test drive and can't believe Jazzer is helping with this mad scheme. He defends Chelsea's idea and says he'll help with the repairs and renovations. She's worked so hard and he wants to help make her dreams true. Tracy is still sceptical - even if Chelsea can haggle the price down, how will she pay for the conversion and repairs?

George is retracing his steps on the bridle path where he was attacked, when Amber finds him to remind him about his counselling session. He is distracted as his memory has been jolted and more details about the attack have started to come back to him. Amber thinks he's avoiding counselling and accuses him of spiralling in his intentions, but he promises he'll be back from his walk in time - he just needs to get his head in order. Later, George knocks at a door, where Lilian answers his urgent request to open up.

**WED 19:15 Front Row (m002r3nk)**

Derry Girls creator Lisa McGee on her new series

Lisa McGee on her fresh spin on the murder mystery genre *How To Get to Heaven* from Belfast, and on the impact of the Derry Girls phenomenon.

At this month's Grammy Awards, Olivia Dean, Lola Young and FKA Twigs - all alumni of *The Brit School* in Croydon - walked off with prizes. We speak to the school's Principal, Stuart Worden, about how the school prepares students for a career in the music industry.

And as the world premiere of *The Great Wave*, a new opera inspired by Hokusai's iconic print, takes place, composer Dai Fujikura talks to us about the man behind the art, and writer Fi Leith discusses the cultural love affair between Scotland and Japan.

Presenter: Kirsty Wark  
Producer: Mark Crossan

**WED 20:00 AntiSocial (m002qv78)**

The Nostalgia Divide

Peace talks for the culture wars. Nostalgia and the cringe factor. Adam Fleming explores why 2016 is big online, especially for Gen Z. Can you really be nostalgic for things you didn't really experience. With the help of others, Adam unpicks what nostalgia is and where it came from.

Presenter: Adam Fleming  
Producers: Natasha Fernandes, Tom Gillett and John Murphy  
Studio Manager: Andrew Mills  
Editor: Penny Murphy

**WED 20:45 Magic Consultants (m0011c4s)**

From Here to Eternity?

Is there anything or anyone who can challenge the power of the consultants?

Adam Shaw continues his investigation into the consultancy industry.

Can they survive the challenges ahead - attract top talent, resist calls for regulation and even pressure from the Pope, trying to guide them to be more socially conscious.

In times of new crisis, government and business reach straight for consultants' expertise; like death and taxes will they be with us forever?

With contributions from: Tamzen Isacson, CEO of the Management Consultancies Association, Andrew Sturdy, Professor in Management at The University of Bristol, Dr Chris McKenna, Reader in Business History and Strategy at the Saïd Business School, Matthias Kipping, Professor of Policy at the Schulich School of Business, authors Rosie Collington and Eric Edstrom.

Producer: Sarah Bowen  
Series researcher: Shiler Mahmoudi

**WED 21:00 Intrigue (m002q872)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 21:30 Inside Health (m002r3nn)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 on Tuesday]

**WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m002r3nq)**  
US Attorney General faces questions over Epstein investigation

US Attorney General Pam Bondi has been defending her department's handling of the release of millions of documents related to Jeffrey Epstein. She's been giving evidence today to a committee in the US Congress. Meanwhile, the former prime minister, Gordon Brown, has called for detectives to interview Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor about allegations that Jeffrey Epstein trafficked women and girls through the UK. The former Prince Andrew has denied any wrongdoing - or that he derived any benefit - from his association with Jeffrey Epstein.

Also in the programme: the UK Supreme Court rules the plant-based drink maker Oatly cannot use the word "milk" in its marketing; and how the latest Hollywood remake of Wuthering Heights is going down in the birthplace of its author Emily Brontë.

**WED 22:45 James by Percival Everett (m002r3ns)**  
3: Lynching

Rhshan Stone reads the winner of 2025's Pulitzer Prize by one of America's greatest contemporary authors.

Mississippi, 1861. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs. Hiding on nearby Jackson Island he tries to formulate a plan. But when his friend Huck Finn arrives with the news that he's faked his own death to escape his violent father, Jim knows he will be blamed. As so begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive promise of the Free States and beyond.

Powerful, electrifying and brimming with the dark humour, this multi award-winning novel has already become a modern classic.

Today: After losing Huck on the river, Jim is helped by a group of slaves ... but at a great cost.

Reader: Rhshan Stone  
Writer: Percival Everett (born 1956) is the author of over thirty books, including Telephone, Dr No, The Trees, which was shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize and won the 2022 Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize, and Erasure, which was adapted into the major Oscar-winning film American Fiction. He is the Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California.  
Producer: Justine Willett  
Abridger: Katrin Williams

**WED 23:00 Doctors On Hold (m002r3nv)**  
Series 1

5. The Locum Smells Of Bacon

Mike and Peter are puzzled why the new locum doctor smells of smokey bacon, but Malika has bigger news.

Two GPs find grim humour in the struggle to treat their patients with few resources and mostly via the phone. Phil Hammond, Tony Gardner, Mina Anwar in a new sitcom in today's NHS.

Set in a typical GP surgery, struggling to cope with cuts, new NHS policy directives and an increasingly impatient set of patients, two disillusioned doctors battle with the stresses of their jobs and chaotic personal lives.

Doctors On Hold features a topical series of phone conversations between patients and various members of a GP team that reflects how much medicine is now dispensed over

the phone in an overloaded and fragmented NHS, how frustrating it can sometimes be for patients and staff, and how funny and familiar it is for listeners.

Tony Gardner and Phil Hammond started their comedy careers on Radio 4 in the 90s, as junior doctors, with three series of Struck Off and Die. They won a Writers Guild Award for best radio comedy. They have since had very successful solo careers - Phil Hammond co-wrote five series of Radio 4's Polyoaks. He is Private Eye's medical correspondent 'MD'. Tony Gardner is an actor on stage and screen, whose recent credits include the hit show Accidental Death of an Anarchist.

Mina Anwar is well known to Radio 4 listeners from Fags, Mags and Bags.

Cast:  
Tony Gardner as Dr Peter  
Phil Hammond as Dr Mike  
Mina Anwar as Malika Begum  
Anna Crilly as Nelly and Sarah

Other parts are played by members of the cast

Written by Phil Hammond and Tony Gardner

Producer: David Morley  
Sound Design and Music: Chris O'Shaughnessy

A Perfectly Normal production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 23:15 Eleanor & Pals (m002r3nx)**  
There'll be no journey, no trauma, and certainly no learning – Eleanor & Pals is simply a unique comedy show featuring top female character comedy talent from across the UK. This episode features the brilliant Zara Gladman and her 'Aileen' character.

As we lurched from one existential crisis to another during the Covid years, what we all collectively shouted for was top character comedy being performed against a blank white wall to help cheer us up... Thankfully, Eleanor Morton obliged with lots of silly voices and characters and, on occasion, a beard painted on her face with a Sharpie.

The results were staggering, with Eleanor chalking up hit after hit on social media, resulting in 3 million likes and 425,000 followers across all platforms.

It led to notable followers who shared her work online, including Michael McKean, Taika Waititi, Stewart Lee (not on social but he recommended Eleanor in his newsletter. Old school!), Patton Oswalt, Dawn French, Jim Gaffigan, Jared Harris (retweeted Eleanor twice when she spoofed him), Chris O Dowd and Ben Stiller.

This worldwide fame and recognition led to Eleanor eventually being able to afford a scarf and a hat as props for future clips. With a wistful notion she might make money, Eleanor now takes these weird and wonderful characters to the live space and Radio 4.

Written and performed by Eleanor Morton and special guest Zara Gladman  
Recorded at The Monkey Barrel in Edinburgh  
Producer: Gus Beattie

A Gusman production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002r3nz)**  
Labour MPs rally round the PM as questions continue over his judgement.

#### THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2026

**THU 00:00 Midnight News (m002r3p1)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 00:30 The Colour of Home by Sajid Javid (m002r3mj)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Wednesday]

**THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002r3p3)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002r3p5)**  
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 (m002r3p7)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002r3p9)**  
Alicia McCarthy reports on Prime Minister's Questions, MPs go "forest bathing" and we look ahead to the last parliamentary day before the February recess.

**THU 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002r3pc)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002r3pf)**  
The Art of Who We Are

Good morning

When I wake up in the morning, it's always good to see the reassuring presence of a favourite painting that hangs upon my bedroom wall. But on this day in 1994, the owners of a Norwegian Art Gallery were shocked to discover that their most precious artwork, Edvard Munch's famous painting of 'The Scream' had been stolen. I'm not sure if it was taken for the resale value or if someone really wanted this visceral depiction of existential dread hanging above their bed.

The art we chose to buy, create, or in some way place around us, says a lot about what we appreciate, what brings us joy, and might tell others much about the kind of person that we are.

It might come as a surprise to think of the walls of heaven decorated with portraits of you and me, but the bible says that's kind of what God does. In the New Testament letter to the church in Ephesus, the writer talks of us as God's own masterpieces, unique and beautiful works of art, been created to do good works. The suggestion is that each one of us is distinctively imagined and crafted, with our own particular talents and gifts, longings and desires, and inimitable personality and relationships. But our purpose is not simply to hang beautifully in heaven's gallery, there are good things for us to do today, blessings that maybe only we can bring.

And if in all our doing, we catch a glimpse of our portrait, don't worry if today we look too much like Munch's anxious 'Scream.' Because we're only ever works in progress, and I think the artist often passes by, pallet and paint brush in their hand, to freshen up the artwork with deeper hues of joy and brushstrokes of renewed and greater purpose.

Dear God of infinite creativity  
and bringer of endless beauty  
work well the brushstrokes of your love within our lives  
that we may bring joy to those we meet today.  
Amen

**THU 05:45 Farming Today (m002r3ph)**  
12/02/26 Natural flood management, AI pest control, Oatly Supreme Court defeat

With some farms underwater we hear from the Environment Agency boss on building resilience though natural flood management.

The plant based drink company Oatly has lost a long running legal battle over the use of the term 'milk' in its marketing.

And can AI help fight crop pests?

Presented by Charlotte Smith and produced by Beatrice Fenton.

**THU 06:00 Today (m002r4tz)**  
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**THU 09:00 In Our Time (m002r4v1)**  
The Code of Hammurabi

Misha Glenny and guests discuss the laws that Hammurabi (c1810 - c1750 BC), King of Babylon, had carved into a black basalt pillar in present day Iraq and which, since its rediscovery in 1901 in present day Iran, has affirmed Hammurabi's reputation as one of the first great lawmakers. Visitors to the Louvre in Paris can see it on display with almost 300 rules in cuneiform, covering anything from 'an eye for an eye' to how to handle murder, divorce, witchcraft, false accusations and more. The Code of Hammurabi, as it became known, made such an impression in Mesopotamia that it was copied and shared for a millennium after his death and, since its reemergence, Hammurabi and his Code have been commemorated in the US Capitol and the International Court of Justice.

With

Martin Worthington  
Professor in Middle Eastern Studies at Trinity College Dublin

Frances Reynolds  
Shillito Fellow and Associate Professor of Assyriology at the

University of Oxford and Senior Research Fellow at The Queen's College

And

Selena Wisnom  
Lecturer in the Heritage of the Middle East at the University of Leicester

Producer: Simon Tillotson

Reading list:

Zainab Bahrani, *Mesopotamia: Ancient Art and Architecture* (Thames and Hudson, 2017)

Dominique Charpin, *Hammurabi of Babylon* (I.B. Tauris, 2021)

Prudence O. Harper, Joan Aruz and Françoise Tallon, *The Royal City of Susa: Ancient Near Eastern Treasures from the Louvre* (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1992)

J. Nicholas Postgate (ed.), *Languages of Iraq, Ancient and Modern* (British School of Archaeology in Iraq, 2007), especially 'Babylonian and Assyrian: A History of Akkadian' by Andrew R. George

Martha T. Roth, *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor* (2nd edition, Scholars Press, 1997)

Marc Van De Mierop, *King Hammurabi of Babylon: A Biography* (Wiley, 2005)

Marc Van De Mierop, *A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000–323 BC* (4th edition (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006)

Selena Wisnom, *The Library of Ancient Wisdom: Mesopotamia and the Making of History* (Allen Lane, 2025)

Martin Worthington, *Complete Babylonian: A Comprehensive Guide to Reading and Understanding Babylonian with Original Texts* (Teach Yourself Library, 2012)

In Our Time is a BBC Studios Production

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 Misha Glennly and expert guests explore the characters, events and discoveries that have shaped our world.

**THU 09:45 Strong Message Here (m002r4v3)**  
Psychodrama (with Stewart Lee)

Stewart Lee joins Armando to examine the language around political psychodramas. We've discussed political language becoming maximalist, but it also gone into warp speed?

Looking at whether 'stumbling' is in fact a good thing, we also manage to find new names for Wes Streeting, Peter Mandelson and Andrew (you know which one).

We also find time to discuss the fake news that has been stinking up the White House, jellyfish anuses and slapstick.

Got a strong message for Armando? Email us at [strongmessagehere@bbc.co.uk](mailto:strongmessagehere@bbc.co.uk)

Sound editing: Chris Maclean  
Production Coordinator: Asha Osborne-Grinter  
Executive Producer: Pete Strauss  
Recorded at The Sound Company

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

**THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002r4v5)**  
Ashley James, Nancy Guthrie disappearance, Kinship carers

A story gripping headlines across the United States is the disappearance of 84-year-old Nancy Guthrie, the mother of NBC News Today anchor Savannah Guthrie. Nancy was abducted from her home in the Catalina Foothills near Tucson, Arizona, in the USA more than a week ago, triggering a massive search and emotional appeals from her family. Clare McDonnell speaks to Claire Moses, a reporter from The New York Times, who has been following the story.

Broadcaster, model and activist Ashley James says she's always been underestimated and often written off as a "bimbo". But now she's reclaiming the word as the title of her new book, which explores many of the judgmental labels used to describe women and their life choices. From 'bossy' to 'mumsy' to 'silly girl', Ashley joins Clare to unpack the impact such words can have on women and girls and why she hopes opening up about her own experiences will inspire others to stop shrinking and shake them off.

More than 141,000 children are in kinship care in England and Wales. According to new research from the charity Kinship, 40% of kinship carers are forced to claim benefits or increase their benefits when they step in to take on the care of a child from a family member. To explain why some kinship carers want the same parental rights as others in a parental role, like an adoptive parent, Clare is joined by the CEO of Kinship, Lucy Peake and carer Nash, who took on the permanent care of her sister's children after her sister died.

A few years ago, Saaniya Abbas was working as an art director in an advertising agency in Dubai. Today, she is a rising star of comedy, after finding stand-up comedy helped her deal with the end of her marriage. Her tour, Hellarious, has just hit London and she speaks to Clare about writing material based on her life so far.

Presenter: Clare McDonnell  
Producer: Rebecca Myatt

**THU 11:00 This Cultural Life (m002r4v7)**  
Julian Barnes

The novelist, essayist and critic Julian Barnes talks to John Wilson about his career and formative cultural influences. One of the most acclaimed and distinctive British writers of his generation, his early novels, including *Metroland*, *A History Of The World In 10 and a Half Chapters*, and *Flaubert's Parrot*, established his reputation for blending fiction, factual biography and philosophical reflection. Julian Barnes won the Booker Prize in 2011 for *The Sense Of An Ending*, and the same year won the prestigious David Cohen Prize for Literature, awarded for a body of work. A famous Francophile, he was given the title of Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters, one of France's highest cultural honours in 2004. He has said that his latest book, *Departure(s)* will be his final novel.

Producer: Edwina Pitman

**THU 11:45 The Colour of Home by Sajid Javid (m002r4v9)**  
Episode 4

The shouted racist abuse ricocheted off the walls of the Rochdale underpass that connected Sajid Javid's home and primary school. Even as a five year-old boy, he had learned that 1970s Britain could be a cruel and violent place for those seen as outsiders.

Leaving behind the devastation of Partition, Sajid's father moved from Punjab to the UK in the '60s. The family held on to many of their Indo-Pakistani traditions, setting them apart and often leading to rejection by their new neighbours.

In this tender but powerful memoir, Sajid Javid shares his story of a childhood marked by poverty, racism and the tension produced by trying to conform to two cultures. These led to run-ins with the police, trouble at school and eventually the risk of estrangement from his family by defying their wish for his arranged marriage in favour of choosing the woman he loved. With each new trial, Sajid learned to dig his heels in further, speaking up for himself and stubbornly refusing to accept the limits that seemed imposed by his background.

This is a story of hope, determination and survival - a tribute to the parents who gave everything and the brothers who struggled alongside him - and an invitation to every 'outsider' to keep going and dream big.

Episode Four  
16-year-old Sajid is advised to leave school and become a TV repair man. But he is determined to take A-levels and go on to university.

Read by Sajid Javid  
Abridged by Libby Spurrier  
Producer: David Blount

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 12:00 News Summary (m002r4vc)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 12:04 The Bottom Line (m002r4vf)**  
Private Renting: Who Wants to Be a Landlord?

The UK's private rental market has grown dramatically over recent decades, creating what often feels like a tale of two nations: 'Generation Rent' who are priced out of home ownership and unable to access social housing; and buy-to-let investors who view property as a reliable income stream or pension plan.

Rising rents, poor conditions and fierce competition for homes have fuelled frustration with landlords, prompting political efforts to strengthen protections for tenants and increase tax

pressure on property owners.

Now the sector is facing a turning point – with large institutional investors, backed by pension funds, for example, playing an increasing role. Evan Davis and guests discuss the state of the UK rental market and where it might be heading.

Guests:  
Ashley Winston, Director of Palmdale Car Finders  
Andy Graham, Host, HMO Podcast  
Polly Simpson, Head of multi-family development at Savills

Production team:  
Presenter: Evan Davis  
Producer: Sally Abrahams  
Production Co-ordinator: Katie Morrison  
Sound engineers: Ben Andrews and Tim Heffer  
Editor: Matt Willis

The Bottom Line is produced in partnership with The Open University

**THU 12:32 Sliced Bread (m002r4vh)**  
Kitchen Knives and Sharpeners

Which knife is best for the kitchen and how do you keep it sharp?

After buying various knives over the years that ended up blunt, listener Susan is looking for one that will last. She's seen an array of different types and materials: Damascus steel, Japanese Gyuto knives, as well as alloys and additions that promise a sharper edge. They vary hugely in price - anything from £50 to £1,000. And if you do invest, how do you keep a knife sharp?

To cut through the marketing BS, presenter Greg Foot is joined in the studio by Mark Miodownik, Professor of Materials & Society at University College London, and Rob Haslam aka Mr Knife Guy.

All of our episodes start with YOUR suggestions. 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](mailto:sliced.bread@bbc.co.uk) OR send a voice note to our WhatsApp number, 07543 306807.

RESEARCHER: PHIL SANSOM  
PRODUCERS: SIMON HOBAN AND GREG FOOT

**THU 12:57 Weather (m002r4vk)**  
The latest weather forecast

**THU 13:00 World at One (m002r4vm)**  
Sir Jim Ratcliffe apologises over immigration comments

Manchester United's co-owner, Sir Jim Ratcliffe, says he is sorry for saying that immigrants have "colonised" the UK. We'll discuss the mixed reaction to his comments. Jasvinder Sanghera, who was appointed by Harrods to represent the victims of Mohamed Al Fayed, tells the programme that police should be treating the case as trafficking. Evan and Sarah will discuss growing calls to change the student loans system and, as a Ukrainian Olympian is banned from competing over a helmet honouring war dead, we'll ask - can, and should, sport be politics free?

**THU 13:45 The Hunger Game (m002r4vp)**  
4. Dampening the Noise

This five-part series explores the weight loss drug revolution and the meteoric rise of the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture them.

Presented by Professor Giles Yeo, who researches how these drugs affect the brain in Cambridge University, the series reveals the latest research, tells the story of the scientific breakthroughs that made Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) weight loss drugs possible and describes the marketing strategy that turned them into household names.

Throughout each episode Giles meets researchers, doctors and journalists to discuss the ethical dilemmas of accessibility and affordability and explains what they do and how they work. He also reveals the unexpected impacts that the widespread use of these drugs is having on our health and society.

Episode 4: Dampening The Noise  
In this episode Giles takes us to his lab, where we meet his colleague Professor Frank Ryman at the Institute of Metabolic Science in Cambridge, to find out what researchers like him are doing to try to discover what weight loss drugs are actually doing in the brains of people who are using them.

Contributors:  
Professor Giles Yeo  
Giles Yeo is a Professor of Molecular Neuroendocrinology and

programme leader at the MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit in Cambridge, and his research currently focuses on the influence of genes on feeding behaviour and body-weight.

Harry Yeo

Harry Yeo is Giles Yeo's son and is currently taking weight loss drugs.

Dr Luke McDonough

Luke is an associate professor at the London School of Economics Law School.

Aimee Donnellan

Aimee is a Reuters journalist and writes about pharmaceuticals, consumer goods groups, retail and insurance.

Dr Lotte Bjerre Knudsen

Lotte is Novo Nordisk's Chief Scientific Advisor, and led the research group back in the early 1990s that first invented the molecule that made them possible.

Professor Barbara McGowan

Barbara is a professor of endocrinology and diabetes based at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital

Dr Graham Easton

Graham is an academic GP with extensive experience in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. He also takes weight loss drugs.

Dr Kamran Abbasi

Kamran is editor in chief of the British Medical Journal

Henry Dimpleby

Henry is a British businessman and cookery writer who is a co-founder of Leon Restaurants and the Sustainable Restaurant Association. He was appointed lead non-executive board member of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in March 2018.

Professor Prof Frank Reimann

Frank works at the Institute of Metabolic Science in Cambridge alongside Giles Yeo researching how weight loss drugs affect the brain.

Cheri Ferguson

Cheri takes weight loss drugs after a lifetime of dieting; 28 days in Cheri noticed her need to vape completely changed.

Dr Tony Goldstone

Tony is a clinical associate professor and consultant endocrinologist at Imperial College London.

A Changing World production for BBC Radio 4

#### THU 14:00 The Archers (m002r3nh)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

#### THU 14:15 Drama on 4 (m002r4vr)

Good People

##### 1. The Great Reset

Four young idealists - Sonia, Kieran, Indigo and Ayad - fall under the spell of charismatic thinker Faith Abbott at university and channel her ideas into a bold political experiment: Project Hope.

In 2020 they start to reinvent politics from the ground up. But nearly a decade on Britain stands divided, and the group has splintered. When Sonia discovers Faith has denounced Project Hope from beyond the grave, she is forced to revisit the group's remarkable beginnings. Was their experiment always doomed to fail?

Good People is a fictional story set against our very real political moment, examining the rise of populism, the perceived failure of politics-as-usual, and the deep divisions that run through our country and beyond.

This is the first episode in an ambitious six-part state of the nation drama from award-winning political writer Steve Waters.

CAST

Sonia ..... Natalie Simpson  
Faith ..... Anastasia Hille  
Kieran ..... Nicholas Armfield  
Indigo ..... Alby Baldwin  
Ayad ..... Ikky Kabir  
Philip ..... Clive Hayward  
Gabe ..... Django Bevan  
Abbie ..... Iona Champain

Writer ..... Steve Waters

Sound ..... Andy Garratt, Keith Graham, Sam Dickinson  
Casting Manager ..... Alex Curran  
Script Development ..... Abigail Le Fleming

Production Co-ordinator ..... Kate Gray  
Assistant Producer ..... Luke MacGregor  
Director ..... Anne Isger

A BBC Studios Audio production

#### THU 15:00 Ramblings (m002r4vt)

Brockley and Ladywell with Hana Sutch

Clare Balding heads to Brockley and Ladywell for a leafy London wander with Hana Sutch, co founder of the walking app Go Jauntly. Growing up in a family that didn't walk for pleasure, Hana discovered the joy of rambling in her twenties, when a visit to her husband's native Northumberland showed her the calming power of putting one foot in front of the other.

Later, as a new parent in the city, she struggled to find accessible green spaces - an experience that inspired her to create the app which helps walkers navigate routes easily, including by following images of landmarks.

As they wander, Hana discusses the challenges of building a start-up as part of a small team of four, including hearing from big players in the field that she would never succeed.

Their route is a four-mile urban circular starting in Ladywell. Avoiding main roads where possible, they head up and around Hilly Fields, down to Ladywell Fields and on to Blythe Hill before ending the walk, where they met, in Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries. You can find out more at [www.gojauntly.com](http://www.gojauntly.com) The walk Hana and Clare took together will go live on the app when the programme is broadcast.

Presenter: Clare Balding

Producer: Karen Gregor

#### THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m002r3fh)

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

#### THU 15:30 Word of Mouth (m002r4vw)

Tourette Syndrome

Michael Rosen talks to Ione Georgakis from Tourette Action about about her personal and professional experience of Tourette Syndrome and vocal tics. How and why do tics happen, and what are some of the myths and misunderstandings around the syndrome?

Produced for BBC Audio Bristol by Sally Heaven, 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>

#### THU 16:00 The Briefing Room (m002r4vy)

Iran - how vulnerable is the regime?

In early January street protests in Iran turned deadly - thousands were killed by Iranian forces. What started as a demonstration about economic conditions had turned into demands for regime change. President Trump said he would come to the aid of protesters. But so far he hasn't. He's amassed a US armada in the Gulf. And last Friday talks were held in Oman between American and Iranian officials about reducing Iran's nuclear capacity. There's been no agreement yet but more talks are expected. David Aaronovitch asks his guests what could happen next? And how vulnerable the Iranian regime is, both inside the country and to a potential US attack?

Guests:

Kasra Naji, Special Correspondent, BBC Persian  
Arash Azizi, Writer and lecturer, Yale University  
Dr Burcu Ozelik, Senior Research Fellow for Middle East Security at the Royal United Services Institute  
Dr Sanam Vakil, Director of the Middle East programme, Chatham House

Presenter: David Aaronovitch

Producers: Caroline Bayley, Emma Close

Production Coordinator: Maria Ogunde

Sound Engineer: James Beard

Editor: Richard Vadon

#### THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (w3ct8txy)

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:30 on Monday]

#### THU 17:00 PM (m002r4w1)

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

#### THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002r4w3)

The government publishes guidance for schools on how to deal with pupils questioning their gender

The government has published its first guidance for schools in England on supporting children who are questioning their gender. Also: Number Ten confirms the ousting of Sir Chris Wormald as cabinet secretary, the third senior official to go in a matter of days. And after three long weeks, Aberdeen has finally seen some sunshine.

#### THU 18:30 Stand-Up Specials (m00236fx)

Randy Feltface

##### 1. Earth

Randy Feltface is done with us ruining the earth beneath our feet whether we're digging it up, setting fire to it, or tipping it into the sea - so with the help of an irritable duck, a fictional French coal-miner and a sexy earthworm he works out the best way to just get the whole destruction business over and done with.

This head-on charge into possibly the most important subject facing humanity comes to you via a show where you'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll learn, you'll laugh again between the leamy bits and most of all, you'll be able to say "I was there when Radio 4 decided to have show hosted by a puppet"

Randy Feltface has been seen on Netflix, ABC, NBC, and has a huge & devoted following across the globe (1m+ social media followers, 1.6m TikTok followers, 833k subscribers, 79m YouTube views). His hour-long specials are YouTube cult classics, his world tours are sold out sensations, and he's the only Radio 4 presenter to be entirely made of felt.

With Margaret Cabourn-Smith & William Hartley

Produced & directed by David Tyler

A Pozzitive production for BBC Radio 4

#### THU 19:00 The Archers (m002r4w6)

Lilian can't stop George pushing through the door, frantically searching for Brian. Brian appeases Lilian and she reluctantly leaves. Brian hears that George has started to remember things about his attack, particularly the smell of Brian's aftershave. George accuses Brian - he knew George was too drunk to defend himself. Brian's motive was that he couldn't forgive him for what happened to Alice, even though he was only trying to help her... Brian fires back that George tried to ruin his daughter's life and cannot be forgiven. Brian finally admits that he took a wine bottle, followed George and hit him. He didn't want him dead, so called an ambulance from George's phone. George retorts that Brian still abandoned him - at least with the car crash George stayed around to rescue Fallon from drowning. Brian notes George hasn't gone to the police; does he have a plan? George thinks some sort of compensation is in order. It might stop Brian going to jail for attempted murder. Brian scoffs that the smell of aftershave is not reliable evidence, especially from one with a grudge and a recent brain injury. George may even be sent back to prison for perverting the course of justice again. Brian suggests they instead call it quits, both forgetting what they did to each other. They agree and both apologise.

As George leaves, Lilian returns to the house to quiz Brian, who covers by saying George had heard Brian had been badmouthing him to other farmers, and that maybe it was time to move on.

Back home, George replays his recording of Brian's confession on his phone.

#### THU 19:15 Front Row (m002r4w8)

Review: Wuthering Heights film and Jack Thorne's Lord of the Flies

Anne Brontë biographer Samantha Ellis and writer Stephanie Merritt join Tom to discuss Emerald Fennell's racy adaptation of Wuthering Heights starring Margot Robbie.

They also review Adolescence co-writer Jack Thorne's BBC adaptation of William Golding's Lord of the Flies.

After a 35 year campaign, the South Bank Centre has secured Grade II listing. Former Artistic Director Jude Kelly and architecture historian Barnabas Calder talk about whether we're learning to love Brutalism.

Finally, Samantha, Stephanie and Tom have read James Meek's book Your Life Without Me, which is concerned with the competing claims of the old and the new, in both architecture and life.

Presenter: Tom Sutcliffe

Producer: Claire Bartlett

#### THU 20:00 When It Hits the Fan (m002r3n5)

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Wednesday]

**THU 20:15 The Media Show (m002r3n7)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 16:15 on Wednesday]

**THU 21:00 Loose Ends (m002r3b0)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

**THU 21:45 Strong Message Here (m002r4v3)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 today]

**THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m002r4wb)**  
Trump rolls back key US climate regulation

President Trump has repealed a key government scientific finding that carbon emissions endanger human health. The so-called "endangerment finding" of 2009 was the legal bedrock of efforts to rein in emissions and critics fear it is a major setback in the fight against climate change.

Also on the programme: Sir Jim Ratcliffe has apologised for "offending some people" with his language after saying the UK had been "colonised by immigrants". We discuss the importance of the language we use in politics.

And as the Berlin Film Festival opens, we speak to the director of one of the entrants, a rom-com set in Kabul.

**THU 22:45 James by Percival Everett (m002r4wd)**  
4: Charlatans

Rhashan Stone reads the winner of 2025's Pulitzer Prize by one of America's greatest contemporary authors.

Mississippi, 1861. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs. Hiding on nearby Jackson Island he tries to formulate a plan. But when his friend Huck Finn arrives with the news that he's faked his own death to escape his violent father, Jim knows he will be blamed. As so begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive promise of the Free States and beyond.

Powerful, electrifying and brimming with the dark humour, this multi award-winning novel has already become a modern classic.

Today: Jim and Huck's journey down the Mississippi comes to a dangerous pause when they're spotted by two white fraudsters with an eye on the prize....

Reader: Rhashan Stone

Writer: Percival Everett (born 1956) is the author of over thirty books, including Telephone, Dr No, The Trees, which was shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize and won the 2022 Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize, and Erasure, which was adapted into the major Oscar-winning film American Fiction. He is the Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California.  
Producer: Justine Willett  
Abridger: Katrin Williams

**THU 23:00 Radical with Amol Rajan (m002r4wg)**  
Consumer Culture: Why We Need to Buy Less (Josephine Philips)

The fashion industry is the world's second-largest contributor to carbon emissions, surpassed only by agriculture. With such a significant impact on the climate, the question is: what can we actually do about it? Tech entrepreneur and founder of SOJO, Josephine Philips, wants you to stop throwing clothes away and think about what you're buying.

In her conversation with Amol, they explore the wider issues tied to fast fashion, including exploitative labour practices, overflowing landfills, and the relentless pace of production.

They also look at the rise of second-hand shopping, from charity shops to online resale platforms, and how this shift is reshaping consumer habits. She says legislation can play a major role in holding large companies accountable for their product life cycle and Josephine shares practical, everyday steps we can all take to reduce our impact on the environment.

TIMECODES

**(00:02:17)** What is SOJO?

**(00:06:22)** How the fashion industry impacts people and communities globally

**(00:11:03)** Corporate responsibility and legislation

**(00:13:38)** The environmental impact of the fashion industry

**(00:21:45)** Josephine's RADICAL solutions

**(00:23:38)** The growth of second-hand fashion

**(00:26:55)** Learning to repair our clothes instead of throwing them away

**(00:32:20)** The downside of overconsumption

**(00:35:30)** Affordability in sustainable fashion

**(00:38:38)** Practical advice to help you consume less

**(00:50:41)** Learning from past generations

**(00:54:24)** Amol's Reflections

GET IN TOUCH

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\* Email: radical@bbc.co.uk

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 Mike Regaard. The editor is Sam Bonham. The executive producer is Owenna Griffiths.

**THU 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002r4wj)**  
Alicia McCarthy reports as MPs confront the company which has left thousands of civil service pensioners without income.

**FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2026**

**FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m002r4wl)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 00:30 The Colour of Home by Sajid Javid (m002r4v9)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Thursday]

**FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002r4wn)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002r4wq)**  
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 (m002r4ws)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002r4vw)**  
Sean Curran reports from Westminster as MPs demand an apology from the outsourcing giant Capita for widespread delays in the payment of Civil Service pensions.

**FRI 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002r4wx)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

**FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002r4wz)**  
The Value of Love

Good morning

Tomorrow is St Valentine's Day which means, whether it is true or not, people will be worrying that the cost of flowers, chocolates and tables at their favourite restaurant will be inflated for the next few days, before returning back to normal after the weekend. If such fluctuations really happen, then perhaps it is no more than supply and demand, but they might also serve as a reminder that when it comes to love, the best things in life might well be free.

That's not to be unrealistically sentimental in the face of life's realities, where most things do come with a price-tag and usually cost more than they did before. Nor is it to be insensitive to the anxieties of loneliness that Valentines Day can bring. But in the difficult economics of family budgets to suggest that all is well, just as long as we can sit with someone

underneath the moon, can feel less than helpful.

I mean it's all very well for Jesus to say, 'just look at the flowers in the field; they don't sow or reap or fill up their barns, and yet God takes care of them.' But what if my credit card is maxed, and I haven't bought a card.

To which Jesus might well reply, 'Well we didn't have St Valentine's Day, when I was on the earth, but nonetheless, I had to pay my way'. Perhaps the secret to finding joy in life is not to let those anxieties define who we are and can become. We're all more precious than anything that can be simply bought or sold. The things of lasting value, the things that really show our love, are our families and friendships and the chances that we have to help those who are struggling with the many different costs of life.

Dear God of love and life  
Help us this day to value  
The richness of who we are  
And how we love  
And show us how to share that  
with those who need it most.  
Amen.

**FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m002r4x1)**  
Somerset floods update, slurry conundrum, drones v weeds, a pivot point for farms?

James Winslade's fields started to flood nearly three weeks ago. They're still under water, and the floods are creeping closer to his farm buildings. He updates us on the situation on his Somerset farm, and tells Charlotte Smith that this year's floods will put a 'huge strain' on the business.

The relentless rain is leaving some livestock farmers, especially dairy farmers, with a mucky conundrum. Environmental regulations prevent slurry being spread on the land during the wettest winter months, to reduce the risk of pollution runoff into water courses. That period's now officially over, but many fields are too wet for slurry spreading. Storage space is finite...and with animals winter housed the slurry keeps coming.

With increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and rising costs of fertilisers and pesticides, could Artificial Intelligence help arable farmers make their growing season more efficient, and more profitable? The Royal Agricultural University is investigating the use of AI and drones to identify weeds in a wheat crop, so precision treatment can be used to take them out.

Presenter: Charlotte Smith  
Producer: Sarah Swadling

**FRI 06:00 Today (m002r4xf)**  
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**FRI 09:00 Desert Island Discs (m002r3fy)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Sunday]

**FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002r4xb)**  
Gender guidance for schools, Eva Brookes, Kim Jong Un's daughter

The Government yesterday published new guidance for schools in England on what to do when children question their gender. It says schools should not initiate steps towards social transitioning when pupils change their name or pronouns, and that toilets and changing rooms should be protected spaces, used according to biological sex. Branwen Jeffreys, the BBC's Education and Family Editor, joins Clare McDonnell to discuss this latest guidance.

The one-child policy in China spanned a period of over 35 years. It led to large numbers of girls being abandoned by their birth mothers. And for many children, it's had a lasting impact on their lives. Eva Brookes has been reflecting on what that policy meant for her as she was adopted from China as a baby. Her new podcast series, Made in China, is out this week. In it she delves into her life in the UK and speaks to transracial children like herself, along with her own parents, and explores how it has shaped her own identity.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has selected his daughter as his heir, South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers yesterday. Kim Ju Ae, who is believed to be 13, has in recent months been pictured beside her father in high-profile events including a visit to Beijing in September, her first known trip abroad. BBC Seoul correspondent Jake Kwon tells Clare about how surprising this selection is and what we know about her.

Covent Garden is nowadays a centre for high-end designer shops, theatres and award-winning restaurants. However back in the 1700s it was a hotspot for taverns, coffee houses and prostitution. This is the colourful backdrop for the fourth novel

from Louise Hare. Called The House of Fallen Sisters, it follows the story of Sukey, a mixed-race girl and an orphan, who has recently moved to London to live with her guardian - the guardian also happens to be a madam who runs a brothel and Sukey knows that once puberty hits, she too will join the women earning their keep. Louise tells Clare what drew her to this story.

Presenter: Clare McDonnell  
Producer: Andrea Kidd

**FRI 11:00 The Food Programme (m002r4xk)**

Eating Together

A year after sharing a £10 supper with 200 strangers in Copenhagen's Absalon - an old church turned community hub - Sheila asks whether that experience could be recreated in the UK. After all, communal meals here are often one-offs, sometimes pricey, or feel like generous soup kitchens.

In this edition, Sheila meets people determined to change that; Ingrid Wakeling and Phil Holtam from Sussex Surplus are running trial communal dining events in Brighton, using surplus food to bring strangers together. Anna Chworow from Nourish Scotland is helping shape two pilot public diners - subsidised, everyday restaurants designed for everyone, while Jon Harper from Future Foundations explains how CanTeam is turning school canteens into community dining rooms.

Sheila also visits The Long Table in Stroud - a pay-what-you-can community restaurant - to meet co-founder Tom Herbert, and is joined there by zero-waste chef Max La Manna and Carly Trisk-Grove from The Public Plate, who want every community to have their own low-cost restaurant. Together, they discuss what it would take to make their dreams reality - and why they believe it matters.

Presented by Sheila Dillon  
Produced for BBC Audio in Bristol by Natalie Donovan.

More info:

Communal Dining -Part 1:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002812c>

The Long Table: <https://thelongtableonline.com/>

The Public Plate (Carly Trisk-Grove's project):

<https://www.thepublicplate.com/about>

Nourish Scotland project:

<https://www.nourishscotland.org/projects/public-diners/>

Right to Food Commission (Ian Byrne MP's project):

<https://www.ianbyrne.org/rtfcommission>

Sussex Surplus (Brighton): <https://www.sussexsurplus.org/>

CanTeam: <http://www.canteam.org/>

NB: Be aware these links take you to external non-BBC websites.

**FRI 11:45 The Colour of Home by Sajid Javid (m002r4xm)**

Episode 5

The shouted racist abuse ricocheted off the walls of the Rochdale underpass that connected Sajid Javid's home and primary school. Even as a five year-old boy, he had learned that 1970s Britain could be a cruel and violent place for those seen as outsiders.

Leaving behind the devastation of Partition, Sajid's father moved from Punjab to the UK in the '60s. The family held on to many of their Indo-Pakistani traditions, setting them apart and often leading to rejection by their new neighbours.

In this tender but powerful memoir, Sajid Javid shares his story of a childhood marked by poverty, racism and the tension produced by trying to conform to two cultures. These led to run-ins with the police, trouble at school and eventually the risk of estrangement from his family by defying their wish for his arranged marriage in favour of choosing the woman he loved. With each new trial, Sajid learned to dig his heels in further, speaking up for himself and stubbornly refusing to accept the limits that seemed imposed by his background.

This is a story of hope, determination and survival - a tribute to the parents who gave everything and the brothers who struggled alongside him - and an invitation to every 'outsider' to keep going and dream big.

Episode Five

Sajid is horrified to discover that his father has arranged for him to marry his cousin, leading to a terrible family argument.

Read by Sajid Javid  
Abridged by Libby Spurrier  
Producer: David Blount

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 12:00 News Summary (m002r4xp)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 12:04 AntiSocial (m002r4xr)**

Who is Heathcliff?

Peace talks for the culture wars. The latest version of Wuthering Heights has come in for criticism on social media, especially about the casting of a white actor as Heathcliff. Chris Warburton and guests examine the debate about representation on the big screen.

Presenter: Chris Warburton  
Producers: Natasha Fernandes, Tom Gillett, John Murphy  
Studio Manager: Andrew Mills  
Production co-ordinator: Gemma Ashman  
Editor: Penny Murphy

**FRI 12:57 Weather (m002r4xt)**

The latest weather forecast

**FRI 13:00 World at One (m002r4xw)**

Palestine Action ban ruled unlawful

The High Court over-ruled the government's proscription of Palestine Action but doesn't lift the ban ahead of an expected appeal. The group's co-founder Huda Ammori says it will fight any further challenges, and the UK's Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation Jonathan Hall explains why he thinks a ban is necessary. Plus, we hear from a woman whose husband developed with sexual hyperfixation after taking Parkinson's medication and, as AI becomes an increasingly common part of our lives, we discuss if it could start to shape the way we think.

**FRI 13:45 The Hunger Game (m002r4xy)**

5. Food for Thought

This five-part series explores the weight loss drug revolution and the meteoric rise of the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture them.

Presented by Professor Giles Yeo, who researches how these drugs affect the brain in Cambridge University, the series reveals the latest research, tells the story of the scientific breakthroughs that made Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) weight loss drugs possible and describes the marketing strategy that turned them into household names.

Throughout each episode Giles meets researchers, doctors and journalists to discuss the ethical dilemmas of accessibility and affordability and explains what they do and how they work. He also reveals the unexpected impacts that the widespread use of these drugs is having on our health and society.

Episode 5: Food For Thought

In the final episode Giles looks into the future, there are now hundreds of pharmaceutical companies joining the weight loss drug 'arms race' and trials are underway to make them available in pill form. Very soon some of the original patents will run out, meaning that the high price they cost will likely fall.

Contributors:

Professor Giles Yeo

Giles Yeo is a Professor of Molecular Neuroendocrinology and programme leader at the MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit in Cambridge, and his research currently focuses on the influence of genes on feeding behaviour and body-weight.

Harry Yeo

Harry Yeo is Giles Yeo's son and is currently taking weight loss drugs.

Dr Luke McDonough

Luke is an associate professor at the London School of Economics Law School.

Aimee Donnellan

Aimee is a Reuters journalist and writes about pharmaceuticals, consumer goods groups, retail and insurance.

Dr Lotte Bjerre Knudsen

Lotte is Novo Nordisk's Chief Scientific Advisor, and led the research group back in the early 1990s that first invented the molecule that made them possible.

Professor Barbara McGowan

Barbara is a professor of endocrinology and diabetes based at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital

Dr Graham Easton

Graham is an academic GP with extensive experience in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. He also takes weight loss drugs.

Dr Kamran Abbasi

Kamran is editor in chief of the British Medical Journal

Henry Dimbleby

Henry is a British businessman and cookery writer who is a co-founder of Leon Restaurants and the Sustainable Restaurant Association. He was appointed lead non-executive board member of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in March 2018.

Prof Frank Reimann

Frank works at the Institute of Metabolic Science in Cambridge alongside Giles Yeo researching how weight loss drugs affect the brain.

Cheri Ferguson

Cheri takes weight loss drugs after a lifetime of dieting; 28 days in Cheri noticed her need to vape completely changed.

Dr Tony Goldstone

Tony is a clinical associate professor and consultant endocrinologist at Imperial College London.

A Changing World production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 14:00 The Archers (m002r4w6)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

**FRI 14:15 Limelight (m002qvjw)**

Wolf Valley

Episode 4

Asgard's founder Tor Martinsen's death sends shockwaves through Wolf Valley but Lena is not convinced it was suicide. As she unravels Asgaard's tangled finances and covert deals with Russian backers, the dark legacy of Valborg Academy overshadows it all.

Rose's recovered GoPro deepens the mystery, revealing a final dive, a motor, and a violent impact. And when ten-year-old Oscar Vikstad vanishes into the forest on the eve of a storm, the investigation becomes a race against time.

The penultimate episode in a Nordic noir, where shocking crimes and long-simmering feuds threaten a remote mountain valley.

LENA - Amrita Acharia  
AKSEL - David Menkin  
MAGNUS - Eirik Knutsvik  
PAUL - Raj Ghatak  
INGRID - Eva Eklöf  
HENRIK - Øystein Lode  
EVA - Ingvild Lakou  
ROSE - Stephanie MacGaraidh  
SUSANNA - Ingrid Werner  
ANNETTE - Sarah Whitehouse  
VIDAR'S MUM - Eva Eklöf  
SARA - Ronja Haugholt  
LENA'S MUM - Ingvild Lakou  
YOUNG LENA - Mackenzie Sutherland

All other parts played by the cast

Written by Charlotte Melén

Composer - Marcus Aurelius Hjelmberg

Singer - Johanne Baadsgaard Lange

Sound Design - Louis Blatherwick, Steve Bond

Director - Charlotte Melén

Producer - Eleanor Mein

Assistant Producer - Chloe Sackur

Script Consultant - Lauren Shippin

Development Producer - Saskia Black

Executive Producers - Charlotte Melén, Celia de Wolff

An Almost Tangible production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 14:45 Life Without (m002r4y0)**

Life Without the Moon

Full moon, half-moon, total eclipse. What happens when we look up and the moon is missing? In this episode of Life Without, our host Alan Davies imagines a world where the moon just ceases to exist, the Earth's natural satellite gone.

What would happen to our tides and how would creatures who depend on moonlight to hunt survive? The loss of the Moon would also have a huge impact on our psyche and connection to the lunar calendar.

This episode features Sara Russell a Merit Researcher in Cosmic Mineralogy and Planetary Science and artist Luke Jerram who toured the world with his replica in Museum of the Moon.

An ITN production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002r4y3)**

Tyne Valley

Kathy Clugston and the GQT team are in Tyne Valley, Newcastle.

Kathy's joined by Dr Chris Thorogood, Bethan Collerton and Matthew Wilson, who tackle a variety of questions from troubled Aspidistra, yellowing Choisya and planting for winter colour. The team also discusses beech hedges, how to tackle the issue of invasive Japanese knotweed and unlikely exotics thriving in northern gardens.

Later in the show, Bunny Guinness enlightens us on the benefits and use cases of grow lights within greenhouses.

Producer: Dan Cocker

Assistant Producer: Suhaar Ali

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

To view the plant list, please go to the Gardeners' Question Time and open this week's episode page.

**FRI 15:45 Short Works (m002r4y5)**

Hearts in Lattes

In writer Allan Radcliffe's alternative take on love and relationships, Maggie and Ellie meet on Valentine's Day in an attempt to build a relationship after being semi-estranged for years.

Allan Radcliffe is a multi-award winning Scottish author, arts journalist and editor, and is currently a freelance theatre critic and feature writer. His short stories have been published in anthologies including *Out There*, *The Best Gay Short Stories* and *New Writing Scotland*. After the resounding success of his debut novel *'The Old Haunts'*, his new novel, *'Blurred Faces'*, was published by Fairlight in November 2025.

'Hearts in Lattes' is read by Gabriel Quigley and produced by Bethany Woodhead. It is a BBC Audio Scotland production for BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 16:00 Last Word (m002r4y7)**

Meredith Hooper, David Young, Dorothy Solomon, Derek Kelly

Matthew Bannister on:

Meredith Hooper, the prolific author who wrote several books about Antarctica. We have a tribute from her son, the Oscar winning film director Tom Hooper.

David Young, the American lawyer who was in charge of a team known as "The Plumbers" who tried to stop leaks of sensitive information from the Nixon White House.

Dorothy Solomon, the manager and agent who steered the careers of *The Dubliners*, *The Bachelors* and many other stars of the 1960s and 70s. Sharon Osbourne pays tribute.

Derek Kelly, the Essex farmer who revived the fortunes of the Bronze turkey - with a little help from Delia Smith.

Interviewee: Tom Hooper  
Interviewee: Suannah Young  
Interviewee: Giles Alston  
Interviewee: Sharon Osbourne  
Interviewee: Dec Cluskey  
Interviewee: Paul Kelly

Producer: Gareth Nelson-Davies  
Assistant Producer: Catherine Powell  
Researcher: Jesse Edwards  
Editor: Glyn Tansley

Archive used:  
Meredith Hooper interview, *Woman's Hour*, BBC Radio 4, 20/08/2007; Meredith Hooper interview, *Excess Baggage*, BBC Radio 4, 04/02/2012; Tom Hooper, Best Director announcement and acceptance speech, OSCARS, 03/03/2011; Daniel Ellsberg interview, 1971 press conference, BBC Archive Facebook channel, uploaded 05/04/2016; Watergate Special News Report, CBS News, 04/11/1973; Derek Kelly, Delia Smith's Christmas, BBC TWO, 22/11/1990;

**FRI 16:30 Sideways (m002r3m8)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]

**FRI 17:00 PM (m002r4y9)**

Palestine Action ruling leaves thousands in limbo

The High Court says the government's ban on the organisation

is unlawful but it remains in place pending an appeal. Nearly 3,000 people have been arrested for supporting Palestine Action. We hear from one and assess the ruling with Lord Sumption. Plus, Germany threatens to send a Russian defector, who fled the frontline in Ukraine, back to Russia. As the Heathrow boss says people walking the wrong way are causing congestion in the terminal, we examine whether it's Britons or Europeans on the wrong side.

**FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002r4yc)**

The High Court rules the decision to ban Palestine Action as a terrorist group is unlawful

A decision to ban Palestine Action as a terror group last year has been ruled as unlawful by the High Court. Also: Two men, who planned what police said could have been Britain's deadliest terror attack, have been jailed for life. And as Wales prepare to face France in the Six Nations on Sunday, thousands of tickets for the match in Cardiff remain unsold.

**FRI 18:30 The News Quiz (m002r4yf)**

Series 119

Is the UK getting sunnier?

This week the panel discuss PM Keir Starmer fighting off a potential coup; whether it's a good idea to take Valentine's day tips from a two-timing Norwegian athlete; and after 40 days of rain in some parts of the UK, is the country actually getting sunnier?

Joining Andy this week is Alasdair Beckett-King, Rachel Fairburn, Stephen Bush and Mhairi Black.

Written by Andy Zaltzman.

With additional material by: Cody Dahler, Eve Delaney, Jade Gebbie, Ruth Husko and Peter Tellouche.  
Producer: Georgia Keating  
Executive Producer: James Robinson  
Production Coordinator: Giulia Lopes Mazzu  
Sound Editor: Marc Willcox

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

**FRI 19:00 The Archers (m002r4yh)**

As oblivious David collects glasses at The Bull, Ruth turns up dressed for a romantic dinner. Her plan has worked, and they settle down for a Valentine's date. David admits this is better than squeezing in at the bar, but now they've got a free evening tomorrow. Ruth jokes they could use that time to work on their wills, as they've already told the children the succession plans. David hopes his dad would think they're passing on Brookfield in good shape. Reminiscing, the couple recall their first Valentine's Day together almost forty years ago.

Alice arrives at The Bull to take Fallon for a night out at a comedy gig as a surprise. In between acts, Fallon asks if Alice is looking for a Valentine, and flustered Alice confesses there is someone who has crossed her mind. Fallon agrees Rex is lovely. She points out if Alice is interested, she's just going to have to ask him out.

Ruairi arrives back from the Suffolk farm visit to Brian, who tells him about George's visit and his own subsequent confession. Ruairi is stunned – surely Brian didn't confess without solid evidence? Brian asks if he'd rather he told George that it was Ruairi who attacked him. Ruairi says he'll tell the truth, but Brian insists he'll do no such thing. He made a promise to Siobhan to keep him safe. If Ruairi wants to get back into Brian's good books, then he's got to work for it.

**FRI 19:15 Add to Playlist (m002r4yk)**

Rick Wakeman and Aoife Ni Bhriain launch the new series

Irish classical and folk violinist Aoife Ni Bhriain and keyboard player Rick Wakeman are Jeffrey Boakye and Anna Phoebe's first guests as they begin a brand new series. Valentine's Day vibes are in the air so expect a bit of love as we embark on a new playlist, taking us from a sweet disco classic to a precocious pop/country megastar via Thor and Mozart.

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

The five tracks in this week's playlist:

- [03'55] Love is in the Air by John Paul Young
- [11'07] Love's Dream by Jeffrey Boakye and Roger Daltrey
- [18'40] Thor: Ragnarok by Mark Mothersbaugh
- [25'45] Allegro moderato from Violin Concerto No 1 in B-flat Major by Mozart
- [33'40] The Outside by Taylor Swift

Other music in this episode:

Berghain by Rosalía ft Björk  
Whip it by DEVO  
Arena Fight by Mark Mothersbaugh

**FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m002r4ym)**

Meghan Gallagher MSP, Gerry Hassan, Ivan McKee MSP, Kirsty McNeill MP

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from Denny Civic Theatre in Dumfries, with Scottish Conservative MSP and housing spokesperson Meghan Gallagher; the writer and academic Gerry Hassan; the SNP Scottish Government's public finance minister Ivan McKee MSP; and the Labour UK Government's Scotland Office minister, Kirsty McNeill MP.

Producer: Paul Martin  
Assistant producer: Jo Dwyer  
Production co-ordinator: Ishmael Soriano  
Lead broadcast engineer: Niall Young  
Editor: Glyn Tansley

**FRI 20:55 This Week in History (m002r3mg)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:40 on Wednesday]

**FRI 21:00 Free Thinking (m002r4yp)**

Working Class Creativity

From an impoverished neighbourhood in South London, Charlie Chaplin became one of the most significant figures in the development of cinema. More recently, TV writers like Sophie Willan and Michaela Coel have transformed the way working class lives are depicted on TV, from the concerned paternalism of the 1960s to a more celebratory view from the inside in the 2020s. In this week's edition of Radio 4's arts and ideas discussion programme, Matthew Sweet charts these changes, and considers what they mean for our understanding of class categories in wider society. With TV historian Laura Minor, art historian Jacqueline Riding, novelist Adelle Stripe, and historian Samuel Johnson-Schlee. Plus, an interview with Ian La Frenais, co-creator of such comedy classics as *The Likely Lads* and *Porridge*. The paperback of Adelle Stripe's memoir *Base Notes*, and Jacqueline Riding's book *Hard Street: Working Class Lives in Charlie Chaplin's London*, are both published in February. Producer: Luke Mulhall

**FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m002r4yr)**

Planned Manchester attack could have been deadliest in UK history

Two men have been given life sentences for planning a gun attack on Manchester's Jewish community. The plot was foiled by an undercover officer, and Greater Manchester Police said it had gone ahead it could have been the deadliest terror attack in British history.

Also on the programme: German Chancellor Friedrich Merz tells the Munich Security Conference the rules-based world order no longer exists, and that this has consequences for America, too.

And Matt Weston triumphs in the skeleton to win Team GB's first gold medal at this year's Winter Olympics.

**FRI 22:45 James by Percival Everett (m002r4yt)**

5: Minstrels

Rhashan Stone reads the winner of 2025's Pulitzer Prize by one of America's greatest contemporary authors.

Mississippi, 1861. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs. Hiding on nearby Jackson Island he tries to formulate a plan. But when his friend Huck Finn arrives with the news that he's faked his own death to escape his violent father, Jim knows he will be blamed. As so begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive promise of the Free States and beyond.

Powerful, electrifying and brimming with the dark humour, this multi award-winning novel has already become a modern classic.

Today: After evading the two white con-men, Jim finds himself hired by a band of minstrels, who, improbably, want him to perform in black face...

Reader: Rhashan Stone  
Writer: Percival Everett (born 1956) is the author of over thirty books, including *Telephone*, *Dr No*, *The Trees*, which was shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize and won the 2022

Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize, and Erasure, which was adapted into the major Oscar-winning film American Fiction. He is the Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California.  
Producer: Justine Willett  
Abridger: Katrin Williams

**FRI 23:00 Americast (w3ct8bz4)**

Will the US Supreme Court stand up to Trump?

Will Donald Trump be legally allowed to proceed with key elements of his second term agenda - such as imposing global trade tariffs, ending birthright citizenship and the right to sack heads of independent agencies? As the Supreme Court prepares to rule on the legality of major policies from the Trump administration, we look at whether the court will stand up to Donald Trump, or further expand the power of the US presidency?

Justin and Anthony are joined by Kate Shaw, former Supreme Court clerk, and Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania's Carey Law School. We look at how SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States) has dealt with former presidents, and discuss criticism that the current makeup of SCOTUS justices are making Trump the most powerful president in US history.

**HOSTS:**

- Justin Webb, Radio 4 presenter
- Anthony Zurcher, North America Correspondent

**GUEST:**

Kate Shaw, former Supreme Court clerk, Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania's Carey Law School and co-host of the Strict Scrutiny podcast

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This episode was made by Purvee Pattni with Grace Reeve and Kris Jalowiecki. The technical producer was Mike Regaard. The series producer is Purvee Pattni. The senior news editor is Sam Bonham.

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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 Today in Parliament (m002r4yx)**

Susan Hulme reports on the future of the House of Lords, the textile industry and organised crime near you