

SATURDAY 11 JULY 2026**SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m002ym8x)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 00:30 On Thin Ice: A Memoir of Siberia, Surveillance and Survival by Charlie Walker (m002ym7g)
Episode 5

Charlie Walker is an award winning explorer and writer. He has travelled tens of thousands of miles, crossing extreme territories such as deserts, wilderness and jungles, fascinated by the land and the people he meets. He has published books about cycling to the ends of the world (Through Sand and Snow) and through Asia and Africa (On Roads that Echo).

In On Thin Ice, he is in Siberia, the coldest inhabited place on earth where in the long winters temperatures can fall to minus 50 degrees and the rivers are so frozen trucks can drive along them. Your breath can freeze in mid-air: "A strange phenomenon occurs: a delicate hissing can be heard, similar to the sound of running sand, as the moisture in one's own breath crystallises and falls through the cold, dry air. The indigenous Sakha people call this 'the whisper of the stars.'"

Facing ridiculously low temperatures, he skis and walks his way from one small isolated town or village meeting both kindness and distrust. It quickly becomes clear that the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, the FSB, know he is there. The FSB are suspicious at the best of times, but Charlie's voyage has unwittingly coincided with Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine leaving him shocked how so many he meets do not question Putin's motives or the lies told about the Ukrainian people, unsure how or if he is ever going to get home, and realising all his bank cards have stopped working.

His expedition ends, unexpectedly, in a Russia jail.

Written and read by Charlie Walker
Abridged by Libby Spurier
Produced by Caroline Raphael
Executive Producer: Peter Hoare
Sound by Matt Bainbridge
Production Coordinator: Dawn Williams

A Pier production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002ym8z)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002ym91)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

SAT 05:30 News Summary (m002ym93)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002ym95)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002ym97)

Radio 4's daily prayer and reflection

SAT 05:45 Living on the Edge (m001mt56)

Jaywick Sands

Ten coastal encounters, presented by Richard King.

Today: a tour of Jaywick Sands with Maria Revell.

Not simply town or countryside, the coastline is a place apart – attracting lives and stories often overlooked.

In these ten programmes, the writer Richard King travels around the UK coast to meet people who live and work there – a sequence of portraits rooted in distinct places, which piece together into an alternative portrait of the UK: an oblique image of the nation drawn from the coastal edge.

Producer: Martin Williams

SAT 06:00 News and Papers (m002yvkD)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 06:07 This Natural Life (m002y127)

Judi Dench

Judi Dench is one of the nation's best loved actors, but she is also well-known for her love of trees. In this programme, Martha Kearney meets Judi at her woodland garden in Surrey,

where she learns that every time a friend dies, Judi plants a tree in their memory. Judi gives Martha a tour of the woodland, and talks about the many references to the natural world which can be found in Shakespeare's plays. She points out some of the trees in her woodland which hold special significance for her.

Producer: Emma Campbell

SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m002yvkG)

Farming Today This Week 11/07/2026 Crops in a mine, hot livestock, agriculture & water report, scallops, school farm visits.

How practical would it be to grow our food underground? It's a question being investigated by researchers at the University of Sheffield who are growing crops more than a kilometre below ground-level in a working mine near Whitby.

The Environment Agency has produced its first ever annual report into agriculture and water in England. Taking data from the last five years, it assesses the impact of agricultural pollution from farms, and how water availability is being managed. Non-compliance with water regulations has dropped, but 40% of farmers are still breaking the rules.

We've been taking a close look at commercial fishing all this week. Ten years on from the Brexit vote leading to the UK leaving the EU, some in the industry say that decision has had a lasting impact on their businesses, and not a good one. We hear from a scallop business in Scotland which says the industry needs more support.

Many of us have been sweltering in the third official heatwave of the summer. For farmers with livestock, there's the continual worry that their animals might be overheating, or not drinking enough water. We speak to a farm vet about the impact heat stress can have on the health of livestock and the fertility of cows.

Many farms have an education string to their bows nowadays but perhaps not quite on the scale of a farm near Kendal that's been hosting primary school visits for the Westmorland County Agricultural Society for the last 25 years. Hundreds of children from 42 different schools flock to Roger Mason's farm to learn what producing food is all about.

Presenter = Caz Graham
Producer = Rebecca Rooney

SAT 06:57 Weather (m002yvkj)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SAT 07:00 Today (m002yvkI)

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

SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m002yvkN)

Radio 4's Saturday morning show brings you extraordinary stories and remarkable people.

SAT 10:00 You're Dead to Me (m002yvkQ)

Medieval saints: miracles, relics and pilgrimage

Greg Jenner is joined in medieval Europe by historian Dr Simon Yarrow and comedian Rachel Parris to learn all about the cult of saints and their relics. The veneration of saints still plays an important role in the lives of Catholics all over the world, but what did the cult of saints – and especially devotion to their relics – play in medieval Europe? This episode explores all aspects of the topic: who became a saint, and how the canonisation process changed over the centuries as the papacy tried to more tightly control it. What sorts of signs and miracles proved someone's sanctity. What relics are, and how medieval churches acquired them, both legitimately and illegitimately. What people in the Middle Ages thought saints could do for them, and the pilgrimages they took to their tombs in search of aid. And it asks whether everyone believed in the power of saints' relics – and the gruesome fate awaiting some sceptics.

If you're a fan of marvellous miracle stories, the fascinating history of the Catholic Church, and the odd gory martyrdom, you'll love our episode on medieval saints.

If you want more from Rachel Parris, listen to our episode on Eleanor of Aquitaine. And for more on the history of Catholicism, check out our episodes on the Early Medieval Papacy, Medieval Ghost Stories and Benedetta Carlini.

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: Lily Tidman

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 The Kitchen Cabinet (m002yvkS)

Series 53

Leicester

Jay Rayner and the panel are at the Y Theatre in Leicester discussing offal recipes and Gujarati cooking.

Joining Jay to solve the audience's kitchen conundrums are chefs, cooks and food writers Rob Owen Brown, Tim Anderson, Sophie Wright, and TKC newbie and Bake Off star, Chetna Makan. The panellists share how to keep their chef whites clean, savoury recipes involving mango and the parts of an animal they'd steer clear of.

Situated just a stone's throw from Leicester's 'Golden Mile', Belgrave Road, the panel is joined by Ashish Gosai from Sharmilee, one of the street's most enduring Gujarati restaurants. They discuss the importance of mango season in India and the remarkable origin story of their Gujarati eatery.

Producer: Dulcie Whaddock
Assistant Producer: William Norton
A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

SAT 11:00 The Week in Westminster (m002yvkV)

Radio 4's assessment of developments at Westminster

SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002yvkX)

Iran: the funeral of Ayatollah Khamanei

Kate Adie presents stories on the burial of Ayatollah Khamanei in Iran, a diplomatic correspondent's return to Moscow, a pioneering therapy centre in Ukraine's West, Italian lessons in Argentina and the restoration of the Casbah in Algiers.

The streets of major cities across Iran have been lined with mourners attending the funeral procession of former leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamanei. But as the coffin was transported between cities, renewed attacks on tankers in the strait of Hormuz threw the region into more turmoil, prompting a heavy US response. Lyse Doucet has been in Tehran.

Ukraine has been escalating its attacks deeper into Russian territory on refineries and ports. Plumes of black smoke stretching across the Moscow skyline have brought the war with Ukraine closer to home for everyday Russians. James Landale has been back to the Russian capital.

Meanwhile Russia has launched devastating attacks across Ukraine and in Kyiv's centre killing dozens of civilians. And hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers are living with the physical and psychological scars of war. Lucy Ash has been to a pioneering psychological retreat.

Two-thirds of Argentina's population can trace their roots back to Italy. Their ancestors arrived during the 19th and 20th century when Argentina was one of the fastest growing countries in the world. But, as the economy stutters, Italian Argentines are increasingly returning home to Europe, finds Jane Chambers

In Algiers, the ancient 'Casbah' – the historic citadel and medina - has been the focus of multiple forsaken plans for its regeneration. But now, at last, a restoration is gathering pace, says Philip Sweeney.

Series Producer: Serena Tarling
Production coordinators: Gemma Ashman & Sophie Hill
Editor: Richard Vaden

SAT 12:00 News Summary (m002yvkZ)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

SAT 12:04 Money Box (m002yvl1)

Making Tax Digital Deadline and Cheques

A deadline approaches for 860,000 self-employed people and landlords who must start reporting their income and expenses in a new way. It is called Making Tax Digital and it affects small businesses with a turnover or gross income above £50,000 a year. They have until 7th August to report their income and expenditure to HMRC. What do they need to know?

It is “unacceptable” that the government has refused to commit to bringing the administration of the Civil Service Pension Scheme back in-house. That’s according to PCS Union, which says a rare joint committee hearing in Parliament this week highlighted the “catastrophic failures” of the scheme, leaving many members facing “unacceptable delays, errors and distress” when trying to access the pensions they have worked their entire careers to earn. The Cabinet Office, which has overall responsibility for the scheme, says immediately terminating the contract would cause more problems and severely disrupt the pension payroll, jeopardizing the financial security of hundreds of thousands of public servants.

How are rules which make banks reimburse victims of fraud going? A new report evaluates the first year of Mandatory Reimbursement.

And a major high street bank has changed its mind after deciding not to allow customers to deposit their cheques in a Post Office.

Presenter: Paul Lewis
Reporters: Dan Whitworth and Jo Krasner
Researcher: Catherine Lund
Output Producer: Craig Henderson
Editor: Jess Quayle
Senior News Editor: Sara Wadson

(First broadcast **12pm** Saturday 11th July 2026)

SAT 12:30 Dead Ringers (m002ym8b)
Series 27

The President’s for Overturning

The Dead Ringers team train their vocal firepower on the week’s news. This week: Trump turns tricks, Tichel talks tactics, and Count Binface is unmasked.

Starring Jon Culshaw, Jan Ravens, Duncan Wisbey and Kieran Hodgson.

Produced by: Jon Holmes
Executive Producer: James Robinson
Production Co-ordinator: Giulia Lopes Mazzu

A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

SAT 12:57 Weather (m002yvl3)
The latest weather forecast

SAT 13:00 News (m002yvl5)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (m002ym8j)
Laila Cunningham, Baroness Hodge, Mike Martin MP, Sir Andrew Mitchell MP

Alex Forsyth presents political debate from Furze Platt Senior School in Maidenhead, with Reform UK’s Laila Cunningham; Labour peer Baroness Hodge of Barking; Liberal Democrat MP Mike Martin; and the Conservative MP Sir Andrew Mitchell.

Producer: Paul Martin
Assistant producer: Jo Dwyer
Production co-ordinator: Sam Grist
Lead broadcast engineer: Kate Barker
Editor: Andrea Kennedy

SAT 14:05 Any Answers? (m002yvl7)
Listeners respond to the issues raised in the preceding edition of Any Questions?

SAT 14:45 The Archers (m002ym8d)
Writer: Tim Stimpson
Director: Jessica Bunch
Editor: Jeremy Howe

Brian Aldridge ... Charles Collingwood
David Archer ... Timothy Bentinck
Tony Archer ... David Troughton
Alice Carter ... Hollie Chapman
Chris Carter ... Wilf Scolding
Susan Carter ... Charlotte Martin
Ian Craig ... Stephen Kennedy
Amber Gordon ... Olivia Bernstone
George Grundy ... Angus Stobie
Bert Horrobin ... David Sterne
Tracy Horrobin ... Susie Riddell
Adam Macy ... Andrew Wincott
Fallon Rogers ... Joanna Van Kampen
Lynda Snell ... Carole Boyd
Lottie Summers ... Bonnie Baddoo

Bill Gordon ... Matthew Gravelle

SAT 15:00 The Master Builder (m000yvv9)
Episode 2

The Master Builder by Henrik Ibsen. Adapted by David Hare. Based on a literal translation by Torkil Heggstad.

Episode 2.
The Master Builder Halvard Solness is infatuated with the new arrival at his house - the mysterious Hilde Wangel. He feels she is a breath of fresh air in his arid emotional life. He has told her everything about the guilt and pain in his marriage. And Hilde flatters and rebuilds his ego. She is back to claim the promise Solness made to her ten years previously when she was thirteen. The concluding part of Henrik Ibsen’s searing tale of middle aged hubris, with mystical undertones and resonances for the #MeToo movement.

Solness.....David Schofield
Aline.....Siobhan Redmond
Hilde.....Laura Aikman
Kaja.....Shannon Hayes
Dr Herdal.....Jonathan Tafler
Ragnar.....Joseph Ayre
Director/Producer Gary Brown

SAT 16:00 Woman’s Hour (m002yvl9)
Highlights from the Woman’s Hour week

SAT 17:00 PM (m002yvlc)
Full coverage of the day’s news

SAT 17:30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson (m002yvlf)
We’ve got a plan: Louise Haigh on her journey back to power

The former Transport Secretary, sidelined by Keir Starmer, reveals she’s been working with Burnham on a plan for government for at least a year, and has already seen the prospective Prime Minister make tough decisions. Also - bringing hope back to politics, navigating an exotic bird auction, and playing football in the House of Commons chamber.

Recorded in front of a live audience at the Crossed Wires Festival in her home town of Sheffield.

Producer: Hannah Wilkinson

SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m002yvlh)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping

SAT 17:57 Weather (m002yvlk)
The latest weather reports and forecast

SAT 18:00 Six O’Clock News (m002yvlm)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m002yvlp)
Nigel Harman, Daliso Chaponda, Nikki Smith, Liana Flores, Ibibio Sound Machine

Stuart Maconie is joined by Nigel Harman, best known for playing lovable rogue Dennis Rickman in Eastenders, he’s also much in demand as a panto villian. Trained in musical theatre, he also started in Shrek the Musical and his latest stage role is playing Bruce Bechdel in a musical adaptation of Alison Bechdel’s memoir ‘Fun Home’ at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. Daliso Chaponda describes himself as a ‘comedian, writer and antisocial commentator’ and has been touring the country with his latest show Topical Storm. A regular on Radio 4, Daliso tackles not the actual news, but look at news itself. Thriller writer Nikki Smith began her career in finance, and only turned to writing in 2017. Since then she’s more than made up for lost time, publishing five best selling books and she’s just about to publish book number six, ‘The Last Place You Look’.

Music is from Liana Flores who had a viral hit with Rises The Moon in 2022 and has since released her debut album and toured round the world and Ibibio Sound Machine

Presenter: Stuart Maconie
Producer: Jessica Treen

SAT 19:00 Profile (m002yvlr)
Gianni Infantino

The FIFA president grew up in Switzerland as part of an Italian migrant family, and fell in love with football and its

administration when he was just a teenager.

Having qualified as a football lawyer and making a name for himself at the European football federation UEFA, Infantino ended up perfectly positioned to take over the presidency of the world body FIFA after the organisation was mired in corruption charges. His promise to give the member associations double the money sealed his bid.

He’s now been president for over 10 years and has overseen FIFA’s expansion, with World Cups in Qatar, Russia and now North America; the growth of the women’s game; more competitions; more controversy - and of course more money.

This week, his love affair with Donald Trump has been thrust into the spotlight after US player Folarin Balogun’s red card was suspended following Trump’s appeal to Infantino. Will this latest controversy prove his undoing, or is it just another chapter in a new brazen age?

Production:
Presenter: Mark Coles
Producers: Tom Gillett, Eleanor Harrison-Dengate
Production Coordinator: Maria Ogundele, Siobhan Reed
Sound: Neil Churchill
Editor: Justine Lang

ARCHIVE:
FIFA

SAT 19:15 How Boarding Schools Shaped Britain (m0027l57)
1. Building men of Empire

Boarding schools have long been synonymous with leadership, privilege and tradition. Woven into the fabric of British society, these institutions have played a significant role in shaping the nation’s leaders - from Empire builders to politicians.

In the first of three programmes, Nicky Campbell unravels the complex history of boarding schools, from their humble origins as day schools for the poor to their transformation into elite institutions that have defined power and influence.

But does early separation from family and loved ones come at a cost? And what impact has Britain’s most enduring educational tradition had on the rest of British society?

SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m002yvlr)
50 Years of Peter Singer’s Animal Liberation

In 2026 the philosopher Peter Singer turns 80. He’s a most unusual contemporary philosopher: his ideas reach far beyond the academy, sparking widespread public debate and changing minds. His book Animal Liberation (1975) became the best-selling philosophy book of the 20th century, and is considered the founding text of the animal liberation movement.

Singer argued that the moral status of animals depends on their capacity for suffering, rather than any abstract considerations about whether they have ‘rights’. He coined the phrase ‘speciesism’, to highlight humans’ prejudice that their suffering matters more than the suffering of other species. He argued that if anything humans do to an animal causes it to suffer, it’s morally wrong.

Singer’s views have remained remarkably consistent since the mid 1970s. But a look into the archive suggests the world of animal rights activism has gone through several changes. In 1979 File On Four reported on the rise of an anti-vivisectionist movement named for Singer’s book: the Animal liberation Front. Their main concern back then was to raise awareness of scientific experimentation on animals. By 1983, the World At One was reporting on concerns that the Front was using increasingly violent tactics, but Delia Smith was also exposing viewers to the novelty of vegetarian food. Today the importance of animal suffering is recognised in law, and vegan options appear on many menus.

Throughout this change in the animal liberation movement, Peter Singer has been on the front line of the media battle. But he’s also provoked controversy, particularly with his views on euthanasia.

Philosopher Jonathan Egid explores the thought, legacy, and extensive media archive of Peter Singer.

Producer: Luke Mulhall

SAT 21:00 Politically (m002yvlw)
Ten Years After Brexit: Omnibus 1

It is 10 years since the Brexit referendum. Alex Forsyth, a BBC correspondent who’s covered Brexit from both Brussels and Westminster, looks at what impact the decision to leave the EU has had on various aspects of public and political life.

In the first of two programmes, Alex and guests discuss Brexit's effect on the UK economy and trade and immigration, and how the referendum result impacted Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Producers: Ben Carter and Mhairi MacKenzie
Editor: Richard Vadon
Sound mix: James Beard
Production Coordinator: Tim Fernley

SAT 22:00 News (m002yvyly)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SAT 22:15 The Food Programme (m002ym7d)
How Pistachios Took Over

They're in your chocolate, your gelato, even your coffee - pistachios seem to be everywhere at the moment - bolstered by the craze for Dubai Chocolate. In this episode Leyla Kazim asks what happens when the world seems to fall in love with one ingredient.

She explores how the United States came to overtake traditional producers in the Middle East to become the world's largest pistachio grower, and hears about the nut's long history in countries such as Iran from Iranian-American food writer Anna Ansari. Meanwhile, Honey & Co.'s Sarit Packer and Itamar Srulovich demonstrate how versatile pistachios can be, creating both sweet and savoury dishes.

Nick Moss, nuts market reporter at Expana, explains what's happening to pistachio prices and why forecasts for this year's harvest are lower than usual.

Leyla also visits Green Lanes in Haringey, home to many Turkish and Middle Eastern businesses, to discover how pistachios have long been central to traditional desserts - and hears how rising prices are changing that. Finally, she meets Charlie Tebbutt, whose south London company Food & Forest imports nuts, including pistachios, from farms that are either avoiding irrigation or using agroforestry methods, as an alternative to the vast monocrops that supply most of the world's pistachios.

Produced by Natalie Donovan for BBC Audio in Bristol

SAT 23:00 Parish Matters (m002533x)
Series 1

2. 'He's not presumed dead yet, Hank'

A brand-new sitcom sketch hybrid made in Belfast and starring voices from all over Ireland. Each week we join the eccentric inhabitants of the Parish in their weekly council meeting to air their problems and grievances.

The Parish is suffering from low morale and the council meets to decide what can be done to cheer everyone up. Can they slow the Parish 'brain drain' and stop losing their best and brightest to greener pastures abroad? How might they increase the birth rate in order to secure a brighter and more baby-filled tomorrow? There's a surprise proposal for a new education campus and award ceremony to celebrate the parishioners and their achievements. But can the best (and only) cop in town solve the mystery disappearance of the beloved, whiskery Parish mascot Brendan?

PARISH MATTERS is a half hour window into an everlasting argument and an energetic and original comedy show written by Michael McCullagh and Phil Taggart and starring the writers alongside Michael Fry, Ciara Knight, Hannah Mamalis, Mary Flanagan, Michael Stranney and Peter McGann. Produced by Keith Martin and Exec Produced by Sam Michell. A FABEL radio Production for BBC Radio 4.

SAT 23:30 Your Number's Up (m002ymwl)
2. How many satanists in Bungay, Suffolk?

A brand-new, number-crunching comedy quiz for Radio 4 hosted by comedian and YouTuber Max Fosh. In the Every Answer Counts round, players must solve general knowledge equations such as multiplying the pH of pure water by the number of PHs in Philadelphia. In Bestimate Guesstimate, quizzers must calculate the value of a solid gold Max Fosh and how long it would take for Dolly Parton to sing Islands in the Stream on every island of the Philippines. And in the fast-paced Facts & Figures round - where extraordinary facts provide frankly useless clues to a series of tricky equations - they must work out the world record for the number of bees in a human mouth... or 763 divided by 7.

Presenter: Max Fosh
Writers: Benjamin Sutton, James Trickey and James Rawson
Line Producer: Natascha McQueen
Assistant Producer: James Rawson

Producer: Benjamin Sutton
Executive Producers: Simon Urwin and Kitty Walshe

A QITV production for BBC Radio 4

SUNDAY 12 JULY 2026

SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m002yvm0)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 00:15 Bookclub (m002ymwj)
Anne Sebba

Historian and writer Anne Sebba, speaks this month to Bookclub, presented by James Naughtie, about her award-winning biography, *That Woman: The life of Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor*. 'That Woman,' as she was referred to by the Queen Mother and other members of the Royal Family, became a hate figure for allegedly ensnaring a British king. Born in 1896 in Baltimore under the name, Bessiewallis Warfield, she had an impoverished and comparatively obscure childhood which, Anne Sebba writes, inflamed a burning desire to rise above her circumstances.

This episode was recorded at the Borders Book Festival.

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

SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002yvm2)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002yvm4)
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

SUN 05:30 News Summary (m002yvm6)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002yvm8)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m002yvmB)
The Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Courteenhall, Northamptonshire

Bells on Sunday comes from the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Courteenhall, Northamptonshire. The church dates from the 12th century and was partially restored in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Its tower houses a peal of five bells all of which were cast in 1683 by the Bagley foundry of Chacombe, Northamptonshire. The tenor bell weighs twelve hundredweight and is tuned to f sharp. We hear them ringing Grandsire Doubles.

SUN 05:45 In Touch (m002ym2n)
Redress for Failed Passenger Assistance, Funding for Visually Impaired Musicians

Passenger Assistance is a service rail users can book for help with things like navigating unfamiliar stations and catching connecting trains. When it goes right, it can be a service that boosts independence and travel confidence, but it can often go wrong. So now the Office of Rail and Road, who are the regulator for Britain's railways, are consulting on a new framework that aims to make the process of putting things right for passengers fairer. The regulator's Head of Consumer Jacqui Russell explains what is in their framework and how you can respond to their consultation. More details of how to do respond below:

Consultation webpage: [orr.gov.uk/search-consultations/consultation-framework-determining-redress-booked-assistance-not-provided](https://www.orr.gov.uk/search-consultations/consultation-framework-determining-redress-booked-assistance-not-provided)

If you need the consultation documents in large print, audio recording or braille, contact ORR on: 0207 282 2000 (select option 3)
You can also email consultation responses to: ATP@orr.gov.uk

The Elizabeth Eagle-Bott Memorial Fund is provided by the RNIB and it helps visually impaired musicians with additional costs, such as access technology, instruments and music tuition. The fund celebrated its 25th anniversary recently with a concert in London and it featured performances from the fund's alumni. Kevin Satizabal Carrascal attended the concert for In Touch and spoke to musicians about the kinds of things the fund has helped them with. RNIB's Daisy Higman also provides information on how you can apply for next year's fund.

Presenter & 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.

SUN 06:00 News Summary (m002yvw4)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 06:05 Thinking Allowed (m002ym24)
Ageing and Society

What does it mean to grow older in Britain today? Laurie Taylor explores the changing realities of later life, from health and independence to inequality and support.

Professor Judith Phillips OBE, Professor of Gerontology at the University of Stirling, is the former Research Director of the UKRI Healthy Ageing Challenge - a major national programme which brought together researchers, businesses and communities to develop new ways of supporting people to remain active, independent and socially connected as they age. She describes projects including older people using virtual reality headsets to help design better layouts and living spaces in their homes. You can find out more about that here <https://www.deshea.co.uk/resources/>

Dr Kingsley Purdam, of the University of Manchester, discusses research done with his colleague Jill Ebrey, which examined the quieter, often hidden experience of financial insecurity in later life, and the barriers that prevent many older people from accessing the support they need.

Producer: Natalia Fernandez
Series Editor: Robyn Read

SUN 06:35 On Your Farm (m002yvw6)
Don't follow the herd: the deer cull making a difference

When Helen Stewart took over her family's hill farm she was shocked to find hundreds of red deer were the main beneficiaries of the farm's fine grazing. She refused to bow to the conventional local idea that shooting enough to make a dent in the huge herd would mean buying a digger to bury them. Instead she poured her energy into a social enterprise that's created half a dozen jobs and helped feed thousands. Richard Baynes visited Knockbarry Farm in Perthshire to meet her, try the venison and hear her story.

Produced and presented by Richard Baynes

SUN 06:57 Weather (m002yvw8)
The latest weather reports and forecast

SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m002yvwB)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 07:10 Sunday (m002yvwD)
A look at the ethical and religious issues of the week

SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m002yvwG)
Prison Radio Association

Louis Theroux makes the Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of the Prison Radio Association. The charity produces National Prison Radio which is made by people in prison, and is widely listened to by inmates in England and Wales.

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 'Prison Radio Association'.
- Cheques should be made payable to 'Prison Radio Association'.
- You can donate online at bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4
- Please ensure you are donating to the correct charity by checking the name of the charity on the donate page.

Registered Charity Number: 1114760. If you'd like to find out more about the charity's work visit [*https://prison.radio/](https://prison.radio/)
*The BBC is not responsible for content on external websites

Producer: Katy Takatsuki

SUN 07:57 Weather (m002yvwj)

The latest weather reports and forecast

SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m002yvw1)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m002yvwv)

Sea Sunday

Sunday Worship recorded at Portsmouth Cathedral to celebrate Sea Sunday.

The service is led by the Canon Precentor, the Reverend Dr Jo Spreadbury, and the preacher is the Chaplain of the Fleet, the Reverend Canon Dr Mark Davidson. . David Price Organist and Master of the Choristers directs the Portsmouth Cathedral Choir. The organist is Sachin Gunga.

Readings

Genesis 1.1-5

Matthew **14.24-34**

Music

Breathe on Me. Freda Swain .

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

The Theatre of the Sea.

One part of the new sea wall has a poem inscribed along it. The poem called the Theatre of the Sea was written by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage.

It was set to music for this year's Portsmouth's City centenary.

Creator and Father. Christopher Gower

Lord the wind and sea obey thee

Michael row the boat

A new arrangement of 'Michael, row the boat', combining this with another traditional spiritual, Deep river by Portsmouth Cathedral Sub-Organist Sachin Gunga

Eternal Father, strong to save

Produced by Carmel Lonergan

SUN 08:48 Witness History (w3ct747g)

World War Two's Shetland Bus

During World War Two, whilst Norway was occupied by Nazi Germany, a group of Norwegian sailors set up a base on the Shetland Islands and began aiding their country's resistance.

Named "The Shetland Bus" they made perilous journeys across the North Sea in fishing boats - smuggling agents, equipment and ammunition into Norway.

Their most famous skipper was Leif Larsen. He made more than 50 journeys to and from occupied Norway during the war and became one of the highest decorated naval officers of World War Two.

Tim O'Callaghan tells his story using archive interviews Leif gave to the BBC in 1981 and 1985.

Eye-witness accounts brought to life by archive. Witness History is for those fascinated by the past. We take you to the events that have shaped our world through the eyes of the people who were there.

For nine minutes every day, we take you back in time and all over the world, to examine wars, coups, scientific discoveries, cultural moments and much more.

Recent episodes explore everything from the death of Adolf Hitler, the first spacewalk and the making of the movie Jaws, to celebrity tortoise Lonesome George, the Kobe earthquake and the invention of superglue.

We look at the lives of some of the most famous leaders, artists, scientists and personalities in history, including: Eva Peron – Argentina's Evita; President Ronald Reagan and his famous 'tear down this wall' speech; Thomas Keneally on why he wrote Schindler's List; and Jacques Derrida, France's 'rock star' philosopher.

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

(Photo: The Shetland Bus crew, Leif Larsen second from left next to agent in white coat. Credit: David Howarth)

SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (m002yvwq)

Isabella Tree on the Turtle Dove

In early summer at the Knepp Rewilding Project in West Sussex you're almost guaranteed to hear a turtle dove, one of the UK's rarest birds. Conservationist Isabella Tree writes how its gentle soothing sound tugs at the heartstrings, as today fewer than 3000 breeding pairs remain. But at Knepp, turtle doves can find areas of dense thorny thicket where they like to nest, and wildflower seeds to eat. Now every year they count 20 singing males, which is a quarter of the population in Sussex.

Produced by Sophie Anton for BBC Audio in Bristol.

This programme features audio recorded by Hazel Reeves at Knepp.

SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m002yvwv)

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

SUN 10:00 Desert Island Discs (m002yvvv)

Paul Farmer, charity leader

Paul Farmer is a charity leader who has spent his life campaigning, fundraising and changing the national conversation around some of the most challenging issues in our society. Currently at the helm of Age UK, he previously spent 16 years as the CEO of Mind, the UK's largest mental health charity.

Paul was born in Oxford, the son of a former Benedictine monk and a former nun. He read history at St Peter's College, Oxford, where he met his future wife, Claire. After graduating, he found a role working for a heritage centre and fell in love with the charity sector, moving to the Samaritans. His experiences taking calls from those struggling with their mental health awakened a passion for working in the mental health sector.

In 2006 he moved Mind, where he became CEO. He led a fifteen-year campaign that helped to change legislation, and the national conversation around mental health. For the past few years, he has campaigned for older people as Chief Executive at Age UK, and encouraged the public to prepare and plan for a happier, healthier later life.

Paul lost his wife, Claire, to cancer in 2019. He lives in West London.

Presenter: Lauren Laverne

Producer: Sarah Taylor and Hannah Hufford

Desert Island Discs has cast away many campaigners to the island over the years including Marjorie Wallace, Julia Cleverdon, and Sue Ryder, Baroness Ryder of Warsaw. You can hear their programmes if you search through BBC Sounds or our own Desert Island Discs website.

SUN 11:00 The Archers Omnibus (m002yvwv)

4th – 10th July 2026

Writer: Tim Stimpson

Director: Jessica Bunch

Editor: Jeremy Howe

Brian Aldridge ... Charles Collingwood
David Archer ... Timothy Bentinck
Tony Archer ... David Troughton
Alice Carter ... Hollie Chapman
Chris Carter ... Wilf Scolding
Susan Carter ... Charlotte Martin
Ian Craig ... Stephen Kennedy
Amber Gordon ... Olivia Bernstone
George Grundy ... Angus Stobie
Bert Horrobin ... David Sterne
Tracy Horrobin ... Susie Riddell
Adam Macy ... Andrew Wincott
Fallon Rogers ... Joanna Van Kampen
Lynda Snell ... Carole Boyd
Lottie Summers ... Bonnie Baddoo
Bill Gordon ... Matthew Gravelle

SUN 12:15 Profile (m002yvlr)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

SUN 12:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m002yknd)

Series 85

5. Chat Up Turn Downs

The godfather of all panel shows visits the Leeds Grand Theatre. On the panel are Joe Lycett, Pippa Evans, Miles Jupp and Ian Smith with Jack Dee in the umpire's chair. Regular listeners will know to expect inspired nonsense, pointless revelry and Colin Sell at the piano.

Producer: Jon Naismith

A Random production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 12:57 Weather (m002yvwz)

The latest weather forecast

SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m002yvx1)

A look at the week's big stories and preview of the week to come.

SUN 13:30 Currently (m002yvs1)

Decency Politics

As a journalist, historian, constitutional scholar and member of the House of Lords, Peter Hennessy has been observing British public and political life for more than 50 years. But now he's retiring from the House of Lords, and as he does he's struck by the rancour that is corroding our politics. What, he has been asking himself, can we do to restore decency to the heart of political conversation?

In this programme Peter has been putting that question to people who have thought about decency and how we might encourage it. And he's invited them to do it at his house over a cup of tea. From former Prime Minister John Major to Whitehall Fixer Louise Casey, Reform MP Danny Kruger to National Education Union leader Daniel Kebede, the doorbell has rung with its jaunty tune and Peter has sat down to hear what has gone wrong, how a decency economy has emerged on YouTube, and how we might encourage what he calls a 'decency bias' in public life.

Producer: Giles Edwards.

SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002ym7y)

Spalding: Ant Infestation, Pot-Bound Olive Tree and Watering Seedlings

Gardeners' Question Time visits the stunning Springfields Festival Gardens in Spalding, 15 acres of beautifully designed and diverse planting, created for visitors of all ages to explore and enjoy.

Peter Gibbs is joined by a panel of horticultural experts - Matthew Wilson, Christine Walkden and Bunny Guinness - to answer questions from an enthusiastic audience of local gardeners. Together, they tackle a wide range of gardening dilemmas, from reviving a pot-bound olive tree to dealing with ants that have taken up residence in an exotic potted palm.

The panel also offers practical advice on watering seedlings effectively, encouraging a mature philadelphus to flower, and successfully overwintering hollyhocks.

Also, Grow Your Own expert Julia Parker shares her top tips for successional planting, helping gardeners enjoy a continuous harvest throughout the growing season.

Producer: Dominic Tyerman

Producer: Matthew Smith

Producer: Rahnee Prescod

Assistant Producer: William Norton

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4.

SUN 14:45 Opening Lines (m002yvrx)

Anna Christie - Episode 2

In this second episode, John Yorke digs deeper into Eugene O'Neill's 1921 play "Anna Christie" – about an estranged daughter who is reunited with her sea captain father, and falls in love with a sailor. The play examines identity, family and sexual politics, and asks questions about love, faith, redemption, resilience and forgiveness.

John asks how and why the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winning dramatist introduced realist theatre to the US, looks at Eugene O'Neill's influence and legacy, and asks what we should make of "Anna Christie" today.

John Yorke has worked in television and radio for over 30 years and shares his experience as he unpacks the themes and impact of the books, plays and stories 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. He created the BBC Writers Academy and trained a generation of screenwriters, now with thousands of hours of television to their names. His acclaimed books Into the Woods and Trip to the Moon explore the structure and power of narrative, and he writes, teaches and consults on all forms of storytelling, including many podcasts for Radio 4.

Contributor:	The Teams are: Amber & Helen Amy and Harry	stage with the BBC Concert Orchestra in a special concert celebrating 75 years of The Archers.
Robert M. Dowling, professor of English at Central Connecticut State University, author of the biography Eugene O'Neill: A Life in Four Acts.	Questions set by Paddy Duffy Sound by Jerry Peal Programme Coordinator: Jodie Charman Producer: Carl Cooper	Presenter: Charles Collingwood Producers: Anthony McKee and Caitlin Sneddon Editor: Steven Hobson Production Coordinators: Caoilfhinn McFadden and Sylvie Conway
From the BBC archives:	BBC Studios production for Radio 4.	A BBC Audio Northern Ireland production for BBC Radio 4.
Playwright Arthur Miller, from Changing Stages: America, 19 Nov 2000. Actor Natasha Richardson, from Woman's Hour, 18 June 1990.	SUN 17:00 Witness History (w3ct98dv) Dada: The birth of an art movement	Programmes featured in this episode include:
Credits:	In 1916, Zurich was a beacon for refugees. Fleeing the death and destruction of World War I, artists and free-thinkers from all over Europe fled to the neutral Swiss city.	I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue: Chat Up Turn Downs, 06/07 The Food Programme: Howzat? The Story of the Cricket Tea, 04/07 The Patch: North Oxford, 06/07 Meet David Sedaris: E2 Fresh Caught Haddock, 07/07 Drama on 4: B&B, 09/07 Saturday Live, 04/07 Last Word: Rowan Williams on Sister Maggie Ross, 05/07 This Natural Life: Dame Judi Dench, 09/07 The Archers, 09/07: A surprise guest arrives at the Borchester Show, 09/07 The Archers Podcast: RHS Badminton Flower Show, 03/07 Friday Night is Music Night: Celebrating 75 Years of the Archers, 10/07
Excerpts from "Anna Christie" by Eugene O'Neill, 1921, including Ruth Wilson in the 2011 Donmar Warehouse production. Excerpt from the 1930 film adaptation of "Anna Christie" starring Greta Garbo.	And it was here that the people who would start the art movement Dada came together. In a rare interview from 1959, held in the BBC archive, Richard Huelsenbeck describes how the group of young artists and pacifists shared a despair about the war and a disgust for bourgeois values.	SUN 19:00 The Archers (m002yvr) The Aldridges are left surprised, and some news hits hard for Tom.
Researcher: Henry Tydeman Sound: Sean Kerwin Producer: Jack Soper Executive Producer: Sara Davies Production Hub Coordinator: Dawn Williams A Pier Production for BBC Radio 4 & BBC Sounds	At the Cabaret Voltaire, he and the Romanian French-born poet Tristan Tzara, the French sculptor Jean Arp and Romanian-Israeli artist Marcel Janco experimented. Performances were known for their spontaneity, chance and absurdity - a departure from the conventional which confronted audiences. It was the beginning of an aesthetic which would spread across Europe and to New York City, eventually influencing Surrealism and later punk. This episode is produced and presented by Josephine McDermott.	SUN 19:15 Illuminated (m002yvx) Dear Gilbert, Dear Gordon
SUN 15:00 Drama on 4 (m002yvx3) Anna Christie	Eye-witness accounts brought to life by archive. Witness History is for those fascinated by and curious about the past. We take you to the events that have shaped our world through the eyes of the people who were there.	When museum curator Mark Hignett began buying WWII-era letters online, he believed he was piecing together the life of an ordinary soldier.
Part 2	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.	At first glance, the letters looked like typical correspondence: full of yearning, daily details, and hopes for peace. But what emerged wasn't just a wartime chronicle - it was a love story. As he kept on reading, he slowly realised they were letters from one male soldier to another.
Anna Christie has found something on the water she never thought possible: a man who wants her, and a version of herself she might be able to live with. But Mat Burke is a Catholic Irishman with an absolute faith in honour, and Anna has not told him the truth about her past. When she does, the consequences are as violent and as tender as the sea itself.	Recent episodes explore everything from how the Excel spreadsheet was developed, the creation of cartoon rabbit Miffy and how the sound barrier was broken.	At a time when homosexuality was criminalised in Britain and gay soldiers risked court martial, Gilbert and Gordon exchanged intimate, heartfelt correspondence, which are read for this programme by Olly Alexander.
Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama reaches its conclusion in a final reckoning between three people who have spent their lives running from the truth, and must now decide whether love is worth the cost of honesty.	We look at the lives of some of the most famous leaders, artists, scientists and personalities in history, including: the moment Reagan and Gorbachev met in Geneva, Haitian singer Emerante de Pradines' life and Omar Sharif's legendary movie entrance in Lawrence of Arabia.	Their letters spoke of longing, joy, fear, and hope. In one, Gordon writes simply: "There is nothing more that I desire in life but to have you with me constantly." In another, he reflects on how the world would see them: "The rest of the world have no conception of what our love is - they do not know that it is love." It's a reminder that while the law branded them criminals, they understood their bond as something deeply human, and deeply right.
Adapted for radio by Lucy Catherine.	You can learn all about fascinating and surprising stories, like the invention of a stent which has saved lives around the world; the birth of the G7; and the meeting of Maldives' ministers underwater. We cover everything from World War Two and Cold War stories to Black History Month and our journeys into space.	That dream, however, sat alongside deep fear. In one letter, Gordon pleaded with Gilbert to destroy their correspondence: "Please darling, do this for me in deadly seriousness" - terrified of the consequences if their relationship were discovered. And yet, in another, he imagined a world that would understand: "Wouldn't it be wonderful if all our letters could be published in a more enlightened time?"
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.	(Photo: Scene from the Dadaist film Ballet Mécanique, 1924 from the Collection of Musée national d'art moderne, Paris. Credit: Fine Art Images/Heritage Images via Getty Images.)	In this episode of Illuminated, curator Mark Hignett and producer Ilona Toller assess the content of the letters, which are read by Olly Alexander.
Anna Julianna Jennings Chris David Threlfall Mat Ciarán Owens	SUN 17:10 The Patch (m002ykmj) North Oxford	Producer: Ilona Toller Editor: David Prest
Director: Sasha Yevtushenko Technical producers: Keith Graham & Sam Dickinson Production co-ordinator: Ben Hollands	One random postcode and a story you probably haven't heard before. In North Oxford, producer Polly Weston is told to visit a salon which has become the centre of the community, and discovers somewhere which does much more than cut hair. A place where nothing goes to waste.	A Whistledown production for BBC Radio 4
A BBC Studios production.	Produced and presented by Polly Weston	SUN 19:45 Just One Thing - with Michael Mosley (m001scrp) Walk Backwards
SUN 16:00 Take Four Books (m002yvx5) Elizabeth Strout	SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m002yvx) The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping	Step out - backwards! The Chinese have a saying that 100 steps backwards are worth 1000 steps forward - and they might be onto something! It may look bizarre to onlookers, but Michael delves into the research and finds some surprising benefits. It's been used for decades in rehabilitative physical therapy, and recent research reveals that it could even boost memory - by giving your brain a workout! Michael also speaks to biomechanics expert and champion of backwards walking, Professor Janet Dufek from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, whose research suggests that walking backwards could help with lower back pain. They discuss why walking backwards is so beneficial for our muscles and how to do it safely. Volunteer Nina takes her daughter with her for a backward stroll - and gets a laugh out of it!
Presenter James Crawford speaks to award-winning American author Elizabeth Strout - winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and a two-time Booker Prize nominee - about her new book The Things We Never Say and its three key literary influences.	SUN 17:57 Weather (m002yvd) The latest weather reports and forecast	New episodes will be released on Wednesdays, but if you're in
In Elizabeth's latest novel, we are taken to the New England coast, where we follow the life of history teacher Artie Dam, who is struggling to cope with the way the modern world is changing around him.	SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002yvxg) National and international news from BBC Radio 4	
Elizabeth's three influences are The Stories of William Trevor by William Trevor (1983), Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf (1925), and Middlemarch by George Eliot (1872).	SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m002yvxj) Charles Collingwood	
SUN 16:30 Around the World in 80 Ways (m002yvx7) 1. Europe	This week, I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue starts a French revolution with a rhythm stick in Leeds. Staying in Yorkshire we hear about the dying art of the cricket tea, and how a cricket club near Halifax is championing the tradition of cheese and pickle sandwiches. Of course, there's plenty happening in Ambridge too with the Borchester Show, and Jazzer takes to the	
What's hidden beneath one of Europe's least visited countries? Where can you visit a Museum of Broken Relationships? And what do retired men in Bologna famously enjoy watching? Find out as Intrepid traveller Simon Reeve hosts a geography quiz where two teams race from country to country in a bid to reach the final destination first.		
As each answer moves them across the map, they test their knowledge of geography, history, culture and the wider world. Part travel adventure, part quiz, it's a journey where every border crossed has to be earned and the only way to travel is to know where you're going.		
Hosted by Simon Reeve		

the UK, listen to new episodes, a week early, first on BBC Sounds: [bbc.in/3zq6BB](https://www.bbc.com/sounds/play/bbc-in3zq6BB)

Producer: Nija Dalal-Small
Science Producer: Catherine Wyler
Assistant Producer: Gulnar Mimaroglu
Trainee Assistant Producer: Toni Arenyeka
Executive Producer: Zoe Heron
A BBC Studios production for BBC Sounds / BBC Radio 4.

SUN 20:00 Feedback (m002y12c)
BBC Investigative Journalism, and Cuts to Programming

The BBC recently reported that they'd tracked down Twana Jamal, one of the most prolific people smugglers in recent history - who had previously been arrested in France but was living and working in the UK. The investigation was carried out by journalists Sue Mitchell and Rob Lawrie for Radio 4's Intrigue series To Catch a King, and they found Jamal ahead of the police or the Home Office.

This sparked a question from a listener - about how journalists interact with authorities to uncover serious crimes. Presenter Andrea Catherwood sits down with journalist Sam Poling, whose own work on BBC documentary and podcast Who Killed Emma led to an arrest and later a conviction, to ask how it works.

We also return to the subject of BBC cuts. We'll hear more of your thoughts and from an expert on the topic of the cuts and charter renewal. Dr Tom Chivers from Goldsmiths, University of London, gives his views on how much the cuts will affect the BBC's relationship with the public as the corporation prepares for a new chapter.

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

A Whistledown Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

SUN 20:30 Last Word (m002ym82)
Bonnie Tyler: How the "sweet soul singer" found her growl

Bonnie Tyler, went from a Welsh council house to topping the international charts with songs like: "Lost In France", "Holding out for a Hero" and "Total Eclipse of the Heart". Born Gaynor Hopkins in South Wales she grew up in a passionately religious family, which is where young Gaynor's first experience of performing came – singing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" at her local chapel. Fellow Welsh musician and broadcaster Mal Pope tells Matthew about her life.

Dissident Hong Kong bookseller Lam Wing-kee was arrested and held for more than four hundred days by the Chinese authorities. They were investigating the publications sold at his Causeway Bay Bookstore, some of which were critical of the Communist regime on the mainland. He became a symbol of freedom of speech after he revealed his incarceration at a news conference. The journalist and author Emily Feng interviewed him.

In 1988 Colonel Abdul Ahad Momand became the first, and so far only, Afghan citizen to travel into space. He was part of the three-person crew that launched from Kazakhstan on board the Soviet Soyuz TM-6 spacecraft. During the trip, Colonel Momand, who was a Muslim, became the first person to read from the Koran on TV while in orbit. General Khyan Zadran was a friend and colleague of Colonel Momand.

TV and radio director Kay Patrick was best known for her work on Coronation Street, where she oversaw 250 episodes in 20 years. During that time, she steered some of the show's most memorable storylines including the death of Hayley Cropper, played by Julie Hesmondhalgh - Julie remembers her sensitive and talented director.

Presenter: Matthew Bannister
Producer: Ben Mitchell
Assistant Producer: Catherine Powell
Researcher: Jesse Edwards

Archive:
BBC One, Top of the Pops, 24/02/1983; BBC Two, On Show, 30/03/2005; BBC World Service, Witness, 22/06/2026;
YouTube, Hong Kong Free Press, 21/06/2016; ITV Studios, Coronation Street, Episode 8305, 20/01/2014; Dr Who: Toby Hadoke's Time Travels, 18/09/2023; BBC Four, The Spaceman of Afghanistan, 13/10/2014

SUN 21:00 Money Box (m002yv1l)
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m002yvwg)

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

SUN 21:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m002yvkx)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:30 on Saturday]

SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m002yvxh)
Radio 4's Sunday night political discussion programme.

SUN 23:00 Artworks (m002y1lf)
Who Did We Think We Were?

1. National Remembrance and the 1924 Empire Exhibition

75 years after the Festival of Britain offered a tonic to a Blitz-hit nation, Neil MacGregor, former director of the British Museum, returns to Radio 4 with a three-part series, examining how celebrations of British identity and togetherness over the past century or so can help us better understand and define who we are now.

"The question of who we are, of national identity, of the Union Jack itself, is now the subject of angry political debate," Neil says. "In these three programmes I want to take a step back – to look at six moments over the last hundred years when, as a country, we came together to assert a national purpose, to celebrate and to explore who we thought we were, and to consider our place in the world."

"Asking 'who did we think we were then?' might help us answer the question - 'who do we think we are now?'. And to understand why – as a country – we have, for over a century, found that question so difficult to answer."

In this first programme, Neil looks at the aftermath of World War One. After conflict in which nearly a million servicemen of the British Empire were killed, how should a nation honour that huge human sacrifice? The immediate answer was to create a National Hall of Remembrance, lined with newly-commissioned memorial art - art that shocked its first viewers. And 1924 saw the opening of a vast Empire Exhibition in Wembley, re-asserting Britain's place in an unstable post-war world. Across two years, the Exhibition attracted 27 million visits - an astonishing number at the time. So what did it say about us? What drew people in such numbers? And what might we conclude from it today?

Producer Katy Hickman

SUN 23:30 More Wow (m0022kt2)
1. The Cosmos

What is awe, and where do we find it? Exploring how the elusive emotion of awe can be a vital force in our lives.

As something usually associated with intense experiences and extreme environments, for many of us awe can often seem difficult to attain. Science journalist Jo Marchant tracks down individuals who live awe-filled lives, uncovering where we might find it ourselves and how it can alter body and mind.

Episode one: Jo discovers how astronaut Ron Garan's experience of looking back on Earth shifted his perspective forever. She takes some of these lessons to cultivate an astronaut's eye-view on life while on a London walk.

Featuring: Ron Garan, former NASA astronaut and ispace-U.S. CEO;
Dacher Keltner, Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley and author of Awe: The Transformative Power of Everyday Wonder;
Helen De Cruz, Professor of Philosophy at St Louis University, Missouri and author of Wonderstruck: How Wonder and Awe Shape the Way We Think.

Presented by Jo Marchant, author of Cure, The Human Cosmos and Decoding the Heavens.

Producer: Eliza Lomas
Editor: Chris Ledgard

SUN 23:45 Short Works (m002ym80)
I Love You, Mr Demille

A silent movie writer finds her voice in this new story by Sara Sheridan.

Inspired by the true story of Lorna Moon and her close friendship with darling of the silver screen Mary Pickford.

Sara Sheridan is a writer and activist who is interested in diverse readings of history. She has written more than 20 books. Truth or Dare, her first novel won the Scottish Library Award. On Starlit Seas, was shortlisted for the Wilbur Smith Prize. In 2022, The Fair Botanists was Waterstones Scottish Book of the

Year and was also a season 7 pick for The Queen's Reading Room. The Secrets of Blythwood Square was longlisted for The Saltire Award in 2024. Val McDermid said she was 'the natural heir of Robert Louis Stevenson' after reading latest historical novel, The Jewel Keepers. An occasional journalist, Sara has reported for BBC Radio 4's From Our Own Correspondent and on 'being a lady' for Women's Hour. Sara has written 3 radio plays, including Robert Burns: His Psychotherapy and Cure, which was voiced by Elaine C Smith. In 2019 Sara re-mapped Scotland according to women's history for Historic Environment Scotland – the resulting book, Where are the Women, was one of the David Hume Institute's Books of the year 2019. In it, she imagined several monuments to Scotland's accused witches alongside commemorating over 1250, mostly-forgotten Scottish women.

MONDAY 13 JULY 2026

MON 00:00 Midnight News (m002yvxq)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

MON 00:15 Inside Health (m002ym1k)
Could CAR-T therapy transform autoimmune disease?

An experimental treatment to "reset" the immune systems of people with autoimmune disease is showing transformative results in early trials.

James visits the NIHR Clinical Research Facility in Manchester to meet Kathy. She was diagnosed with lupus just after the birth of her baby and in 2024 became the first person in the UK to try CAR-T therapy as part of a clinical trial. How is she feeling now?

We'll also hear from Kathy's rheumatologist Professor Ben Parker, who led the trial Kathy took part in and explains how the therapy works, the astonishing early results - and whether the effects on the immune system are long lasting.

Also this week, James visits the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to meet some lab-grown British mosquitoes and find out whether they're out to get us for longer periods of the year and how worried we should be about the threat of disease, with medical entomologist Dr Mojca Kristan and virologist Professor Roger Hewson.

And we look at the latest online trend of "spermmaxxing" with urologist Professor Vaibhav Modgil. Why are men trying to optimise their sperm by dipping their testicles in iced water and abstaining from porn - and is there any evidence for these tactics?

Presenter: James Gallagher
Producer: Gerry Holt
Editor: Ian Goodman
Production coordinator: Stu Laws
Sound engineer: Mary Stone

MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m002yymb)
[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002yvxh)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002yvxv)
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

MON 05:00 News Summary (m002yvxh)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

MON 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002yvxz)
Does it matter that MPs face a six-week wait before they can question the new prime minister? Sean Curran talks to expert Dr Ruxandra Serban. Also, we look at what Andy Burnham's agenda might mean for Westminster, MPs investigate the fall-out from recent public disorder in Northern Ireland and there's a call for voting to be made compulsory.

MON 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002yvy1)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002yvy3)
Radio 4's daily prayer and reflection

MON 05:45 Farming Today (m002yvy5)
The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

MON 05:57 Weather (m002yvy7)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for farmers

MON 06:00 Today (m002yvr1)

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

MON 09:00 Common Ground (m002yvr3)

Values

In Common Ground, Evan Davis travels around the UK to find out how divided we really are. The series asks whether our society is really becoming increasingly polarised and what people across the country are doing to build stronger communities and connections. In this episode Evan looks at values. In recent weeks social unrest and violence prompted by the murder of Henry Nowak in Southampton and the brutal attack of Stephen Ogilvie in Belfast have marked the country. How divided are we by different political views? Evan travels to Southampton to talk to people are how they are really feeling: whether they feel our shared values are under threat, what they feel is fuelling that threat, and how they want to address it. Are we as a country as angry as it seems? He'll also be joined by an expert panel to delve further into these questions.

Presenter: Evan Davis

Reporter: Katie Haseldine

Producers: Sophie Calvert, Katie Haseldine and Emma Close

Editor: Alicia Queiro

Production Coordinator: Brenda Brown

Sound mix: James Beard and Neil Churchill

MON 09:30 Politically (m002yvr5)

Reflections: Series 4

Jeremy Hunt

The former Chancellor reflects with James Naughtie on tough choices and political resurrection.

Jeremy Hunt held four Cabinet jobs - including almost six years as Health Secretary, and then Foreign Secretary under Theresa May. After he was defeated by Boris Johnson in their battle for the Conservative leadership, he thought his ministerial career was over, only to be called back by Liz Truss after her mini-budget.

In this episode of Reflections he discusses all that with James Naughtie, as well as a famous radio moment the two shared.

Producers: Giles Edwards and Joel Massey.

MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002yvr7)

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

MON 11:00 Church Going, with Giles Fraser (m002yvr9)

Episode 1

Giles Fraser is a priest in the Church of England, concerned about the current state of church attendance. His parish is doing well but like most priests, he's nervous about the numbers and notes the overall decline in worship since the sixties. He considers the poem 'Church Going' by Philip Larkin as his starting point. It imagines what will happen to these buildings, and to Christian faith, when we stop going to church entirely. Is Giles now a missionary in a world that is indifferent to what he has to say? With this thought, he sets off to work out where we are, talking to people on the ground and experts in the field.

In this first episode of three, Giles will find out how fellow clergy cope with the stress that comes with falling numbers, witness the last service at a Methodist church in Northumberland, return to Oxford where he trained as priest and find out why we have so many churches in the first place.

Presenter: Rev Dr Giles Fraser

Producer: Catherine Murray

Asst Producer: Peter Everett

Additional recording by Jon Douglas

Editor: Tim Pemberton

MON 11:45 Cash Cow by Alev Scott (m002yvrD)

Episode 1

Alev Scott had just given birth to her first child, during lockdown in Amsterdam, when she found herself over producing milk. Anxious not to waste this precious, nutrient rich liquid she began to look into the possibility of donation. Soon she found herself in a bewildering world of online marketplaces, and gradually she came to turn her attention to an industry which commodifies every aspect of the maternal body.

She describes how, "The fertility industry is the only legal industry where one person's biological bad luck can be another person's gain. A woman who can carry a pregnancy to term can choose to earn money doing exactly that for someone else; a woman who has plenty of breast milk can sell it; a woman with a healthy ovarian reserve can sell her eggs. This is a more direct, quantifiable form of biological luck than that of a professional athlete or model. The trade is as basic as it gets, and despite its ethical complexities it is largely legal, as opposed to its nearest comparable, large-scale trade: human organ trafficking."

From milk to eggs, to the hiring out of a placenta in the form of surrogacy Alev delves into the commercial, and sometime altruistic, transactions that are fuelled by the age-old desire to have children.

Professor Peter Frankopan describes it as "A powerful, intimate and disturbing exploration of the hidden markets built on women's bodies".

Written by Alev Scott

Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters

Read by Hattie Morahan

The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

MON 12:00 News Summary (m002yvrh)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

MON 12:04 You and Yours (m002yvrk)

News and discussion of consumer affairs

MON 12:57 Weather (m002yvrM)

The latest weather forecast

MON 13:00 World at One (m002yvrp)

News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4

MON 13:45 New Storytellers (m002yvrR)

New Storytellers 2026

Unzipping a Community

Unzipping a Community explores the rich yet devastating history of Penrhyn Quarry in Bethesda, North Wales. At the start of the 20th century, the quarry became the site of one of the longest running industrial disputes in British history. In 1900, around three thousand quarrymen walked out demanding better pay and working conditions. The strike lasted three years, forcing families into poverty and dividing the community and it left a legacy which continues to shape Bethesda today.

More than a century later, the quarry has been transformed into a major tourist attraction by Zip World. It is the world's fastest zip wire and thousands of visitors unleash their adrenaline junkie on the wire every year. Through interviews with local residents spanning three generations and conversations with Zip World employees and customers Luned Elfyn explores how the memory of the strike has left its mark, including through music which is rooted in the community.

Do those who come seeking thrills on the zipwire ever realise what dark history lies beneath them?

New Storytellers presents the work of new radio producers. This series features the winners of the Charles Parker Prize 2026 for the Best Student Radio Feature. These awards are presented every year in memory of radio producer Charles Parker who produced the pioneering series of Radio Ballads with Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger. This series is introduced by Charles' daughter, Sara Parker, an award-winning radio producer in her own right.

Producer Luned Elfyn recently graduated from the University of Manchester with a degree in Drama and Film Studies and the judges described her prize-winning feature as a project 'made with passion, memorable, with really strong interviews' and praised its "great circular structure, mixing the fun of the zip line with the tragedy of the strike... a very strong piece."

Producer: Luned Elfyn

A Soundscape production for BBC Radio 4

MON 14:00 The Archers (m002yvrV)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

MON 14:15 Alone (m001b41s)

Series 4

Episode 1 - Best Upstairs Neighbour Ever

A sitcom, written by Moray Hunter and starring Angus Deayton, Abigail Cruttenden, Pearce Quigley, Kate Isitt and Bennett Arron, about five, mainly single, middle aged neighbours living in flats in a converted house in North London.

Mitch (Angus Deayton) is a widower and part-time therapist who is looking to put his life back together now that he is single and living with Will (Pearce Quigley), his younger, more volatile half-brother. Mitch is currently in a new relationship with Ellie (Abigail Cruttenden) who is a somewhat shy, nervous and sensitive schoolteacher. Overly honest, frustrated actress Louisa (Kate Isitt), and socially inept IT nerd Morris (Bennett Arron) complete the line-up of mis-matched neighbours.

In the series opener, Best Upstairs Neighbour Ever, Mitch and Ellie are trying to work out ground rules for their relationship, with matters such as the frequency of present-giving, meeting up and overnight stays on the agenda. Morris meanwhile fancies a group Sunday roast, if someone else will cook it, and Will and Louisa are just trying to get used to the fact that Mitch and Ellie are now a thing.

Cast:

Angus Deayton - Mitch

Abigail Cruttenden - Ellie

Pearce Quigley - Will

Kate Isitt - Louisa

Bennett Arron - Morris

Written by Moray Hunter

Directed by Moray Hunter and Gordon Kennedy

Script Edited by Ian Brown and James Hendrie

Edited and Studio Managed by Jerry Peal

Production Manager - Sarah Tombling

Production Runner - Kareem Elshehawey

Recorded at The Shaw Theatre, London

Based on an original idea developed in association with Dandy Productions

Producer - Gordon Kennedy

An Absolutely production for BBC Radio 4

MON 14:45 Opening Lines (m002yvrX)

[Repeat of broadcast at 14:45 on Sunday]

MON 15:00 A Good Read (m002yvrz)

Joanne Harris and Islam Issa

We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson, chosen by Joanne Harris
Mother Mary Comes to Me by Arundhati Roy, chosen by Harriett Gilbert
Akhenaten: Dweller in Truth by Naguib Mahfouz, chosen by Islam Issa

Join us over on Instagram @agoodreadbbc

Produced for BBC Audio in Bristol by Sally Heaven

MON 15:30 You're Dead to Me (m002yvkq)

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Saturday]

MON 16:00 Currently (m002yvs1)

[Repeat of broadcast at 13:30 on Sunday]

MON 16:30 The Kitchen Cabinet (m002yvkS)

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:30 on Saturday]

MON 17:00 PM (m002yvs3)

Full coverage of the day's news

MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002yvs5)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

MON 18:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m002yvs7)

Series 85

6. Yorkshire Sayings

The godfather of all panel shows returns to Leeds Grand Theatre. On the panel are Joe Lycett, Pippa Evans, Miles Jupp and Ian Smith, with Jack Dee in the umpire's chair. Regular listeners will know to expect inspired nonsense, pointless revelry and Colin Sell at the piano.

Producer: Jon Naismith

A Random production for BBC Radio 4

MON 19:00 The Archers (m002yvs9)

There's a reunion for Fallon, and Rex realises he may have put

his foot in it.

MON 19:15 Front Row (m002yvsc)

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

MON 20:00 The Briefing Room (m002y12f)

Relationship recession: Why are fewer people coupling?

For previous generations, coupling was something only trains did. Then it became a word to describe the business of finding a partner. An important business for the future of the species. But today in the developed world - and even beyond - the data shows that coupling is significantly down. Increasingly, people are just not forming those relationships. There are all kinds of theories out there now about why this is happening, ranging from the intriguing to the improbable. So what do we know about this noncoupling and its implications?

Guests:

Dr Alice Evans, visiting Associate Professor at Stanford and author of the upcoming book *The Great Gender Divergence*
John Burn-Murdoch, columnist and chief data reporter for the Financial Times

Presenter: David Aaronovitch
Producers: Ben Carter and Kirsteen Knight
Editor: Richard Vadon
Sound engineer: Gareth Jones, Neil Churchill
Production co-ordinator: Siobhan Reed, Maria Ogundele

Image credit: Malte Mueller, Getty Images

MON 20:30 BBC Inside Science (w3ct977v)

Are we one step closer to creating life in a lab?

Synthetic biologist Kate Adamil and her team at the University of Minnesota published their research into the lab-created 'SpudCell' in a significant step towards building life from scratch. Science journalist, Kai Kupferschmidt, joins us to discuss the implications of this research, as well as the controversies.

Nature reporter Lizzie Gibney tells us how science has helped us better understand the route that the famous Carthaginian general, Hannibal – and not forgetting his elephants – took across the Alps.

Plus, in this week's scout of science stories behind the 'beautiful game' we learn of research carried out at a Tokyo football match, monitoring seismic waves made by the vigorous celebrations of thousands of fans.

Presenter: Tom Whipple
Producer: Kate White, Alex Mansfield, Katie Tomsett, Tabitha Taylor Buck
Editor: Martin Smith
Production Co-ordinator: Jana Bennett-Holesworth

MON 21:00 Common Ground (m002yvr3)

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

MON 21:30 Politically (m002yvr5)

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 today]

MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m002yvsf)

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

MON 22:45 Kane by Edson Burton (m002yvsh)

Episode 1

Edson Burton's specially commissioned fiction serial is a coming of age story, set in a slightly alternative version of 21st century Bristol, where slavery has never been abolished. Eighteen-year-old Kane is loveable, funny, sunny in nature. He knows he is treasured in his role as a live-in aide to an admired scientist, a man he regards as a father figure, and who is, moreover, a descendant of the renowned anti-slavery campaigner. Kane loves his ordered life, his little luxuries, his expensive clothes in Wilberforce House.

But when a new manager takes on the leadership of the household, Kane's perspective begins to unravel. He has to face the shattering truth about his position in a society in which enslaved labour is an accepted and acceptable practice and in which he is unwittingly playing a major role. It's a world close enough to our own to be recognised, and to pose challenging questions about contemporary social values and prejudices. Society is defined by a 'natural' hierarchy of the races, with 'Greater Whites' at the top, then Lesser Whites, Freeman (a

Black and Brown workforce) and Wretches, who are regarded as degenerate and deserving of enslavement.

Kane finally has to make a choice: should he accept his life with his much-loved mentor, or resist?

Episode 1: Kane loses his two only friends as a new and unwelcome house manager arrives.

The Writer: Edson Burton is a Bristol-based writer, historian, curator, performer and academic who has written widely for radio, stage and screen. His stage plays have been produced by Show of Strength, Trinity Community Arts, and the Bristol Old Vic. He is co-founder of Black theatre company Dip & Fall Back and is Bristol Old Vic Associate Artist. His areas of expertise encompass the Transatlantic Slave Trade as well as other aspects of Black history and culture, and he has worked as a consultant and coordinator for a range of national and regional history based projects. His radio credits include the supernatural trilogy *Deacon* starring Don Warrington, and most recently, *Man Friday*, a re-imagining of Daniel Defoe's classic story. In recognition of his significant contributions to the arts and the community in Bristol, he was awarded an MBE in 2023.

Credits:

Writer: Edson Burton
Performer: Lewis Shepherd ('Dear England', '10 Swords and the Moon', 'Super High Resolution')
Production Coordinator: Dawn Williams
Producer/director: Mary Ward-Lowery
Executive Producer: Sara Davies
Sound design: Matt Bainbridge

A Pier Production for BBC Radio 4

MON 23:00 Limelight (m001jvvx)

Galapagos

4. The Giant's Pocket

Speculative thriller about big tech, data manipulation and the undermining of democracy, by Simon Scardifield and Andrew Day.

Bryony is increasingly excited by her new role working for Sydney and Shapeshift, using the very latest data manipulation AI. And Sydney's promised to arrange specialist cancer treatment for sister Gaynor in the US. But journalist Sam is on Bryony's tail and she's asking uncomfortable questions.

Bryony.....Hannah Daniel
Sydney.....Ashleigh Haddad
Gaynor.....Sara Gregory
Omar.....Danny Ashok
Euan.....Jamie Redford
Sam.....Claire Cage
Max.....Ewan Bailey
Station Staff.....Hasan Dixon

Production Co-ordinators.....Eleri McAuliffe and Lindsay Rees
Sound Design.....Catherine Robinson and Nigel Lewis
Directed by Philippa Swallow, John Norton and Emma Harding, BBC Audio Drama Wales

MON 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002yysl)

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

TUESDAY 14 JULY 2026

TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m002yvsn)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 00:30 Cash Cow by Alev Scott (m002yvrd)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Monday]

TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002yvsg)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002yvss)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

TUE 05:00 News Summary (m002yvsy)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002yvssx)

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

TUE 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002yvsg)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002yvt1)

Radio 4's daily prayer and reflection

TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m002yvt3)

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

TUE 06:00 Today (m002yx35)

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

TUE 09:00 Ancient Lives with Mary Beard (m002yx37)

Being Greek

The Greengrocer Who Saved Democracy

Meet Gerys, a Bulgarian slave who sells fruit and veg in the marketplace of Ancient Athens. He's been bought and sold, he's done his time rowing warships for the Athenian navy but now he's at the centre of the Greek world. Passing his stall, squeezing his olives and buying his wares are poets and philosophers, judges and generals. He hears the debates over the future of Athenian democracy, senses its peril and witnesses its downfall as the city is conquered by Sparta and a military junta imposed on its defeated people.

When the moment comes to rebel he's one of the first in line to join the rag-tag army of democracy, march to the top of a hill in the port of Piraeus and face down the terrifying ranks of the Spartans and their Athenian anti-democratic allies.

Victory is won against the odds but what reward do Gerys and his family win for his bravery? Mary Beard enters the world of the Greek slave and asks what it takes to become a true citizen of Athens.

Producer: Alasdair Cross

Researcher: Anna Charalambou

Actor: Stavros Demetraki

Expert Contributors: Rebecca Sweetman, Elizavet Sioumpara and Vincent Azoulay

Special thanks to the British School at Athens and the Hellenic Ministry of Culture

TUE 09:30 Inside Health (m002yx39)

Series that demystifies health issues, bringing clarity to conflicting advice.

TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002yx3c)

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

TUE 11:00 Screenshot (m002ym8g)

Hospital Dramas

As the world's longest-running prime time TV medical drama Casualty turns 40, Ellen E Jones and Jeremy Brock, about its small screen's long love affair with hospitals.

Mark speaks to media academic Dr Hannah Hamad about the evolution of the hospital drama, from the reassuring bedside manner of 1950s and 60s series like *Dr Kildare* and *Emergency Ward 10*, to the relentless intensity of American hits *ER* and *The Pitt*.

Ellen talks to psychiatrist-turned-screenwriter Dr Grace Ofori-Attah about *Malpractice*, the ITV drama she began writing while still working as a junior doctor, and about the relationship between the realities of modern medicine and the stories we see on screen.

And to mark Casualty's 40th anniversary, Ellen also speaks to the series creators, Paul Unwin and Jeremy Brock, about its origins, the controversies it has weathered, and why it continues to stay relevant four decades on.

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

TUE 11:45 Cash Cow by Alev Scott (m002yx3f)

Episode 2

Alev Scott had just given birth to her first child, during lockdown in Amsterdam, when she found herself over producing milk. Anxious not to waste this precious, nutrient rich liquid she

began to look into the possibility of donation. Soon she found herself in a bewildering world of online marketplaces, and gradually she came to turn her attention to an industry which commodifies every aspect of the maternal body.

She describes how, “The fertility industry is the only legal industry where one person’s biological bad luck can be another person’s gain. A woman who can carry a pregnancy to term can choose to earn money doing exactly that for someone else; a woman who has plenty of breast milk can sell it; a woman with a healthy ovarian reserve can sell her eggs. This is a more direct, quantifiable form of biological luck than that of a professional athlete or model. The trade is as basic as it gets, and despite its ethical complexities it is largely legal, as opposed to its nearest comparable, large-scale trade: human organ trafficking.”

From milk to eggs, to the hiring out of a placenta in the form of surrogacy Alev delves into the commercial, and sometime altruistic, transactions that are fuelled by the age-old desire to have children.

Professor Peter Frankopan describes it as "A powerful, intimate and disturbing exploration of the hidden markets built on women's bodies".

Written by Alev Scott
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters
Read by Hattie Morahan

The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

TUE 12:00 News Summary (m002yx3h)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

TUE 12:04 You and Yours (m002yx3k)
News and discussion of consumer affairs

TUE 12:57 Weather (m002yx3m)
The latest weather forecast

TUE 13:00 World at One (m002yx3p)
News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4

TUE 13:45 New Storytellers (m002yx3r)
New Storytellers 2026

Proud

Kyra decides, after 14 years, it's time to have a conversation with her Caribbean Christian family about her sexuality. Expecting a difficult discussion, and fearing rejection, she instead uncovers a story of misunderstanding, unspoken love, and acceptance. Through honest conversations, personal reflection on all sides, this programme explores identity, family and the power of communication to heal old wounds.

Each year New Storytellers presents the work of new audio feature makers and "Proud", produced by Kyra Edwards Belgrave a student at the University of West London, was one of the winners of the Charles Parker Prize 2026. The judging panel - consisting of producers, critics and commissioners - appreciated "being taken right into the heart of a family life not often represented in mainstream audio" in a series of "heart-warming conversations, funny, lively; and the contributors speak so honestly and openly about the pressures of religion and culture - I really liked this."

Producer: Kyra Edwards Belgrave
A Soundscape production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 14:00 The Archers (m002yvs9)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

TUE 14:15 Our Friends in the North (m0017k9n)
Episode 8: 1987

Peter Flannery once famously said of Our Friends in the North, "I've always said it's just a posh soap opera - but it's a posh soap opera with something to say."

Ambitious in scale and scope, the drama chronicles the lives of four friends over three decades beginning in the 1960s. The series tackles corporate, political and police corruption in the 1960s, the rise and fall of the Soho porn empires in the 1970s, the nouveau riche and the Miners' Strike of the 1980s and the rise of New Labour in the 1990s. Some of the stories are directly based on the real-life controversies involving T. Dan Smith and John Poulson in Newcastle during the 60s and 70s.

In episode 8 it's 1987, the year of The Great Storm. Nicky, now a well-known photographer, has been married to Mary for two

years, Tosker and Mary are now grandparents, and Geordie is still missing.

Cast
Florrie / Psychiatrist: Tracey Wilkinson
Felix: Trevor Fox
Nicky / Christopher Collins: James Baxter
Tosker: Philip Correia
Elaine / Alice: Eve Shotton
Mary / Francine: Norah Lopez Holden
Geordie: Luke MacGregor
Eddie Wells: James Gaddas
Colin Butler: Tom Goodman-Hill

Writer: Peter Flannery
Studio Engineer: Paul Clark
Sound Design: Steve Brooke
Trainee Production Co-ordinator: Emma O'Mahoney
Producer: Melanie Harris
Executive Producer: Jeremy Mortimer

A Sparklab production for BBC Radio 4.

TUE 15:00 Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley (m002yx3t)
Lady on Trial

Trial by Media

Lucy Worsley continues the new series Lady on Trial, where courtroom drama meets history with a twist.

Lucy and her team are meeting women who find themselves at the centre of extraordinary legal battles, from the 18th century to the 1920s.

But in this episode, we're putting something else on trial - the media itself.

In our first four cases, Caroline Norton, Elizabeth Chudleigh, Audrey Jacob and Annie Kenney, aren't just judged in the courtroom. They are also judged in newspapers, pamphlets and gossip columns.

Lucy is joined by journalist and broadcaster Anoushka Mutanda Dougherty, who hosts the BBC Sounds podcast Fame Under Fire, and Professor Rosalind Crone from The Open University. They'll discuss if it's ever really possible - either then, or now - for a woman to have a fair trial when a case goes viral. And why, three centuries on, women are still being judged in the court of public opinion.

Producer: Julia Hayball
Readers: Clare Corbett, William Hope, Jonathan Keeble and Dave Mason
Head of Production: Claire Myers
Sound design: Chris Maclean
Assistant Producer: Alice Homewood
Executive Producer: Kirsty Hunter

A StoryHunter production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 15:30 Heart and Soul (w3ct983q)
War, God and the Islamic Republic

Since the outbreak of war involving Iran, Israel and the U.S. in late February 2026, Iranians have been living through months of fear, instability and profound uncertainty. A fragile truce came into effect on April 8, but by May 2026 ceasefire efforts were still under strain, with negotiations continuing and tensions in and around the region far from settled.

In this edition of Heart and Soul, Emily Wither speaks to Iranians inside the country about how war, repression and disillusionment have reshaped their relationship with religion. For some, years of state control in the name of Islam — now intensified by the trauma of recent conflict — have deepened the divide between official religion and personal faith.

Some still pray to God, but in intimate, private ways far removed from state doctrine. Others have drifted away from formal religious belief altogether, finding comfort instead in Persian poetry, music, mysticism and ancient cultural texts such as the Shahnameh. Through anonymous voices from inside Iran, the programme explores a quiet but profound spiritual shift: away from imposed religion, and toward more personal and self-fashioned ways of making meaning.

[Photo Description: An Iranian woman who is not wearing a mandatory headscarf stands in front of the tomb of the 14th-century Iranian poet, Hafez, in Shiraz, Iran, on October 8, 2024. Photo Credit: Morteza Nikoubazl/NurPhoto via Getty Images)

Producer/Presenter: Emily Wither
Series Producer: Rajeev Gupta
Editor: Chloe Walker
Production Coordinator: Mica Nepomuceno

TUE 16:00 Artworks (m002yx3x)
Where's Michael Clark?

In the 1980s, Michael Clark was Scotland's and the UK's most talented young choreographer. He set up his own dance company at the age of 22 and wowed and outraged the dance world with his shocking performance pieces. Collaborations with people such as the late Leigh Bowery and The Fall planted his flag in the cultural landscape.

Where's Michael Clark? explores the life and work of the punk prince of ballet who has navigated more twists and turns than a fairground ride. Clark famously used non-professional dancers in his ballets and was more likely to reference the Bauhaus than Swan Lake. From dancing with dildos to performing in platform shoes and bare bums, Michael talks candidly to Nick Grimshaw about his career.

Michael describes growing up with an alcoholic father, and how his pursuit of perfection led him to become addicted to heroin.

We hear from one of Michael's fellow dancers, Les Child, who talks about what it was like to work with him and how the excess of the 80's informed Michael's work.

Debra Craine, chief dance critic of The Times, reflects on Michael's career. She describes why his classical training made him such a extraordinary dancer, and how his desire to shock was reflected in his work.

After the death of his close collaborator, Leigh Bowery, and the breakup of a relationship, and his need to escape the hedonism of his creative circle, Michael moved back to Scotland to live with his Mum and disappeared from view. Following a retrospective at the Barbican in 2020 and a recent dance piece celebrating an exhibition of the artist Peter Doig as well as the work of fashion designer, the late Alexander McQueen, Michael continues to create new work.

In this extended interview, Nick Grimshaw speaks to Michael Clark who talks frankly about his career, his battle with drug addiction, how he's as inspired by punk rock as he is by classical music, and his ambitions for the future.

Presenter: Nick Grimshaw
Sound Design: Cameron Rickards
Producer: Belinda Naylor

A Whistledown Scotland production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 16:30 What's Up Docs? (m002ym28)
What can AI medicine do for you?

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

Can AI empower better self-care and clinical practice, or is it just more health noise? Most of us have fallen down a search engine rabbit hole only to emerge more confused about our symptoms than when we started. But as we enter the era of Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini, the landscape of medical information is shifting.

In this episode, Chris and Xand van Tulleken debate whether these AI chatbots, with their vast medical knowledge and surprisingly good "bedside manner", are a breakthrough for patient clarity or a new frontier for misinformation. From asking a chatbot about a "creaky knee" to AI's burgeoning role in analysing scans, the twins explore a technology that is already transforming GP surgeries and laboratories alike.

While there is plenty to be cautiously excited about, big questions remain. Can we truly trust AI-generated advice? When is it helpful, and when is it dangerous?

To help navigate this rapidly evolving space, Chris and Xand are joined by Dr Emma Karoune, Principal Investigator of the Clinical AI Interest Group and Advancing Biomedical Data Science Careers project at The Alan Turing Institute. Together, they break down what patients and practitioners need to look out for in the age of AI medicine.

If you'd like to share your thoughts on this or any other topic covered on the podcast, you email us at whatsupdocs@bbc.co.uk.

Presenters: Drs Chris and Xand van Tulleken
Guest: Dr Emma Karoune
Producer: Rami Tzabar
Executive Producer: Jo Rowntree
Assistant Producer: Mili Ostojic
Tech Lead: Reuben Huxtable
Visual Producer: Leon Gower
Digital Lead: Richard Berry
Composer: Phoebe McFarlane
Sound Design: Olga Reed

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

A Loftus Media production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 17:00 PM (m002yx3z)
Full coverage of the day's news

TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002yx41)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

TUE 18:30 Meet David Sedaris (m001jszh)
Series 9

3. Pusstoyes

"Gretchen reaches into her purse and pulls out a palm sized black book... I mistake it for a pocket Bible, super-abbreviated, with only the good parts included, and just as I wonder, wait - what good parts? I realise it's for addresses, that it is, true to its colour and size, my father's Little Black Book."

This week there's just one essay, "Pusstoyes" – Sedaris's response to the death of his father, Lou, about whom David has written, to great acclaim and occasional disbelief, many times in his long career. His father's decline in his later years had turned him from the monster recalled in earlier essays to a gentler person.

"One of the things I'd heard again and again at the church that morning was, "Lou was a real character." A character is what you call a massively difficult person once he has reached the age of eighty-five. It's what Hitler might have been labelled had he lived another three decades."

David Sedaris plays to packed houses across the world but loves coming back to his adopted home in the UK to record a selection of his most recent work for BBC Radio 4. "When I first started doing these shows, there were a lot of Americans in the room – but now there's just a few," he says. "It's a great feeling to have built an audience, here in the UK."

Producer: Steve Doherty
A Giddy Goat production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 19:00 The Archers (m002yx43)
Tempers flare for Kirsty, and Susan makes a friend.

TUE 19:15 Front Row (m002yx45)
Live magazine programme on the worlds of arts, literature, film, media and music.

TUE 20:00 File on 4 Investigates (m002yx47)
Award-winning current affairs documentary series

TUE 20:40 In Touch (m002yx49)
News, views and information for people who are blind or partially sighted

TUE 21:00 The Day the Jellyfish Came (m002ymzg)
The oceans cover more than 70 percent of our planet. And yet, most of us live unaware of what lies beneath those waters – and what impact our actions might be having there. In the summer of 2025, Gravelines Nuclear Power Station shut down after a "massive and unpredictable" bloom of jellyfish clogged its filters. Weeks later, the same thing happened at a second plant along the French coast. How could such simple creatures disrupt infrastructure – and what might they reveal about what is going on in the oceans?

Part poem, part plea, part love letter to the sea, BAFTA Games Award-nominated actor, best known for Baldur's Gate 3 and The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Samantha Béart explores the complex relationship between humans and jellyfish – and asks a question that sounds like video game science fiction: in the face of a global environmental crisis could jellyfish inherit the oceans?

Through conversations with science writer Juli Berwald, marine biologist Dr Cathy Lucas and endurance swimmer Lewis Pugh The Day the Jellyfish Came uncovers how jellyfish live, reproduce and form vast blooms – seasonal explosions that can disrupt industries and reshape ecosystems.

Reflecting both the concerns of the scientific community and the frustration many feel at the ongoing climate crisis and human interference in natural environments, Samantha asks what these charismatic, gelatinous creatures might be telling us about the future of our planet.

TUE 21:30 The Bottom Line (m002y11s)
Imposter Syndrome

Success doesn't always bring confidence. In fact, some of the most accomplished people privately worry they're not as capable as everyone believes. They live with a nagging fear that one day, they'll be exposed as a fraud. It's often called imposter syndrome, and can affect anyone, at any stage of their career.

Evan Davis and guests explore what imposter syndrome really is, why it happens and how it can hold people back. And they'll share practical tips and strategies for quietening that inner critic and building confidence.

Guests:
Andy Ransom, former CEO, Rentokil and now chair designate, Teenage Cancer Trust
Katy Leeson, former MD, Social Chain and founder of Courageous
Dr Valerie Young, co-founder, the Imposter Syndrome Institute

Production team:
Presenter: Evan Davis
Producers: Sally Abrahams and Nick Holland
Production co-ordinator: Liam Morrey
Sound engineer: Dave O'Neill
Editor: Justine Lang

TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m002yx4c)
In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective

TUE 22:45 Kane by Edson Burton (m002yx4f)
Episode 2

Edson Burton's specially commissioned fiction serial is a coming of age story, set in a slightly alternative version of 21st century Bristol, where slavery has never been abolished. Eighteen-year-old Kane is loveable, funny, sunny in nature. He knows he is treasured in his role as a live-in aide to an admired scientist, a man he regards as a father figure, and who is, moreover, a descendant of the renowned anti-slavery campaigner. Kane loves his ordered life, his little luxuries, his expensive clothes in Wilberforce House.

But when a new manager takes on the leadership of the household, Kane's perspective begins to unravel. He has to face the shattering truth about his position in a society in which enslaved labour is an accepted and acceptable practice and in which he is unwittingly playing a major role. It's a world close enough to our own to be recognised, and to pose challenging questions about contemporary social values and prejudices. Society is defined by a 'natural' hierarchy of the races, with 'Greater Whites' at the top, then Lesser Whites, Freemen (a Black and Brown workforce) and Wretches, who are regarded as degenerate and deserving of enslavement.

Kane finally has to make a choice: should he accept his life with his much-loved mentor, or resist?

Episode 2: Kane gets a shock in a rare excursion out of Wilberforce House onto the streets of Bristol.

The Writer: Edson Burton is a Bristol-based writer, historian, curator, performer and academic who has written widely for radio, stage and screen. His stage plays have been produced by Show of Strength, Trinity Community Arts, and the Bristol Old Vic. He is co-founder of Black theatre company Dip & Fall Back and is Bristol Old Vic Associate Artist. His areas of expertise encompass the Transatlantic Slave Trade as well as other aspects of Black history and culture, and he has worked as a consultant and coordinator for a range of national and regional history based projects. His radio credits include the supernatural trilogy Deacon starring Don Warrington, and most recently, Man Friday, a re-imagining of Daniel Defoe's classic story. In recognition of his significant contributions to the arts and the community in Bristol, he was awarded an MBE in 2023.

Credits:

Writer: Edson Burton
Performer: Lewis Shepherd ('Dear England', '10 Swords and the Moon', 'Super High Resolution')
Production Coordinator: Dawn Williams
Producer/director: Mary Ward-Lowery
Executive Producer: Sara Davies
Sound design: Matt Bainbridge

A Pier Production for BBC Radio 4

TUE 23:00 Uncanny (m002yx4h)
Summer Specials 2026

Summer Special 2: Cold Cases Live – The Enfield Poltergeist

Thrown objects, apparent levitation, and a dead man who seems

to speak through a 12-year-old girl. It can only be The Enfield Poltergeist. It's a story that made national headlines in 1977, and has caused controversy ever since. Was the phenomena genuinely paranormal, or did a 12-year-old girl somehow pull off a hoax that fooled dozens of eyewitnesses - from journalists to the police.

Danny Robins and the team look at the evidence, and talk to Graham Morris, whose iconic photographs documented activity inside the house, in a special episode recorded live at the Crossed Wires Festival in Sheffield.

Presented by Danny Robins
Experts: Evelyn Hollow and Dr Ciaran O'Keeffe
Story sections by Victoria Lloyd & Sarah Morgan
Research by Nancy Bottomley
Filming and editing by Spiritland
Editing and sound design by Charlie Brandon-King
Theme music by Katherine Priddy
Theme co-produced by Jennifer Ann Keller
Incidental music by Evelyn Sykes
Commissioning executive: Paula McDonnell
Commissioning editor: Rhian Roberts
Produced by Simon Barnard and Victoria Lloyd
A Bafflegab and Uncanny Media production for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Sounds

TUE 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002yx4k)
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2026

WED 00:00 Midnight News (m002yx4m)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

WED 00:30 Cash Cow by Alev Scott (m002yx3f)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Tuesday]

WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002yx4p)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002yx4r)
BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

WED 05:00 News Summary (m002yx4t)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

WED 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002yx4w)
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament

WED 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002yx4y)
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002yx50)
Radio 4's daily prayer and reflection

WED 05:45 Farming Today (m002yx52)
The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

WED 06:00 Today (m002yx79)
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

WED 09:00 Sideways (m002yw8h)
94. Small Giants

David McGurk had a childhood love of action figures. Something that he and Matthew Syed, and probably most of us, share. But David and his brother went a step further - they started making their own makeshift figures from soap and cheap glue.

But it wasn't until family tragedy struck as an adult that the memory of his brother's creativity returned and inspired David to become a professional miniature figure-maker, with a quirky eye for his subject matter.

From miniature busts of emperors, to the mystery of tiny canoes in the British Museum, Matthew Syed uncovers the big messages and emotions that can be distilled in the tiniest of objects.

With contributions from artist David McGurk; Jack Davy, anthropologist and a curator at the Natural History Museum in London; and Lambros Malafouris, Professor of Cognitive and

Anthropological Archaeology at the University of Oxford.

Presenter: Matthew Syed
 Producer: Julien Manuguerra-Patten
 Editor: Katherine Godfrey
 Production Manager: Joe Savage
 Sound Design and Engineering: Nicholas Alexander
 Theme tune by Ioana Selaru
 A Novel production for BBC Radio 4

Featuring archive from: Matfel's He-Man, Skeletor, and Castle Grayskull 1984 TV advert

WED 09:30 Shadow World (m002x6dm)
 Stolen Years

3. Lucky Man

Why did it take so long to free an innocent man? In Shadow World: Stolen Years, the case against the new suspect in the 2003 rape case gathers pace, while Andrew Malkinson finally receives good news of his own.

But as the series turns to the role of the Criminal Cases Review Commission and the appeal system, a deeper question emerges - how was he left in prison for so long?

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

Presenter and Producer: Jemma Gander
 Series Producer and Editor: Fran Robertson
 Assistant Editor: Christopher Whyte
 Composer: Sholto
 Sound design and mix: Chris Maclean
 Executive Producer for Goldhawk: Kate Holland
 Commissioning executive: Tracy Williams
 Commissioning editor: Dan Clarke

A Two Step Films production in association with Goldhawk for Radio 4

WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002yx7c)
 Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

WED 11:00 File on 4 Investigates (m002yx47)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 20:00 on Tuesday]

WED 11:40 This Week in History (m002yw8y)
 July 13th - July 19th

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

16th July 1054: The Patriarch of Constantinople is excommunicated by Pope Leo IX, leading to The Great Schism between Eastern and Western Churches.

14th July 1969: The four day 'Football War' breaks out between El Salvador and Honduras

17th July 1841: The satirical magazine Punch is first published

WED 11:45 Cash Cow by Alev Scott (m002yx7f)
 Episode 3

Alev Scott had just given birth to her first child, during lockdown in Amsterdam, when she found herself over producing milk. Anxious not to waste this precious, nutrient rich liquid she began to look into the possibility of donation. Soon she found herself in a bewildering world of online marketplaces, and gradually she came to turn her attention to an industry which commodifies every aspect of the maternal body.

She describes how, "The fertility industry is the only legal industry where one person's biological bad luck can be another person's gain. A woman who can carry a pregnancy to term can choose to earn money doing exactly that for someone else; a woman who has plenty of breast milk can sell it; a woman with a healthy ovarian reserve can sell her eggs. This is a more direct, quantifiable form of biological luck than that of a professional athlete or model. The trade is as basic as it gets, and despite its ethical complexities it is largely legal, as opposed to its nearest comparable, large-scale trade: human organ trafficking."

From milk to eggs, to the hiring out of a placenta in the form of surrogacy Alev delves into the commercial, and sometime altruistic, transactions that are fuelled by the age-old desire to have children.

Professor Peter Frankopan describes it as "A powerful, intimate and disturbing exploration of the hidden markets built

on women's bodies".

Written by Alev Scott
 Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters
 Read by Hattie Morahan

The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

WED 12:00 News Summary (m002yx7h)
 The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

WED 12:04 You and Yours (m002yx7k)
 News and discussion of consumer affairs

WED 12:57 Weather (m002yx7m)
 The latest weather forecast

WED 13:00 World at One (m002yx7p)
 News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4

WED 13:45 New Storytellers (m002yx7r)
 New Storytellers 2026

Justice for Harry Stanley

On a stormy September day in Hackney in 1999, Scottish labourer Harry Stanley went to visit his brother to mend a broken table leg. Having recently recovered from an invasive cancer operation, Harry stopped off at a local pub for a lemonade on the way home and placed the bag with the mended leg on the table. Police subsequently received an erroneous tip-off, leading to a shocking and fatal chain of events. 26 years later, family and local residents are still struggling to process what happened that fateful evening. Producer Tara Darby revisits the tragedy through interviewees' memories of the night and its aftermath.

New Storytellers presents the work of new radio and audio producers, and this series displays the winners of the Charles Parker Prize 2026 for the Best Student Radio Feature. Tara Darby made this documentary as part of an 'In the Dark Radio' Summer course. The judges "found this compelling". They described it as "a meticulously made piece of gripping and tragic history, beautifully recorded and subtly realised...The use of sound was really clever and the whole piece was moving, well researched and put together...Remarkably high quality work."

Producer: Tara Darby
 A Soundscape production for BBC Radio 4

WED 14:00 The Archers (m002yx43)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

WED 14:15 Drama on 4 (m000y1fk)
 Keeping the Wolf Out

The Magical Magyars

Philip Palmer's Cold War crime series comes to an end. The 1966 World Cup is underway and Hungary face the Soviet Union. Will Franciska survive the battle for control of the Ministry? And can Bertalan outwit his new, young boss and his powerful friends?

Bertalan Lazar Leo Bill
 Franciska Lazar Clare Corbett
 József Szabados Joseph Ayre
 Hadik Hasan Dixon
 Orsolya Ria Marshall
 Ioveanu Tony Turner
 Laska Shaun Mason
 Pathologist Jane Slavin
 Receptionist David Sturzaker
 Priest Simon Ludders

Directed by Toby Swift
 Sound design by Caleb Knightley

WED 15:00 Money Box (m002yx7t)
 The latest news from the world of personal finance

WED 15:30 The Art of Being a Zombie Ant Fungus (m002yx7w)
 Cultural entomologist Bridget Nicholls investigates an intriguing natural phenomenon.

An ant becomes infected by a fungus which takes over its nervous system, turning the ant into a vehicle for the fungus's reproduction and killing the ant in the process. It sounds like

science fiction, but it's happening in rainforests around the world.

It's a parasitic relationship that has inspired the TV series The Last of Us, but it also reveals a great deal about control, autonomy and the interconnectedness of the natural world.

With:

Merlin Sheldrake, mycologist and writer

Philip Ball, science writer

Mark Brown, director of the University Museum of Zoology at Cambridge University

Nura Sidarus, Lecturer in Psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London

Lore Lixenberg, mezzo-soprano and sound artist

and

Jason Singh, sound artist and composer. Jason's recordings and compositions feature throughout this documentary.

Zombie Ant Fungus: The chemistry of Control is a show created and produced by Bridget Nicholls, and written and directed by Wade McCollum who also performs in the show and composed its music. The original production premiered as a Festival commission at the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

Presenter: Bridget Nicholls

Producer: Eliane Glaser

WED 16:00 When It Hits the Fan (m002yx7y)
 Who's in the news for all the wrong reasons? With David Yelland and Simon Lewis.

WED 16:15 The Media Show (m002yx80)
 This is the programme about a revolution in media.

WED 17:00 PM (m002yx82)
 Full coverage of the day's news

WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002yx84)
 National and international news from BBC Radio 4

WED 18:30 Ivo Graham's Obsessions (m0024f3x)
 Series 1

5. Kat Sadler & Felix White

Comedian and obsessive Ivo Graham welcomes another 2 celebrity obsessive to talk about their greatest loves.

This week, Ivo is joined by writer and star of the BAFTA-winning Such Brave Girls, Kat Sadler, and former Maccabees guitarist and current Tailenders host, Felix White. Kat has seen Friends more times that you can count, but which of the friends is she most like? Felix discovered his love of Baseball whilst touring the states, and explains to Ivo why he should be just as obsessed with it as he is. Ivo also finds out what the studio audience's obsessions are, before being joined by a Very Obsessed Person, or VOP. Aaron Carty is a Beyonce obsessive, and has toured the world as a Beyonce drag impersonator - can you get more obsessed than that?

Hosted by Ivo Graham
 Featuring Kat Sadler, Felix White and Aaron Carty

Written by Ivo Graham and Matthew Crosby

Additional Material by Cameron Loxdale, Christina Riggs and Peter Tellouche

Recorded at RADA Studios by Chris MacLean
 Sound edited by Charlie Brandon-King
 Production Coordinators: Katie Baum and Jodie Charman
 Executive Producer: Pete Strauss

Produced by Gwyn Rhys Davies, a BBC Studios Audio production for Radio 4

An EcoAudio certified production
 Show image: Matt Stronge

WED 19:00 The Archers (m002yx86)
 Harrison struggles to take in what he's missed, and Lynda offers her support.

WED 19:15 Front Row (m002yx88)

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

WED 20:00 AntiSocial (m002ym7l)

Pink Pill: Has women's empowerment gone toxic?

A contestant on Love Island prompts debate over her interactions with the men on the reality TV show. Some viewers suggest Jasmine has been "pink-pillled" - a reference to a mindset that sees women's relationships with men as adversarial, and is a reaction to the manosphere. Others think Jasmine shouldn't be vilified for some of the same traits displayed by men on the show, and in real life. We find out what pink pill content is, and where it came from. Plus, how does this mindset play out in real life? We explore female dating strategy.

Presenter: Adam Fleming

Production team: Simon Tulett, Mhairi MacKenzie, Annabel Deas and Lizzy McNeill

Studio manager: Jack Wilfan

Production coordinator: Janet Staples

Editor: Richard Vadon

WED 20:45 Café Hope (m002qj00)

Pigeon protection

Hannah Hall from Penny's Pigeon Aid tells Rachel Burden about their work to rescue and rehabilitate pigeons. The welfare charity doesn't encourage people to domesticate pigeons or increase their population, but they do want to educate people on these birds and promote kindness towards them.

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 cafehope@bbc.co.uk

Presenter: Rachel Burden

Series Producer: Uma Doraiswamy

Sound Design: Nicky Edwards

Editor: Clare Fordham

WED 21:00 Ancient Lives with Mary Beard (m002yx37)

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Tuesday]

WED 21:30 Inside Health (m002yx39)

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 on Tuesday]

WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m002yx8b)

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

WED 22:45 Kane by Edson Burton (m002yx8d)

Episode 3

Edson Burton's specially commissioned fiction serial is a coming of age story, set in a slightly alternative version of 21st century Bristol, where slavery has never been abolished. Eighteen-year-old Kane is loveable, funny, sunny in nature. He knows he is treasured in his role as a live-in aide to an admired scientist, a man he regards as a father figure, and who is, moreover, a descendant of the renowned anti-slavery campaigner. Kane loves his ordered life, his little luxuries, his expensive clothes in Wilberforce House.

But when a new manager takes on the leadership of the household, Kane's perspective begins to unravel. He has to face the shattering truth about his position in a society in which enslaved labour is an accepted and acceptable practice and in which he is unwittingly playing a major role. It's a world close enough to our own to be recognised, and to pose challenging questions about contemporary social values and prejudices. Society is defined by a 'natural' hierarchy of the races, with 'Greater Whites' at the top, then Lesser Whites, Freeman (a Black and Brown workforce) and Wretches, who are regarded as degenerate and deserving of enslavement.

Kane finally has to make a choice: should he accept his life with his much-loved mentor, or resist?

Episode 3: Kane is introduced to a world beyond his own, where the rules are being challenged.

The Writer: Edson Burton is a Bristol-based writer, historian, curator, performer and academic who has written widely for radio, stage and screen. His stage plays have been produced by Show of Strength, Trinity Community Arts, and the Bristol Old Vic. He is co-founder of Black theatre company Dip & Fall Back and is Bristol Old Vic Associate Artist. His areas of expertise encompass the Transatlantic Slave Trade as well as other aspects of Black history and culture, and he has worked as a consultant and coordinator for a range of national and regional history based projects. His radio credits include the supernatural trilogy Deacon starring Don Warrington, and most recently, Man Friday, a re-imagining of Daniel Defoe's classic story. In recognition of his significant contributions to the arts and the community in Bristol, he was awarded an MBE in 2023.

Credits:

Writer: Edson Burton

Performer: Lewis Shepherd ('Dear England', '10 Swords and the Moon', 'Super High Resolution')

Production Coordinator: Dawn Williams

Producer/director: Mary Ward-Lowery

Executive Producer: Sara Davies

Sound design: Matt Bainbridge

A Pier Production for BBC Radio 4

WED 23:00 Sunil Patel: An Idiot's Guide To (m002yx8g)

Living Forever

2: How to Find the Fountain of Youth

Sunil looks at what people in the past were doing to stay young, but after realising that none of them survived, looks to the future instead.

Copying an eccentric multi-millionaires' age-reversing scheme, Sunil looks for a boy to give him blood. Nothing can go wrong.

Starring Sunil Patel

Featuring Helen Bauer and Eddy Hare

Written by Sunil Patel, Charlie Dinkin, Em Humble and Benjamin Sutton

Produced by Benjamin Sutton and Laura Shaw

A Daddy's SuperYacht Production for BBC Radio 4

WED 23:15 Damien Slash (m0015lrf)

The Damien Slash Mixtape. Series 4

Episode 3

Multi-character YouTube star Damien Slash is back for a fourth round of zeitgeisty sketches in this new fast-paced, one-man sketch comedy show.

In this edition of the mixtape, we find out the original of Facebook's algorithm, and how to stop it, Gen-Z return to SAS Who Dares Wins, and a football commentator can't keep his mind on the beautiful game.

Written by and starring Damien Slash (aka Daniel Barker)
Additional material by Tom Savage

Guest starring Natalia Demetriou.

Production Coordinator: Sarah Sharpe

Sound Editor: Rich Evans

Produced by Gwyn Rhys Davies. A BBC Studios production

WED 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002yx8j)

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

THURSDAY 16 JULY 2026**THU 00:00 Midnight News (m002yx8l)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

THU 00:30 Cash Cow by Alev Scott (m002yx7f)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Wednesday]

THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002yx8n)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002yx8q)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

THU 05:00 News Summary (m002yx8s)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

THU 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002yx8v)

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

THU 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002yx8x)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002yx8z)

Radio 4's daily prayer and reflection

THU 05:45 Farming Today (m002yx92)

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

THU 06:00 Today (m002yxt0)

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

THU 09:00 Artworks (m002yxt2)

Who Did We Think We Were?

2. The 1938 Empire Exhibition in Glasgow

75 years after the Festival of Britain offered a tonic to a Blitz-hit nation, Neil MacGregor, former director of the British Museum, returns to Radio 4 with a three-part series, examining how celebrations of British identity and togetherness over the past century or so can help us better understand and define who we are now.

In this episode, he visits Glasgow, which hosted a vast Empire Exhibition in 1938, in part a celebration of British industry and engineering, as the threat of another world war loomed over Europe. The clean, bright modern pavilions and streamlined architecture were worlds away from the grimmer realities of the Clydeside shipyards.

It was also a year of campaigning on another front: the battle to save our countryside, so often closely linked with British identity. The book Britain and the Beast was a collection of polemical essays about the many threats to rural Britain, including - according to the novelist E M Forster - our own Ministry of Defence, who demanded land for military exercises.

Neil examines what these activities said about what it meant to be British at the time - and their legacy today.

Producer Paul Kobrak

THU 09:30 Artworks (m002yxt4)

Art That Conquered the World

David

Michelangelo's David is an art world celebrity. Millions of tourists gaze up at him in Florence, millions more have the t-shirt, the comedy underpants, the fridge magnet. But how and why did this 5 metre tall statue become a global star?

In this series, art historian Dr James Fox traces the twists of fate and happy accidents that pushed a handful of artworks to the forefront of pop culture. For David, that began in 1504 with a momentous decision to place him not on the roof of the cathedral, as originally planned, but in the town square.

As James traces the story of David's fame, he talks to those who know him best, including a Florentine tour guide, a Florida school principal who lost her job over David and the man tasked with replicating the statue for Ridley Scott's film Alien: Covenant.

Produced by TBI Media

Producer – Julia Johnson and Jamie Adam

Exec Producer – Jonathon Mayo

Sound Design – Tom Burchell

Production Manager – Sera Baker

THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002yxt6)

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

THU 11:00 How Boarding Schools Shaped Britain (m002715m)

2. Codes

What did it mean to grow up in the type of boarding schools where codes of tradition, privilege, and resilience dictated life?

In the second of three programmes, Nicky Campbell hears from

ex-boarders about the unspoken rules and survival mechanisms forged in these elite institutions - places that have shaped leaders, but left some with profound scars.

The structures and hierarchies were created to forge great men, but could also be extremely traumatic for some, and could empower abusers. Some men say being sent away at an early age left them in dangerous, violent hands, and has cast long shadows.

THU 11:45 Cash Cow by Alev Scott (m002yxth)
Episode 4

Alev Scott had just given birth to her first child, during lockdown in Amsterdam, when she found herself over producing milk. Anxious not to waste this precious, nutrient rich liquid she began to look into the possibility of donation. Soon she found herself in a bewildering world of online marketplaces, and gradually she came to turn her attention to an industry which commodifies every aspect of the maternal body.

She describes how, "The fertility industry is the only legal industry where one person's biological bad luck can be another person's gain. A woman who can carry a pregnancy to term can choose to earn money doing exactly that for someone else; a woman who has plenty of breast milk can sell it; a woman with a healthy ovarian reserve can sell her eggs. This is a more direct, quantifiable form of biological luck than that of a professional athlete or model. The trade is as basic as it gets, and despite its ethical complexities it is largely legal, as opposed to its nearest comparable, large-scale trade: human organ trafficking."

From milk to eggs, to the hiring out of a placenta in the form of surrogacy Alev delves into the commercial, and sometime altruistic, transactions that are fuelled by the age-old desire to have children.

Professor Peter Frankopan describes it as "A powerful, intimate and disturbing exploration of the hidden markets built on women's bodies".

Written by Alev Scott
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters
Read by Hattie Morahan

The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4

THU 12:00 News Summary (m002yxtg)
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

THU 12:04 The Bottom Line (m002yxth)
Evan Davis hosts the business conversation show.

THU 12:32 Sliced Bread (m002yxth)
Sliced Bread - Series 17

Kitchen Sponges, Cloths and Brushes

Greg Foot investigates the so-called wonder products making bold claims.

THU 12:57 Weather (m002yxth)
The latest weather forecast

THU 13:00 World at One (m002yxth)
News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4

THU 13:45 New Storytellers (m002yxth)
New Storytellers 2026

Minor Swing

Growing up Willem had to listen to his mother practise the music of jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli – ad infinitum. A jazz violinist herself with her own band Hot Club du Nord, there was one tune she practised endlessly – Minor Swing. As a young child, Willem felt Grappelli's gypsy jazz was a rival for his mother's attention during those hours of practice. He felt frustrated and ignored and never enjoyed going to his mum's gigs.

Now at 22, Willem appreciates the importance of Grappelli's music in his mother's life and wants to learn more about the legendary gypsy jazz violinist. We follow his journey of discovery through conversations with his mum and multi-media director and radio presenter Paul Balmer, as he uncovers the story of Grappelli's life and the joie de vivre of his music.

This series of New Storytellers is presenting the winners of the Charles Parker Prize for the Best Student Radio Feature 2026. This award-winning feature was produced by Willem Fisk-

Nicholson, a Media Production student at the University of Sunderland. According to the judges this was "a really clever feature idea about hating the constant intrusion of music being practiced in the family home". It was "one of those 'room to breathe' pieces that got me thinking about how much we take for granted as children and how it pays to re-evaluate things from time to time". "With a great, lively narration, it was all in all a lovely, informative listen."

Producer: Willem Fisk-Nicholson
A Soundscape production for BBC Radio 4

THU 14:00 The Archers (m002yxth)
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

THU 14:15 Drama on 4 (m002yxth)
Nothing Is Normal

Even in wartime, normal life continues in Tehran but nothing is, or ever will be, quite the same.

In this new drama Reza, played by Paul Chahidi (This Life, Death of Stalin etc), is a taxi driver trying to make ends meet in a city under attack. He keeps the challenges of his own life at bay while he makes deep connections with each of his passengers, regardless of which section of society they emerge from.

From protesters to Government officials to former royalists, Reza's taxi will carry them all and hear their stories. The tensions in Iranian society have not gone away but this war is bringing a new reality no one was expecting.

And life goes on. Today Reza may find the chance to release himself from his past and forge a new path.

Naz Sadoughi's highly authentic new drama takes us inside the lives of those living in Tehran today, finding beauty and hope amidst the madness of conflict.

Nothing Is Normal by Naz Sadoughi

Reza Paul Chahidi
Farzaneh Souad Faress
Iraj Kia Behnam
Davood Dana Haqjoo
Leyla Isabella Nefar

Other parts played by members of the company

Recording engineer , Paul Clark
Sound editor, Paul Cargill
Sound supervisor, Alisdair McGregor
Producer and director, Boz Temple-Morris

Nothing is Normal is a Holy Mountain production for BBC Radio 4

THU 15:00 This Natural Life (m002yxth)
Peter Lord

Aardman Animations co-founder Peter Lord takes Martha Kearney to the magical mediaeval Whitcliff Deer Park in Berkeley, Gloucestershire. It's his favourite place to walk in nature and watch the wild fallow and red deer herds that live there inside the old walls, on land that's been left wild for centuries.

Producer Beth O'Dea

THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m002yxth)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

THU 15:30 Feedback (m002yxth)
Radio 4's forum for comments, queries, criticisms and congratulations.

THU 16:00 The Briefing Room (m002yxth)
David Aaronovitch presents in-depth explainers on big issues in the news.

THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (w3ct977w)
A weekly show exploring science, its mysteries, and the debates it sparks.

THU 17:00 PM (m002yxth)
Full coverage of the day's news

THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002yxth)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

THU 18:30 P.O.V. (m002yxth)
Series 2

S2 E5: A Friendly Reshuffle

This week in P.O.V. you'll hear audio sketches from the internet's funniest video comedians, including a friendly reshuffle, a nerve-wracking best man's speech, and an intervention that's out of this world.

Written and performed by Jake Bhardwaj, Kylie Brakeman, Stephen Buchanan, Cowboy Complex, Rachel Fairburn, Daniel Foxx, Matt Green, Sooz Kempner, Will Sebag-Montefiore, Ed Night & Paddy Young.

Recorded at The Soundhouse Studios and Guilt Free Post, London; Sonido Studios, Clydebank; and Maximum Fun, Los Angeles.

Sound design: Rich Evans at Synbox Post.

Producer: Ed Morrish
Executive producer: Lyndsay Fenner

A Lead Mojo production for BBC Radio 4

THU 19:00 The Archers (m002yxth)
Helen provides a shoulder to cry on, and Susan waves an olive branch.

THU 19:15 Front Row (m002yxth)
Live magazine programme on the worlds of arts, literature, film, media and music.

THU 20:00 When It Hits the Fan (m002yxth)
[Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Wednesday]

THU 20:15 The Media Show (m002yxth)
[Repeat of broadcast at 16:15 on Wednesday]

THU 21:00 Loose Ends (m002yxth)
[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

THU 21:45 The Cows Are Mad (m001rrj0)
2. Hypothesis

It's the mid 1980s and farm vet Colin Whitaker has the ominous realisation that a new disease is emerging in Kent's cow herds. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food knows about it - and is determined to keep a lid on this potentially devastating news. But by 1987 officials know they have to act.

Government epidemiologist John Wilesmith is given a secret mission to find out how to stop the spread of what's become known as BSE. He dons his wellies and works out one of the few things anyone can say for certain about the cause of the epidemic.

Written, presented and produced by Lucy Proctor.

THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m002yxth)
In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective

THU 22:45 Kane by Edson Burton (m002yxth)
Episode 4

Edson Burton's specially commissioned fiction serial is a coming of age story, set in a slightly alternative version of 21st century Bristol, where slavery has never been abolished. Eighteen-year-old Kane is loveable, funny, sunny in nature. He knows he is treasured in his role as a live-in aide to an admired scientist, a man he regards as a father figure, and who is, moreover, a descendant of the renowned anti-slavery campaigner. Kane loves his ordered life, his little luxuries, his expensive clothes in Wilberforce House.

But when a new manager takes on the leadership of the household, Kane's perspective begins to unravel. He has to face the shattering truth about his position in a society in which enslaved labour is an accepted and acceptable practice and in which he is unwittingly playing a major role. It's a world close enough to our own to be recognised, and to pose challenging questions about contemporary social values and prejudices. Society is defined by a 'natural' hierarchy of the races, with 'Greater Whites' at the top, then Lesser Whites, Freeman (a Black and Brown workforce) and Wretches, who are regarded as degenerate and deserving of enslavement.

Kane finally has to make a choice: should he accept his life with his much-loved mentor, or resist?

Episode 4: Kane discovers the true nature of the project his mentor Wilber is carrying out at Wilberforce House.

The Writer: Edson Burton is a Bristol-based writer, historian, curator, performer and academic who has written widely for radio, stage and screen. His stage plays have been produced by Show of Strength, Trinity Community Arts, and the Bristol Old Vic. He is co-founder of Black theatre company Dip & Fall Back and is Bristol Old Vic Associate Artist. His areas of expertise encompass the Transatlantic Slave Trade as well as other aspects of Black history and culture, and he has worked as a consultant and coordinator for a range of national and regional history based projects. His radio credits include the supernatural trilogy Deacon starring Don Warrington, and most recently, Man Friday, a re-imagining of Daniel Defoe's classic story. In recognition of his significant contributions to the arts and the community in Bristol, he was awarded an MBE in 2023.

Credits:

Writer: Edson Burton
Performer: Lewis Shepherd ('Dear England', '10 Swords and the Moon', 'Super High Resolution')
Production Coordinator: Dawn Williams
Producer/director: Mary Ward-Lowery
Executive Producer: Sara Davies
Sound design: Matt Bainbridge

A Pier Production for BBC Radio 4

THU 23:00 Radical with Amol Rajan (m002yxwm)

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

THU 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002yxwr)

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

FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026

FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m002yxww)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 00:30 Cash Cow by Alev Scott (m002yxtb)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 on Thursday]

FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m002yxwy)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m002yxx0)

BBC Radio 4 joins the BBC World Service.

FRI 05:00 News Summary (m002yxx2)

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 05:04 Yesterday in Parliament (m002yxx4)

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

FRI 05:34 Shipping Forecast (m002yxx6)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m002yxx8)

Radio 4's daily prayer and reflection

FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m002yxxb)

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

FRI 06:00 Today (m002yw6y)

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

FRI 09:00 Desert Island Discs (m002yvvv)

[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Sunday]

FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m002yw70)

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

FRI 11:00 The Food Programme (m002yw72)

Chocolate Crisis?

Soaring cacao prices broke all records and then they crashed. Dan Saladino explores the fallout, the impact on farmers, their

communities, industry players and chocolate lovers.

Produced and presented by Dan Saladino

FRI 11:45 Cash Cow by Alev Scott (m002yw77)

Episode 5

Alev Scott had just given birth to her first child, during lockdown in Amsterdam, when she found herself over producing milk. Anxious not to waste this precious, nutrient rich liquid she began to look into the possibility of donation. Soon she found herself in a bewildering world of online marketplaces, and gradually she came to turn her attention to an industry which commodifies every aspect of the maternal body.

She describes how, "The fertility industry is the only legal industry where one person's biological bad luck can be another person's gain. A woman who can carry a pregnancy to term can choose to earn money doing exactly that for someone else; a woman who has plenty of breast milk can sell it; a woman with a healthy ovarian reserve can sell her eggs. This is a more direct, quantifiable form of biological luck than that of a professional athlete or model. The trade is as basic as it gets, and despite its ethical complexities it is largely legal, as opposed to its nearest comparable, large-scale trade: human organ trafficking."

From milk to eggs, to the hiring out of a placenta in the form of surrogacy Alev delves into the commercial, and sometime altruistic, transactions that are fuelled by the age-old desire to have children.

Professor Peter Frankopan describes it as "A powerful, intimate and disturbing exploration of the hidden markets built on women's bodies".

Written by Alev Scott
Abridged and Produced by Jill Waters
Read by Hattie Morahan

The Waters Company for BBC Radio 4
9Status:

FRI 12:00 News Summary (m002yw7c)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

FRI 12:04 AntiSocial (m002yw7h)

Peace talks for the culture wars. In an era of polarisation, propaganda, and pile-ons, Adam Fleming helps you work out what the arguments are really about.

FRI 12:57 Weather (m002yw7m)

The latest weather forecast

FRI 13:00 World at One (m002yw7r)

News, analysis and comment from BBC Radio 4

FRI 13:45 New Storytellers (m002yw7w)

New Storytellers 2026

After Confession

We make confessions every day: to professionals, family and sometimes people we've only just met. But what happens to those confessions once they are made? Where do they go, and what effect do they have on the people who hear them?

From priests to beauticians, AI bots to mothers; After Confession tumbles between the worlds of those who regularly carry the weight of other people's admissions. Revealing truths can feel like an act of release - a shedding of guilt, worry or uncertainty. But they do not simply disappear. This programme explores the burdens, thrills and creative material that confessions leave in those who listen.

'After Confession' is the Gold Winner of the Charles Parker Prize 2026 for the Best Student Audio Feature and was produced by Sarah Frosh who studied on the In The Dark radio course last year. The judges said her production was "A proper feature....A really excellent piece of work by a real author, carefully crafted and richly put together". One judge "really liked the breadth of interviews and the AI voice took me into worlds I'd never considered. And by the end all of the different threads pulled together into something strangely beautiful."

The awards are presented every year in memory of the producer Charles Parker who produced the pioneering series of Radio Ballads with Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger. This series is introduced by Charles' daughter, Sara Parker, an award-winning radio producer in her own right.

Artwork by Peter Carrick

Producer: Sarah Frosh

A Soundscape production for BBC Radio 4.

FRI 14:00 The Archers (m002yw80)

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

FRI 14:15 Limelight (m002yw84)

Central Intelligence: Series 3

Episode 2

1964. As British Guiana edges towards independence, Washington fears another communist foothold in the Americas. But the President's attention is soon caught by a more immediate irritation: Harold Wilson's new Labour government is pressing ahead with a lucrative export deal to Castro's Cuba. To London, it is just business. To LBJ, it looks like betrayal.

And as the CIA tries to keep one eye on British Guiana, the White House becomes consumed by a row over buses, allies, trade, and what loyalty means in the Cold War.

Starring Kim Cattrall, Kelsey Grammer, Johnny Flynn and Jason Watkins.

Eloise Page.....Kim Cattrall
Lyndon Baines Johnson.....Kelsey Grammer
Richard Helms.....Johnny Flynn
David Ormsby-Gore.....Jason Watkins
Young Eloise Page.....Elena Delia
Robert 'Bob' McNamara.....Rob Benedict
Desmond Fitzgerald.....Donald Sage Mackay
Helene Boatner.....Carlyss Peer
John McCone.....Tim Ahern
Virginia Hall.....Jennifer Armour
Tom KaramessinesAkie Kotabe
Elizabeth, Richard Helm's Secretary.....Laurel Lefkow
Leroy Gomes.....Tyreke Leslie
Cheddi Jagan.....Vivek Madan
Tracy Barnes.....Richard Southgate
Gerri Whittington.....Nettie Chickering

All other parts played by cast

Original music by Sacha Puttnam

Production:

Written by Greg Haddrick, who created the series with Jeremy Fox

Sound Design and Editing by Adam Woodhams, Andreina Gomez Casanova and John Scott Dryden
Assistant Director: Flynn Hallman
Sonica Studio Sound Engineers: Mat Clark & Paul Clark
Margarita Sound Engineer: James Moore
Sonica Runner: Lily Lefkow

Director: John Scott Dryden
Producer & Casting Director: Emma Hearn
Executive Producers: Howard Stringer, Jeremy Fox, Greg Haddrick and John Scott Dryden.

A Goldhawk production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 14:45 Living on the Edge (m001n1nv)

Morecambe Bay

Ten coastal encounters, presented by Richard King.

Today: fishing for shrimp in Morecambe Bay with Michael and Joanne Wilson.

Not simply town or countryside, the coastline is a place apart – attracting lives and stories often overlooked.

In these ten programmes, the writer Richard King travels around the UK coast to meet people who live and work there – a sequence of portraits rooted in distinct places, which piece together into an alternative portrait of the UK: an oblique image of the nation drawn from the coastal edge.

Producer: Martin Williams

FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m002yw88)

Horticultural programme featuring a group of gardening experts.

FRI 15:45 Short Works (m002yw8c)

Afterdrop by Jane Fraser

Original short story set on the Gower, South Wales. After her husband's sudden death, Sarah finds comfort in a daily walk where she watches a group of women sea-swimming all through

the winter. Their resilience inspires her to confront both the 'afterdrop' of grief and her fear of the water.

Written by Jane Fraser
Read by Rhian Morgan
Produced by Alice McKee, BBC Audio Wales

FRI 16:00 Last Word (m002yw8f)
Radio 4's weekly obituary programme

FRI 16:30 Sideways (m002yw8h)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]

FRI 17:00 PM (m002yw8k)
Full coverage of the day's news

FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m002yw8m)
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

FRI 18:30 Dead Ringers (m002yw8p)
Series 27

Episode 6

Satirical impressions from the team headed up by Jon Culshaw and Jan Ravens.

FRI 19:00 The Archers (m002yw8r)
Writer: Sarah McDonald Hughes
Director: Marina Caldarone
Editor: Jeremy Howe

Jolene Archer ... Buffy Davis
Helen Archer ... Louiza Patikas
Pat Archer ... Patricia Gallimore
Tony Archer ... David Troughton
Tom Archer ... William Troughton
Harrison Burns ... James Cartwright
Alice Carter ... Hollie Chapman
Susan Carter ... Charlotte Martin
Ian Craig ... Stephen Kennedy
Rex Fairbrother ... Nick Barber
Amber Gordon ... Olivia Bernstone
Adam Macy ... Andrew Wincott
Kate Madikane ... Perdita Avery
Kirsty Miller ... Annabelle Dowler
Fallon Rogers ... Joanna Van Kampen
Lynda Snell ... Carole Boyd
Anne-Marie Gordon ... Kate Ashfield

FRI 19:15 Screenshot (m002yw8t)
The Swinging Sixties

Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode revisit the decade that transformed Britain's image around the world, exploring how film and TV captured - and helped shape - the spirit of the Swinging Sixties, from A Hard Day's Night to Blow-Up.

Interviews with Matthew Sweet and Twiggy.

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

FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m002yw8w)
Topical discussion posing questions to a panel of political and media personalities

FRI 20:55 This Week in History (m002yw8y)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:40 on Wednesday]

FRI 21:00 Archive on 4 (m002f6wf)
Simpson's Dictators

The BBC World Affairs Editor John Simpson looks back at the many dictators and autocrats he has met or reported on during his 60-year career.
He digs into his extensive archives to tell the stories of these ruthless leaders, of how they came to power, and how they finally lost it.

What was it like to be "in the room" with them - a room that could be a multi-coloured tent in the Libyan desert, a run-down chateau, or even a courtroom. John reunites with former colleagues to reminisce about travelling to meet these men (and they were all men...) who oppressed millions to satisfy their cravings for power or wealth, or allowed themselves to be led by their misguided beliefs that only they could save their country or keep it together.

What drives people like that, what does it take to end their regimes, and what is it like to meet someone who has ruined, or even ended, the lives of thousands?

Presenter: John Simpson
Producer: Arlene Gregorius
Production coordinator: Brenda Brown
Editor: Sara Wadeson

FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m002yw90)
In depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective

FRI 22:45 Kane by Edson Burton (m002yw92)
Episode 5

Edson Burton's specially commissioned fiction serial is a coming of age story, set in a slightly alternative version of 21st century Bristol, where slavery has never been abolished. Eighteen-year-old Kane is loveable, funny, sunny in nature. He knows he is treasured in his role as a live-in aide to an admired scientist, a man he regards as a father figure, and who is, moreover, a descendant of the renowned anti-slavery campaigner. Kane loves his ordered life, his little luxuries, his expensive clothes in Wilberforce House.

But when a new manager takes on the leadership of the household, Kane's perspective begins to unravel. He has to face the shattering truth about his position in a society in which enslaved labour is an accepted and acceptable practice and in which he is unwittingly playing a major role. It's a world close enough to our own to be recognised, and to pose challenging questions about contemporary social values and prejudices. Society is defined by a 'natural' hierarchy of the races, with 'Greater Whites' at the top, then Lesser Whites, Freeman (a Black and Brown workforce) and Wretches, who are regarded as degenerate and deserving of enslavement.

Kane finally has to make a choice: should he accept his life with his much-loved mentor, or resist?

Episode 5: Kane faces the future and must make the most difficult decision of his life.

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Producer/director: Mary Ward-Lowery
Executive Producer: Sara Davies
Sound design: Matt Bainbridge

A Pier Production for BBC Radio 4

FRI 23:00 Americast (w3ct8lzc)
Join Americast for insights and analysis on what's happening inside Trump's White House.

FRI 23:30 Today in Parliament (m002yw95)
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament