

**SATURDAY 26 DECEMBER 2020****SAT 00:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4dzz9)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 00:06 Trending (w3ct1d1z)**

Votes, viruses, victims: 2020 in disinformation

From the global pandemic to the US election, the extraordinary events of 2020 have both fuelled, and been shaped by, the online spread of falsehoods, propaganda and bizarre conspiracy theories.

Trending's Mike Wendling and Marianna Spring, the BBC's specialist disinformation reporter, look back at some of the most viral rumours, how they debunked them, and discover what happened next.

Producers: Jonathan Griffin and Sam Judah

Picture caption: Photo illustration of a phone showing "fake news"

Picture credit: BBC

**SAT 01:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4f3qf)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 01:06 Business Matters (w172x19f5k5p46)**

China's changing economy

China is bucking a global trend and its economy is growing again. We hear from Wuhan and Shanghai, where restrictions have been lifted and companies are back in business. Also in the programme, we hear from the young generation leaving Hong Kong and those embracing change brought by a new security law. And, we ask how ready China is for the challenges of 2021. The world's second biggest economy is spending huge amounts on green technologies and clean power. Experts give their views. We also talk to the writer Bill Hayton about how he thinks President Xi wants China to be viewed on the world stage.

Presenter Fergus Nicoll is joined by Yuan Yang, deputy Beijing bureau chief at the Financial Times and independent economist Andy Xie in Shanghai.

Picture: Students pose with a Chinese flag (Credit: Getty Images).

**SAT 02:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4f7gk)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 02:06 The Newsroom (w172x7b10c8zzwp)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SAT 02:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r3lqy)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SAT 02:32 Stumped (w3cszhk9)**

The best of Stumped in 2020

Alison Mitchell brings you the best of Stumped in 2020.

The show features an interview with the world's top fast bowler Pat Cummins and the unlikely secrets behind a leading umpire's success.

Plus, the rise of women's cricket in Germany and an emotional Ebony Rainford-Brent calls for greater racial equality in the sport.

Photo: (L) Australia Vice Captain Pat Cummins and (R) Former England player Ebony Rainford-Brent (Credit: Getty images)

**SAT 03:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4fc6p)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 03:06 The Fifth Floor (w3cszj5)**

Memorable journeys of 2020

Three journalists share stories of travels undertaken in the year of the pandemic. BBC Delhi's Neha Sharma went to Indian-administered Kashmir, a year after it was stripped of autonomy; Victoria Uwongkunda of BBC Africa covered the US election, finding voters from the African diaspora; and Olga Ivshina of BBC Russian went to Azerbaijan to meet families affected by the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Mosul after Islamic State

Iraqis recently celebrated Victory Day, which marks the day in December 2017 when the last remnants of so-called Islamic State were finally driven from the country. The toughest part of that campaign was the battle to retake Mosul, captured by IS in 2014. Two BBC journalists who reported on the fighting - Nafiseh Kohnavard of BBC Persian, and BBC Arabic's Basheer Al-Zaidi - share memories, and tell us what Mosul is like now.

In praise of borsch

Roman Lebed of BBC Ukrainian gives us his ode to borsch, the beetroot soup eaten all over Ukraine and Russia. But who made it first? Roman tells us about the battle over its origins, and shares memories of his great-grandmother's recipe, as well as revealing his own secret ingredient.

Image: Olga Ivshina in Azerbaijan

Credit: BBC

**SAT 03:50 Witness History (w3cszmqw1)**

It's a Wonderful Life

In December 1946, the classic Christmas film "It's a Wonderful Life" had its premiere in Hollywood. Starring Jimmy Stewart, the movie's message of hope and redemption is loved by millions. Simon Watts talks to former child star, Carolyn Grimes, who played six-year-old Zuzu Bailey. The programme was first broadcast in 2015.

PHOTO: Carolyn Grimes with Jimmy Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life" (Getty Images)

**SAT 04:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4fgyt)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 04:06 The Reith Lectures (w3ct1cyp)**

From climate crisis to real prosperity

In this final lecture, Dr Mark Carney turns his attention to climate change, arguing that the roots of our environmental emergency lie in a deeper crisis of values. He suggests how we can create an ecosystem in which society's values broaden the market's conceptions of value. In this way, individual creativity and market dynamism can be channelled to achieve broader social goals including inclusive growth and environmental sustainability.

(Photo: Outgoing Bank of England governor Mark Carney makes a keynote address at the 2020 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Credit: Tolga Akmen/Getty Images)

**SAT 05:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4fipy)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 05:06 The Newsroom (w172x7b10c90c42)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SAT 05:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r3yzb)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SAT 05:32 The Cultural Frontline (w3cszj9d)**

Canine couture: Inside dog fashion

A new type of fashionista is taking the design world by storm but the supermodels have four legs instead of two. Reporter JP Devlin takes us inside the world of canine couture or fashion for dogs.

Which country loves to share bears and where do goats get laughs? Internet expert and writer An Xiao Mina reveals how our favourite animal memes reveal a lot about the culture of our countries.

This spring, as lockdowns were enforced across the globe, The Cultural Frontline started a project in collaboration with the British artist and producer Nick Ryan. Our aim was simple: to collect the sounds that you, our listeners, had heard wherever you were during lockdown. Now Nick Ryan returns to share some of those sounds and to also debut an extract from a new work he has created from those sonic submissions.

Have you ever wondered what a spider sounds like? Argentine artist Tomás Saraceno is fascinated by spiders. It has led him to study them, to incorporate them into his visual art and to create music with them in what he calls 'Spider Jam Sessions.' Tomás spoke to Chi Chi about making music from the vibrations of spider webs for his latest concert.

Presented by Chi Chi Izundu

Image: Bodhi. Credit: @menswardog

**SAT 06:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4fqg2)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 06:06 Weekend (w172x7d6wth2qs)**

Explosion in Nashville

A camper van in Nashville, Tennessee has exploded, injuring three people. The blast also knocked out communications systems across the state. The camper van broadcast a warning message to leave the area, before the blast.

Also in the programme: An ongoing farming dispute in India and the \$900bn US relief bill.

Joining Ben James to discuss these and other issues are: Catherine Barnard, Professor of Law and a Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge and Robert Fox, a British journalist and broadcaster.

(Picture: A vehicle burns near the site of an explosion in the area of Second and Commerce in Nashville, Tennessee. CREDIT: Andrew Nelles/Tennessean.com/USA TODAY NETWORK via REUTERS.)

**SAT 07:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4fv66)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 07:06 Weekend (w172x7d6wthd6gx)**

Nashville explosion was 'intentional act'

An explosion has torn through the US city of Nashville. Three people are known to have been injured in the blast and possible human remains have been found in the debris. Police believe the blast was caused deliberately.

Also in the programme: South Korea faces its third wave of coronavirus infections and an analysis of a trade deal signed by the European Union and United Kingdom.

Joining Ben James to discuss these and other issues are: Catherine Barnard, Professor of Law and a Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge and Robert Fox, a British journalist and broadcaster.

(Picture: A vehicle burns near the site of an explosion in Nashville, Tennessee. Credit: Andrew Nelles/Tennessean.com/USA TODAY NETWORK via REUTERS)

**SAT 08:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4fyby)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 08:06 Weekend (w172x7d6wthdb71)**

US Coronavirus relief package under threat

Unemployment benefit payments for millions of Americans are due to end on Saturday as a result of a standoff between President Trump and Congress. It's estimated that twelve million people will lose benefits from two coronavirus relief programmes introduced earlier this year.

Also in the programme: An explosion in Nashville and A BBC's correspondent's take on how Italy has coped with the pandemic.

Joining Ben James to discuss these and other issues are: Catherine Barnard, Professor of Law and a Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge and Robert Fox, a British journalist and broadcaster.

(Picture: Some 14 million Americans are at risk of a lapse in payments. Credit: Getty Images)

**SAT 08:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r4b6q)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SAT 08:32 The Documentary (w3ct0w55)**

The 'grandma benches' of Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has over 14 million people but fewer than 20 psychiatrists.

After years of economic turmoil, unemployment and HIV, mental health is a huge challenge and doctors estimate one in four Zimbabweans battles with depression or anxiety.

Lucia is one of the 700 grandmothers in the country turning the nation around. She sits on a wooden bench using a gentle form of cognitive behavioural or talking therapy with her community.

This is one of 250 Friendship Benches set up by Zimbabwean psychiatrist Dr Dixon Chibanda, who believed that after a few weeks of simple training, grandmothers could become lay health workers for their communities.

Lucia has the time, wisdom and respect to help the people who come to her. She understands them and has direct experience of their problems.

Presenter Kim Chakanetsa hears the grandmothers are having astounding results. They have helped over 50,000 people and are breaking down the stigma around mental health. Recent clinical trials found they are more effective than conventional medical treatments.

As a result, Dixon Chibanda gets enquiries from around the world for the Friendship Bench and he's setting them up in Malawi, Zanzibar, Kenya, Tanzania and now New York.

The World Health Organisation said more than 264 million people were suffering from depression. That was before Covid-19 brought new challenges. As people are more isolated and anxious, Dixon Chibanda explains how he is facing up to the pandemic, moving his idea online and giving the world access to a virtual Friendship Bench.

Photo: Two people talk on a 'Friendship bench' Copyright: Rainer Kwiotek

**SAT 09:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4g2pg)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 09:06 BBC OS Conversations (w3ct19z1)**  
Coronavirus: Surviving the pandemic

After hearing so many incredibly moving stories since the pandemic was first declared, we've decided to return to some of those people who've been guests on the programme and hear how their lives have changed - from two residents in Wuhan, China - to the English couple who had a lockdown wedding and decided to 'elope' to save guests from getting the virus.

Lockdown and isolation has also left many people across the world struggling with isolation and loneliness. Two women in Canada and the United States share how they've been faring without human contact and how appearing on BBC OS produced the start of a blossoming friendship.

Host Nuala McGovern also talks to two chaplains who continue to offer spiritual advice to those in need. One is based in New York which, when we first spoke to her, was the worst affected city in the world. Today the chaplains share their experiences of the meaning and purpose of life and how to grasp small moments of joy.

(Photo: Lindsay van Dijk, Humanist Chaplain in NHS hospitals in the UK Credit: Edward Thompson / Twitter @\_edthompson, Instagram @mredthompson)

**SAT 09:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r4fyv)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SAT 09:32 Two Minutes Past Nine (w3ct1cww)**  
Two Minutes Past Nine

26/12/2020 GMT

On April 19th 1995 a 26-year-old named Timothy Mcveigh steered a yellow rental truck into downtown Oklahoma city. Inside was a two-ton homemade explosive.

The Oklahoma City Bombing killed 168 people and leaving 680 injured. Journalist Leah Sottile investigates the legacy of the attack in a series that gets into the heart of America's far-right today.

Recorded over some of the most divisive and turbulent months in recent American political history, Two Minutes Past Nine explores and questions the changing face of far right extremism in all its chaos and conspiracism.

**SAT 09:50 Over to You (w3cszf5f)**  
BBC World Service English controller answers your questions - part one

We are joined by the controller of BBC World Service English Mary Hockaday as she responds to listeners' comments, views and questions - both complimentary and critical. Topics include: combatting fake news, how programme topics are chosen, selecting panels, why are there so many trails and guarding the BBC's independence.

Presenter: Rajan Datar  
Produced: Howard Shamon

**SAT 10:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4g6f1)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 10:06 Sportshour (w172x3c5vksz079)**  
The Jim Thorpe Story

This special programme explores the sad and controversial life of Jim Thorpe - the American Indian who was the star of the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, where the Swedish King famously told him 'Sir, you are the greatest athlete in the world'.

Thorpe had grown up on the Sac and Fox Indian reservation in Oklahoma and then, as a teenager, was sent 1500 miles away to a boarding school in Pennsylvania whose purpose was to 'civilise' Indian children by eradicating their culture. Its motto was 'Kill the Indian and save the man'. The pupils were forced to wear military uniforms, have short hair, and were punished if they spoke their own languages. 'The last phase of the Indian wars was fought in the classroom', says one contributor.

Thorpe was saved by sport and became the school's great star at both athletics and American football. He's often described as the 'first international sporting superstar'. But in 1913 it came out that he had been paid a few dollars to play minor-league baseball and the elite amateurs who ran US athletics rushed to condemn him as a professional. He was summarily stripped of his medals. But the public were on his side and his status in America is that of a popular hero victimised by those in power.

He went on to become the first great professional football player, but he could never cope with fame and died in near poverty in 1953. His widow arranged for him to be buried in a small town in Pennsylvania which offered to build a memorial to him. They town even changed its name to 'Jim Thorpe', but his Indian tribe are pursuing a legal battle to have his remains returned to Oklahoma.

Photo: American athlete Jim Thorpe (1888 -1953) at an athletics meeting at the Parc Pommery in Reims, France, 23rd July 1912. Thorpe is competing in the 110 yards Hurdles. BRA-75991. (Photo by Branger/Roger Viollet via Getty Images)

**SAT 11:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4g5q5)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 11:06 The Newsroom (w172x7b10c912lv)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SAT 11:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r4pg3)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SAT 11:32 The Documentary (w3ct1d0b)**  
Warrior elephant guardians

In a remote part of Northern Kenya, former Samburu warriors are elephant keepers, rescuing and raising baby elephants in what's thought to be Africa's first community owned and run elephant sanctuary.

At Reteti Elephant Sanctuary they rescue baby elephants that have been injured, orphaned or abandoned. They look after them, rehabilitate them and release them back to the wild. It is transforming the way local communities relate to elephants, in a way that benefits both humans and animals. The sanctuary has brought employment, revenue and a sense of pride. Reteti is on community owned land and it is managed by community members. The local people are now protecting the animals they live alongside.

Now the sanctuary is starting to employ women from the community as keepers too, who bring their own set of skills to the work.

The elephants are also proving an unexpected catalyst for peace, bringing tribes together from all over Northern Kenya, that normally fight over land and resources. Now they are finding ways to work together in peace, to protect the elephants.

(Photo: A baby elephant saying hello to one of the keepers. Credit: Michael Kaloki)

**SAT 12:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4g5xv)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 12:06 Music Life (w3csz6tz)**  
'Swans ruined our recording' with Ólafur Arnalds and Agnes Obel

Are you happy working alone? Does location affect your music? What happens after the album is done? This is what Icelandic composer, producer and king of the ambient Ólafur

Arnalds will be asking the group in this episode of Music Life. He's just released his new record Some Kind of Peace, has scored for film and TV, and has carried the Icelandic sound further around the world than it's been before.

Dustin O'Halloran forms one half of A Winged Victory For The Sullen and is an American pianist and composer. They released their latest project last year with The Undivided Five, whilst Dustin has been busy writing music for films including Sofia Coppola's Marie Antoinette and TV show Transparent. He now lives in Iceland.

Hania Rani is a composer and pianist based between Warsaw and Berlin. She released her debut solo record Esja last year, in which she said, "No hiding behind collaborations anymore. For the very first time, [it's] just me, as I am."

And finally Danish singer, composer and pianist Agnes Obel has been a superstar in the chamber music world for some time. She cemented her popularity with 2013's Aventine album, and her most recent project was this year's Myopia.

**SAT 13:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4gknz)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 13:06 Newshour (w172x2z3gzn4r9k)**  
Explosions kill at least two people in Kabul

A series of explosions have triggered panic in the Afghan capital, Kabul, and killed at least two security personnel. Kabul has witnessed several bomb and rocket attacks in recent weeks targeting security forces, politicians, and activists.

Also in the programme: a promising antibody therapy that could, possibly, offer emergency protection against Covid-19; and one of the most notorious spies of the Cold War, George Blake, is reported to have died in Russia.

(Photo: Afghan men look out from a damaged window of an apartment overlooking the site of an explosion, in Kabul. Credit: EPA).

**SAT 14:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4gpf3)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 14:06 Sportsworld (w172x3lkv4752f)**  
Live Sporting Action

Sportsworld brings you live Premier League commentary as Fulham take on Southampton at Craven Cottage. We'll keep you up to date with the other 15:00 match as Villa play Crystal Palace.

Lee James is joined by former Manchester City midfielder Michael Johnson, Tottenham goalkeeper Becky Spencer and Reading and Ghana defender Andy Yiadom to discuss all the big talking points.

We'll have reaction to the day's early game between Leicester City and Manchester United - and we'll look ahead to the rest of the day's action with Manchester City and Everton both in action.

Elsewhere, we'll bring you the latest from a busy weekend of men's Test cricket with Australia playing India and South Africa taking on Sri Lanka - and we'll have a round-up of the Christmas Day NBA games.

Plus there's another chance to listen to Benchwarmer - a Sportsworld podcast where we celebrate the athletes who rarely step foot on the pitch - only ever cross the white line to bring on drinks - and some who are able to lead the race but never reach the finishing line. It's the tales of the substitutes, the 12th players, the bib wearers and the pace setters. Lee James chats to England cricketer Jack Leach, former Netherlands and Tottenham keeper Michel Vorm and Olympic 800m runner Jenny Meadows.

Photo: Fulham's Tosin Adarabioyo & Ruben Loftus-Cheek form part of a defensive wall. (Credit: Reuters)

**SAT 18:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4h5dm)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 18:06 The Newsroom (w172x7b10c91xtr)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SAT 18:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r5jp0)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SAT 18:32 Mayday (w3ct1cxc)**

On 11 November 2019 James Le Mesurier was found dead in a street in Istanbul. He was the latest casualty in a very unusual war – one fought not on the battlefield, but online.

Le Mesurier was a mysterious figure with a taste for the finer things who served in the British Army in several of the world's hotspots before focusing his energies on war-ravaged Syria from 2014. He co-founded the White Helmets, a Syrian civil defence force who filmed themselves pulling survivors and bodies from the rubble of bombed out buildings.

Soon, the White Helmets - and Le Mesurier - found themselves at the centre of a global race to control the narrative in the Syrian War. In this investigative series Mayday, presenter Chloe Hadjimatheou talks to the people who knew James, including his widow Emma, his ex-wife and former army colleagues, as well as those on the ground in Syria still working as White Helmets today in an effort to piece together James' story and that of the White Helmets. She speaks to some of the White Helmet's detractors and follows up accusations about the organisation to try and understand the truth surrounding them.

Chloe Hadjimatheou says: "Making this series has been an extraordinary experience, as listeners will discover. It started out being an investigation into the story of a man with an astonishing life and a mysterious death but it ended up taking me on a bizarre journey down rabbit holes of misinformation. Ultimately this is a story about how truth functions in modern warfare."

**SAT 18:50 Sporting Witness (w3cszh60)**  
The yachting rescue that gripped the world

British sailor Pete Goss was taking part in the Vendee Globe single-handed round-the-world yacht race in 1996 when he received a distress call from another participant. French sailor Raphael Dinelli was 160 miles away in the Southern Ocean around Antarctica – but Pete Goss went back through hurricane force winds to rescue him.

Photo: Vendee Globe round-the-world race yacht "Aqua Quorum" carrying rescued French sailor Raphael Dinelli and British sailor Peter Goss off the southern coast of Tasmania 07 January. (Photo credit STR/AFP via Getty Images)

**SAT 19:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4h94r)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 19:06 The Evidence (w3ct0xk5)**  
Coronavirus: The Evidence

Hopes and fears for Covid-19 vaccines

Less than a year in, and the first vaccines are already being rolled out, with many more in the pipeline. It is an unprecedented scientific response to the global pandemic and researchers around the world have provided the first hope against one of the most formidable challenges facing humanity in a century.

Claudia Hammond and her expert panel of guests consider the scale of this herculean effort and answer listeners' questions about vaccine safety, trust, immunity and long term protection.

The World Health Organisation has repeatedly said that no-one is safe until we are all safe, so the threat of vaccine nationalism and the purchase of millions of the first vaccine doses by rich countries is something that is concerning everybody worried about equitable vaccine distribution.

How will the COVAX facility, which is designed to boost vaccine purchasing power for the world's poorest countries, fare in the face of nationalistic purchasing - and will surplus doses be shared so that all seven point five billion of us can get protection?

And, finally, the scale of the threat from vaccine hesitancy. Any vaccine is only as good as the numbers of people who will take it to achieve herd immunity. The numbers of those suspicious about a potential Covid-19 vaccine have grown over the course of the pandemic, causing real concern for governments around the world. How can people be reassured that vaccines are safe?

This month, Claudia's guests include Professor Peter Hotez, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor college of Medicine in Houston and co-director of the Texas Children's Hospital Centre for Vaccine Development in the USA, Professor Helen Rees, founder and executive director of the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, Kalipso Chalkidou, Professor of Practice in Global Health at Imperial College, London and Director of Global Health Policy at the Centre for Global Development and Dr Ève Dubé, a medical anthropologist from the Institute of Public Health in Quebec, Canada.

Produced by: Fiona Hill, Samara Linton and Maria Simons

Editor: Deborah Cohen  
Technical Support: Tim Heffer and Giles Aspen

Picture: Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics Open In Surrey, UK,  
Credit: Leon Neal/Getty Images

**SAT 20:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4hdww)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 20:06 The Arts Hour (w3cszk3y)**  
Virtually On Tour in Rome

The Arts Hour is 'virtually' on tour in Rome, with presenter Nikki Bedi and a live audience, to celebrate Italian performance artists who have risen to the challenges of Covid-19 this year.

Singer, songwriter and producer Carl Brave performs live and explains how his sound has changed during lockdown.

Internationally renowned street artist Alice Pasquini talks about painting new murals on the walls of Rome's Gemelli Hospital with a backdrop of empty streets and ambulance sirens.

Movie star Riccardo Scamarcio reveals the new project he has planned in lockdown and his approach to playing Caravaggio opposite Isabelle Huppert in his latest role.

Stand-up comedy from Edoardo Ferrario draws attention to the Italian obsession with food and missing home when travelling.

Opera star Carmen Giannattasio sings a traditional Italian Christmas carol and describes how her body changes physically when she performs for a real audience.

Theatre performer Martina Badiluzzi tells us how she wrote short stories about her neighbours in Rome, in the spring, and then dramatized them for intimate theatre productions.

And filmmaker Laura Luchetti, takes a break from shooting on the streets of Rome and Bologna to discuss the future of film production.

**SAT 21:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4hjn0)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 21:06 Newshour (w172x2z3gzn5q8l)**  
Covid-19: Unemployment benefits run out for millions of Americans

The US President-elect Joe Biden has warned that there will be devastating consequences if President Trump continues to delay signing a Covid-19 economic relief bill overwhelmingly passed by Congress.

Millions of Americans face going without unemployment benefits after today because of a stand-off between Mr Trump and Congress over a 900 billion dollar stimulus bill.

Also on the programme: We look at the Central African Republic as a bid by at least 6 opposition candidates to have Sunday's general election postponed has been rejected; and a look at the life of Soviet double agent George Blake who has just died aged 98.

(Picture: US job fair, Credit: Getty Images)

**SAT 22:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4hdnd4)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 22:06 The Newsroom (w172x79rkmpd3cz)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SAT 22:20 Sports News (w172x3fn5rm2dbt)**  
BBC Sport brings you all the latest stories and results from around the world.

**SAT 22:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r60nj)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SAT 22:32 Heart and Soul (w3ct1d0y)**  
To Santa from Shanghai

In the far north of Finland, 6km south of the Arctic Circle, the town of Rovaniemi is the "official home" of Santa Claus - the location where any letter addressed to Santa (over 500,000 every year) will arrive.

St Nicholas may have roots in 3rd Century Turkey - but this one-time logging town is now the centre of a vast Santa industry. In 2019, more than half a million people came to Rovaniemi's

Santa Village – including 60,000 from China. Dignitaries such as Chinese President Xi Jinping have also made a pilgrimage to the home of the world's most identifiable, pan-cultural, pan-faith icon.

This year, though, things are different. Santa's village lies eerily quiet due to Covid-19. All focus – and hope – lies on his official Post Office, and the letters that continue to stream through the door from children – and adults – across the world. Producer Steven Rajam tells the story of the global Santa tourism boom, the myths, fantasies and traditions that Santa represents across different cultures.

Contributors include writer on Christmas and biographer of Santa Claus, Gerry Bowler; historian Martin Johns; expert on China and religion, Fenggang Yang; travel agency chief Chao Tang; and supervisor at Santa's official post office, Katja Tervonen, who details how the hundreds of letters received every year give a unique insight into the thoughts and emotions of children around the world.

(Photo: Driver POV of sleigh ride in thick snow and bright sunshine in Rovaniemi. Credit: Lars Ley)

**SAT 23:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4hs48)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SAT 23:06 Business Weekly (w3ct0sp)**  
Pandemic disrupts global supply chains

This week the roads running to the ports in the South East of England turned into a lorry park when continental Europe blocked arrivals from the UK – so Business Weekly takes look at trade and the travails of the global shipping industry. How has this vital sector fared during the pandemic? As France bans discrimination against regional accents we'll ask whether the way you talk really affects your job prospects. The Chief Executive of the Royal Albert Hall tells us how this historical London venue is coping without box office sales - and we'll hear from the entrepreneurs who set up new businesses in the middle of a pandemic.

Business Weekly is presented by Lucy Burton and produced by Clare Williamson.

(Image: Lorries parked at Manston airport while port of Dover closed, Credit: Getty Images)

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**SUN 00:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4hwwd)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 00:06 The Cultural Frontline (w3cszj9d)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 05:32 on Saturday]

**SUN 00:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r684s)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 00:32 Mayday (w3ct1cxc)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 18:32 on Saturday]

**SUN 00:50 Over to You (w3cszf5f)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:50 on Saturday]

**SUN 01:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4j0mj)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 01:06 The Science Hour (w3cszksx)**  
A year with Covid -19

It was the end of December 2019 when reports of a new flu like infection first came out of China. Within weeks millions of people were in lockdown as the virus took hold around the world.

In this programme we look back and revisit the scientists who were ready, those who had been studying bat coronaviruses and warning of their pandemic potential.

The scientific response was immediate. The coronavirus tests now used across the world were being developed within a few hours of news of the outbreak in China, and the vaccines we now have licenced for use began to be formulated just a few days later.

At Christmas, is there a better gift than knowledge? CrowdScience has cooked up its own version of 'secret Santa', with members of the team setting one another the challenge of

answering surprising questions from all over the world.

Are humans the only animals to exercise? Can you get colder than absolute zero? Why are sounds louder at night? When it comes to food dropped on the floor, is there such thing as the "three-second rule"? And, does honey really have healing properties?

Producers and presenters from the CrowdScience team speak to all manner of experts, from zoologists through to material scientists, to find the answers.

(Image: Getty Images)

**SUN 02:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4j4cn)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 02:06 The Newsroom (w172x7b10c92wss)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SUN 02:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r6hn1)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 02:32 The Documentary (w3ct0w55)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:32 on Saturday]

**SUN 03:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4j83s)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 03:06 The Documentary (w3ct1d0x)**

Revolution of the senses

Four radio producers present intimate stories of people across Europe, revealing the effect of Covid 19 on their experience of touch, sight, sound, smell and taste. In a year where movement was restricted, physical contact was prevented (or fraught with risk) and screens mediated our social interactions, our new conditions for living have created new relationships with our senses.

From Italy, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Scotland and beyond, we hear individuals and communities as they try to make sense of these new circumstances, and to rebuild and redefine their relationship with the external world and the people in it.

A man in a nursing home lost the last remains of intelligible language when the outbreak of the virus lead to months of separation from his family. Now they can, once more, visit him in a tent outside the facility. Communication is not what it was, but they find that they can still connect through touch.

A sex worker considers her kissing policy...and the new risk involved in physical intimacy.

An autistic man appreciates the benefits of a quieter world when you suffer from sensory overload – and adjusts to a return to crowds and noise with the help of his own protective audio bubble – music.

A daughter recalls the precise moment her mother regained her sense of smell...and attempts to come to terms with her own germophobia.

As Europe and the world rebuilds, we hear deeply personal accounts with all the nuance of what seems like minor, daily experiences, but that are really at the heart of our humanity - connecting us to the self, family, community, society and nation.

Image credit: Wide Vercnocke

**SUN 04:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4jcvx)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 04:06 From Our Own Correspondent (w3csz9qm)**

The Year of Living Turbulently

Pascale Harter reflects on some of the most striking moments in 2020 shared by our correspondents and the stories which have made them think.

Two stories which have dominated the year are the Coronavirus pandemic and a rising swell of public protest around the world. Nick Bryant in New York found himself covering both the rise in Covid 19 cases in the city and the Black Lives Matter demonstrations following the killing of the George Floyd. As all this was happening, his daughter was born and he wrote her a letter considering the times we are living in - and the prospects for America's future.

There were demonstrations of a different kind in Belarus. The

long-term head of state Alexander Lukashenko, who has been the country's first and only President since its independence from the former USSR, was again declared the winner of elections in August. They were widely believed to have been rigged. Tens of thousands of Belarussians did the previously unthinkable and gathered to protest against the result and his rule. Steve Rosenberg got a taste of state tactics as he went to cover the story.

In Nigeria, the #EndSARS movement made it clear police brutality wasn't just an American issue. Mayeni Jones reported on the response to a wave of protests directed against a notorious anti-robbery police squad which had been implicated in a number of killings, as well as cases of torture, kidnap, rape and extortion. After weeks of unrest in Nigerian cities, some unarmed demonstrators were shot dead, allegedly by members of the armed forces. Official investigations were opened - but she was sceptical about how much of the search for the truth was just theatre.

(Image: Red 2020 sign and microphone with "On The Air" sign. Credit: doomu, iStock / Getty Images Plus)

**SUN 04:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r6r49)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 04:32 Two Minutes Past Nine (w3ct1cww)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 on Saturday]

**SUN 04:50 Over to You (w3cszf5f)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:50 on Saturday]

**SUN 05:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4jhm1)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 05:06 The Newsroom (w172x7b10c93815)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SUN 05:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r6wvf)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 05:32 Mayday (w3ct1cxc)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 18:32 on Saturday]

**SUN 05:50 More or Less (w3ct0pyg)**

Numbers of the year: Part one

Tim Harford asks a group of numbers-minded people to take a look back on the year and think of one statistic that really stands out for them. From the spread of Covid-19 to the number of songs added to Spotify this year, we showcase figures that tell us something about 2020.

We speak to Oliver Johnson, professor of information theory at the University of Bristol in the UK; Anne-Marie Imafidon, creator and CEO of social enterprise Stemettes; and economist Joel Waldfogel, of the University of Minnesota.

**SUN 06:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4jmc5)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 06:06 Weekend (w172x7d6wthgzmw)**

Biden urges Trump to sign relief bill

Also in the programme; we profile the woman that clinched the Brexit trade deal, Ursula Von Der Leyen and we discuss how Britain and the EU's relationship has changed following Brexit and the trade deal.

Joining Celia Hatton to discuss these and other issues are: Paula Erizanu a Moldovan-born journalist and Gareth McLean a British writer and dramatist.

(Picture: U.S. President Donald Trump waves as he boards Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, U.S., December 23, 2020. CREDIT: REUTERS/Tom Brenner)

**SUN 07:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4jr39)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 07:06 Weekend (w172x7d6wthh3d0)**

EU launches mass vaccination

Also in the programme; Lorenzo Pregliasco, an Italian resident who recorded an audio diary for the BBC at the start of lockdown in March, returns to describe what has changed in the 9 months since. Also the Belarussian artists inspiring the

protests.

Joining Celia Hatton to discuss these and other issues are: Paula Erizanu a Moldovan-born journalist and Gareth McLean a British writer and dramatist.

(Picture: Nurse offers a small present to a patient recovering from COVID-19, at Attiko hospital in Athens, Greece, 23 December 2020 (issued 26 December 2020. CREDIT: EPA/YANNIS KOLESIDIS)

**SUN 08:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4jvff)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 08:06 Weekend (w172x7d6wthh744)**

EU countries rollout coronavirus vaccine

A mass coronavirus vaccination campaign is due to get underway in the European Union on Sunday, with the rollout of the Pfizer- BioNTech vaccine. . Germany, Hungary and Slovakia have already begun immunisation.

Also in the programme: A look ahead to elections in the Central African Republic and the science behind the development of coronavirus vaccines.

Joining Celia Hatton to discuss these and other issues are: Paula Erizanu a Moldovan-born journalist and Gareth McLean a British writer and dramatist.

(Picture: A vaccine vial is held by a pharmacist in Hungary. Credit: EPA/Zsolt Czeglédi)

**SUN 08:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r773t)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 08:32 CrowdScience (w3cszv6t)**

Do animals exercise?

At Christmas, is there a better gift than knowledge? CrowdScience has cooked up its own version of 'secret Santa', with members of the team setting one another the challenge of answering surprising questions from all over the world.

Are humans the only animals to exercise? Can you get colder than absolute zero? Why are sounds louder at night? When it comes to food dropped on the floor, is there such thing as the "three second rule"? And, does honey really have healing properties?

Producers and presenters from the CrowdScience team speak to all manner of experts, from zoologists through to material scientists, to find the answers.

Presented by Marnie Chesterton and produced by Caroline Steel for the BBC World Service.

**SUN 09:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4jzlk)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 09:06 From Our Own Correspondent (w3csz9qm)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 04:06 today]

**SUN 09:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r7bvy)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 09:32 Outlook (w3cszf0x)**

The "five careers" of Bettye Lavette

Bettye Lavette was a 16-year-old growing up in Detroit when she had her first hit, My Man, in 1962. In 2009 she performed at President Obama's inauguration celebration and called it "the greatest day of my life." But the path from that first hit to the recognition she now enjoys around the world has not been smooth. She talks to Emily Webb about how she spent the intervening years "working, not waiting," and how she kept her faith that the phone would always ring.

Picture: Betty Lavette performs during the Robert Johnson At 100 Centennial celebration at The Apollo Theater on March 6, 2012 in New York City

Credit: Getty Images / FilmMagic / D Dipasupil

**SUN 10:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4k3bp)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 10:06 WorklifeIndia (w3ct1c1b)**

The rise of India's kid influencers

Social media influencers are getting younger and younger, and the alpha generation - those born entirely in the 21st century - is becoming the newest power broker in this space.

While kid influencers remain a relatively new concept to India, their growth has spiked in recent years. They play pranks, review toys, and break down gadgets on their online platforms. Many are immensely popular and have millions of subscribers, attracting bigger and bigger brands for digital marketing and promotions. But is that taking their childhood away? Or is it simply a part of growing up these days?

In this edition of WorklifeIndia, we listen to young social media stars telling us their stories and discuss with them the rise of India's child influencers.

Presenter: Devina Gupta

Contributors: Anantya Anand, kid influencer - MyMissAnand; Pranay Chouhan, teen influencer - TechTheory; Lakshmi Balasubramanian, co-founder, Greenroom digital agency

**SUN 10:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r7gm2)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 10:32 Heart and Soul (w3ct1d0y)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 22:32 on Saturday]

**SUN 11:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4k72t)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 11:06 The Newsroom (w172x7b10e93zhy)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SUN 11:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r7lc6)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 11:32 The Compass (w3ct1czk)**  
My Perfect City

My Perfect City: Employment in Toronto

Fi Glover returns with panellists Dr Ellie Cosgrave, director of the UCL Urban Laboratory, and global city adviser Greg Clark to test the credentials of the most pioneering city initiatives around the world. Who is leading the way when it comes to solving humanity's most pressing problems?

With unemployment rising around the world in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the team assesses Toronto's long-term strategy to boost employment.

Following the decline of the manufacturing sector in Canada, its largest city Toronto faced high unemployment levels. But over the last 30 years it has taken steps to increase its labour market, diversify its employment sector and attract large numbers of people into work.

Is it a model other cities should follow?

The team also consider Taipei's employment record.

**SUN 12:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4kbty)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 12:06 The Evidence (w3ct0xk5)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:06 on Saturday]

**SUN 13:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4kg12)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 13:06 Newshour (w172x2z3gzn7n6n)**  
EU launches mass coronavirus vaccination programme

Relief is in sight for European countries stricken by the COVID-19 pandemic as mass vaccination begins. We ask how long it will take to roll the vaccines out, and whether the EU has enough doses.

Also in the programme: a look at the Central African Republic, where a general election is being overshadowed by fears of a coup supported by the former president; and a review of a turbulent year in Hong Kong.

(Picture: Corona vaccinations in Cologne, Germany. Credit: EPA/FRIEDEMANN VOGEL)

**SUN 14:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4klb6)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 14:06 The Documentary (w3ct1d0x)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 03:06 today]

**SUN 15:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4k2b)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 15:06 The Forum (w3cszjwj)**  
Mugham: the sound of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan's strategic location along the old Silk Road and its wealth of natural resources has made it a prime target for warring empires over centuries. The conquests and the invasions by Turkic and Persian peoples find echoes in the traditional art music of Azerbaijan known as mugham. The influence of the Russian and then Soviet empire also brought change for mugham, the effects of which are still debated today.

Mugham is characterised by a large degree of improvisation, but musicians learn for years from mugham masters to acquire the skills which allow them to extemporise within a strict framework. It's no surprise to learn that in the 20th century, mugham fused with that other great improvisatory music – jazz. With the help of musical examples, Rajan Datar and guests will explore how mugham works and the instruments such as the tar and the kamancha that give this music its unique sound.

Joining Rajan will be ethnomusicologist and tar player Dr Polina Dessiatnitchenko who's writing a book on mugham in post-Soviet Azerbaijan; Jeffrey Werbock, musician and chair of the Mugham Society of America; and music producer and artistic patron Nasib Piriye, who set up BUTA Arts, an organisation designed to raise awareness of Azeri music and culture.

Produced by Fiona Clampin for BBC World Service.

Image: Alim Qasimov sings an improvised Mugham during the Opening Ceremony of the Baku 2015 European Games  
Image credit: Francois Nel/Getty Images for BEGOC

**SUN 15:50 More or Less (w3ct0pyg)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 05:50 today]

**SUN 16:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4kttg)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 16:06 Sportsworld (w172x3lkv478cgs)**  
Live Sporting Action

Sportsworld brings you live Premier League commentary as champions Liverpool take on West Brom.

Maz Farookhi is joined by former Liverpool and West Brom goalkeeper Chris Kirkland to analyse the match, and we'll have reaction to the day's early kick-offs with Leeds United hosting Burnley and West Ham taking on Brighton.

Elsewhere, we'll bring you the latest from a busy weekend of men's Test cricket with Australia playing India and South Africa taking on Sri Lanka.

And we'll have a round-up of the weekend's NBA games.

Photo: Sadio Mane of Liverpool celebrates scoring against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Anfield (Credit: Liverpool FC via Getty Images)

**SUN 19:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4l61v)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 19:06 The Newsroom (w172x7b10e94ygz)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SUN 19:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r8kb7)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 19:32 The Documentary (w3ct0w55)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:32 on Saturday]

**SUN 20:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4l9sz)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 20:06 Music Life (w3csz6tz)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 on Saturday]

**SUN 21:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4l6k3)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 21:06 Newshour (w172x2z3gzn8m5p)**  
Covid: EU starts mass vaccination in 'touching moment of unity'

European leaders have welcomed the start of coronavirus vaccinations across the EU as a turning point in the fight against the pandemic. The Italian prime minister Giuseppe Conte said the day would be remembered forever.

Also, reports from the Central African Republic say violence and intimidation have deterred many people from voting.

And we will ask a psychotherapist how parents can help them cope with the challenges of lost education and social contact.

(Photo: The first person to get the jab in France was a care home resident named as Mauricette, 78. Credit: Reuters)

**SUN 22:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4l6k97)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 22:06 The Newsroom (w172x79rkmp092)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**SUN 22:20 Sports News (w172x3fn5rm597x)**  
BBC Sport brings you all the latest stories and results from around the world.

**SUN 22:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r8xkm)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 22:32 Outlook (w3csz6fx)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 today]

**SUN 23:00 BBC News (w172x5p70g4l61e)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**SUN 23:06 From Our Own Correspondent (w3csz9qm)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 04:06 today]

**SUN 23:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1g5r919r)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**SUN 23:32 Two Minutes Past Nine (w3ct1cwv)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 on Saturday]

**SUN 23:50 More or Less (w3ct0pyg)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 05:50 today]

#### MONDAY 28 DECEMBER 2020

**MON 00:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfq1n)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 00:06 BBC OS Conversations (w3ct19z1)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:06 on Saturday]

**MON 00:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1t1f0b1)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 00:32 Discovery (w3ct1csd)**  
Evolutionary biologist Alice Roberts

It's amazing what we can learn from a pile of old bones. Having worked as a paediatric surgeon for several years (often doing the ward round on roller blades), Alice Roberts spent a decade teaching anatomy to medical students and studying human remains. A niche interest in the collar bone and how it has changed since we evolved from the common ancestor we share with other apes 6 million years ago, led her to some of the biggest questions in science. Who are we? And where do we come from? She is the presenter of several landmark TV series on human evolution and archaeology, such as The Incredible Human Journey and Digging for Britain. And in 2019 she became President of the British Science Association. In conversation with Jim Al Khalili, Alice shares her passion for the bones of our ancient ancestors and of the freshly dead, and

describes her own incredible journey from a basement full of medieval bones to an eminent science communicator and public figure.

Producer: Anna Buckley

**MON 01:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgrss)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 01:06 World Business Report (w172x580cxfr44j)**

Taxing the internet in Africa

Are some African nations restricting growth - as well as free speech - by taxing what we do online? Russell Padmore hears from contributors across the continent about whether taxing use of the internet and clamping down on social media bloggers could restrict the development of the digital economy and damage e-commerce.

(Image: Person using smartphone, Getty Images)

**MON 01:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1f425)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 01:32 Heart and Soul (w3ct1d0y)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 22:32 on Saturday]

**MON 02:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgrjx)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 02:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcm19mz1)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**MON 02:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1f7t9)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 02:32 The Climate Question (w3ct0xb5)**

2020: A year of extremes

Not only has this year been one of the hottest on record, but there has also been a catalogue of record breaking extreme weather events. From the unprecedented bush fires in Australia to the most active Atlantic hurricane season on record, we pick apart how climate change is impacting weather systems and the lives of millions of people around the world.

Justin Rowland, the BBC's Chief Environment Correspondent, and Navin Singh Khadka, the multi-lingual environment correspondent for the BBC's World Service, are joined by Dr Friederike Otto, associate director of the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, and an associate professor in the Global Climate Science Programme; Prof Adam Scaife, the head of long range forecasting at the UK's Met Office; and Laura Meller, a Greenpeace spokeswoman on board their ship the Arctic Sunrise.

Producer: Zak Brophy  
Researcher: Soila Apparicio  
Editor: Ravin Sampat  
Sound Design: David Crackles

**MON 03:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgr091)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 03:06 The Forum (w3cszjwj)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 15:06 on Sunday]

**MON 03:50 Sporting Witness (w3cszh60)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 18:50 on Saturday]

**MON 04:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgr415)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 04:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcm19wg9)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**MON 04:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1fh9k)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 04:32 CrowdScience (w3cszv6t)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:32 on Sunday]

**MON 05:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgr7s9)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 05:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24cj40)**

President Trump signs coronavirus stimulus bill, belatedly

President Trump has belatedly approved a two trillion dollar government spending and coronavirus stimulus package days. He had initially refused to sign the bill.

Los Angeles is fast becoming the pandemic centre of the USA, meanwhile Japan has become the latest country to ban travellers in an attempt to stop the new Covid variant spreading.

And despite marine species dying out at an unprecedented rate, more are being found in the deep ocean waters of the Atlantic.

**MON 06:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfrcjf)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 06:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24cmw4)**

Eleventh hour Trump change of plan averts government shutdown

At the eleventh hour a partial US Government shutdown is avoided after US President Donald Trump signs a coronavirus relief and spending package bill into law.

China's handling of Covid-19 is under scrutiny as Zhang Zhan, a former lawyer, is jailed today for her reporting of the outbreak in Wuhan amid continuing accusations of a cover up in the initial stages of the pandemic.

And how using drone footage to investigate potential political corruption in Hungary is about to become illegal.

**MON 07:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgrh8k)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 07:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24crm8)**

Outgoing President Trump signs huge US spending bill

In the US, President Trump, has eventually signed off the multi-billion dollar Covid relief package for a country divided by politics as well as the pandemic

Here in the UK, ambulance services received record numbers of calls at the weekend as Covid cases continue to rise despite all the restrictions in place

And scientists say they are close to creating a cocktail plastic-eating bacteria to target even the toughest plastic waste.

**MON 08:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgrm0p)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 08:06 HARDtalk (w3cszbxz)**

Peter Frankopan: Can history offer us any lessons on the coronavirus pandemic?

Stephen Sackur speaks to Peter Frankopan, historian and author of the bestselling book *The Silk Roads*. There's plentiful evidence that the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted more serious damage on the US than China. Has the impact of Covid-19 reinforced the notion that global power and influence is shifting to the East?

**MON 08:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1fz92)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 08:32 Business Daily (w3csz7kg)**

What's next for China?

China is bucking a global trend and its economy is growing again. We hear from Wuhan and Shanghai, where restrictions have been lifted and companies are back in business. But the scars left by Covid-19 are still evident. We'll also ask how ready China is for the challenges of 2021. The world's second biggest economy is spending huge amounts on green technologies and clean power. Presenter Fergus Nicoll talks to Dr Sha Yu, Co-Director of the China Programme at the University of Maryland's Centre for Global Sustainability, and Stefan Gsänger, Secretary-General of the World Wind Energy Association. Fergus is also joined by Yuan Yang, deputy Beijing bureau chief at the Financial Times and independent economist Andy Xie in Shanghai.

(Picture: A worker in North China's Hebei Province, Dec. 17, 2020. Picture credit: Getty Images.)

**MON 08:50 Witness History (w3cszml1)**

UNESCO and race and tolerance

UNESCO – the educational, scientific and cultural arm of the United Nations was first established in 1945. Its aim was to use education as a means of sustaining peace after the horrors of the Second World War. Addressing race and racism was a key part of its mission. Caroline Bayley has been speaking to Doudou Diene who spent many years at UNESCO working on anti-racism and tolerance.

(Photo: UNESCO logo seen at 39th General Conference of the organization, 2017 in Paris, France. Credit: Chesnot/Getty Images)

**MON 09:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgrqt)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 09:06 The Climate Question (w3ct0xb5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]

**MON 09:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1g316)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 09:32 The Conversation (w3cszj4d)**

Cheerleading: So much more than shaking pompoms

Pom Poms, short skirts, and chanting: this is what we think is cheerleading. Despite the physical demands of competitive cheerleading it isn't officially recognised by some sports bodies. Kim Chakanetsa brings together two women who are challenging perceptions.

Gabi Butler is an American cheerleader who was the star of the Netflix documentary series, *Cheer*. Her athleticism, flexibility and considerable social media presence has made her a 'cheerlebrity'. Yet posting online since she was a teen has meant being a target for inappropriate comments. She has won the cheerleading world championships twice and says "if someone says, 'Winning isn't everything' they're lying."

Lilian Obieze is the founder of Lagos Nigeria Cheer and is on a mission to popularise cheerleading all over the African continent. In Nigeria she has had to change perceptions that cheerleading "is just about twerking." She started cheerleading programmes in schools 10 years ago, and since then has grown the programme from an entertainment sport to a competitive one. Her dream is for her athletes to compete internationally.

Produced by Jane Thurlow and Sarah Kendall

**IMAGE DETAILS**

Left: Lilian Obieze (credit Mphotoz)

Right: Gabi Butler (courtesy Gabi Butler)

**MON 10:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgrvhy)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 10:06 The Cultural Frontline (w3cszj9d)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 05:32 on Saturday]

**MON 10:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1g6sb)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 10:32 Mayday (w3ct1cxc)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 18:32 on Saturday]

**MON 10:50 More or Less (w3ct0pyg)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 05:50 on Sunday]

**MON 11:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgrz82)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 11:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcm19bqp6)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**MON 11:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1g1bjg)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 11:32 CrowdScience (w3cszv6t)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:32 on Sunday]

**MON 12:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfgr306)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 12:06 Outlook (w3cszd46)**

My brother's illness made me a "sickle cell warrior"

Tartania Brown is from New York City and she has sickle cell anaemia, a genetic disorder that affects red blood cells and can be fatal. At one stage, Tartania didn't know if she would reach her 20s. Her brother Christopher also had the condition, and when he was just four years old he had multiple strokes that left him unable to speak or move. It was a challenging time for Tartania's whole family, but also transformative for her. After watching the way the doctors and nurses cared for her brother she was inspired to study medicine herself. After much hard work, she is a palliative care physician, looking after patients with a range of conditions including sickle cell anaemia.

Featuring a live musical performance from Sherman Irby, lead alto saxophonist at the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

Emily Webb caught up with Tartania to name her of the winners of BBC Inspirations 2020. For full details of the awards and Covid-19 related changes, please check the revised terms on our website: [www.bbcworldservice.com/inspirations](http://www.bbcworldservice.com/inspirations).

Producers: Maryam Maruf, Troy Holmes  
Editor: Munazza Khan

Picture: Tartania Brown  
Credit: Dr Alexander Kumar

This programme was recorded on 3 December, 2020.

**MON 12:50 Witness History (w3cszml1)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 today]

**MON 13:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf6rb)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 13:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmlbz5g)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**MON 13:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1g10q)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 13:32 The Conversation (w3cszj4d)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 today]

**MON 14:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf5bhg)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 14:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7yqj41)**

China jails citizen journalist for Wuhan reports

A Chinese journalist who helped reveal the scale of the initial coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan has been jailed for four years for her reporting.

Also, the prominent Saudi female activist Loujain al Hathloul -- who campaigned for women's right to drive -- has been sentenced to more than five years in prison.

And Princess Diana's former bodyguard on the truths and exaggerations of Netflix's *The Crown*.

(Photo: The former lawyer was detained in May. Credit: YOUTUBE/SCREENSHOT)

**MON 15:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfsg7l)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 15:06 HARDtalk (w3cszbxz)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**MON 15:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1g1thz)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 15:32 World Business Report (w172xlv7rhp9n9)**

What the Brexit deal means for business

As politicians and business people digest the details of the post-Brexit UK trade deal with the EU, we speak to Simon Boyd, managing director of structural engineering company, Reidsteel. A group of two hundred British holidaymakers have fled the Swiss ski resort of Verbier having been placed under quarantine in their hotels to contain spread of the new strain of coronavirus currently sweeping through the UK; we hear from Jordan Davis, a journalist with the Swiss Public Broadcaster RTS, in Geneva. How will you remember this year? The BBC's Nisha Patel has meets cartoonist Vic Lee, who's chronicled 2020 in pictures.

And whilst much of the film industry has been struggling, in Japan, *Demon Slayer*, released in October has become the country's highest-grossing movie ever; Dorothy Finan from the School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield tells us why it's been so popular. (Picture of EU and UK flags via Getty Images).

**MON 16:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf5kzq)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 16:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wby1k)**

Trump signs Covid relief package

After President Trump eventually agreed to sign a Covid relief and spending bill into law, we speak to the unemployed Americans who the measures are meant to help. We'll also get our North America reporter to explain the politics around it.

Our medical expert today to talk us through the latest Covid-19 developments is Dr Eleanor Murray from Boston University. One thing we'll talk about it what we're finding out about the spread of the new variants of the virus detected in the UK and South Africa.

Over the holiday period, we are also returning to some of the people we have joined in conversation about how the pandemic has affected them. Today, we get back in touch with three mums, who gave birth in 2020, in New York, Dublin and London. They discuss the difficulty of lockdown and isolation when caring for a new-born.

(Photo: President Donald Trump, Friday December 25, 2020. Credit: Niall Carson/PA Wire)

**MON 17:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf5pqqv)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 17:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wbc1sp)**

Coronavirus conversations: Caring for new babies

Over the holiday period, we are returning to some of the people we have joined in conversation about how the pandemic has affected them. Today, we get back in touch with three mums, who gave birth in 2020, in New York, Dublin and London. They discuss the difficulty of lockdown and isolation when caring for a new-born.

After President Trump eventually agreed to sign a Covid relief and spending bill into law, we speak to the unemployed Americans who the measures are meant to help. We'll also get our North America reporter to explain the politics around it.

And we spend time with our correspondent in Italy, Mark Lowen, to hear his reflections on covering one of the countries hard hit by Covid-19.

(Photo: Brooke Young Russell Credit: Joseph Russell)

**MON 18:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf5tqz)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 18:06 Outlook (w3cszd46)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 today]

**MON 18:50 Witness History (w3cszml1)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 today]

**MON 19:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf5y73)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 19:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmlcpn7)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**MON 19:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1h9hh)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 19:32 Sport Today (w172x3jy9yb3xp4)**

2020/12/28 GMT

BBC sports correspondents tell the story behind today's top sporting news, with interviews and reports from across the world.

**MON 20:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf1t1z7)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 20:06 The Climate Question (w3ct0xb5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]

**MON 20:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1hf7m)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 20:32 Discovery (w3csz9fm)**

Climate meltdown

The year 2020 started with wildfires raging across parts of Australia, exceptional floods in East Africa, and a heatwave in the Arctic. Extremes persisted through the year in the north - where wild fires consumed record areas in Siberia, and the Arctic ice reached record lows. Death Valley saw the highest reliable temperature yet recorded on the planet, while the Atlantic saw the most active hurricane season on record. An extreme year by many measures, and one that could end up as the hottest on record globally. Roland Pease asks what it tells us about global warming.

Picture credit: Wegener Institute / Steffen Graupner

**MON 21:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf55qc)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 21:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7yhby)**

Interviews, news and analysis of the day's global events.

**MON 22:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf59gh)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 22:06 The Newsroom (w172x79rxwzprgb)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**MON 22:20 Sports News (w172x3fkn0xd1f5)**

BBC Sport brings you all the latest stories and results from around the world.

**MON 22:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1hnqw)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 22:32 World Business Report (w172x58tt1j0wt)**

What the Brexit deal means for business

As politicians and business people digest the details of the post-Brexit UK trade deal with the EU, we speak to Simon Boyd, managing director of structural engineering company, Reidsteel. A group of two hundred British holidaymakers have fled the Swiss ski resort of Verbier having been placed under quarantine in their hotels to contain spread of the new strain of coronavirus currently sweeping through the UK; we hear from Jordan Davis, a journalist with the Swiss Public Broadcaster RTS, in Geneva. How will you remember this year? The BBC's Nisha Patel has meets cartoonist Vic Lee, who's chronicled 2020 in pictures. And whilst much of the film industry has been struggling, in Japan, *Demon Slayer*, released in October has become the country's highest-grossing movie ever; Dorothy Finan from the School of East Asian Studies at the University of Sheffield tells us why it's been so popular. (Picture of EU and UK flags via Getty Images).

**MON 23:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf5tf6m)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**MON 23:06 HARDtalk (w3cszbxz)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**MON 23:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1hsh0)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**MON 23:32 The Conversation (w3cszj4d)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 today]

**TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER 2020****TUE 00:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqf5tjyr)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 00:06 The History Hour (w3cszkq0)**

Film special

We hear from eye-witnesses to some classic moments in cinema history - from *It's a Wonderful Life* to Satyajit Ray's *Apu*

trilogy via Studio Ghibli, the Sound of Music and Charlie Chaplin's Great Dictator.

Plus, film critic Helen O'Hara tells us about the history of Christmas movies.

Photo: one of the final scenes from Frank Capra's It's A Wonderful Life, featuring James Stewart, Donna Reed, Carol Coombs, Jimmy Hawkins, Larry Simms and Carolyn Grimes, clockwise from top (photo by Herbert Dorfman/Corbis via Getty Images)

**TUE 01:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfnpw)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 01:06 Business Matters (w172x1959pslsws)**

Fresh financial help for US citizens debated

Another set of cheques will be sent out to US citizens, to help them through the pandemic – along with a set of other measures to help out the country, as coronavirus cases remain high. We look at the deal between the UK and the EU that has been struck to enable Brexit, and what it means for trade between the two in the years ahead. And what do you remember of 2020? The BBC's Nisha Patel speaks with a cartoonist who has put it all in to a book. We discuss all this live with Nicole Childers, the executive producer for the Marketplace programme on American Public Media in Los Angeles, and Nisha Gopalan, editor for Bloomberg News in Hong Kong.

(Image: A large stimulus cheque is held by US politicians. Photo by Paul Hennessy/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)

**TUE 02:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqftsg0)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 02:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmljdjw4)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**TUE 02:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1j4qd)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 02:32 The Documentary (w3ct1d0z)**

The Hindu bard

In 1914 a 19-year-old Indian student caused a sensation when she was awarded the top prize - the bardic chair - at the 1914 University College of Wales Eisteddfod held in Aberystwyth. All the entries in the prestigious Welsh language and literature contest were submitted under pseudonyms. When the winner was awarded to "Shita", for an ode written in English, Dorothy Bonarjee revealed herself as the author, and received a "deafening ovation". It was the first time ever that the competition had been won by a non-European, or even by a woman.

So who was Dorothy Bonarjee, and how did she come to win one of Wales' most prestigious cultural prizes? Andrew Whitehead unearths the story, in conjunction with Dorothy's niece Sheela, who recalls her aunt as a source of inspiration: confident, independent and often (later in life) with a whisky-and-soda to hand.

The ode that triumphed at the college Eisteddfod was just the start of Dorothy's poetic success. She contributed several poems to the newly-established Welsh Outlook, which was both a harbinger and reflection of increased national and cultural self-confidence.

Despite this early promise, things didn't always go Dorothy's way, however. On the back of one poem she wrote: "Written at the age of 22 when a Welsh student after three years of secret engagement dropped me because his parents said 'She is very beautiful and intelligent - but she is Indian.'" Presented by Andrew Whitehead

(Photo: Dorothy Bonarjee)

**TUE 03:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqftx64)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 03:06 Outlook (w3cszd46)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 on Monday]

**TUE 03:50 Witness History (w3cszm1)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 on Monday]

**TUE 04:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfv0y8)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 04:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmlsd)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**TUE 04:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1jd6n)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 04:32 Discovery (w3csz9fm)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:32 on Monday]

**TUE 05:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfv4pd)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 05:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24gf13)**

US transition team 'not getting all information' it needs

US President-elect Joe Biden says he's not getting the cooperation he needs from some in the Trump administration and its dangerous.

More countries test positive for new Covid-19 variants, and new waves arise - including in South Korea which has done very well in restricting infections.

And an updating of one of the seasonal classics, Handel's Messiah, from Canada where the famous oratorio has been translated into indigenous languages.

**TUE 06:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfv8fj)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 06:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24gjs7)**

'Dangerous' lack of information by Trump Administration

President-elect Joe Biden has hit out at President Trump saying US security has suffered "enormous damage" at the hands of the Trump administration.

Could Argentina be about to become the first major country in a largely Roman Catholic region to legalise abortion.

As US coronavirus cases continue to surge, a key source of infection is thought to be prisons... we get a view from the inside.

**TUE 07:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfv5n)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 07:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24gnjc)**

Biden accuses the Trump team of obstruction

Joe Biden says he's not getting the cooperation he needs from some in the Trump administration and its dangerous.

Covid-19: among our global update is the Spanish government's intention to keep a record of all those who refuse to be vaccinated.

And an updating of one of the seasonal classics, Handel's messiah, from Canada - the famous oratorio translated into indigenous languages and given a new twist.

**TUE 08:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfvxh)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 08:06 People Fixing the World (w3csz28)**

What happened next to our problem solvers

We revisit Lewis to find out how the hydrating sweets he designed for people with dementia have gone into production. We find out how a housing project where residents have to promise to socialise has coped with Covid. And the latest from a pharmacist in the Netherlands - after a setback, her operation to make cheap medication for her patients has started up again.

Produced and presented by Claire Bates

Picture: Pattinson's Jelly Drops

**TUE 08:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1jw65)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 08:32 Business Daily (w3csz8bh)**

Lockdown lunches

How have our eating habits changed during a year when lockdowns have seen more of us cooking from home and fewer of us sharing meals out with colleagues? And can Zoom calls replace the networking coffee or dinner? Elizabeth Hotson speaks to one-time office workers for whom eating out was just

part and parcel of life. Justin Urquhart-Stuart, co-founder of Regionally casts doubt on the ability of remote working to replicate a true deal-making environment and Dominic Allport, an insight director at the NPD group tells us about the financial impact of the shifts in eating habits. Produced by Sarah Treanor. (Picture of takeaway food via Getty Images).

**TUE 08:50 Witness History (w3cszmqk)**

The building of the Aswan Dam

In July 1970, one of the largest dams in the world - the Aswan High Dam in Egypt - was completed. It had taken ten years, and was not without controversy. Witness hears from the archives and from one man who was there, Professor Herman Bell, about the cost of the dam on the region's people and its antiquities.

(Photo: The Aswan High Dam under construction in southern Egypt in the 1960s. Credit: AFP)

**TUE 09:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfvmmx)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 09:06 The Documentary (w3ct1d0z)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]

**TUE 09:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1jzy9)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 09:32 In the Studio (w3csww8c)**

AR Rahman: The man behind the music

AR Rahman is known as the 'Mozart of Madras' and for good reason. He has won two Academy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe, four National Film Awards, 15 Filmfare Awards. Perhaps most incredibly he has crossed film genres, languages, nationality and film industries across the globe, conquering Bollywood, Hollywood and Kollywood. It is 10 years since the debut of Slumdog Millionaire but Rahman's songs still linger in the imagination.

Rahman is prolific and instinctual; working not just as a musical director but now as producer, director, teacher and visual artist. To each project he brings a touch of magic whether it be his latest virtual reality film Musk, his incredible catalogue of Hindi and Tamil film scores, global pop hits such as Jai Ho or in his superstar collaborations such as Super Heavy with Mick Jagger, Dave Stuart, Joss Stone and Damian Marley.

Lifelong fan, producer and DJ Bobby Friction meets Rahman as he reaches the end of his biggest US tour in Houston, Texas. We learn how the melodies he creates alone in the quiet of night are recreated by a cast of India's greatest singers and musicians and performed to entertain thousands across America.

For Rahman, and Bobby, music is God. Spirituality is deeply entwined with the process of composition for both men and together they will explore some of the tracks which resonate with their belief in the true power of music.

(Photo: AR Rahman. Credit: Azhar Khan/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)

**TUE 10:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfvrf1)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 10:06 The Arts Hour (w3cszk3y)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:06 on Saturday]

**TUE 11:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfvw55)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 11:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmlfm19)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**TUE 11:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1k7fk)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 11:32 Discovery (w3csz9fm)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:32 on Monday]

**TUE 12:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfvzx9)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 12:06 Outlook (w3cszdkr)**

The family murder that launched our campaign

Brothers Luke and Ryan Hart spent years trying to help their mum leave their abusive father. However, just a few days after they succeeded, their father killed her and their sister. Determined that something good would come out of the horror of their situation, they started a campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to change the way it's reported in the media. The brothers now train journalists and have helped to create the UK's first media guidelines for reporting fatal domestic abuse alongside the feminist organisation, Level Up.

Emily Webb caught up with Luke and Ryan to name them two of the winners of BBC Inspirations 2020. For full details of the awards and Covid-19 related changes, please check the revised terms on our website: [www.bbcworldservice.com/inspirations](http://www.bbcworldservice.com/inspirations).

Producers: Alice Gioia, Maryam Maruf, Troy Holmes  
Editor: Munazza Khan

Picture: Luke and Ryan Hart  
Credit: Priya Dabasia

**TUE 12:50 Witness History (w3cszmqk)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 today]

**TUE 13:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfw3nf)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 13:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmflw2k)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**TUE 13:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1kgxt)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 13:32 In the Studio (w3csww8c)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 today]

**TUE 14:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfw7dk)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 14:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7ykf14)**  
UK's Covid-19 cases have reached highest level

The National Health Service in England is concerned at the 'unprecedented' level of infection in England. It is thought the infection rate is much higher than during the first peak in April. Also: Argentina's Senate is due to vote on legalising abortion; and the French fashion designer Pierre Cardin has died aged 98.

Photo: An NHS staff member at University College Hospital in central London, 29 December 2020 Credit: EPA/Andy Rain.

**TUE 15:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfw4p)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 15:06 People Fixing the World (w3cszv28)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**TUE 15:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1kqf2)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 15:32 World Business Report (w172xlwmywxtdz)**  
Global travel disruption continues amid the pandemic

Pakistan has become the latest country to extend its ban on flights from the UK into the New Year. The clampdown will have a knock-on effect on the whole aviation industry. It's thought that Covid-19 has already wiped out 21 years of global aviation growth. We get the latest from the Independent's travel expert Simon Calder and hear from a woman who had to quarantine in a hotel room for 2 weeks with her husband and baby on return to her native Australia. The new post-Brexit trade deal doesn't yet have any provisions for creatives, and their road crew, to freely travel for work within the EU. Horace Trubridge, general secretary of the Musicians Union, explains why this will be a big issue for artists. Plus, how have our eating habits changed during a year when lockdowns have seen more of us cooking from home and fewer of us sharing meals out with colleagues? And can Zoom calls replace the networking coffee or dinner? Our reporter Elizabeth Hotson has been finding out.

(Picture: a plane flies into the distance. Credit: Getty Images.)

**TUE 16:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfwgwt)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 16:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wbfytyn)**  
Earthquake in Croatia

We speak to local reporters in Croatia where a magnitude 6.4 earthquake has struck, with reports of many injuries and at least one death.

Our medical expert will answer more listener questions about the coronavirus. We also hear about situation in the UK and South Africa - both countries are seeing alarming surges in new virus cases as virus variants continue to spread rapidly.

And we speak to two women who have suffered for months from long Covid symptoms.

(Photo: A destroyed car is seen on a street after an earthquake in Sisak, Croatia December 29, 2020. Credit: Slaven Branislav Babic/PIXSELL via REUTERS)

**TUE 17:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfwlmy)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 17:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wbfypys)**  
Coronavirus conversations: Covid-19 'long haulers'

Thousands of people around the world are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms months after contracting the virus. We hear from Chandra in Canada and Catherine in South Africa who months later are still having symptoms like dizziness and brain fog.

We speak to women in Argentina about the new abortion bill that would make the country the first major Latin American country to legalise abortion.

We are also asking BBC journalists to give us their take on an extraordinary year. Today we hear from Sweden, one of the few countries that famously opted against a lockdown at the beginning of the pandemic. Many experts suggest that Sweden's approach has failed, and now the government appears to be changing course on its strategy.

(Photo: Chandra Pasma)

**TUE 18:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfwqd2)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 18:06 Outlook (w3cszdkr)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 today]

**TUE 18:50 Witness History (w3cszmqk)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 today]

**TUE 19:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfw4v6)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 19:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmglkb)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**TUE 19:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1l6dl)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 19:32 Sport Today (w172x3jy9yb6l7)**  
2020/12/29 GMT

BBC sports correspondents tell the story behind today's top sporting news, with interviews and reports from across the world.

**TUE 20:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfwywb)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 20:06 The Documentary (w3ct1d0z)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]

**TUE 20:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1lb4q)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 20:32 Digital Planet (w3csz993)**  
The best tech stories of 2020

This week Digital Planet looks back on some of the stories we've covered in 2020; electricity from Lake Kivu on the Rwandan/DRC border, internet shutdowns across the world, contact tracing apps during the pandemic and how technology has changed digital death rituals and allowed us to grieve.

The programme is presenter by Gareth Mitchell with expert commentary from Ghislaine Boddington, Angelica Mari and Bill Thompson.

(Image credit: Getty Images)

Studio Manager: Bob Nettles  
Producer: Ania Lichtarowicz

**TUE 21:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfx2mg)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 21:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7y1881)**  
Covid-19: UK seeing a record surge in cases

The UK is seeing a record number of cases and an increased number of people being treated in hospital. A senior public health official said the unprecedented levels of infection were of extreme concern. Also in the programme: what are the ethical implications of collecting data on those who have or haven't been vaccinated? And we'll hear from one of Britain's leading stage actors, Sir Simon Russell Beale, about what it was like to stop performing because of a pandemic.

(An ambulance crew load an empty bed onto an ambulance outside the Royal London Hospital, in London. Credit: Dominic Lipinski/PA Wire)

**TUE 22:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfwx6cl)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 22:06 The Newsroom (w172x79rxwzsncl)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**TUE 22:20 Sports News (w172x3fnk0xygb8)**  
BBC Sport brings you all the latest stories and results from around the world.

**TUE 22:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1lkmz)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 22:32 World Business Report (w172x58tn1bxss)**  
First broadcast 29/12/2020 22:32 GMT

The latest business and finance news from around the world, on the BBC.

**TUE 23:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfwxb3q)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**TUE 23:06 People Fixing the World (w3cszv28)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**TUE 23:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1lpd3)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**TUE 23:32 In the Studio (w3csww8c)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 today]

### WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER 2020

**WED 00:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfwxfv)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 00:06 The Arts Hour (w3cszk3y)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:06 on Saturday]

**WED 01:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfwxklz)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 01:06 Business Matters (w172x1959psspw)**  
Bigger financial aid cheques blocked in the US

Cheques sent out to people in the US to help them during the pandemic won't be as big as they were before – we have the latest on the politicking from the US. Global travel has been restricted and the aviation sector is severely affected – we speak with one Australian traveller who has experienced the difficulty first hand, whilst US journalist Jeremy Hobson gives us the intricacies of US travel restrictions. Plus, French designer

Pierre Cardin dies – we look back at his life and influence on the fashion industry. We discuss all this with guests Alexis Goldstein in the US, and Samuel Ellis, Taipei bureau chief for Bloomberg News.

(Image: Roll of US Treasury Checks. Photo by Jeff Fusco/Getty Images)

**WED 02:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfxcpc3)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 02:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmhfs7)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**WED 02:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1m1mh)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 02:32 The Compass (w3ct1czl)**  
My Perfect City

My Perfect City: Mental health in Singapore

People who live in cities are more likely to experience mental health problems than their rural counterparts. Has Singapore found a solution to improving its citizens' wellbeing that other cities should follow?

Greening urban areas, creating therapeutic gardens and high amenity public spaces, encouraging physical exercise as well as housing security and social services aim to reduce rates of common disorders such as OCD, anxiety and depression.

Fi Glover and panellists Dr Ellie Cosgrave, director of the UCL Urban Laboratory, and urbanist Abha Joshi Ghani test the credentials of Singapore's initiatives. Is it a mental health blueprint for our imagined urban utopia?

The team also consider Dubai's ambition to be the "world's happiest city".

**WED 03:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfxt37)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 03:06 Outlook (w3cszdkr)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 on Tuesday]

**WED 03:50 Witness History (w3cszmqk)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 on Tuesday]

**WED 04:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfxxvc)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 04:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmhlp8h)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**WED 04:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1m93r)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 04:32 Digital Planet (w3csz993)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:32 on Tuesday]

**WED 05:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfy1lh)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 05:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24k9y6)**  
Biden vows to ramp up Covid-19 jabs

President-elect Biden has promised to step up the pace of coronavirus vaccinations which he said were falling behind schedule.

A court in China has jailed ten Hong Kong activists who tried to flee the territory by speedboat.

And the Ethiopian war criminals now free to go after three decades holed up in an embassy.

**WED 06:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfy5bm)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 06:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24kfpb)**  
Brexit: UK MPs debate deal

European leaders are set to sign the Brexit deal today which will

allow the UK to trade outside of the EU, as British MPs meet to debate it.

Could history be about to be made in Argentina as a law that would legalise abortion reaches its final hurdle in its legislative assembly.

The Covid-19 pandemic in the UK has reached a critical stage with millions more expected to be moved into the highest level of coronavirus restrictions.

**WED 07:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfy92r)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 07:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24kfg)**  
Covid-19: new vaccine approved in the UK

UK Covid-19: with a record 53,000 cases registered in one day, is the faster spreading new variant of the virus out of control in Britain as a new vaccine is approved for general use?

There's a late night debate in the Argentinian Senate - it's past 4am in Buenos Aires - where Senators are about to vote on a law that would legalise abortion and be the first of its kind in Latin America.

We talk to the Red Cross in Croatia after yesterday's 6.4 magnitude earthquake which caused death and destruction in the central part of the country.

**WED 08:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfydtw)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 08:06 HARDtalk (w3cszc25)**  
Chris Packham: 'Finding the good in the bad' of Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted huge economic damage, but it has also offered the natural world a little bit of respite – room to breathe. What will come next? Will it be a return to the old ways of resource exploitation and consumption? HARDtalk's Stephen Sackur speaks to Chris Packham, one of the UK's best-known naturalists and environmental campaigners. Are we humans capable of fundamentally changing our priorities?

Photo: Chris Packham Credit: BBC

**WED 08:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1ms38)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 08:32 Business Daily (w3csz8ns)**  
Casual dining in a pandemic

Necessity is the mother of invention and Elizabeth Hotson finds out how restaurants and other food outlets - some of the most obvious casualties of the pandemic - have adapted to survive in 2020. We hear from Michael Ward, managing director of Harrods department store on how it's looking to a domestic clientele to make up for the lack of overseas tourists, whilst JP Then, co-founder of Crosstown Doughnuts tells us how companies are incentivising their workers with his sweet treats. Briony Raven, Pret's UK Food & Coffee Director explains how the high street chain had to learn new tricks and Thom Elliot from Pizza Pilgrims describes sending his products by post. Nicole Ponseca, founder of Jeepney in New York tells us about the ups and downs of a fraught 2020 and Dominic Allport from the NPD Group gives us the cold, hard figures. Produced by Sarah Treanor. (Pic of Regent Street in London by Elizabeth Hotson).

**WED 08:50 Witness History (w3cszmt)**  
Le Corbusier and Chandigarh

Shortly after Indian independence Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru persuaded the maverick Swiss-French architect, Le Corbusier, to help reinvent a newly independent India by building a new capital city for the province of Punjab.

Le Corbusier had revolutionised architecture and urban planning in the first half of the twentieth century. He was loved and hated in equal measure for his modernist approach, favouring flat roofs, glass walls and concrete.

Nehru said this new city would be "symbolic of the freedom of India, unfettered by the traditions of the past".

Starting in 1950 the city of Chandigarh was built from scratch on farmland and is unlike any other city in India. The broad boulevards, pedestrianised plazas and green spaces were designed to encourage a feeling of order and of being close to nature.

Claire Bowes spoke to Sumit Kaur, former Chief Architect and lifelong resident of Chandigarh, about the legacy left by Le Corbusier.

Photo: The Chandigarh Legislative Assembly building. 1999 (AFP PHOTO / John Macdougall)

**WED 09:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfyj0)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 09:06 The Compass (w3ct1czl)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]

**WED 09:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1mwvd)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 09:32 The Documentary (w3ct1d0d)**  
The Digital Human: Subservience

Aleks Krotoski finds out if how we treat our subservient robots impacts how we treat one another. As with any new invention, domestic robots illuminate issues within human society that we may not have noticed before. Are we projecting old social norms of hierarchy and gender onto this new technology?

(Illustration: Seonaid Mackay)

**WED 10:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfybn4)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 10:06 The Documentary (w3ct1d0x)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 03:06 on Sunday]

**WED 11:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfys28)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 11:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcm1jhd)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**WED 11:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1n4bn)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 11:32 Digital Planet (w3csz993)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:32 on Tuesday]

**WED 12:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfywtD)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 12:06 Outlook (w3ct1gv4)**  
BBC Inspirations Awards 2020: finale fandango

Jo Fidgeon reveals the final two winners of the BBC Inspirations Awards 2020.

As a teenager, Ana Baquedano sent a nude selfie to her boyfriend in exchange for a promise to delete it. Instead, he shared it. Ana was bullied, harassed and suffered from depression. But then she got to work making Mexican history. While Ana was still a student, she led a campaign to make 'revenge porn' a crime in her state of Yucatan - and in 2018 the historic legislation was passed.

Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho is a Mexican biologist who's braved poachers and cartels in a quest to save the world's most endangered marine mammal - a tiny porpoise known as vaquita. There's only a handful left in the world and their survival is in large part due to Lorenzo. His work with the animal has earned him the nickname 'Mr Vaquita'. And a virtual fandango performed by Jorge Castillo and the Fandango Fusión Fronteriza.

For full details of the BBC Inspirations Award and Covid-19 related changes, please check the revised terms on our website: [www.bbcworldservice.com/inspirations](http://www.bbcworldservice.com/inspirations).

Presenter: Jo Fidgeon  
Producers: Asya Fouks, Saskia Edwards, Maryam Maruf, Troy Holmes, Andrea Kennedy  
Editor: Munazza Khan  
Picture: Lorenzo Rojas-Bracho  
Credit: Clayton Conn

**WED 13:00 BBC News (w172x5p7qfz0kj)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 13:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcm1jrzn)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**WED 13:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1nctx)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 13:32 The Documentary (w3ct1d0d)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 today]

**WED 14:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfz49n)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 14:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7yn9y7)**  
Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine approved for use in UK

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine has been approved for use in the UK, with the first doses due to be given on Monday amid rising coronavirus cases. The UK has ordered 100 million doses - enough to vaccinate 50 million people.  
Also in the programme: As British MPs vote on the post-Brexit trade deal, we hear why one opposition MP is abstaining; and Christmas brings little cheer in New York.

(Photo: A vial of coronavirus vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University. Credit: John Cairns/University of Oxford/PA Wire)

**WED 15:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfz81s)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 15:06 HARDtalk (w3cszc25)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**WED 15:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1nmb5)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 15:32 World Business Report (w172x1xq2phq0rc)**  
UK approves Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine has been approved by the UK medical regulator... so could it be a game-changer? We ask Penny Ward, Visiting Professor in Pharmaceutical Medicine at King's College, London. Plus we hear from Evan Spiegel, the creator of Snapchat about the idea behind his app sensation. New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the MTA, is in trouble. Many people are shunning public transport in the city because of the coronavirus pandemic and passenger numbers are down by more than 70%; we hear from workers on New York's transport system. And the BBC's Elizabeth Hotson looks at how food outlets have been adapting to the covid challenge. (Picture of a vaccine via Getty Images).

**WED 16:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfzcsx)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 16:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wbjqr)**  
Coronavirus: Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine approved for use in UK

The UK has become the first country to authorise the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, with the first doses set to be given on 4th January amid rising cases. It has ordered 100 million doses, which is enough to vaccinate 50 million people. Dr Maria Sundaram, an infectious disease epidemiologist in Toronto and one of our regular experts, gives her reaction to the news.

Also, Argentina's Congress has legalised abortions up to the 14th week of pregnancy, making it the first major country in Latin America to allow women to choose whether to keep a pregnancy. We hear from women in the country.

And a group of deaf film industry professionals are boycotting a new CBS mini-series, The Stand, after a hearing actor was chosen to play a deaf character. Reports say CBS is now meeting with people from the deaf artists' community to discuss the issue. We bring together two deaf actors to talk about their experiences in the industry.

(Photo: A vial of the coronavirus vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University. Credit: John Cairns/University of Oxford/PA Wire)

**WED 17:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfzkh1)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 17:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wbjv1w)**  
Coronavirus: One year on

It was about a year ago that we first heard about a "mystery illness" in China. By March, the World Health Organization had declared coronavirus a global pandemic. Our health and science

correspondent, James Gallagher, reflects on his year covering the virus.

Also, the UK has today become the first country to authorise the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, with the first doses set to be given on 4th January amid rising cases. It has ordered 100 million doses, which is enough to vaccinate 50 million people. Dr Maria Sundaram, an infectious disease epidemiologist in Toronto and one of our regular experts, gives her reaction to the news.

And a group of deaf film industry professionals are boycotting a new CBS mini-series, The Stand, after a hearing actor was chosen to play a deaf character. Reports say CBS is now meeting with people from the deaf artists' community to discuss the issue. We bring together two deaf actors to talk about their experiences in the industry.

(Photo: A medical worker administers a dose of the coronavirus vaccine at a community health centre in Hefei, Anhui province, China. Credit: CNS Photo via Reuters)

**WED 18:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfzm95)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 18:06 Outlook (w3ct1gv4)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 today]

**WED 19:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfzr19)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 19:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmkghf)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**WED 19:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1p39p)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 19:32 Sport Today (w172x3jy9yb9qhb)**  
2020/12/30 GMT

BBC sports correspondents tell the story behind today's top sporting news, with interviews and reports from across the world.

**WED 20:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfzvf)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 20:06 The Compass (w3ct1czl)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]

**WED 20:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1p71t)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 20:32 Health Check (w3cszcd0)**  
How children think about maths and time

Claudia Hammond explores how children think with two psychologists: Dr Victoria Simms from Ulster University who researches how children's understanding of maths develops and Professor Teresa McCormack from Queens University Belfast who researches how children understand time.

The discussion was recorded in front of an audience at the Northern Ireland Science Festival in February 2020.

Presenter: Claudia Hammond  
Producer: Caroline Steel

(Picture: A group of preschool students sitting on the floor with their legs crossed and their arms raised in the air. Photo credit: FatCamera/Getty Images.)

**WED 21:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqfzj)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 21:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7yp554)**  
New vaccine brings hope as tougher restrictions hit UK

Half a million doses of the new AstraZeneca vaccine, developed by Oxford University, will be available in the UK from Monday, with millions more by the beginning of February. The new vaccine is cheaper and easier to store than its rivals, and will be supplied at cost price to developing countries.

Also in the programme: Yemen's new government hit by lethal attack, and British parliament backs Brexit deal.

Picture: Coronavirus particles. Credit: Science Photo Library

**WED 22:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg038p)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 22:06 The Newsroom (w172x79rxwzkw8j)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**WED 22:20 Sports News (w172x3fkn0xkv7c)**  
BBC Sport brings you all the latest stories and results from around the world.

**WED 22:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1pgk2)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 22:32 World Business Report (w172x58ttu1ptq0)**  
UK approves Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine

A new covid-19 vaccine has been approved by the UK medical regulator... so could it be a game-changer? We ask Penny Ward, Visiting Professor in Pharmaceutical Medicine at King's College, London. Plus we hear from Evan Spiegel, the creator of Snapchat about the idea behind his app sensation. New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the MTA, is in trouble. Many people are shunning public transport in the city because of the coronavirus pandemic and passenger numbers are down by more than 70%; we hear from workers on New York's transport system. And the BBC's Elizabeth Hotson looks at how food outlets have been adapting to the covid challenge. (Picture of a vaccine via Getty Images).

**WED 23:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg070t)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**WED 23:06 HARDtalk (w3cszc25)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**WED 23:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1pl96)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**WED 23:32 The Documentary (w3ct1d0d)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 today]

#### THURSDAY 31 DECEMBER 2020

**THU 00:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg0bry)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 00:06 The Documentary (w3ct1d0x)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 03:06 on Sunday]

**THU 01:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg0gj2)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 01:06 Business Matters (w172x1959pssplz)**  
Coronavirus vaccine distribution begins in Britain

The new Coronavirus vaccines are coming soon to people in Britain - but there's a dissenting view from America that's asking for more transparency over the trial data - we speak with Dr Lawrence Gostin, Professor of Global Health Law at Georgetown University in Washington DC, to discuss the tough line between collective health and individual freedom, as many question whether or not to take the vaccine. Plus, as the EU strikes an investment agreement with China, we look at the recent discovery of the forced labour factories inside China's internment camps in Xinjiang; we speak with Megha Rajagopalan of BuzzFeed News who used pioneering architectural and aerial expertise to find the hidden labour factories. We discuss all this with guests Jyoti Malhotra, National & Strategic Affairs Editor at The Print, in Delhi, and Ralph Silva of the Silva Research Network in Toronto.

(Image: A vaccination centre in London. Photo by Justin Tallis/ AFP / Getty Images)

**THU 02:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg0i86)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 02:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmllpb)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**THU 02:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1pyjl)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 02:32 Assignment (w3csz6m7)**

Searching for Wisdom in Lagos

A young woman is desperately searching for her brother in Lagos. On the night of 20th October, Nigerian soldiers opened fire at a peaceful demonstration camped at the Lekki tollgate in Lagos. The government say they fired into the air, but witnesses insist that unarmed protesters came under deliberate attack. Amnesty International says that 12 people died.

The incident has traumatised a highly popular political reform movement that began as a demand to close down the S.A.R.S., a notoriously corrupt and brutal police squad. In the aftermath, many of the movement's young supporters are keeping a low profile. Some have had their bank accounts frozen and passports seized. Others have even fled overseas, in fear of their lives.

The BBC's Nigeria correspondent Mayeni Jones has been talking to some of them, including a witness to the Lekki shooting, and Peace, who is tirelessly searching for her brother, Wisdom, who is still missing after attending the demonstration. Mayeni finds a country whose traditionally deferential society and elderly leadership seem suddenly vulnerable; shaken by a perfect storm of youthful idealism, social media activism, and the crippling economic fallout of the Covid pandemic.

Producers: Naomi Scherbel-Ball & Michael Gallagher

With additional research by Jonelle Awomoyi

Editor: Bridget Harney

**THU 03:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg0q0b)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 03:06 Outlook (w3ct1gv4)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 on Wednesday]

**THU 04:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg0trg)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 04:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmlll5l)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**THU 04:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1q60v)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 04:32 Health Check (w3cszcd0)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:32 on Wednesday]

**THU 05:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg0yhl)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 05:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24n6v9)**

US reports first known case of Covid variant

We head to California as it becomes the latest place to register the new quicker-spreading strain of Covid.

Four years after the country voted to leave, Britain will be officially out of the European Union at midnight tonight.

And we talk to a girl who had to sit her exams up a tree as it was the only place she could get an internet connection.

**THU 06:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg127q)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 06:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24nblf)**

UK: a vaccine, record Covid deaths... and Brexit

It's been a tumultuous 24 hours in Britain - we hear how the country is struggling with a spike in Covid cases and deaths, just as the new Brexit rules come into effect.

It's been quite a year in the US too. We'll hear what President Elect Joseph Biden's first hundred days might look like.

And the boss of Snapchat tells us what he think the future holds for social media and technology.

**THU 07:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg15zv)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 07:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24ngbk)**

What does Brexit mean for freedom of movement?

With the Brexit deal becoming law, we look at what it means for Brits wanting to live in Europe and the three million EU citizens currently living in the UK.

Today also marks the end of UNAMID, the international peacekeeping mission in Darfur - the mandate runs out after 13 years, so how safe or not is the region now?

And with Covid vaccination campaigns now underway across the globe, should those who've had the jab be allowed to return to normal while others are still subject to restrictions?

**THU 08:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg19qz)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 08:06 The Inquiry (w3cszld4)**

Why are boys academically underperforming?

There's a problem in education – and it's probably not what you expect. Around the world, from schools to universities, boys are trailing girls in their academic performance. It's a complex problem which has divided expert opinion and leads us to complex questions of genetics and social conditioning. David Grossman examines what's going on and how to fix it.

**THU 08:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1qp0c)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 08:32 Business Daily (w3csz7y8)**

Millennial money management

What are the realities and responsibilities of young people when it comes to financial planning in a pandemic? Elizabeth Hotson talks to millennials who are trying to manage their money in one of the toughest economic periods since the financial crisis. We hear from Gabby Dunn, host of the Bad with Money podcast; journalist Ebony-Renee Baker who's planning for herself and her family and Nick Hatter, a life coach who says younger people are far more fiscally responsible than they're given credit for. (Picture of cash via Getty Images).

**THU 08:50 Witness History (w3cszmn9)**

Saving the Great Barrier Reef

In the 1960s conservationists began a campaign to prevent the Queensland government from allowing mining and oil drilling on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Eddie Hegerl told Claire Bowes that he and his wife were prepared to sacrifice everything, to protect the world's biggest coral reef from destruction.

Photo: Science Photo Library

**THU 09:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg1fh3)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 09:06 Assignment (w3csz6m7)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]

**THU 09:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1qsrh)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 09:32 The Food Chain (w3cszjr1)**

Too many cookbooks?

Many of us love cookbooks. For some, they are a useful tool, and for others a source of inspiration. But then there are those for whom they are a whole lot more.

Emily Thomas meets two people who are obsessed with cookbooks, collecting thousands of copies, and building emotional connections with each of them.

Irish food writer Diana Henry explains how books can become soulmates, and Californian chef Cindy Pawlcyn describes how it feels to have a collection built over decades, destroyed overnight.

If you would like to get in touch with the show, please email [thefoodchain@bbc.co.uk](mailto:thefoodchain@bbc.co.uk)

(Picture: Pile of books. Credit: Getty/BBC)

**THU 10:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg1k77)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 10:06 The Forum (w3cszjwk)**

Famous hats in history

There have been so many, probably hundreds, different styles and types of hat in history that a question inevitably arises: why? Why did something that began as a simple protection against inclement weather take on such varied forms and social meanings? Bridget Kendall and guests explore not just how hats were made, and by whom, but also how their function has evolved over centuries and across cultures. By focusing on just five distinct hat types, they sketch out a brief social history of headwear.

Bridget is joined by Dr. Drake Stutesman, an adjunct professor at New York University, and the author of the book *Hat: Origins, Language, Style*; Dr. Ulinka Rublack, professor of Early Modern European History at Cambridge University with a particular interest in Renaissance fashion; and Dr. Kirill Babaev, a cultural anthropologist and writer from the Russian Academy of Sciences and founder of the World of Hat museum in Riga, Latvia.

[Image: Model Carre Otis wearing a wide-brimmed black straw hat with a print of lemons on the underside. Credit: Arthur Elgort/Conde Nast via Getty Images]

**THU 10:50 Sporting Witness (w3cszsh61)**

Cameron Hughes - sports entertainer

Since the 1990s, Canadian Cameron Hughes has entertained millions of sports fans with a unique routine based on dad-dancing in the stands and giving out t-shirts. He's managed to make a professional career out of firing up teams in the NBA, the NFL and NHL ice hockey. Simon Watts talks to Cameron Hughes about his autobiography "King of Cheer", and a job that involves a surprising amount of training.

PHOTO: Cameron Hughes in action in Las Vegas (L.E. Baskow/Lefteye Images courtesy of Cameron Hughes)

**THU 11:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg1nzc)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 11:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmllmfhd)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**THU 11:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1r17r)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 11:32 Health Check (w3cszcd0)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:32 on Wednesday]

**THU 12:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg1sqh)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 12:06 Outlook (w3cszdbz)**

The tale of the countess and the little cello

When Christine Walevska was given a rare, one-eighth-size Bernardel cello at the age of eight and a half, she fell in love with the instrument immediately and it set her on a path to becoming an internationally renowned concert cellist. The tiny cello, given to her by her father, had an intriguing label on the inside...it said "Pour la petite Comtesse Marie 1834". This label would prove crucial after the cello was stolen from Christine's father's shop in 1978. It led - 36 years later - to Christine receiving an email from the Breshars family in California. They had been searching for a rare child-size cello for their gifted six-year-old daughter Starla and had finally found one. Was it Christine's beloved Bernardel? Today, the story of a rare cello, its theft and how it shaped the dreams of two highly talented young girls.

Picture: Cellist Christine Walevska aged eight and a half, with her rare Bernardel cello  
Credit: Christine Walevska

**THU 12:50 Witness History (w3cszmn9)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 today]

**THU 13:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqg1xgm)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 13:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmllmnr)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**THU 13:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1r8r0)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 13:32 The Food Chain (w3cszjr1)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 today]

**THU 14:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq216r)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 14:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7yr6vb)**  
COVID-19: China approves vaccine for general use

China has for the first time given official approval for the use of one of its home grown vaccines. The company that's developed the drug - Sinopharm - has said it's 79% effective.

Also on the programme; we discuss Brexit ahead of the transition period coming to an end today; and former US athlete John Carlos on the Black Lives Matter movement and his own moment of protest at the 1968 Olympics.

(Picture: Sinopharm vaccine Credit: Reuters)

**THU 15:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq24yw)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 15:06 The Inquiry (w3cszl4l)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**THU 15:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1rj78)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 15:32 World Business Report (w172xlv2679f9sw)**  
The latest on the US covid relief bill

A row over coronavirus relief payments in the US is raging. One of the unresolved issues is direct payments to every American; how much should they be and who should get them. We get the latest from political reporter Erin Delmore. Today is the end of the Brexit transition period and this means trading goods between the UK and EU will no longer be frictionless and some hauliers are nervous about the changes, as the BBC's Transport Correspondent Caroline Davies reports. Plus, today marks a deadline for the UK's 350 biggest companies to have at least a third of their boards made up of women; the Hampton-Alexander Review sets those goals and Denise Wilson is its Chief Executive. And what are the realities and responsibilities of young people when it comes to financial planning in a pandemic? Elizabeth Hotson talks to millennials who are trying to manage their money in one of the toughest economic periods since the financial crisis. (Picture of a dollar via Getty Images).

**THU 16:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq28q0)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 16:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wbmmrv)**  
Coronavirus: China approves a Covid vaccine

We explain the latest developments with Covid vaccines and other coronavirus stories with the help of our medical expert Dr Emma Hodcroft from the University of Basel in Switzerland. Sinopharm, the Chinese company that's developed the vaccine that's been approved now, says it's 79% effective.

Brexit transition period ends today and from tomorrow the United Kingdom will no longer be in the European single market and customs union. We have a conversation among three Brits; a business owner, a fisherman and a mental health worker, about their hopes for the future relationship with the EU.

And as we continue to look back on the year 2020, our reporter in Washington reflects on the biggest news stories in the US; the pandemic, the elections and Black Lives Matter movement.

(Photo: A signage of Sinopharm is seen at the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) Credit: Tingshu Wang/File Photo/Reuters)

**THU 17:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq2dg4)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 17:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wbmrhz)**  
Brexit: UK and EU begin new relationship

Four and a half years after the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, the terms of the new trade deal between the two parties will come into force tonight. We have a conversation among three Brits - a business owner, a fisherman and a mental health worker - about their hopes for a future relationship with the EU.

We bring the latest developments with the coronavirus pandemic and find out about a Covid vaccine in China that has been given a full approval today.

And as we continue to look back on the year 2020, our reporter in Washington reflects on the biggest news stories, the pandemic, the elections and Black Lives Matter movement, in the US.

(Photo: A handout photo made available by n10 Downing street shows Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson signing the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU, and the Brexit trade deal, at 10 Downing Street London, Britain, 30 December 2020 Credit: ANDREW PARSONS/DOWNING STREET HANDOUT /EPA)

**THU 18:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq2j68)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 18:06 Outlook (w3cszdbz)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 today]

**THU 18:50 Witness History (w3cszmn9)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 today]

**THU 19:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq2myd)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 19:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmndcj)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**THU 19:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1s0f6s)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 19:32 Sport Today (w172x3jy9ybdmfd)**  
2020/12/31 GMT

BBC sports correspondents tell the story behind today's top sporting news, with interviews and reports from across the world.

**THU 20:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq2rpi)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 20:06 Assignment (w3csz6m7)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]

**THU 20:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1s3yx)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 20:32 Science in Action (w3cszh1j)**  
Coping with Covid

This has been an incredible year for scientific advance and collaboration, epitomised by the roll out of vaccines that didn't exist a year ago, against a virus that no one had ever heard of .

And yet at the same time its been a year of incredible frustration. We are still largely using the same methods to counter the virus that were used in past pandemics, going back a hundred years.

Here we look back at key the findings on who is most susceptible and why, and ask how to improve the strategies for reducing transmission.

(Image: Getty Images)

Presenter: Roland Pease  
Producer: Julian Siddle

**THU 21:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq2wfn)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 21:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7ys227)**  
UN begins pull out from Darfur

African Union and United Nations peacekeepers in Sudan's Darfur region are carrying out their final patrols as the thirteen year mission officially comes to an end. Following a peace deal with rebel groups in October the Sudanese government is to take over security in the region where hundreds of thousands have died since conflict broke out in 2003. One and a half million people still live in displacement camps in Darfur. Attacks in the region are still common and many civilians are concerned about the imminent pull out of peacekeepers. We

hear from the head of the UN mission, and a Darfuri living in exile.

Also in the programme: Today marks the official end of Britain's 40-year membership of the European Union; and the rapid surge in Covid-19 cases in the UK is being attributed to the emergence of a new variant of the coronavirus which is highly infectious... Britain prides itself on probably having the world's best surveillance programme, so why does the US compare so badly?

(Photo: Sudanese children walk past an armoured vehicle of the United Nations and African Union peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) in Kalma Camp for internally displaced people in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur, on December 30, 2020. - The United Nations Security Council has agreed to end the UNAMID's long-running peacekeeping mission in Darfur when its mandate ceases on December 31. The withdrawal of UNAMID, deployed since 2007 and which had 16,000 peacekeepers at its peak, will begin January 1 and is expected to be completed by June 30 2021. Credit: AFP via Getty Images)

**THU 22:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq305s)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 22:06 The Newsroom (w172x79rxwzgg5m)**  
The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**THU 22:20 Sports News (w172x3fink0xnr4g)**  
BBC Sport brings you all the latest stories and results from around the world.

**THU 22:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1scg5)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 22:32 World Business Report (w172x58tt1sqm3)**  
Britain to start its first full year outside the European Union

As the UK leaves the EU's single market and customs union, we speak with members of the European Parliament and key figures in trade to find out what a future outside of the EU will mean for Britain. Will Britain still be able to freely trade with its European neighbours without any bad blood resulting from Brexit? Cecilia Malmstrom, former EU Trade Commissioner, tells us how she sees the relationship developing. Plus, we speak with key politicians from the remaining EU states, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Spanish Member of the European Parliament, and Geert Bourgeois, MEP for Belgium, about their thoughts on what life without the UK be like. Plus, we hear the latest on the US stock markets from Cary Leahy from Decision Economics in New York.

(Image: UK flag moving away from EU flag. Image: Getty Images Stock)

**THU 23:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq33xx)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**THU 23:06 The Inquiry (w3cszl4l)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**THU 23:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1sh69)**  
The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**THU 23:32 The Food Chain (w3cszjr1)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:32 today]

**THU 23:59 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq37p1)**  
The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

## FRIDAY 01 JANUARY 2021

**FRI 00:06 The Documentary (w3ct1d08)**  
Breakthrough: The race for the Covid vaccine

Dr Kevin Fong talks to the people who have seemingly achieved the impossible and created a coronavirus vaccine in a matter of months. Along the way he looks at what it means for people all over the world and asks when our lives will be able to return to normal. Speaking to the scientists who've spent the past 12 months with the eyes of the world on them, Kevin wants to know how they tackled the science and what are the biggest barriers they've faced. For women and men who usually work away quietly in anonymous research facilities, 2020 has been a year like no other. There are tensions along the way between science and politics, or science and morality. But through it all do we enter a new year with our faith in science renewed?

**FRI 01:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg3cf5)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 01:06 Business Matters (w172x19g13vxyt)**

UK completes separation from European Union

As the UK leaves the EU's single market and customs union, we speak with members of the European Parliament and other key political figures to find out what a future outside of the EU will mean for Britain. The BBC's Marie Keyworth tells us about the history of the relationship, which became official with Common Market membership in 1971. And looking ahead, we ask if Britain will still be able to freely trade with its European neighbours without any bad blood resulting from Brexit. Cecilia Malmstrom, former EU Trade Commissioner, tells us how she sees the relationship developing. Plus, we speak with key politicians from the remaining EU states, Domenech Ruiz Devesa, Spanish Member of the European Parliament, and Geert Bourgeois, MEP for Belgium, about their thoughts on what life without the UK be like. Finally, what will this mean for Britain on the world stage? We hear from Sir Simon Fraser, former head of the UK Foreign Office. And Lord Digby Jones, former UK trade minister and head of the Confederation of British Industry, outlines the sentiment from businesses. Plus, the view from India and Australia: will the UK strengthen its relationship with Commonwealth countries? We're joined by Renu Agal from the Print news site in Delhi and journalist Karen Percy in Melbourne.

(Image: A flag of the UK is torn apart from the EU flag. Credit: Getty Images Stock)

**FRI 02:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg3h59)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 02:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmlp7lf)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**FRI 02:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1svfp)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 02:32 World Football (w3cszth6)**

Tragedy on Stairway 13

On the 50th anniversary of the Ibrox stadium disaster, Roddy Forsyth, Pat Nevin and survivor John Hodgson join Mani Djazmi to remember the tragedy which killed 66 people and injured many more at the end of the 1971 New Year match between Rangers and Celtic. This programme contains graphic eyewitness accounts.

Picture: Rangers and Celtic fans observe a one minutes silence to mark 40th anniversary of the Ibrox disaster (Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images).

**FRI 03:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg3lxf)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 03:06 Outlook (w3cszdbz)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 on Thursday]

**FRI 03:50 Witness History (w3cszmn9)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 on Thursday]

**FRI 04:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg3qnk)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 04:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmlp2p)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**FRI 04:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1t2xy)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 04:32 Science in Action (w3cszh1j)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:32 on Thursday]

**FRI 05:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg3vdp)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 05:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24r3rd)**

Brexit: Britain has finally left the European Union

The British prime minister, Boris Johnson, has called it a new beginning.

A young climate change activist from Kenya gives world leaders some advice on what they need to do to tackle global warming.

And the 8-year-old pianist who says he sees composers whizzing round his head on broomsticks as he plays.

**FRI 06:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg3z4t)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 06:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24r7hj)**

Start of new relationship between Britain and the European Union

'Brexit Day' finally arrives - so what will it mean for business?

We head to India, to find out how people have been able to mark the start of a new year - if at all.

And we have a special report on the more than 50 million Americans thought to be going hungry this holiday season

**FRI 07:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg42wy)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 07:06 Newsday (w172x2wnj24rc7n)**

UK Prime Minister: Brexit 'a new beginning'

2021 starts with Britain's departure from the European Union's single market and customs union. We'll hear from one of the most prominent voices in the Brexit campaign.

We heard from New York and Delhi earlier how Covid restrictions put a lid on New Year celebrations. So how did Nairobi mark the new year?

And how a man who's lived with quadriplegia for 30 years has used 'brain power' - electrodes in his brain connected to robotic arms - to feed himself using a knife and fork.

**FRI 08:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg46n2)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 08:06 HARDtalk (w3cszbxh)**

Rutger Bregman: Are humans essentially good?

In times of crisis we learn plenty about who we really are – and so it is that the global coronavirus pandemic is revealing truths about humankind – and how we balance self and collective interest. Stephen Sackur speaks to writer and historian Rutger Bregman whose book Humankind: A Hopeful History, is making waves around the world. Do we humans massively underestimate our capacity to change things for the better?

(Photo: Rutger Bregman)

**FRI 08:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1tkxg)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 08:32 Business Daily (w3csz79g)**

UK completes separation from European Union

A new era has begun for the United Kingdom after it completed its formal separation from the European Union. The UK stopped following EU rules, as replacement arrangements for travel, trade, immigration and security co-operation came into force. On today's programme, we'll hear how we got to this point with Marie Keyworth, and then Vivienne Nunis will tell us what's happening today. Then, Dr Anna Jerzewska, Director of the trade consultancy Trade and Borders and Allie Renison with the Institute of Directors will discuss the UK's trade opportunities in the future.

Producer: Frey Lindsay.

(Picture credit: Reuters.)

**FRI 08:50 Witness History (w3cszmv2)**

The destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas

In March 2001 the Taliban destroyed huge ancient statues of Buddha in Afghanistan. The statues were carved into the cliffs above the Bamiyan valley. Sayid Mirza Hossein, a local farmer, was taken prisoner by the Taliban and forced to pack explosives around the ancient Buddhas. He told Witness what it felt like to destroy something that he had seen every day of his life.

(Photo: Taliban fighters looking at the Bamiyan cliffs. Credit: Getty Images)

**FRI 09:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg4bd6)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 09:06 Tech Tent (w3cszhpv)**

Tech Trends for 2021

Rory Cellan-Jones and guests on how tech will shape the coming twelve months. Featuring BT innovation researcher Dr Nicola Millard, and BBC senior tech reporter Jane Wakefield. With contributions from remote working consultant Dave Coplin, futurist Peter Schwartz, and Kate Bevan, editor of Which? Computing. Produced by Jat Gill.

Image: Stock photo of a woman runner checking and logging health data. Credit: Getty Images.

**FRI 09:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1t1pn)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 09:32 World Football (w3cszth6)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]

**FRI 10:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg4g4b)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 10:06 BBC Correspondents' Look Ahead (w3ct1cxy)**

BBC correspondents' look ahead

There were times in 2020 when the world felt like an out of control carousel and we could all have been forgiven for just wanting to get off and to wait for normality to return.

But will 2021 be any less dramatic? Joe Biden will be inaugurated in January but will Donald Trump have left the White House by then? And vaccines are promised to help tackle the Covid19 pandemic but how successful will they be and how do global leaders go about trying to repair the economic damage the virus has caused? So many big questions but luckily we have some big hitters to provide plenty of answers.

Presenter: Lyse Doucet

Panel: Anne Soy, Gabriel Gatehouse, Larry Madowo, Vincent Ni and Yogita Limaye  
Producer: Ben Carter  
Editor: Ravin Sampat

**FRI 11:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg4kvg)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 11:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmlq9l)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**FRI 11:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1ty4v)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 11:32 Science in Action (w3cszh1j)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 20:32 on Thursday]

**FRI 12:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cgg4pml)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 12:06 The Fifth Floor (w3cszjj6)**

Vaccines, violence and forests

We look forward to 2021 from the very different perspectives of three continental giants – China, Brazil and the Democratic Republic of Congo. BBC Chinese editor Howard Zhang, Ricardo Senra of BBC Brasil and BBC Africa's Emery Makumeno tell us what their focus will be in 2021, and suggest some New Year's resolutions for their countries.

When will the famous cannon of Algiers return home?

Discussions are underway about the possible return to Algeria of a huge cannon that used to protect Algiers, but which was put on display at a French port after its capture in 1830. BBC Arabic's Ahmed Rouaba, who's from Algeria, explains why this cannon still means so much today.

Remedies for the morning after

Before coronavirus concerns in many countries, this was the time of year for parties. But what's the advice for the morning after, if you partied a little too hard? We consult Oleg Boldyrev of BBC Russian, Suring of BBC Chinese, Brazilian Fernando Duarte and Sharon Machira of BBC Nairobi for their local hangover cures.

Image: Congolese house at the shoreline of Congo river

Credit: guenterguni/Getty Images

**FRI 12:50 Witness History (w3cszwm2)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 today]

**FRI 13:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq4tcq)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 13:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmqlqsv)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**FRI 13:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1v5n3)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 13:32 Heart and Soul (w3ct1gk5)**

Coping with Grief

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the UK's Chief Rabbi discuss coping with losing a child.

**FRI 14:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq4y3v)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 14:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7yv3rf)**

The UK completed its formal separation from the European Union

New rules governing relations between Britain and the European Union have come into force with the completion of the UK's departure from the bloc.

Also, today marks the official start of a new era of trade between African countries. The African Continental Free Trade Area brings together one point three billion people into an economic bloc worth more than three trillion dollars.

And, growing food insecurity in the United States.

(Photo credit: Reuters)

**FRI 15:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq51vz)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 15:06 HARDtalk (w3cszbx)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**FRI 15:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1vf4c)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 15:32 World Business Report (w172xltf9s34lvd)**

UK completes separation from European Union

Today is the first day of the UK existing outside of the EU's single market and customs union; we have an extended report from Marie Keyworth. We take a look at trade with Simon McKeever, the Chief Executive of the Irish Exporters Association and hear from the BBC's Vivienne Nunis. So what does this all mean for the UK's access to European labour? Farmers in Cornwall grow most of the world's daffodils and more than 90% of workers come from overseas; with the harvest starting tomorrow, where does this leave farmers? Rachel Stevenson, in Falmouth in Cornwall has been finding out. We also speak to Shanker Singham, Chief Executive of the trade and economic consultancy Competere. And Sophie Pornschlegel, a Senior Policy Analyst at the European Policy Center, speaks to us from Freiburg in Germany about what 2021 heralds for the EU. (Picture: Union Jack via Getty Images).

**FRI 16:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq55m3)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 16:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wbqjny)**

Brexit: New era for the UK

The UK has completed its formal separation from the European Union, and the new era for the UK-EU relationship has begun. We explain what some of the new arrangements will mean with the help of our global trade correspondent.

Also, we bring together three of our regular health experts together to discuss the coronavirus pandemic, reflect on the year and tell us how the pandemic might play out in 2021.

And we continue to hear your good news stories from 2020. If you want to tell us about a personal "win" from the past year, or

a news story that's stuck with you, send us a message on WhatsApp +447730 751925.

(Photo: A Eurostar staff member control passengers at the departures terminal at Gare du Nord to London on the first post-Brexit day in Paris, France. Credit: EPA/Christophe Petit Tesson)

**FRI 17:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq59c7)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 17:06 BBC OS (w172x2t65wbqnf2)**

Coronavirus: What could 2021 bring?

As we enter 2021, we bring together three of our regular health experts - Dr Isaac Bogoch, Dr Maria Sundaram, and Dr Emma Hodcroft - to reflect on the past year and look at how the pandemic might play out in the new year.

Also, we check in with residents of crowded communities in India, Brazil and Kenya where social distancing and hand washing are not always possible.

And we continue to hear your good news stories from 2020. If you want to tell us about a personal "win" from the past year, or a news story that's stuck with you, send us a message on WhatsApp +447730 751925.

(Photo: Medical staff celebrate the New Year with an embrace as they work inside the intensive care unit where patients suffering from the coronavirus disease are treated at Hospital General in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Credit: Reuters/Jose Luis Gonzalez)

**FRI 18:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq5f3c)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 18:06 The Fifth Floor (w3cszjj6)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:06 today]

**FRI 18:50 Witness History (w3cszwm2)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:50 today]

**FRI 19:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq5jvh)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 19:06 The Newsroom (w172x7blcmrl98m)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**FRI 19:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1vx3w)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 19:32 Sport Today (w172x3jy9ybh9j)**

2021/01/01 GMT

BBC sports correspondents tell the story behind today's top sporting news, with interviews and reports from across the world.

**FRI 20:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq5nlm)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 20:06 Tech Tent (w3cszhpv)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:06 today]

**FRI 20:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1w0w0)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 20:32 CrowdScience (w3csz6v)**

Is a fungus intelligent?

As regular listeners may recall, CrowdScience has delved into the strange world of fungi before, as we dug down into the forest floor to reveal how plants and trees are connected to the vast mycelial network known as the "wood wide web". But what makes this network possible and how might it have evolved? Fungi are incredible clever, or at least, it appears that they're capable of displaying complex behaviour that gives them the appearance of intelligence. In this episode, we speak to fungal ecologist and author of a new book, Merlin Sheldrake, about fungal "brains", the evolution of magic mushrooms and zombie insects - the astonishing way certain fungi can take over the bodies of ants and wasps in order to sow their spores above ground.

Presented by Anand Jagatia

Produced by Rami Tzabar for the BBC World Service.

Image: Getty Images

**FRI 21:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq5sbr)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 21:06 Newshour (w172x2z3v7yvzyb)**

Interviews, news and analysis of the day's global events.

**FRI 22:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq5x2w)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 22:06 The Newsroom (w172x79rxx02c2q)**

The world's Newsroom brings you global events as they happen

**FRI 22:20 Sports News (w172x3fkn0xrn1k)**

BBC Sport brings you all the latest stories and results from around the world.

**FRI 22:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1w8c8)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 22:32 World Business Report (w172x58tn1wmj6)**

UK completes separation from European Union

Today is the first day of the UK existing outside of the EU's single market and customs union; we have an extended report from Marie Keyworth. We take a look at trade with Simon McKeever, the Chief Executive of the Irish Exporters Association and hear from the BBC's Vivienne Nunis. So what does this all mean for the UK's access to European labour? Farmers in Cornwall grow most of the world's daffodils and more than 90% of workers come from overseas; with the harvest starting tomorrow, where does this leave farmers? Rachel Stevenson, in Falmouth in Cornwall has been finding out. We also speak to Shanker Singham, Chief Executive of the trade and economic consultancy Competere. And Sophie Pornschlegel, a Senior Policy Analyst at the European Policy Center, speaks to us from Freiburg in Germany about what 2021 heralds for the EU. (Picture: Union Jack via Getty Images).

**FRI 23:00 BBC News (w172x5p7cqq60v0)**

The latest five minute news bulletin from BBC World Service.

**FRI 23:06 HARDtalk (w3cszbx)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:06 today]

**FRI 23:30 BBC News Summary (w172x5q1tg1wd3d)**

The latest two minute news summary from BBC World Service.

**FRI 23:32 World Football (w3cszth6)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 02:32 today]