

SATURDAY 25 DECEMBER 2021

SAT 00:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (b007jm1h)
 The Primary Phase
 Fit The Fifth
 Arthur and company are blown up, but still find time for a bite at a very exclusive eatery.
 Arthur Dent is one of only two survivors from Earth, demolished to make way for a by-pass. He survived thanks to his friend, Ford Prefect (who hails not from Guildford, but somewhere near Betelgeuse), a writer for the Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy, "the most successful book ever to have come out of the great publishing corporations of Ursa Minor". Now paired with fellow Earth survivor Trillian and duplicitous two-headed hustler Zaphod Beeblebrox, Arthur and Ford were on the legendary planet Magrathea when the Galactic Police attacked them and an explosion occurred - they find themselves in a restaurant with a rather sensational selling point.
 Douglas Adams' epic adventure in time and space.
 The Book Peter Jones
 Arthur Dent Simon Jones
 Ford Prefect Geoffrey McGivern
 Zaphod Beeblebrox Mark Wing-Davey
 Trillian Susan Sheridan
 Marvin Stephen Moore
 Garkbit & Zarquon Anthony Sharp
 Compere at the Restaurant at the end of the Universe Roy Hudd
 Sound and music by the BBC Radiophonic Workshop.
 Producer: Geoffrey Perkins.
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in April 1978.
SAT 00:30 Off The Page (b01k1nbq)
 Tomorrow's World
 Dominic Arkwright and writers Bidisha, Mark Mason and Mark C Newton boldly go where no Off the Page has been before: - From biblical prophecy to the predictions of Nostradamus, we have a fascination with possibility of what the future might hold, and of the wonders of time travel.
 In our new venture, Mark C Newton writes a sci-fi piece set in the City of London 100 years from now.
 Sci-fi nut Bidisha takes us back a century to the same place, and there she dreams of what life might be like 100 years hence, i.e. now.
 And Mark Mason offers his sage thoughts on the great predictions that didn't make the grade, such as Edison's assertion that gold would one day be as commonplace as steel.
 With the rate of advancement in technological progress, is science-fiction now just fantasy, or does it serve a broader purpose?
 Producer: Sarah Langan.
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in June 2012.
SAT 01:00 Down Payment on Death (b007jt19)
 5. The Moment of Truth
 Retired hitman, Art Gordo, finally comes face-to-face with his mysterious nemesis.
 Starring Dinsdale Landen.
 Gripping conclusion of Jim Eldridge's thriller adapted from his own novel.
 Art Gordo Dinsdale Landen
 Louise Lenehan Frances Jeater
 Paul Le Clerk Donald Gee
 Sally Le Clerk Joanna Wake
 Leon Young Basil Henson
 Forbes Douglas Blackwell
 Parsons Terrence Hardiman
 Hotel Porter Frank Coda
 Charles Allweather Glyn Owen
 Producer: John Fawcett-Wilson
 First broadcast on the BBC World Service in May 1976.
SAT 01:30 Hercule Poirot (b007wzgh)
 Dead Man's Folly
 4. Another Murder?
 Hercule Poirot is convinced that yet another murder has been committed and Ariadne Oliver is about to startle him with fresh information.
 But the great Belgian detective's little grey cells need to work in a different direction if he is to solve the mystery surrounding Nasse House.
 Conclusion of Agatha Christie's whodunit starring John Moffatt.
 Dramatised by Michael Bakewell.
 Hercule Poirot John Moffatt
 Ariadne Oliver Julia McKenzie
 Mrs Folliat Rosalind Knight
 Alec Legge John Dougall
 Mrs Tucker Christine Kavanagh
 Marilyn Tucker Nicola Holmes
 Lady Stubbs Amanda Waring
 Director: Enyd Williams
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in August 2007.
SAT 02:00 Maeve Binchy Short Stories (b01pewrh)
 5. Euston
 Christmas leads Mary to reflect on the family she has not seen in 20 years.
 A seasonal story written by Maeve Binchy - one of Ireland's most-loved authors.
 Read by Frances Tomelty
 Abridged by Di Spears.

Producer: Sarah Johnson
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 1997.
SAT 02:15 D for Dexter (b082kbyr)
 Series 3
 Episode 5
 Skye tells Dexter they're safe, even though it's dark and they can hear strange noises.
 But she's not sure if she believes it.
 Amanda Whittington's heart-breakingly brave, funny and beautiful story exploring the issue of neglect.
 Skye...Sydney Wade
 Dexter...Alfie Johnson
 Joe...Bill Rodgers
 Jak...Una McNulty
 Dean...Peter Caulfield
 Amber...Liz Godber
 Ant...John Elkington
 Director: Mary Ward-Lowery
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in November 2016.
SAT 02:30 Stars of Wonder (b06s9j7b)
 Miranda Sawyer explores the magic of that enduring British ritual, the school nativity play.
 Charlie Higson, Samira Ahmed, Simon Armitage, Tracey Thorn, Rory McGrath, Clare Grogan and Mark Billingham are among those inspired - or scarred - by the experience.
 Northworld Primary School in London's Hackney opens its doors to reveal the inside story of its 2015 production from casting to opening night.
 A Trevor Dann's Company production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in December 2015.
SAT 03:00 Drama (b085trpe)
 Rumpole
 Rumpole and Memories of Christmas Past
 Rumpole shares some of his favourite yuletide poetry, carols, and pantomime stories as he recounts seasonal legal cases which reveal, as always, the true nature of men, women, children - and She Who Must Be Obeyed!
 Starring Julian Rhind-Tutt.
 Written by John Mortimer.
 Dramatised by Richard Stoneman.
 Rumpole Julian Rhind-Tutt
 Hilda/Peggy Jasmine Hyde
 Donald Compton/Judge Bullingham/Basil Wrighlesworth Stephen Crichtlow
 Erskine-Brown/Gwent-Evans Nigel Anthony
 Rev. Roger Longstaff/D.I. Cartwright/Campbell Forsyth Ewan Bailey
 Director: Marilyn Imrie
 A Catherine Bailey production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in December 2016.
SAT 03:45 The Fir Tree by Hans Christian Andersen (b01pfnw0)
 Out in the woods amongst his many large companions, a nice little fir tree is keen to grow up. Read by Paul Copley.
SAT 04:00 Quote... Unquote (m0001114)
 From 5/11/2018
 Nigel Rees quizzes his celebrity guests on the origins of sayings and well-known quotes, and gets the famous panel to share their favourite anecdotes and quotes.
 With:
 Award-winning writer of the Vicar of Dibley: Paul Mayhew-Archer
 Broadcaster and author: Francine Stock
 Comedian: Phil Wang
 Producer: Simon Nicholls
 A BBC Studios production for BBC Radio 4 first broadcast in November 2018.
SAT 04:30 In the Red (b007k0hz)
 Episode 5
 A crucial by-election result is due, as the murders continue - but reporter George Cragge is on the case.
 London is plagued by a series of bizarre murders of bank managers. Hot on the trail of the killer are old-style Chief Police Inspector Frank Jefferson and BBC Radio's anarchic crime correspondent, George Cragge.
 Starring Michael Williams and Barry Foster.
 Mark Tavener's blackly humorous murder mystery set in the world of City finance, the BBC and political parties.
 Dramatised by his novel by Mark Tavener and Peter Baynham.
 George Cragge Michael Williams
 Frank Jefferson Barry Foster
 Geoffrey Crichton-Potter Stephen Moore
 Henry Julian Rhind-Tutt
 Max Peter Woodthorpe
 Controller Radio 2 Stephen Fry
 Controller Radio 4 John Bird
 Dominic De'ath Benjamin Whitrow
 Hercules Fortescue Nicholas Le Prevost
 Andrew James Peter Serafinowicz
 Laetitia Victoria Carling
 Caroline Susie Brann
 Home Secretary Peter Yapp
 Auntie Agony Eva Stuart
 Controller BBC 1 Ian McNiece
 PA Woman Annabel Mullion
 With Alice Arnold, Richard Turner and Tim Hope.
 Music by Paul Mottram
 Producer: Paul Schlesinger

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in February 1995.
SAT 05:00 Welcome to Our Village, Please Invade Carefully (b01rr495)
 Series 1
 Little Green Lights
 Katrina Lyons was only visiting Cresdon Green, the village where she grew up, to borrow some money from her parents. But when she tried to head back to London, it turned out alien beings known as the Geonin had lowered a force field around the village and were refusing to let anyone in or out.
 Unfortunately almost everyone in the village is too cowardly, apathetic, polite or stupid to stand up to this alien menace, so Katrina has no choice but to start the resistance movement herself. In the cricket pavilion.
 Eddie Robson's sitcom about an alien invasion of a small English village.
 Starring Hattie Morahan and Julian Rhind-Tutt.
 Uljabaan's superior officer Gryvook is coming for an assessment visit. Uljabaan is hoping to get the go-ahead to invade the rest of Earth - but first he has to prepare a welcome banquet. Tradition dictates he should serve a human child... which could create an awkward atmosphere in the village. Meanwhile Richard is helping him with the invasion budget, and the figures just aren't adding up. It seems set to be a disaster - can Katrina exploit this to get the invasion cancelled permanently?
 Katrina Lyons Hattie Morahan
 Field Commander Uljabaan Julian Rhind-Tutt
 Margaret Lyons Jan Francis
 Richard Lyons Peter Davison
 Lucy Alexander Hannah Murray
 Computer John-Luke Roberts
 Special guest: Geoff McGivern
 Producer: Ed Morrish
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 2 in March 2013.
SAT 05:30 Love in Recovery (b06s9szk)
 Christmas Eve
 Heart-warming comedy drama set in Alcoholics Anonymous on Christmas Eve, written by Pete Jackson and inspired by his own road to recovery. Starring Sue Johnston, John Hannah, Eddie Marsan, Rebecca Front, Paul Kaye and Julia Deakin.
 It's Christmas Eve and the church hall is empty - except for self-appointed group leader Andy, who's waiting for the rest of his Alcoholics Anonymous group to turn up. Just in case anyone needs him. After all, Christmas can be a difficult time for recovering alcoholics - especially when your support group is this load of idiots.
 But nothing proves more difficult than this particular Christmas Eve as, one by one, the members arrive, each with a different reason for seeking out the meeting hall. But whatever their troubles, one thing is clear - no one is there for a meeting.
 Writer Pete Jackson is a recovering alcoholic and has spent time in Alcoholics Anonymous. It was there he found, as most people do, support from the unlikelyst group of disparate souls, all banded together due to one common bond. As well as offering the support he needed throughout a difficult time, AA also offered a weekly, sometimes daily, dose of hilarity, upset, heartbreak and friendship.
 There are many different kinds of AA meetings. Love in Recovery is about meetings where people tell their stories. There are funny stories, sad stories, stories of small victories and milestones, stories of loss, stories of hope, and those stories that you really shouldn't laugh at - but still do, along with the storyteller.
 A second series of Love in Recovery will return to Radio 4 next year.
 Cast:
 Marion.....Julia Deakin
 Fiona.....Rebecca Front
 Simon.....John Hannah
 Julie.....Sue Johnston
 Danno.....Paul Kaye
 Andy.....Eddie Marsan
 Written and created by Pete Jackson
 Producer/Director: Ben Worsfield
 A Lucky Giant production for BBC Radio 4
SAT 06:00 Drama (m0001rjt)
 Neil Gaiman's Norse Mythology
 'And the game begins anew...'
 We meet the trickster god Loki and his astonishing children - the giant wolf Fenrir, Jormungundr the snake that encircles the world, and Hel, the little girl who grows up to be Queen of the dead.
 We meet Odin the all-father, who sacrificed his eye to see the future, and Freya the understandably angry, most beautiful of the gods and always being gambled for by unwanted suitors.
 And the stories take us to the very end of the world, Ragnarok. Neil Gaiman's Norse Mythology invites us into a world of gods and monsters, fiery endings and new beginnings, tricks and trust.
 Diana Rigg, Derek Jacobi, Colin Morgan and Natalie Dormer lead a stellar cast, inviting us into these stories of old betrayals - and new hope.
 Also featuring Neil Gaiman himself.
 Dramatised by Lucy Catherine.
 Teller Diana Rigg
 Odin Derek Jacobi
 Freya Natalie Dormer
 Loki Colin Morgan

Thor Nathaniel Martello-White
 Balder Luke Newberry
 Thrym Nonso Anozie
 Fenrir Rhashan Stone
 Heimdall Tayla Kovacevic -Ebong
 Mimir Don Gilet
 Sif Lucy Doyle
 The Stranger Lewis Bray
 Brokk Michael Bertenshaw
 Hel Alexandra Constantinidi
 Eitri Cameron Percival
 Angrboda Saffron Coomber
 Magnus Eviee Lavery
 Young Hel Grace Doherty
 Radio Neil Gaiman
 Sound Design: Wilfredo Acosta
 Director/ Producer: Allegra McLroy
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2018.
SAT 07:30 Great Lives (m0001qyy)
 Series 47
 Mark Steel on Charlie Chaplin
 Mark Steel makes the case for Charlie Chaplin being one of the most radical comedians of his time.
 He reckons it's sad that most see Chaplin as that bloke who wore a bowler hat, had a funny walk, waved a cane around and wasn't even that funny. Mark argues that Charlie Chaplin's silent films and his "Tramp" character make sense if you look at the upheavals in society that were occurring alongside his career.
 Mark is best known for the Mark Steel Lectures and Mark Steel's in Town. He says that while Chaplin was standing up for the working class, the irony was that he became the richest rebel.
 Presenter Matthew Parris is also joined by Simon Louvish - author of 'Chaplin: The Tramps Odyssey'.
 Producer: Perminder Khatkar
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Christmas Day 2018.
SAT 08:00 Quote... Unquote (m0012mw7)
 Quote... Unquote: A Celebration
 BBC Radio 4 Extra marks the end of an era for the long-running literary panel game. Quote... Unquote.
 Quote... Unquote was devised by Nigel Rees, who chaired every one of its 500 episodes. Becoming a 57 series staple on the airwaves since January 1976, its aim was to reflect all aspects of the English language and the humour derived from it. Deliberate or otherwise.
 Hundreds of guests appeared in the show's 45-year history, including Tom Stoppard, Kenneth Williams and Neil Nincock. The actor William Franklyn read the quotes and extracts until his death in 2006. From that point, familiar Radio 4 continuity and news readers took over the role, the most recent being Charlotte Green.
 Devised and introduced by Nigel Rees
 Produced by James Robinson
 A BBC Studios Production
 New to 4 Extra.
SAT 08:30 All the Young Dudes (b007s74l)
 Series 1
 Waterloo Sunset
 It's the end of the line for Patrick, but Joe and Maria might, just might, have some good news for everyone.
 The lives of Patrick and wife Helen as they settle back into the town where he was born.
 Comedy drama written by and starring Jim Sweeney.
 Patrick Jim Sweeney
 Helen Cathryn Harrison
 Billy Steve Steen
 Moira Sadie Shimmin
 Joe Stephen Frost
 Maria Flaminia Cinque
 Mrs Fleming Jenny Lee
 Producer: Steve Doherty
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in August 2001.
SAT 09:00 Sue Perkins' Christmas Comedy Stocking (b007jzvz)
 1/2
 Sue Perkins gets the sherry and chocolates out to accompany 3 hours of the very best vintage BBC Christmas comedy crackers:
 * Radio Active's Christmas Turkey:
 The National Local Radio Station links up with Bethlehem and visits some poorly hospital patients.
 Stars Helen Atkinson-Wood, Geoffrey Perkins and Angus Deayton.
 From 1983.
 * The Masterson Inheritance Christmas Special:
 The Masterson family's ancient culture reveals some curious customs. Improvised historical saga
 Stars Paul Merton, Josie Lawrence, Caroline Quentin and Jim Sweeney.
 From 1995.
 * Lines from My Grandfather Christmas' Forehead:
 How even the best laid festive plans can go awry - and a message from your milkman.
 Stars Ronnie Barker, Pauline Yates and Terence Brady.
 From 1971.
 * Tony Hawks' Twelve Days of Christmas:
 To make his girlfriend happy, comedian Tony Hawks tries collecting every item featured in the famous carol.
 From 2001.

* I'm Sorry I Haven't a Christmas Carol:
 Humphrey Lyttelton makes for a convincing scrooge in the all-star Clue cast's unique interpretation of the Charles Dickens classic. Stephen Fry narrates.
 With Tim Brooke-Taylor, Barry Cryer, Sandi Toksvig, Linda Smith, Andy Hamilton, Jeremy Hardy, Tony Hawks and Graeme Garden.
 From 2003.
 Producer: Sarah Wade
 Produced for BBC Radio 7 and first broadcast in December 2010.
SAT 12:00 The Goon Show (b00fyvxb)
 Series 6
 The International Christmas Pudding
 An eccentric millionaire funds an expedition for fragments of a famous dessert.
 Groundbreaking, surreal BBC radio comedy written by Spike Milligan.
 Starring:
 Spike Milligan
 Peter Sellers
 Harry Secombe.
 First billed as Crazy People, ten series of The Goon Show were recorded between 1951 and 1960, but sadly many of the earliest shows weren't kept in the archive.
 With the Ray Ellington Quartet and Max Geldray.
 Orchestra conducted by Wally Stott.
 Announcer: Wallace Greenslade
 Producer: Peter Eton
 First broadcast on the BBC Home Service on 15th November 1955.
SAT 12:30 Hancock's Half Hour (b007jzys)
 Bill and Father Christmas
 It's a far from festive season as Bill gets a shock from overhearing the blabbermouth Lad.
 Starring Tony Hancock.
 With Sidney James, Bill Kerr, Hattie Jacques and Warren Mitchell.
 Written by Ray Galton and Alan Simpson.
 Theme and incidental music written by Wally Stott. Recorded by the BBC Revue Orchestra conducted by Harry Rabinowitz.
 Producer: Tom Ronald
 First broadcast on the BBC Light Programme in December 1958.
SAT 13:00 The Forum (w3cswph)
 Moomin Creator Tove Jansson
 Tove Jansson was a Finnish-Swedish author and illustrator best known for her children's books about the Moomins.
 These white, hippo-like characters live in the imaginary world of Moominvalley where they subtly challenge social norms and utter philosophical statements such as "I knew nothing, but I believed a lot."
 While the Moomins brought Jansson worldwide fame in the 20th century, she was also a painter, an accomplished novelist and a political cartoonist who took risks poking fun at Hitler.
 Her work often mirrored her private life in which she defied stereotypes of the time by working and earning money for her family, travelling alone, and having relationships with both men and women.
 Joining Rajan Datar to discuss the life and works of Tove Jansson are her niece, Sophia Jansson; Boel Westin - a professor of children's literature from Stockholm University and the author of the authorised biography of Tove's life called Life, Art, Words; and British children's author Philip Ardagh, author of The World of Moominvalley.
 Plus Mayumi Tomihara - an expert on Tove Jansson from Tokyo's Sacred Heart University who has translated many of Tove's adult novels into Japanese.
 First broadcast on the BBC World Service in March 2019.
 Photo: Finnish illustrator Tove Jansson in a self-portrait with her Moomin characters (© Moomin Characters™)
SAT 13:40 Charles Dickens (m0012mts)
 A Christmas Tree
 A festive tale by Charles Dickens about looking into the tree, beyond the lights and baubles, and seeing many a curious thing...
 Read by Oliver Ford Davies
 Abridged and produced by Duncan Minshull
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in December 2004.
SAT 14:00 The Penny Dreadfuls (b0bgb26r)
 Don Quixote
 Published in two volumes in the early 17th Century, Cervantes' Spanish classic Don Quixote is famous as the world's first modern novel.
 It's a ground-breaking piece of art that influenced countless generations of writers and at 800 plus pages of dense prose, one of the most unreadable novels ever.
 Never fear! David Reed has read it so that you don't have to and condensed this mighty tome into an hour's rip-roaring entertainment.
 It's a meditation on the age of chivalry, insanity and truth. A quest of windmills, magic and donkeys.
 Join peasant Sancho and the man who thinks he's a Knight as they travel together locked together in a quest to save those who don't want saving and unravel enchantments which may or may not only exist in their minds.
 Sylvester McCoy stars as Don Quixote.
 Sancho Thom Tuck
 Narrator Amanda Abbington

All other roles played by The Penny Dreadfuls:
 Humphrey Ker
 David Reed
 Thom Tuck
 And:
 Margaret Cabourn-Smith
 Vivienne Acheampong
 Producer: Julia McKenzie
 A BBC Studios production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in August 2018.
SAT 15:00 Conversations from a Long Marriage (m0001qhh)
 Conversations from a Long Marriage at Christmas
 Joanna Lumley and Roger Allam play a couple who have been married 'for ever'.
 Children of the 60s, they're still free spirits, drawn together by their passion for music and each other.
 A two-hander, we follow their dangling conversations, as they prepare for Christmas 'à deux', open their Christmas cards, dissect their neighbours' relationships – and Joanna reveals she's planned some rather surprising activities for Christmas Day because 'All I want for Christmas is you'
 A late-night phone call means that her Christmas wish may not be granted
 Written for Joanna Lumley and Roger Allam by award-winning comedy writer and journalist Jan Etherington - who's been married for 34 years to Gavin Petrie, with whom she has created many hit radio and TV series (Second Thoughts, Next of Kin, Faith in the Future, The Change).
 Producer: Claire Jones
 A BBC Studios production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in December 2018.
SAT 15:30 Old Harry's Game (b00wqfn8)
 1. Christmas Spirit
 Satan decides to ban Christmas in Hell.
 Andy Hamilton's devilishly festive two-parter set in Hell.
 Satan Andy Hamilton
 Edith Annette Crosbie
 Scumspawn Robert Duncan
 Thomas Jimmy Mulville
 With Felicity Montagu, Nick Revell, Philip Pope and Michael Fentons Stevens.
 Producer: Paul Mayhew-Archer
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2010.
SAT 16:00 Drama (m0001rjt)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 today]
SAT 17:30 Great Lives (m0001qyy)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 today]
SAT 18:00 Henry James (m0000xnh)
 The Turn of the Screw
 A governess is sent to care for two orphaned children in a remote country estate.
 She soon becomes convinced that forces of evil want to take possession of the children but her struggle to protect them from harm leads to a devastating conclusion.
 Henry James's haunting tale dramatised by Linda Marshall Griffiths
 Henry James John Lynch
 The Governess Kate Phillips
 Lord / Peter Quint Jake Ferretti
 Mrs Grose / Miss Jessel Krissi Bohm
 Flora Poppy O'Brien
 Miles Elijah Wolf

 Sound design: Steve Brooke
 Director: Nadia Molinari
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in October 2018.
SAT 19:00 Sue Perkins' Christmas Comedy Stocking (b007jzvz)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]
SAT 22:00 The Lee Mack Show (b00c4cd2)
 Toyah Willcox
 Lee Mack presents stand-up comedy, sketches and music.
 With:
 Toyah Willcox
 Noel Britton
 Angela McHale
 Music by Steve Brown, Mark Allis and Kevin Powell.
 Written by Lee Mack.
 Additional material by Neil Webster.
 Producer: Claire Jones
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 2 in April 2005.
SAT 22:25 Comedy Club Extra (m0012nlp)
 Christmas Crackers
 Harriet Kemsley
 Harriet Kemsley is our Christmas fairy - did all her Christmas wishes come true?
SAT 22:30 Ida Barr: Artificial Hip Hop (b00v1qvw)
 Choice
 Ida Barr is a music hall singer who has embraced hip hop and rap, reflecting the cultural diversity of London's East End, where she has been living in retirement for several decades.
 With her genuine love of talking to people, Ida sets out to investigate a new topic in each episode, creating a unique brand of music-hall, hip-hop fusion with beat boxer Shlomo.
 Ida's subject this time is "Choice".
 Written by and starring Christopher Green as Ida Barr.
 Producer: Claire Grove
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in September 2010.

SAT 22:45 Paperback Hell (b0076ch5)

Series 1
 Paddy Murphy's Ghost by Frank Moran
 A series of four chapters by four different authors, all of them imaginary, all of them straight out of the bestseller charts - and none of them very good.
 This time, Paddy Murphy's Ghost by Frank Moran - a surprisingly popular tale of a miserable Irish childhood.
 Starring:
 Michael Fenton Stevens
 Rebecca Front
 Mel Hudson
 Alex Lowe
 Dan Tetsell
 Ghost-written by Danny Robins and Dan Tetsell.
 Producer: Lucy Armitage
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in January 2003.
SAT 23:00 Count Arthur Strong's Radio Show! (b09jkr8)
 Bedbugs and Drumsticks
 Former variety star Count Arthur gets the opportunity to audition for a Christmas production of Bedknobs and Broomsticks.
 What could possibly go wrong?
 Starring Steve Delaney.
 Count Arthur and his erstwhile protégé Malcolm are surrounded by a host of regular characters created by his Radio Repertory Company.
 Written by Steve Delaney and edited by Graham Duff.
 Count Arthur Strong Steve Delaney
 Malcolm Terry Kilckelly
 With:
 Mel Giedroyc
 Alastair Kerr
 Dave Mounfield
 A Komedia Entertainment production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in December 2017.
SAT 23:30 Hut 33 (b00lxzyd)
 Series 1
 Food
 The code-breakers think of some new ways to improve wartime rations.
 James Cary's sitcom set in Bletchley Park in 1941.
 Three code-breakers are forced to share a draughty wooden hut, as they try to break German ciphers. Unfortunately, they hate each other.
 Charles Robert Bathurst
 Archie Tom Goodman-Hill
 Minka Olivia Colman
 Gordon Fergus Craig
 Joshua Alex MacQueen
 With Lill Roughley and Lewis MacLeod
 Producer: Adam Bromley
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in July 2007.

SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER 2021

SUN 00:00 Henry James (m0000xnh)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 18:00 on Saturday]
SUN 01:00 The Forum (w3cswpth)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 13:00 on Saturday]
SUN 01:40 Charles Dickens (m0012mts)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 13:40 on Saturday]
SUN 02:00 The Penny Dreadfuls (b0bgb26r)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 14:00 on Saturday]
SUN 03:00 Conversations from a Long Marriage (m0001qhh)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 15:00 on Saturday]
SUN 03:30 Old Harry's Game (b0wqfn8)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 15:30 on Saturday]
SUN 04:00 Drama (m0001rjt)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 on Saturday]
SUN 05:30 Great Lives (m0001qvy)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 on Saturday]
SUN 06:00 Maevie Binchy Short Stories (Omnibus) (m0012ns0)
 Omnibus of five short stories written by one of Ireland's most revered writers, Maevie Binchy.
 1. Dolly's Mother. Read by Stella McCusker [1992]
 2. Home Coming. Read by Sean Campion [2001]
 3. The White Trolley. Read by Jenny Agutter [1998]
 4. The Feast of Stephen. Read by Jenny Agutter [1998]
 5. Euston. Read by Frances Tomelny [1997]
 Producers: Eoin O'Callaghan, Heather Brennan, Pam Fraser Solomon and Sarah Johnson.
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 between 1992 and 2001.
SUN 07:10 The Fly-By-Night by Terry Jones (m0012ns2)
 A little girl takes a magical ride with a strange little creature, riding on the back of a flying cat. Read by Terry Jones.
 An enchanting tale written and read by Terry Jones.
 First broadcast on BBC Radio Wales in December 2013.
SUN 07:20 D for Dexter (Omnibus) (b083gzg5)
 Series 3
 Skye knows Dexter needs a proper breakfast, but there's no milk and Mum hasn't got a pound. So it's cornflakes with water, again. Or toast. With no spread.
 Skye is 13, and she's growing up. Dexter's four. They live in Gainsborough in Lincolnshire. They've been back with Mum, Jak, for a while now, because she doesn't drink any more,

except loads of coffee and coke. Jak doesn't cook either, and she's never hungry.
 The only thing Skye misses about school is the free dinners, but she doesn't go very often because she likes to keep an eye on Dexter. Sometimes she thinks about the time they were in foster care. The foster carers were really annoying but they were always cooking. And Dexter was always eating.
 Then Jak announces she's having a night out. She's going to the Psychic Supper at the Centre. Skye doesn't care what the spirits will say but she'd like to know what's for supper.
 A heart-breakingly brave, funny and beautiful story by Amanda Whittington.
 Developed with the help of Can Cook, an organisation that receives funding for specific projects from BBC Children in Need.
 Omnibus of five parts.
 Skye...Sydney Wade
 Dexter...Alfie Johnson
 Jak...Una McNulty
 Uncle Dean...Peter Caulfield
 Boy...Harry Steel
 Dog Man...John Elkington
 Shelagh...Sarah Parks
 Kim/Claire...Jane Godber
 Riley...Hattie
 Director: Mary Ward-Lowery
 First broadcast on Radio 4 in November 2016.
SUN 08:30 A Life of Bliss (m000945w)
 Pleasure As Usual
 David is roped in when his father and Tony decide not to wear fancy dress at a costume ball.
 George Cole stars in Godfrey Harrison's sitcom about bashful, bumbling bachelor David Alexander Bliss.
 David Bliss George Cole
 Anne Fellows Diana Churchill
 Tony Fellows Colin Gordon
 Zoe Hunter Sheila Sweet
 'Psyche' the Dog Percy Edwards
 Mrs Bliss Gladys Young
 Mr Bliss Carleton Hobbs
 Griselda Saltmarsh Sheila Manahan
 Brinsley Tavistock Tony Vickers
 Quentin Massingham Rolf Lefebvre
 The BBC Variety Orchestra conducted by Paul Fenhoulet.
 Six series of 118 episodes of A Life of Bliss ran on the BBC Home Service from 1953. It moved to BBC TV for a run of six episodes in 1969.
 Sadly very few episodes survive in the BBC archive.
 Producer: Leslie Bridgmont
 First broadcast on the BBC Home Service in April 1959.
SUN 09:00 The Clitheroe Kid (m0012ns4)
 Series 5
 Too Many Crooks
 Schoolboy Jimmy sparks criminal chaos over some cash 'stolen' from the local grocer.
 Starring the diminutive Jimmy Clitheroe.
 Legendary sitcom about Lancashire's eternal cheeky schoolboy who lives with his Mother, sister and Grandad.
 At its peak, ten million fans tuned in each week to hear Jimmy's latest scheme sparking havoc.
 Written by James Casey and Frank Roscoe
 The Kid Himself Jimmy Clitheroe
 Mother Patricia Burke
 Grandad Peter Sinclair
 Susan Diana Day
 Danny Ross Alfie
 Theodore Craythorpe/Harry Whittle Leonard Williams
 With Tony Melody, Brian Trueman and Jack Woolgar.
 Theme music by Alan Roper and played by the BBC Northern Dance Orchestra directed by Alan Ainsworth.
 Producer: James Casey
 First broadcast on the BBC Light Programme in January 1962.
SUN 09:30 Reluctant Persuaders (m0000mmf)
 Series 3
 1. Ideas for Life
 Welcome back to Hardacre's, the worst advertising agency in London.
 Edward Rowett's award-winning sitcom returns for a third series.
 Series two ended in euphoria, as Hardacre's secured their biggest ever account - the Cosmos X10 smartphone. Now there's a reality check, as the team realise how woefully ill-equipped they are to handle a client of this magnitude.
 Accounts manager Amanda Barnes immediately sets to work hiring new staff, while agency chief and creative director Rupert Hardacre heads into London's Soho to secure new and grander premises.
 Meanwhile on the creative side, copywriter Joe Starling begins to doubt his ability to deliver work for an account this size, despite reassurance from his art director and best friend Teddy Beech leading Joe to take drastic action.
 Hardacre Nigel Havers
 Joe Mathew Baynton
 Amanda Josie Lawrence
 Teddy Rasmus Hardiker
 Doctor Holly Morgan
 Barista Andrew Nolan
 An Absolutely production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in October 2018.

SUN 10:00 Desert Island Discs Revisited (b04hbzv)
 Absent Friends 2021
 Dame Fanny Waterman
 From Bach to Britten.
 Leeds International Piano competition founder Dame Fanny Waterman shares her castaway choices with Kirsty Young
 It was during a sleepless night, more than 50 years ago, that she came up with the idea of launching a piano competition in Yorkshire.
 Since then it's become a world renowned event and been a springboard for many of our most celebrated pianists including Radu Lupu and Murray Perahia.
 Even at 90, she was still teaching masterclasses and continued to be involved with every detail of the competition.
 "They call me Field Marshal Fanny" she says, "I am a busy bitches."
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in July 2010.
SUN 10:45 The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry (m0001r7k)
 Series 12
 The Horrible Hangover
 "My name is Ava and I've never had a hangover," writes Ava Karuso. "I'm a 25 year-old Australian and I enjoy going out for drinks. However, the next day when everyone else sleeps in and licks their wounds, I get up early and get right back to my normal routine."
 Drs Rutherford and Fry investigate the ancient origins of alcohol, from Sumerians drinking beer through straws, to Aristotle's teachings 'On Intoxication'.
 But what can modern science tell us about how alcohol affects our brains? What causes the morning-after hangover and do some drinks make you feel worse than others? Are there any hangover cures that have been scientifically validated?
 Featuring health psychologist and hangover researcher Sally Adams, chemist Andrea Sella and science writer Adam Rogers, author of 'Proof: The Science of Booze'.
 Presenters: Hannah Fry, Adam Rutherford
 Producer: Michelle Martin
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in 2018.
SUN 11:00 The Moth Radio Hour (m000113d)
 Series 10
 The Call
 True stories told live in the USA: Sarah Austin Jenness introduces stories of ringtones, rekindled connections, and revolution.
 The Moth is an acclaimed not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling based in the USA. Since 1997, it has celebrated both the raconteur and the storytelling novice, who has lived through something extraordinary and years to share it. Originally formed by the writer George Dawes Green as an intimate gathering of friends on a porch in Georgia (where moths would flutter in through a hole in the screen), and then recreated in a New York City living room, The Moth quickly grew to produce immensely popular events at theatres and clubs around New York City and later around the USA, the UK and other parts of the world.
 The Moth has presented more than 15,000 stories, told live and without notes, to standing-room-only crowds worldwide. The Moth podcast is downloaded over 27 million times a year.
 Featuring true stories told live on stage without scripts, from the humorous to the heart-breaking.
 The Moth Radio Hour is produced by Jay Allison and Atlantic Public Media in Woods Hole, Massachusetts and is distributed by the Public Radio Exchange.
 First broadcast in 2019.
SUN 11:55 The Fly-By-Night by Terry Jones (m0012ns2)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 07:10 today]
SUN 12:00 Poetry Extra (m0012ns8)
 Between the Ears - Yuletide in the Land of Ice and Fire
 Poet Daljit Nagra revisits the BBC's poetry archive and selects Between the Ears - Yuletide in the Land of Ice and Fire.
 Acclaimed Icelandic poet and author Gerður Kristný journeys into the curious world of Iceland's Christmas myths.
 With not one but thirteen Santa Clauses, troll-like figures who sneak down from the mountains to make mischief at Christmas and a 'Yule Cat' who prowls through the snow looking for lazy people to eat, there are myriad fantastical - and sometimes sinister - festive tales indigenous to Iceland.
 Creeping down from the mountains one by one over the thirteen nights before Christmas, Iceland's Jólaveinar, or 'Yule Lads' are eccentric characters out to make mischief. From 'Door Slammer' to 'Spoon Licker', 'Sausage Swiper' to 'Meat Hook', the Yule Lads - part of Icelandic folklore stretching back centuries - can be mischievous and menacing, stealing from pantries, playing pranks and scaring children.
 These days they are known to leave gifts in children's shoes (or a potato in the case of the badly-behaved) but their parents - evil ogress Grýla and her lazy husband Leppalúði - are still the subject of frightening tales, known to eat naughty children.
 Even their pet Yule Cat prowls the country's towns and villages looking for lazy people to eat.
 With music, sound, poetry and accounts from Icelanders bringing the tales to life, Gerður Kristný guides an atmospheric exploration of Iceland's festive stories, providing insight into unique Icelandic cultural traditions and revealing larger, universal, questions about folklore and why we tell scary stories.
 Award-winning poet and author Gerður Kristný won the 2010 Icelandic Literature Prize for her poetry book Blóðhófnir, which is based on an ancient Nordic myth. She has also written

least interesting clients around.

While Joe, Amanda and Hardacre continue to feel sorry for themselves, Teddy is determined to lift their spirits. Appointing himself chief morale officer, he sets out to brighten the mood at the agency with a succession of increasingly ill-advised morale-boosting schemes.

What starts with an innocuous Hawaiian shirt day soon snowballs into a team-building and bonding exercise none of the staff will ever forget.

Hardacre Nigel Havers
Joe Mathew Baynton
Amanda Josie Lawrence
Teddy Rasmus Hardiker
Laura Olivia Nixon
WPC and Crystal Holly Morgan
An Absolutely production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in October 2018.
MON 07:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m0012ny7)
Series 76
Episode 4
Back for a second week at Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre, Marcus Brigstocke and Rory Bremner are joined on the panel by Pippa Evans and Andy Hamilton, with Jack Dee the unimpressed umpire. Piano accompaniment is provided by Colin Sell. Producer - Jon Naismith. It is a BBC Studios production.
MON 08:00 Marriage Lines (b061ygr)
Series 2
Episode 5
George and Kate get in a tizzy showing-off baby Helen. Starring Richard Briers and Prunella Scales.
Richard Waring's sitcom based on the mutual love and mistrust of two newlyweds.
Originating on BBC TV, it ran between 1963-65 and was adapted in two series for BBC radio due to its popularity.
George Richard Briers
Kate Prunella Scales
Nora Heather Chasen
Peter Ronald Hines
Harry Fraser Kerr
Sheila Carole Boyd
Producer: Charles Maxwell
First broadcast on the BBC Light Programme in April 1967.
MON 08:30 Second Thoughts (b007jzt)
The Fight Before Christmas
Faith's children and Bill's ex-wife threaten her dream of a perfect festive lunch.
Starring Lynda Bellingham and James Bolam.
A festive edition of the sitcom about the lives of two middle-aged divorcees.
Faith Lynda Bellingham
Bill James Bolam
Liza Belinda Lang
Hannah Julia Sawalha
Joe Mark Denham
Richard Geoffrey Whitehead
Hilary Geraldine Fitzgerald
Inspired by the real lives of its writers, husband and wife Jan Etherington and Gavin Petrie.
A TV version made by LWT for ITV ran from 1991.
Producer: Paul Schlesinger
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 1992.
MON 09:00 It's Your Round (b01b8zw3)
Series 2
Episode 6
Angus Deayton presides over the show where the format is, there isn't one.
Instead, each of the four panellists has brought their own round for the other panellists to play. How will each round play out? And, more importantly, who will be beaten at their own game? Featured rounds in this episode:
Alex Horne's "Font, Fighter or Fragrance" in which panellists are given a word and they must guess whether that word refers to a typographical font, the name of a Gladiator from ITV's show "Gladiators" or a "Lynx deodorant" fragrance.
Roisin Conaty's "Four Second Pitch" in which panellists have but four seconds to pitch Angus the elements of an idea for a blockbuster film and a new religion.
Paul Sinha's "World Record Recall" in which panellists have to fill in the missing details from the description of a real record from the Guinness Book of World Records.
And Rufus Hound's "Which Lady Done Say That Thing" in which panellists must guess which audience member said a certain phrase. As the title suggests.
Producer: Sam Michell
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in January 2012.
MON 09:30 Getting Nowhere Fast (b007k1xx)
Series 2
Episode 3
Pamela hoists the Union Flag to commemorate the demise of Thatcher and a tidal wave of competitive capitalism engulfs the bistro.
The CyberPass becomes a lean machine as Merv goes on a course and creates an internal market.
Dibden gets a Loyalty Card for Services to Drink.
Chantal sells Free Range Adult Magazines and even Neville takes to the street in a surge of private enterprise.
Sitcom written by and starring Mervyn Stutter.
Merv Mervyn Stutter

Pam Lill Roughley
Dibden John Challis
Chantal Tracy-Ann Oberman
PC Dilkes Michael Mears
Nev Gyuri Sarossy
Producer: Mario Stylianides
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in May 2003.
MON 10:00 Neil Gaiman - Stardust (b07xs23j)
Part 1
Challenged to retrieve a fallen star by the beautiful Victoria Forester, to whom he has lost his heart, Tristran Thorn leaves his home in the sleepy English village of Wall and crosses into the mysterious and magical land of Faerie.
But when Tristran locates the fallen star he discovers it is no mere meteorite, but an injured young woman, Yvaine.
Tristran, however, is not the only person to have seen and be in pursuit of the fallen star. Deep in Faerie, Morwanned the witch queen, is also hunting the star, whose heart she plans to cut out to restore youth to herself and her sisters.
High on Mount Huon, Primus, Tertius and Septimus, the three living heirs to the realm of Stormhold, seek out the star to claim the right to their recently deceased father's kingdom, and each will stop at nothing – not even murder – to ensure they are the only brother left in the running for the throne!
With Yvaine's life in danger, she and Tristran find themselves embarking on an extraordinary adventure, full of danger and intrigue as they flee across Faerie.
Encountering Little Hair Men, witches, and lightning-hunting sky pirates along the way, Tristran is about to uncover the secret to his own identity and a fate beyond his wildest dreams at his journey's end.
Neil Gaiman's fantasy novel dramatised in two parts by Dirk Maggs.
Narrator Eleanor Bron
Tristran Matthew Beard
Yvaine Sophie Rundle
Sound Design: Wilfredo Acosta and Dirk Maggs
Directors: Dirk Maggs & Heather Larmour
Producer: Heather Larmour
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2016.
MON 11:00 TED Radio Hour (m0013gh7)
Series 8
A Century of Money
A journey through fascinating ideas based on talks by riveting speakers on the TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) stage.
Manoush Zomorodi explores recessions, depressions, bubbles, and blue skies - how can we build a more stable financial future?
First broadcast in the USA on National Public Radio in 2020.
MON 11:50 Inheritance Tracks (m0012nyc)
Miriam Margolyes
Actress Miriam Margolyes chooses MacCrimmon's Lament and Cecilia Bartoli singing Agitata Da Due Venti by Vivaldi.
MON 12:00 Marriage Lines (b061ygr)
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:00 today]
MON 12:30 Second Thoughts (b007jzt)
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:30 today]
MON 13:00 Father Brown Stories (b00f0sgw)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 today]
MON 13:30 Detective (b001v0cz)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:30 today]
MON 14:00 Letters From Tove (m000c9np)
Episode 1
Out of the thousands of letters Moomin creator Tove Jansson wrote, a cache remains that she addressed to her family, her dearest confidantes, and her lovers, both male and female.
Into these, she spilled her innermost thoughts, defended her ideals and revealed her heart.
To read these letters is both an act of startling intimacy and a rare privilege.
Penned with grace and humour, Letters from Tove offers an almost seamless commentary on Tove Jansson's life as it unfolds within Helsinki's bohemian circles and her island home. Spanning 50 years between her art studies and the height of Moomin fame, we hear the bleakness of war, the hopes for love that were dashed and renewed, and her determined attempts to establish herself as an artist.
Translated from the Swedish by Sarah Death.
Abridged by Polly Coles
Read by Sarah Lambie
Producer: Clive Brill
A Brill production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in December 2019.
MON 14:15 D for Dexter (b09dtd3r)
Series 4
Episode 1
Jak is drinking again, so Skye has to look out for Dexter. She never knows if her mum is going to be in, out, or out of it. Last night she didn't come home at all. Doesn't bother Skye. Her mum can do what she wants: it's her life. Except it's Dexter's life too, and if social services find out how bad things are, they might come and take him away again.
Skye is 14 and Dexter's five, and they live in Gainsborough in Lincolnshire. Dexter has just started school, so Skye has to drop him off and pick him up, because Jak can't do it. She'd never remember and if by some miracle she did, the teachers would see her and then there'd be questions. Luckily Skye's been excluded from her school, so she can keep an extra close eye on

what's going on at home and make sure Dexter's where he should be.
She needs to be on her toes, because you never know who Jak might bring home next.
The story was developed with the help of Footsteps 2000, an organisation that supports young people who are affected by a loved one's substance misuse, and receives funding for specific projects from BBC Children in Need.
The fourth of 7 series by Amanda Whittington.
Sydney Wade ... Skye
Alfie Johnson ... Dexter
Zoe Johnson ... Shanice
Una McNulty ... Jak
Etta Fusi ... Leanne
Julie Riley ... Mia
Tayla Kovacevic-Ebong ... Mr Doshi
Octavia Bettis ... Nasty Girl
Music by Smashing Pumpkins and Beyoncé, performed by Tom Constantine.
Director: Mary Ward-Lowery
First broadcast on Radio 4 in November 2017.
MON 14:30 What the Scandinavians Know About Children's Literature (b01dtds8)
Why does Scandinavian children's literature 'punch above its weight' in terms of worldwide sales, and why does it have a particularly unique voice?
From the super-human strength of Pippy Longstocking by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren to the strange Finnish animals dreamt up by Tove Jansson in the Moomin stories, and the anarchic Wild Baby created by Barbro Lindgren and Eva Eriksson.
It began with probably the best known storyteller for children - Hans Christian Andersen - continued with the work of Elsa Beskow, the Swedish Beatrix Potter, and is alive today in the books of authors like Gro Dahle.
According to Professor Maria Nikolajeva, a senior editor for the Oxford Encyclopaedia of Children's Literature, Scandinavian books are not rooted in the world of fantasy, like other children's stories. It's often grounded in a slightly skewed reality in which the childlike characters exhibit 'magical' talents. And she claims that the Scandinavian culture of respect for the child, the history of the region, and those long winters, have had a profound effect on the character of its literature.
Presented by Mariella Frostrup.
Producer: Helen Lee
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in March 2012.
MON 15:00 Neil Gaiman - Stardust (b07xs23j)
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 today]
MON 16:00 It's Your Round (b01b8zw3)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]
MON 16:30 Getting Nowhere Fast (b007k1xx)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 today]
MON 17:00 Reluctant Persuaders (m0000ngj)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:00 today]
MON 17:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m0012ny7)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 today]
MON 18:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (b007jm2k)
The Primary Phase
Fit The Sixth
Arthur and company escape from a war, but exactly what have they escaped to?
Arthur Dent is one of only two survivors from Earth, demolished to make way for a by-pass. He survived thanks to his friend, Ford Prefect (who hails not from Guildford, but somewhere near Betelgeuse), a writer for the Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy, "the most successful book ever to have come out of the great publishing corporations of Ursa Minor". They've managed to escape from Restaurant at the End of Universe on the Black Ship only to find themselves where they never thought they'd be, only 2 million years earlier. What on earth are they going to do when face to face with 'how, why and where phases' of galactic development?
Douglas Adams' epic adventure in time and space.
The Book Peter Jones
Caprain of the 'B' Ark David Jason
His Number One and Management Consultant Jonathan Cecil
Arthur Dent Simon Jones
Ford Prefect Geoffrey McGivern
Zaphod Beeblebrox Mark Wing-Davey
Trillion Susan Sheridan
Marvin Stephen Moore
The Number Two and hairdresser Aubrey Woods
The Marketing Girl Beth Porter
Sound and music by the BBC Radiophonic Workshop.
Producer: Geoffrey Perkins.
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in April 1978.
MON 18:30 A Good Read (b02ykrf0)
Colin Murray and Bob Mills
Harriett Gilbert and her guests - sports presenter, Colin Murray and comedian, Bob Mills - discuss their favourite books by Richard Brautigan, Georgette Heyer and Kazuo Ishiguro. In Watermelon Sugar by Richard Brautigan
Publisher: Vintage
These Old Shades by Georgette Heyer
Publisher: Arrow Books
An Artist of the Floating World by Kazuo Ishiguro
Publisher: Faber

Anodyne manufactured images of Santa and his elves, reindeer sleighs streaking across starry skies, snowmen and children "walking in the air", and polar bears frolicking in crystal caves of ice? Or are our thoughts drawn to the deeper and darker lore of the True North of mountain trolls, demons and direwolves, white witches and white walkers, snow queens and Sámi shamans?

Radio 3 New Generation Thinker Eleanor Rosamund Barraclough journeys to Arctic Norway in search of the supernatural world that haunts the imagination of writers such as Philip Pullman, AS Byatt, CS Lewis, Hans Christian Andersen and the authors of the medieval Icelandic sagas. Following the trail of a 9th century Norseman called Othhere, who travelled along the northern coast of Norway and down to the White Sea in Russia, Eleanor sets out from the coastal city of Tromsø in northern Norway. But whereas Othhere wanted to survey the land and acquire walrus ivory, reindeer and exotic furs, Eleanor is looking for a stranger North - a place inhabited by mountain trolls, witches and giants.

Featuring:
AS Byatt, author of *Ragnarok*;
Philip Pullman, author of *Northern Lights*;
Professor Peter Davidson of Aberdeen University and author of *The Idea of North*
Dr Carolyne Larrington of Oxford University, a specialist in the Icelandic sagas
Professors Rune Hagen, Tromsø University
Richard Holt of Tromsø University
Artist Jeffrey Vallance
Readers: Elaine Claxton and Paul Heath.
Producer: Philippa Ritchie
First broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in August 2014.
TUE 11:45 Christmas With... (b04vk9nm)
Clare Barker
Clare has had enough; it's the 29th December and it's high time Christmas was packed up for another year. Social work doesn't just stop because it's the festive season, but will a chance encounter bring back a bit of seasonal magic?
Sally Phillips is Clare Barker the social worker who has all the right jargon but never a practical solution.
In today's Big Society there are plenty of challenges out there for an involved, caring social worker. Or even Clare.
Clare Sally Phillips
Brian Alex Lowe
Nali Nina Conti
Old Man / Father Christmas Hugh Bonneville
Son Shaun Mason
Written by Harry Venning and David Ramsden
Producer Alexandra Smith
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2014.
TUE 12:00 The Goon Show (b007jln0)
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:00 today]
TUE 12:30 Molesworth (m000g4js)
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:30 today]
TUE 13:00 Father Brown Stories (b00f0sgy)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 today]
TUE 13:30 Detective (b0blv6v1)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:30 today]
TUE 14:00 Letters From Tove (m000c9rf)
Episode 2
In spring 1939 Tove Jansson leaves for Italy. She feels the lure of Renaissance art, but war is on its way so there is no time to lose. She travels via Berlin and Munich to Verona.
Out of the thousands of letters Moomin creator Tove Jansson wrote, a cache remains that she addressed to her family, her dearest confidantes, and her lovers, both male and female. Into these, she spilled her innermost thoughts, defended her ideals and revealed her heart.
To read these letters is both an act of startling intimacy and a rare privilege.
Penned with grace and humour, Letters from Tove offers an almost seamless commentary on Tove Jansson's life as it unfolds within Helsinki's bohemian circles and her island home. Spanning 50 years between her art studies and the height of Moomin fame, we hear the bleakness of war, the hopes for love that were dashed and renewed, and her determined attempts to establish herself as an artist.
Translated from the Swedish by Sarah Death.
Abridged by Polly Coles
Read by Sarah Lambie
Producer: Clive Brill
A Brill production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in December 2019.
TUE 14:15 D for Dexter (b09dxx1g)
Series 4
Episode 2
Even though she's drinking and she's mostly out of it, Jak knows that Leanne is bad news.
But still, she's made Skye move in to Dexter's room and now Leanne thinks everything is hers. She won't stop talking and smoking weed.
But Skye knows something even worse. She knows what's in Leanne's bin bags.
Amanda Whittington's heart-breakingly brave, funny and beautiful story exploring the issue of neglect.
Sydney Wade ... Skye
Alfie Johnson ... Dexter
Zoe Johnson ... Shanice

Una McNulty ... Jak
Etta Fusi ... Leanne
Julie Riley ... Mia
Tayla Kovacevic-Ebong ... Mr Doshi
Octavia Bettis ... Nasty Girl
Music by Smashing Pumpkins and Beyoncé, performed by Tom Constantine.
Director: Mary Ward-Lowery
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in November 2017.
TUE 14:30 Iceland's Dark Lullabies (b09jcnpr)
At the darkest time of the year in Iceland scary creatures come out to play.
Storyteller Andri Snær Magnason used to be terrified by his grandmother's Christmas tales of Gryla the 900 year old child eating hag and her 13 troll sons - the Yule Lads - who would come down from the mountains looking for naughty children in the warmth of their homes. These dark lullabies partly hark back to a pre-Christian Christmas when people worshipped the Norse gods.
As Iceland opens up to global influences after centuries of isolation Andri travels from farmstead to lava field and reflects on these traditions: whether the elves still crash your house to throw a Christmas party or the cows still talk on New Year's Eve; and what happens when you have to spend Christmas alone, locked inside Ikea?
Featuring the Graduale Nobile Choir conducted by Árni Heiðar Karlsson
Additional sound design by Phil Channell.
Producer: Neil McCarthy
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2017.
TUE 15:00 Neil Gaiman - Stardust (b07xs2g4)
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 today]
TUE 16:00 The 3rd Degree (b01rqnl1)
Series 3
University of Edinburgh
A lively and funny quiz show, hosted by Steve Punt, where a team of three University students take on a team of three of their professors.
Coming this week from the University of Edinburgh, the specialist subjects are Biological Sciences, History of Art and International Relations and the questions range from Lady Chatterley and Aubrey Beardsley through to laughing gas and Carly Rae Jepsen.
The rounds vary between Specialist Subjects and General Knowledge, quickfire bell-and-buzzer rounds, and the 'Highbrow and Lowbrow' round cunningly devised to test not only the students' knowledge of current affairs, history, languages and science, but also their Professors' awareness of television, film, and One Direction.
The resulting show is funny, fresh, and not a little bit surprising, with a truly varied range of scores, friendly rivalry, and moments where students wished they had more than just glanced at that reading list.
The host Steve Punt, although best known as a satirist on The Now Show, is also someone who delights in all facets of knowledge, not just in the Humanities (his educational background) but in the sciences as well. He has made a number of documentaries for Radio 4, on subjects as varied as "The Poet Unwound - The History Of The Spleen" and "Getting The Gongs" (an investigation into awards ceremonies), as well as a comedy for Radio 4's Big Bang Day set in the Large Hadron Collider, called "The Genuine Particle".
Producer: David Tyler
A Pozzitive production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in April 2013.
TUE 16:30 The Mitch Benn Music Show (b007w3z1)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 today]
TUE 17:00 Small Scenes (b072n66g)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:00 today]
TUE 17:30 The Missing Hancock's (m0012p1b)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 today]
TUE 18:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (b007jm34)
The Secondary Phase
Fit The Seventh
Who hasn't been confronted with a temporal anomaly while drunk? Arthur Dent and Ford Prefect struggle to work it out. The show that began with the end of the world continues with Arthur and Ford stranded on prehistoric earth, and Zaphod Beeblebrox and Marvin thoroughly devoured by a carbon-copy of the Ravenous Bugblatter Beast of Traal.
The Book ... Peter Jones
Arthur Dent ... Simon Jones
Ford Prefect/ Frogstar Robot ... Geoffrey McGivern
Marvin ... Stephen Moore
Zaphod Beeblebrox ... Mark Wing-Davey
Assistant Arcturan Pilot ... Bill Paterson
Captain/ Receptionist/Lift ... David Tate
Roosta ... Alan Ford
The global multi-media success story that is 'Hitchhiker's' started life on Radio 4 in March 1978. The original scripts by Douglas Adams (1952-2001) went on to spawn a series of novels, a feature film, at least three stage shows, a TV series, a computer game, a collection of comic books - and various towels.
The answer to the meaning of life, the universe and everything is 42. If you work out what the Ultimate Question is, please let us know.
Radiophonic sound and music by Paddy Kingsland.

Producer: Geoffrey Perkins
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 1978.
TUE 18:30 Soul Music (b03zy246)
Series 18
Crazy
"It's the kind of music that makes you feel like you're just hurting so good"
People of different ages reflect on why the pop country classic 'Crazy' made famous by Patsy Cline brings out such strong emotions in them.
Featuring a young woman mourning the loss of a father's love after divorce - and broadcaster Fiona Phillips reflects on losing her father to Alzheimer's disease.
87 year old Wayne Rethford met Patsy Cline in 1961 and two years later happened upon the crash site where she died after her plane came down in a heavy storm in Tennessee.
"That music becomes embedded in your soul" he says.
Series about pieces of music with a powerful emotional impact
Producer: Maggie Ayre
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in April 2014.
TUE 19:00 The Goon Show (b007jln0)
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:00 today]
TUE 19:30 Molesworth (m000g4js)
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:30 today]
TUE 20:00 Father Brown Stories (b00f0sgy)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 today]
TUE 20:30 Detective (b0blv6v1)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:30 today]
TUE 21:00 The Supernatural North (b091wdfk)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:00 today]
TUE 21:45 Christmas With... (b04vk9nm)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:45 today]
TUE 22:00 The Missing Hancock's (m0012p1b)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 today]
TUE 22:25 Comedy Club Extra (m0012p1f)
Christmas Crackers
Iain Lee
Iain Lee shares his Christmas Crackers with the Comedy Club
TUE 22:30 Susan Calman - Keep Calman Carry On (b09jvny)
Series 2
Birdwatching
Susan Calman is the least relaxed person she knows. Unless she finds a way to switch off, and soon, her wife says she's going to be unbearable.
Susan decided her best bet was to try to immerse herself in the pursuits that her friends find relaxing, to find her inner zen and outer tranquillity.
So now she's going birdwatching with the writer and comedian Emma Kennedy.
In this audience stand up show, Susan reveals how successful she's been - both at relaxing and at the pursuit itself - as well as playing in and discussing a handful of illustrative clips from her efforts.
Written by Susan Calman and Jon Hunter.
Producer: Lyndsay Fener
A BBC Studios production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in December 2017.
TUE 23:00 The Maltby Collection (b00czc0j)
Series 1
Episode 6
A popular TV detective series comes to film at the museum and its super-suave star takes a fancy to Prunella, leaving Rod and Julian feeling marginalised.
Starring Julian Rhind-Tutt and Geoffrey Palmer.
David Nobbs' sitcom about a small art museum staffed by eccentrics and obsessives.
Rod Millet Julian Rhind-Tutt
Walter Brindle Geoffrey Palmer
Prunella Edgecumbe Rachel Atkins
Julian Crumb-Loosely Ben Willbond
Des Wainwright Michael Smiley
Eva Tattle Julia Deakin
Wilf Arbutnot Geoff McGivern
Stelios Constantinopolis Chris Pavlo
Jeremy Noone Hugh Dennis
Clive Neil Fitzmaurice
Arabella Eve Dallas
Nick Jot Davies
Charlie Tattle Barry Cryer
Producer: Colin Anderson
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in July 2007.
TUE 23:30 Concrete Cow (b0076js0)
Series 1
Episode 3
The real reason for the discovery of America, the dangers of Tarot, finding lost polar explorers and Lesser Known Novels. Sketch show made by actors reading out scripts in front of an audience, who laughed, and then keeping the good bits.
Starring
Olivia Colman
Robert Webb
Sally Hawkins
Steven Kynman
Chris Pavlo
Written by James Cary, Sally Hawkins, Catherine Shepherd, Ashley Blake, Jon Holme and Robin Ince.
Producer: Adam Bromley
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in August 2002

On Tulya's E'en, seven days before Christmas, the Trows (trolls) were granted permission to leave their underground homes "in the heart of the earth and dwell, if it so pleased them, above the ground." so the sign of the cross had to be made on everything.
According to folklore, the Trow becomes more active and more dangerous as Yule approaches - just like the undead of the Viking sagas.
At this point it was believed that the undead were allowed to leave neolithic mounds and barrows to trouble the living. Even Orkney's standing stones, the Great Ring of Brodgar, the stones of Stenness, might be seen leaving their ancient places to go for a drink, dipping down to the waters of burn and loch, nodding to each other as they progressed, like Ents moving from a stone forest.
Tom Morton explores the spookiest time of the year in the Northern Isles
Contributors:
Dr Andrew Jennings of the Centre for Nordic Studies, at Scalloway Castle in Shetland
Storyteller: Laurence Tulloch
Tom Muir of the Orkney Museum
Shetland storyteller: Elma Johnson
Storyteller: Davy Cooper
Producer: Louise Yeoman
First broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland in December 2010.
WED 15:00 Drama (b09xj1nn)
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 today]
WED 16:00 The Write Stuff (m0012ntc)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]
WED 16:30 Smelling of Roses (b00dwnch)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 today]
WED 17:00 Believe It! (b08lh9p)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:00 today]
WED 17:30 Conversations from a Long Marriage (m0012nt8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 today]
WED 18:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (b007jm3n)
The Secondary Phase
Fit The Eighth
Zaphod and Roosta are being taken to the evil Frogstar, while Ford and Arthur are stranded on prehistoric Earth.
Douglas Adams' sci-fi comedy following the misadventures of hapless human Arthur Dent.
The Book Peter Jones
Arthur Dent Simon Jones
Ford Prefect Geoffrey McGivern
Zaphod Beeblebrox Mark Wing-Davey
Roosta Alan Ford
Eddie David Tate
Gargravarr Valentine Dyaal
Radiophonic sound and music by Paddy Kingsland.
Producer: Geoffrey Perkins
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 1978.
WED 18:30 The Radio Detectives (b007jp7r)
Series 1
Enter the Saint
Professor Jeffery Richards dons his halo to track down the history and the varied portrayals of the Robin Hood of Crime, Simon Templar, aka The Saint.
With:
Dick Fiddy
Neville Teller
Affectionate five-part series about popular radio detectives.
Producer: Jon Rolph
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in June 1998.
WED 19:00 Hancock's Half Hour (b007k0gt)
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:00 today]
WED 19:30 If You're So Clever, Why Aren't You Rich? (b00p33gd)
[Repeat of broadcast at 08:30 today]
WED 20:00 Father Brown Stories (b007jp3p)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 today]
WED 20:30 Detective (b0blv8k4)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:30 today]
WED 21:00 The Sondheim Archive (m000p8hc)
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:00 today]
WED 22:00 Conversations from a Long Marriage (m0012nt8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 today]
WED 22:25 Comedy Club Extra (m0012ntg)
Christmas Crackers
Isy Suttie
Isy Suttie shares what she's been up to over Christmas
WED 22:30 Little Lifetimes by Jenny Eclair (b04fc70w)
Series 1
The Viewing
A lonely woman takes a peek into other people's properties and lives when their houses are put up for sale.
Starring Annette Badland.
Leading actresses star in Jenny Eclair's comic series about women facing a crisis in their lives.
Producer: Sally Avens
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in August 2014.
WED 22:45 Tim Key's Late Night Poetry Programme (b01dht2y)
Series 1
Egypt

Tim Key is on a cultural pilgrimage to Cairo, as he grapples with the meaning of 'Egypt'.
Written and presented by Tim Key
Tom Basden plays guitar, while wearing a fez.
Producer: James Robinson
First broadcast on BBC Radio in March 2012.
WED 23:00 Radio Active (b007jxxw)
Series 6
Stop That Crime UK
The phone lines are open - as the radio team create their own, very special reconstructions to help catch the crooks.
Starring:
Helen Atkinson-Wood
Geoffrey Perkins
Angus Deayton
Philip Pope
Michael Fenton-Stevens
Written by Angus Deayton and Geoffrey Perkins with Michael Fenton-Stevens and Jon Canter.
Music by Philip Pope and Angus Deayton.
Producer: David Tyler
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in November 1986.
WED 23:30 The News at Bedtime (b00pftgg)
Series 1
Episode 6
Twin presenters John Tweedledum and Jim Tweedledee present in-depth news analysis covering the latest stories happening this 'once upon a time'.
Mary Mary has shocking news of an egg on a wall.
Written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman
Starring Jack Dee and Peter Capaldi.
With:
Lewis MacLeod
Alex Macquenn
Lucy Montgomery
Vicki Pepperdine
Dan Tetsell
Producer: Simon Nicholls
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2009.
WED 23:45 The Goldfish Bowl (b007k0x7)
Series 1
Episode 6
Liam and Anton witness the break up of Martin and Susan's relationship through their goldfish bowl.
Written by and starring Shaun Prendergast.
Martin Shaun Prendergast
Susan Sarah Parish
Anton Hamish McColl
Liam Sean Foley
Producer: Sally Avens.
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in September 1998.

THURSDAY 30 DECEMBER 2021

THU 00:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (b007jm3n)
[Repeat of broadcast at 18:00 on Wednesday]
THU 00:30 The Radio Detectives (b007jp7r)
[Repeat of broadcast at 18:30 on Wednesday]
THU 01:00 Father Brown Stories (b007jp3p)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 on Wednesday]
THU 01:30 Detective (b0blv8k4)
[Repeat of broadcast at 06:30 on Wednesday]
THU 02:00 Letters From Tove (m000cc85)
[Repeat of broadcast at 14:00 on Wednesday]
THU 02:15 D for Dexter (b09dyxyx)
[Repeat of broadcast at 14:15 on Wednesday]
THU 02:30 When Standing Stones Come Down to Drink (b00wnlct)
[Repeat of broadcast at 14:30 on Wednesday]
THU 03:00 Drama (b09xj1nn)
[Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Wednesday]
THU 04:00 The Write Stuff (m0012ntc)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Wednesday]
THU 04:30 Smelling of Roses (b00dwnch)
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 on Wednesday]
THU 05:00 Believe It! (b08lh9p)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:00 on Wednesday]
THU 05:30 Conversations from a Long Marriage (m0012nt8)
[Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 on Wednesday]
THU 06:00 Father Brown Stories (b007jp44)
Series 2
The Curse of the Golden Cross
What do an itinerant gambler, an English lady, a steward, a vicar and a professor have in common? And who has the right to it? Father Brown finds the answer.
Stars Andrew Sachs as Father Brown.
GK Chesterton's stories of an amateur clerical sleuth with an uncanny understanding of the criminal mind at work.
Dramatised by John Scotney.
Father Brown Andrew Sachs
Professor Smail Tim Reynolds
Mr Tarrant Peter Marinker
Lady Diana Natasha Pyne
Leonard Smythe Peter Wickham
Steward Terry O'Brien
Driver Jonathan Tafler

Doctor Eric Stovell
Directed at BBC Bristol by Alec Reid.
First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in October 1986.
THU 06:30 Detective (b0blv9s3)
Series 4
4. The Interrogation
DC Tully arrests a man behaving suspiciously. If - as he claims - he's innocent then why does he refuse to talk?
Starring Ray Brooks and Stephen Garlick.
Robert Barr's stories of crime and detection in London
Featuring long-serving, ducking-and-diving Detective Sergeant Dave Brook with his new partner, Detective Constable Tully.
DS Dave Brook Ray Brooks
DC Tully Stephen Garlick
Chief Inspector Roach Stephen Yardley
Ferris Tim Roth
Rennie Timothy Carlton
Mrs Graham Ellen McIntosh
PC Edwards Bernard Brown
Jailer Trevor Nichols
PC Graham Blockey
Producer: Martin Fisher
First broadcast on BBC Radio 2 in July 1985.
THU 07:00 Meet David Sedaris (b08zc6g1)
Series 6
A Number of Reasons I've Been Depressed, Lately; Diary extracts
The globetrotting, trash-picking, aisle-rolling storyteller is back on Radio 4 with more words of wit and wisdom:
* A Number Of Reasons I've Been Depressed, Lately
* Plus some recent diary extracts.
With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America's pre-eminent humour writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that he is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today.
David Sedaris's first book, Barrel Fever (1994), which included The SantaLand Diaries, was a critical and commercial success, as were his follow-up efforts, Naked (1997), Holidays on Ice (1997) and Me Talk Pretty One Day (2000). He became known for his bitingly funny recollections of his youth, family life and travels, making semi-celebrities out of his parents and siblings. David Sedaris has been nominated for three Grammy Awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album. A feature film adaptation of his story C.O.G. was released after a premier at the Sundance Film Festival (2013). He has been a contributor to BBC Radio 4 since 1996.
Producer: Steve Doherty
A Giddy Goat production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in August 2017.
THU 07:30 The Tim Vine Chat Show (m0012jq6s)
Christmas Special 2021
Tim pulls a cracker with the Great British Public and delivers a sleigh full of Christmas one-liners in this, the festive radio treat that features interviews with the audience as well as Tim's world famous one-liners and songs.
Featuring guests with fascinating Christmas stories like Terry the wood-seller as well as some musical Yuletide advice about Christmas dinner. Tim also sets a fiendish challenge to see how many dressing gowns you can remember.
Producer: Richard Morris
Production co-ordinator: Sarah Nicholls
A BBC Studios Production
THU 08:00 The Men from the Ministry (b01109vy)
Thoroughly Modern Ministry
Life's a drag for Lamb when a new receptionist isn't all she seems...
A weekly tribute to all those who work in government departments.
Lennox-Brown Deryck Guyler
Lamb Richard Murdoch
Mildred Murfin Norma Ronald
Sir Gregory Pitkin Ronald Baddiley
Matthews John Graham
Written by Edward Taylor and John Graham.
"The Men from the Ministry" ran for 14 series between 1962 and 1977.
Producer: Edward Taylor
First broadcast on the BBC Radio 4 in August 1971.
THU 08:30 After Henry (b007jnh1)
Series 2
The Cold
"Some people like all the pampering and self-indulgence that goes with being ill, and some of us just don't. It really comes down to whether one's a selfish sort of person or not. Sarah, her mother Eleanor and daughter Clare battle with colds - and each other."
Simon Brett's comedy about three generations of women - struggling to cope after the death of Sarah's GP husband - who never quite manage to see eye to eye.
Sarah Prunella Scales
Eleanor Joan Sanderson
Russell Benjamin Whitrow
Clare Gerry Cowper
Doctor Peter Howell
Four radio series were made, but instead of moving to BBC TV - Thames Television produced 'After Henry' for the ITV network.

Producer: Pete Atkin
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in August 1986.
THU 09:00 Many a Slip (b007jrx1)
 From 20/08/1974
 Quizmaster Roy Plomley challenges his contestants to spot the mistakes.
 Eleanor Summerfield and Isobel Barnett battle
 David Nixon and Paul Jennings
 With some tune-twisters from Steve Race.
 Devised and written by Ian Messiter.
 Producer: Trafford Whitelock
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in August 1974.
THU 09:30 Clare in the Community (b00g27lm)
 Series 2
 Brian Come Home
 Couples counselling is explored as a means to calm the ultra-PC social worker's constant criticism of her boyfriend Brian.
 Sally Phillips is Clare Barker the social worker who has all the right jargon but never a practical solution.
 A control freak, Clare likes nothing better than interfering in other people's lives on both a professional and personal basis.
 Clare is in her 30s, white, middle class and heterosexual, all of which are occasional causes of discomfort to her.
 Clare continually struggles to control both her professional and private life
 In today's Big Society there are plenty of challenges out there for an involved, caring social worker. Or even Clare.
 Written by Harry Venning and David Ramsden.
 Starring Sally Phillips and Alex Lowe.
 Clare Sally Phillips
 Brian Alex Lowe
 Jay Richard Lumsden
 Helen Gemma Craven
 Irene Ellen Thomas
 Megan Nina Conti
 Simon Andrew Wincott
 With Gerard McDermott
 Producer: Katie Tyrrell
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in November 2005.
THU 10:00 Drama (b09yckvk)
 Ibsen - An Enemy of the People:
 Episode 2
 Dr Stockmann has discovered the town's spa-baths are contaminated. How will this affect local business interests? Will Stockmann be publicly vilified?
 Will campaigning courage turn into self-righteous fanaticism?
 Vested interest lives on and this timeless 1882 drama is as up to date now as when it was first performed.
 Henrik Ibsen's dynamic thriller starring Alfred Molina, Adam Godley, Susannah Fielding, Ian Ogilvy and James Callis.
 Dramatised by Rebecca Lenkiewicz.
 Dr Thomas Stockmann Alfred Molina
 Peter Stockman Adam Godley
 Catherine Rosalind Ayres
 Petra Susannah Fielding
 Hovstad James Callis
 Aslaksen Matthew Wolf
 Billing Darren Richardson
 Horster Simon Templeman
 Morten Kiil Ian Ogilvy
 Edvard Vik Martin Jarvis
 The Drunk Julian Holloway
 Specially composed music: by A-Mnemonic.
 Director: Martin Jarvis
 A Jarvis and Ayres production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in April 2018.
THU 11:00 Desert Island Discs Revisited (b04hbxzv)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Sunday]
THU 11:45 The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry (m0001r7k)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 10:45 on Sunday]
THU 12:00 The Men from the Ministry (b01109vz)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 08:00 today]
THU 12:30 After Henry (b007jnh1)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 08:30 today]
THU 13:00 Father Brown Stories (b007jp44)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 today]
THU 13:30 Detective (b0blv9s3)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 06:30 today]
THU 14:00 Letters From Tove (m000cc0t)
 Episode 4
 Tove Jansson talks about Atos Wirtanen, author, politician, journalist and newspaper editor, in 1944. They have been a couple for over a year.
 Out of the thousands of letters Moomin creator Tove Jansson wrote, a cache remains that she addressed to her family, her dearest confidantes, and her lovers, both male and female.
 Into these, she spilled her innermost thoughts, defended her ideals and revealed her heart.
 To read these letters is both an act of startling intimacy and a rare privilege.
 Penned with grace and humour, Letters from Tove offers an almost seamless commentary on Tove Jansson's life as it unfolds within Helsinki's bohemian circles and her island home.
 Spanning 50 years between her art studies and the height of Moomin fame, we hear the bleakness of war, the hopes for love that were dashed and renewed, and her determined attempts to establish herself as an artist.

Translated from the Swedish by Sarah Death.
 Abridged by Polly Coles
 Read by Sarah Lambie
 Producer: Clive Brill
 A Brill production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in December 2019.
THU 14:15 D for Dexter (b09f2cxw)
 Series 4
 Episode 4
 Skye's in shock.
 She has to pretend that everything's ok, but nothing will ever be the same again.
 Amanda Whittington's heart-breakingly brave, funny and beautiful story exploring the issue of neglect.
 Sydney Wade ... Skye
 Alfie Johnson ... Dexter
 Zoe Johnson ... Shanice
 Una McNulty ... Jak
 Etta Fusi ... Leanne
 Julie Riley ... Mia
 Tayla Kovacevic-Ebong ... Mr Doshi
 Octavia Bettis ... Nasty Girl
 Music by Smashing Pumpkins and Beyoncé, performed by Tom Constantine.
 Director: Mary Ward-Lowery
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in November 2017.
THU 14:30 Natural Histories (b082hg39)
 Fly Agaric
 Brett Westwood seeks out the magical mushroom, Fly Agaric.
 With its red cap and white spots. Its story is entwined with Father Christmas, Alice in Wonderland and the founding of religion itself.
 The mushroom's hallucinogenic properties and its appearance in fairy tales make it the most evocative of all British fungi.
 Brett goes searching for a fly agaric into the woods with River Cottage forager John Wright and talks to pharmacologist Professor Richard Miller and Dr Patrick Harding author of The Christmas Book about its surprising importance in human culture.
 With readings from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Claire Skinner.
 Original Producer: Beth O'Dea
 Archive Producer: Andrew Dawes for BBC Audio in Bristol
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in November 2016.
THU 15:00 Drama (b09yckvk)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 today]
THU 16:00 Many a Slip (b007jrx1)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]
THU 16:30 Clare in the Community (b00g27lm)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 today]
THU 17:00 Meet David Sedaris (b08zc6g1)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 07:00 today]
THU 17:30 The Tim Vine Chat Show (m0012q6s)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 today]
THU 18:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (b007jm46)
 The Secondary Phase
 Fit The Ninth
 The Vogons make an unwelcome return. Zaphod holds a séance, and Arthur's quest for tea paralyses the ship.
 Douglas Adams' sci-fi comedy following the misadventures of hapless human Arthur Dent.
 The Book Peter Jones
 Arthur Dent Simon Jones
 Ford Prefect Geoffrey McGivern
 Zaphod Beeblebrox Mark Wing-Davey
 Eddie David Tate
 Marvin Stephen Moore
 The Nutrimat Machine Leueen Willoughby
 Vogan Captain Bill Wallis
 Zaphod Beeblebrox IV Richard Goolden
 Radiophonic sound and music by Paddy Kingsland.
 Producer: Geoffrey Perkins
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 1978.
THU 18:30 Great Lives (b09h3rc7)
 Series 44
 Will Gregory on Flann O'Brien
 Goldfrapp's Will Gregory is centre-stage at the Colston Hall in Bristol to tell Matthew Parris why he feels a kinship with Flann O'Brien.
 The Irish writer's books 'At Swim-Two-Birds' and 'The Third Policeman' are now hailed as literary masterpieces, but only came to prominence after the author's death.
 Carol Taaffe, who has written about Flann, helps make sense of the man who wrote under three pseudonyms - Brian O'Nolan, Flann O'Brien, and Myles na gCopaleen. They look more closely at the novels and newspaper column he wrote alongside his job in the Civil Service, whilst maintaining a steady presence in Dublin's pubs.
 Will reads extracts he believes illustrate the brilliance with which O'Brien slips between realism and surrealism, and Carol sheds light on who said that 'At Swim-Two-Birds' "...was just the book to give your Sister if she's a loud dirty boozy girl."
 Producer: Toby Field
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2017.
THU 19:00 The Men from the Ministry (b01109vz)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 08:00 today]
THU 19:30 After Henry (b007jnh1)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 08:30 today]

THU 20:00 Father Brown Stories (b007jp44)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 today]
THU 20:30 Detective (b0blv9s3)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 06:30 today]
THU 21:00 Desert Island Discs Revisited (b04hbxzv)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Sunday]
THU 21:45 The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry (m0001r7k)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 10:45 on Sunday]
THU 22:00 The Tim Vine Chat Show (m0012q6s)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 today]
THU 22:25 Comedy Club Extra (m0012s36)
 Christmas Crackers
 Laura Lexx
 Laura Lexx brings us a sackload of festive cheer.
THU 22:30 The Penny Dreadfuls (m0008z4)
 Hadrian's Beard
 Emperor Hadrian was so eager to defend the outer reaches of the Roman Empire and repel attacks from the Barbarians, that he was determined to build a wall across Britain, sea to sea, just north of the great fort Vindolanda.
 That physical legacy is still in part visible between Northumberland and Cumbria to this day.
 This comedy play looks under the skin of the Emperor who broke with various traditions, not least growing a beard where all Roman leaders were previously clean-shaven; and his deep love of all things Grecian.
 All does not go according to plan when he arrives and it seems that this brave 'soldier' is more troubled than first impressions suggest.
 Written by David Reed
 Emperor Hadrian ... Tony Gardner
 Queen Bridget ... Mina Anwar
 With The Penny Dreadfuls:
 Humphrey Ker
 David Reed
 Thom Tuck
 And Margaret Cabourn-Smith.
 Producer: Julia McKenzie
 A BBC Studios production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in August 2019.
THU 23:15 Ivor Cutler - A Wet Handle (b00cl648)
 Episode 2
 'Walking Down the Road' and 'The Jambeena Body Affair'.
 Music, prosaic idiosyncrasy and whimsy from the unique Ivor Cutler.
 With:
 Alison O'Kill
 Craig Murray-Orr
 Producer: Neil Cargill
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in June 1997.
THU 23:30 The Secret World (b012gs0y)
 Series 2
 Episode 3
 David Beckham tries to hire a rainbow for a party.
 The comedy impressions series examining the bizarre and private lives of public people.
 Starring:
 Jon Culshaw
 Margaret Cabourn-Smith
 Julian Dutton
 Jess Robinson
 Lewis Macleod
 Duncan Wisbey
 Written by Bill Dare and Julian Dutton.
 Producer: Bill Dare
 First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in July 2010.

FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER 2021

FRI 00:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (b007jm46)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 18:00 on Thursday]
FRI 00:30 Great Lives (b09h3rc7)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 18:30 on Thursday]
FRI 01:00 Father Brown Stories (b007jp44)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 on Thursday]
FRI 01:30 Detective (b0blv9s3)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 06:30 on Thursday]
FRI 02:00 Letters From Tove (m000cc0t)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 14:00 on Thursday]
FRI 02:15 D for Dexter (b09f2cxw)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 14:15 on Thursday]
FRI 02:30 Natural Histories (b082hg39)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 14:30 on Thursday]
FRI 03:00 Drama (b09yckvk)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 10:00 on Thursday]
FRI 04:00 Many a Slip (b007jrx1)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 on Thursday]
FRI 04:30 Clare in the Community (b00g27lm)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 09:30 on Thursday]
FRI 05:00 Meet David Sedaris (b08zc6g1)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 07:00 on Thursday]
FRI 05:30 The Tim Vine Chat Show (m0012q6s)
 [Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 on Thursday]
FRI 06:00 Father Brown Stories (b0081ivr)
 Series 2
 Actor and Alibi

FRI 18:30 Off the Page (b01k9wpr)

Bohemians

Bohemians - love them or loathe them, we've all met them.

Dominic Arkwright and guests discuss avant-garde free spirits - or pretentious, posing pseudo-intellectuals, depending on your point of view.

With an original free spirit; the writer Hanja Kochansky, writer and critic Cosmo Landesman, whose parents' eccentric behaviour caused the young Cosmo much embarrassment; and by the journalist who declares in his blog that he is 'right about everything', James Delingpole.

Has the British bohemian spirit - if there ever was one - disappeared?

Now boho is mainstream, desirable even, what is there to rebel against?

Producer: Sarah Langan.

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in July 2012.

FRI 19:00 Dad's Army (b007jpp4)

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:00 today]

FRI 19:30 Married (b00c0c35)

[Repeat of broadcast at 08:30 today]

FRI 20:00 Father Brown Stories (b00811vr)

[Repeat of broadcast at 06:00 today]

FRI 20:30 Detective (b0blvcb3)

[Repeat of broadcast at 06:30 today]

FRI 21:00 Podcast Radio Hour (m0012slg)

[Repeat of broadcast at 11:00 today]

FRI 22:00 Alex Horne Presents The Horne Section (b03mg0cs)

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:30 today]

FRI 22:25 Comedy Club Extra (m0012slj)

Christmas Crackers

Jake Yapp

Jake Yapp rounds off our Christmas Crackers - and the year - in song

FRI 22:30 Hamish and Dougal: You'll Have Had Your Tea (b008kl37)

Hogmanay Special

Hamish and Dougal find themselves celebrating Hogmanay with a busload of celebrities after they get stuck in a snowdrift on its way to the BBC's Hogmanay Cavalcade in Edinburgh.

Barry Cryer and Graeme Garden star as the two elderly Scotsmen famed for their appearances on BBC Radio's I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue.

Mrs Naughtie Alison Steadman

The Laird Jeremy Hardy

Humphrey Lyttelton Butler

Tim Brooke-Taylor Himself

Sandi Wedge Sandi Toksvig

James James Naughtie

Pianist Colin Sell

Producer: Jon Naismith

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2004.

FRI 23:00 Old Harry's Game (b00wr9vv)

2. Ring in the New

Satan decides he needs a holiday away from hell.

Written by and starring Andy Hamilton.

With Annette Crosbie as Edith, Robert Duncan as Scumspawn, Jimmy Mulville as Thomas.

And Felicity Montagu, Nick Revell, Philip Pope and Michael Fentons Stevens.

Producer: Paul Mayhew-Archer

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in December 2010.

FRI 23:30 That Mitchell and Webb Sound (b00m6bhh)

Series 4

Episode 1

An orthopaedic supplies company with its very own transgalactic portal.

The correct way to talk to an emperor.

How Saturday night TV shows are invented.

And a mysterious discovery at the Institute of Creatures.

All is revealed in the return of the comedy sketch show series.

Starring David Mitchell and Robert Webb.

With:

Olivia Colman

James Bachman

Sarah Hadland

Producer Gareth Edwards

First broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in August 2009.