

ariel

ECLECTIC PROMS TUNES UP WITH
UNLIKELY MUSICAL MIX
Page 5

WE HAVE LIFT OFF

◆ **IT MIGHT LOOK** like a stairway to heaven, but it's actually the first glimpse of how London's W1 newsroom could look in just over a year's time. Stark and stunning in BBC News red and white, the towering lift shaft and spiral stairs could soon be familiar to viewers too. **Page 3**

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Room 2316, White City
201 Wood Lane, London W12 7TS
020 8008 4228

Managing Editor

Stephen James-Yeoman 02-84222

Deputy editors

Sally Hillier 02-26877

Cathy Loughran 02-27360

Features editor

Clare Bolt 02-27445

Reporters

Laura Scarrott 02-84224

Production editor

Claire Barrett 02-27368

Art editor

Ken Sinyard 02-84229

Business co-ordinator

Silvana Romana 02-84228

Ariel mail

claire.barrett@bbc.co.uk

Ariel online explore.gateway.bbc.uk/ariel

BBC Jobs 0370 333 1330

Jobs telephone 028 9032 8478

BBC Jobs John Clarke 02-27143

Room 2120, White City, London W12 7TS

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Guest contributors this week

ALISON HARPER, who is on the final stretch of the clipper round the world race, writes about the challenges and rewards of being a one-woman filming, reporting and production unit on the high seas. Pages 8-9

PAUL CORCORAN explains how he got lucky with an attachment to the Connect and Create team. Page 14

Printing

Garnett Dickinson Group
Rotherham 01709 768000

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Six months: £26, £36, £40

Twelve months: £50, £60, £68

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Cheques to: Garnett Dickinson Print,
Brookfields Way, Manvers,
Wath Upon Dearne, Rotherham S63 5DL
Tel 01709 768199

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Telephone 0800 0688 159

Ceefax Page 159 www.bbc.co.uk/159

Ariel is produced by Internal

Communications for people at the BBC



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NEED TO KNOW THE WEEK'S ESSENTIALS

Not on the web? You're not alone

◆ **OCTOBER 23 IS GET ONLINE DAY**, a national initiative to help people get to grips with computers and the internet. The BBC, including Radio 2 and local radio, is taking part with various items and features aimed at encouraging more people to start using the web.

It emerged last week that ten million adults in the UK, representing almost a quarter of the population, never use the internet – either at home or anywhere else.

What's more, 83 percent of non-users say they are unlikely to start using it any time soon, with a similar percentage knowing little or almost nothing about the internet.

Sixty-six percent of those questioned in the independent survey, commissioned by the BBC from Essential Research and Ipsos MORI, said they simply had no interest in the web.

The average age of non-users is 61, but a significant minority (14 percent) are between 15 and 34.

The findings were published as Mark Thompson hosted an Online Access Forum at Television Centre at which delegates from the BBC and outside organisations discussed how they might help to bridge the digital divide.

Among the actions suggested in the report are: enlisting friends and family as 'connection coaches'; using internet-connected tv to make online services more accessible to people not accustomed to computers; communicating the benefits of facilities such as photosharing and catch-up tv; reassuring people that 'the internet is for them, can save money and be fun'.

Mail and Ariel View, Page 11

◆ **THE PRESS HAS REPORTED** that Alan Yentob is drawing both a BBC pension and salary. In line with its policy of not discussing individuals' pension arrangements, the BBC has declined to comment on the stories about its creative director, but has pointed out that it is not unusual for employees to receive a pension and salary at the same time.

If you have two or more years' pensionable service and are aged at least 50, you can ask for your pension to be paid, in whole or in part, while continuing to work for the corporation (from April 2010 you will have to be aged at least 55 to apply – a legislative requirement).

Under the flexible pension arrangement, pension payments are reduced if taken early using a scale determined by the BBC and the Pension Scheme trustees. Currently payments are reduced by 40 percent at age 50, by 20 percent at age 55 and by eight percent at 58.



If you choose to take advantage of a flexible pension while remaining in employment, you can remain an active member of the Pension Scheme and build up further benefits for future service. When you eventually leave the BBC, you can receive your remaining pension (ie benefits built up after taking flexible payment).

◆ **JUST AS MANY STAFF** predicted this time last year, when the BBC's contribution to festive celebrations was capped at £25 a head, the budget has been cut again – only this time to zero.

If you're planning a lunch or dinner with colleagues this Christmas, be prepared to dip into your own pockets because there will be no funding from the bosses.

The decision has been made by the BBC direction group (BDG), and the reason? The economic downturn of course. 'In light of the current climate, the BBC has decided not to make contributions to staff Christmas parties this year,' says the corporation in a statement.

It brings to an end a well-established tradition of management helping to foot the bill for departmental meals at the end of the year as a thank you to people for their hard work over the previous 12 months.

Until 2008, when the limit was set at £25 as part of a belt-tightening move that also saw the introduction of a no champagne on the house rule, the BBC used to contribute £50 a head to staff Christmas celebrations. Those were the days.

JUST A MINUTE GOES BACK TO UNIVERSITY

by **Laura Scarrott**

Radio 4 visited the University of Derby last week as part of a tour designed to showcase the station to the 'curious minds of tomorrow'.

The visit gave students a chance to see Just a Minute, Woman's Hour and The Moral Maze being recorded, meet production teams and attend workshops and presentations.

The next stop on the tour is the University of Bedfordshire followed by Cardiff University.

'The tour is a pilot, so we can't say if it will become a regular fixture,'

explains commissioning editor Caroline Raphael. 'We're at each university for two days recording a variety of programmes at each venue.'

'As well as the programming, there are off-air events for students such as a writers' workshop and an opportunity to have a go at reading the news.'

Tickets to programme recordings are available exclusively to students and staff at the universities.



Young again: performers Justin Moorhouse, Tony Hawks, Nicholas Parsons, Dave Gorman and Josie Lawrence

NEWS BITES

LUDOVIC KENNEDY, the writer and former BBC journalist, has died aged 89. A campaigner against miscarriages of justice, he was also well known as an advocate of assisted dying, and was president of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society.

ANDY KERSHAW is to return to Radio 3 after losing his world music show more than two years ago. He was taken off the station in 2007 after domestic troubles saw him jailed for repeatedly breaking a restraining order. Details of his comeback are yet to be announced.

BBC LONDON will mark 1000 days until the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympics with a special from east London on October 31 and November 1. '2012 live' will be a weekend of internet streamed programmes with content produced and presented by the public. More details at bbc.co.uk/london

CAT DEELEY will host *So You Think You Can Dance* on BBC One in the new year. She is currently presenting her fifth season of the series in the US.

A SMALL BBC team is covering the Paralympic European Swimming Championships in Iceland. Radio 5 live Sports Extra is providing live coverage on October 21 and 22, featuring races with young sports personality of the year Eleanor Simmonds.

ANDREW JEFFREY, Newcastle-based online producer for *The Politics Show*, is to take over as chairman of the BBC disabled staff forum in the new year, succeeding Geoff Adams-Spink.

VIDEO BULLETINS have been launched on the BBC's Spanish-language service, bbcmundo.com. The bulletins, entitled *The World In One Minute*, are designed to keep Spanish-speaking users up to date with global news developments.

DEBORAH TURNESS, editor of ITV News, has been appointed advisory chair of the MediaGuardian Edinburgh International Television Festival Advisory Committee, taking over from Elaine Bedell.

RICHARD SEAGO, programme manager in BBC Workplace, raised more than £700 for Children in Need in a charity cycle. This will go towards the Workplace target of £150,000 for CiN this year.

A BLACK History Month Quiz will be held by the BBC Black and Asian Forum on October 28 from 6.30-10pm in the Television Centre Club. Entrance £5 including Caribbean food. bbafevents@bbc.co.uk

BBC ARABIC AND YOU

* **DO YOU** work in News?
* **DO YOU** understand Arabic?
* **DO YOU** speak it? Read it? Write it?
IF YOU fit any/all of these categories and are looking for a new challenge contact Elise Wicker at BBC Arabic on 0207 5572613

BBC responds to Hain over legal action warning on Question Time

Controversy mounts ahead of BNP debate



by Cathy Loughran

While the BNP is still a functioning political party that could put candidates up for election tomorrow, the BBC is standing by its decision to include Nick Griffin on the panel for Thursday's *Question Time*.

That was spelled out on Monday in a published reply to Welsh secretary Peter Hain, who had warned the BBC they could face a legal challenge over allowing the BNP leader onto the panel, after the party was taken to court over its ethnic restrictions on membership rules.

The BNP has said it will move to amend its constitution after the Equalities and Human Rights Commission last week sought an injunction, claiming the BNP was breaking the Race Relations Act by admitting only 'indigenous Caucasian' people.

In his letter, Hain challenged the BBC that, as the BNP had accepted it is at present 'an unlawful body', it would be 'perverse' of the corporation to maintain that it is just like any other elected party. He claimed the BBC's attitude was 'unreasonable, irrational and unlawful'.

Responding to Hain, the BBC said: 'According to the advice we've received, the British National Party is not prevented from continuing to operate on a day to day basis and its

elected representatives continue to sit on councils and in the European Parliament.'

It remained the BBC's obligation to scrutinise and hold to account all elected representatives and to do so with 'due impartiality'. The BBC added: 'We are also advised that if there were to be any election – local or national – tomorrow, the BNP would still be able to field candidates.'

The most controversial edition of the programme for years has lined up commentators for and against Griffin's first ever appearance and even split the Cabinet, with Home Secretary Alan Johnson joining Hain in his opposition to the BBC's 'legitimising' of the BNP with a place on the panel alongside justice secretary Jack Straw. Other panellists at the TV Centre debate are Conservative peer Sayeeda Warsi, Lib Dem home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne and playwright and critic Bonnie Greer.

The Guardian newspaper was one voice critical of 'normalising' the BNP and giving it access to the 'hustings' of the *Question Time* studio, rather than forensic interview.

But the weekend's YouGov poll for the Sunday Times found that the public backed the BBC decision by 63 to 23 percent.

Speaking to Ariel on Monday, Ric Bailey, chief political advisor and a former executive editor of *Question*

'YouGov poll reflects what our audience is telling us'
Ric Bailey

Time, reiterated the BBC's argument for allowing Griffin on. There was no impartiality diagram, or scientific vote counter, he said.

'All along it's been a judgement about *due* impartiality, which means looking at the political context. Lots of politicians take part in *Question Time* across the year and we take a judgement about what's fair representation for all parties across a whole series.

'What's different for this series is electoral support. The BNP have national representation for the first time with two MEPs in Europe as well as councillors. We had to take that into account, just as we did previously with the Green party and UKIP.'

He added: 'I've been surprised by the numbers of people who are opposed to the BNP who think the right way to expose them is to have them on *Question Time*. The YouGov

poll reflects what we're hearing from our audience.'

The audience for Thursday's edition has been found in the usual way – using opinion poll measures – and proportionately was likely to include members of the BNP, as would any other edition of the programme, Bailey said.

The BNP's website now has a timer ticking down to the programme's transmission time and has carried an article attacking the non-white panellists – accusing Greer of being a 'black history fabricator' and Warsi of being 'another product of Tory affirmative action'.

Unite Against Fascism protests are planned outside Television Centre on Thursday and Hammersmith and Fulham Council, who are expecting more than a thousand demonstrators, have complained to the BBC that the built up west London environment is not a suitable location.

With its steady stream of Cabinet ministers, *Question Time*, produced by Mentorn Oxford, has well established security planning. Responding to council concerns, the BBC said it was aware of 'potential security issues' and was making 'appropriate arrangements'.

See Gateway and Ariel online for any updates affecting west London on the day.

• Mail – page 11

SPLIT OPINION HAS BBC MADE THE RIGHT CALL ON GRIFFIN INVITATION?

I'm really disappointed that we have to carry this speaker, but we do. I only hope that we make a better job of exposing his ridiculous hypocrisy and savage idiocy to the general public than we have to date.

Ant Miller, technologist, FM&T

In this instance I believe the BBC has made the right call. We have an obligation enshrined in our charter to be impartial to all participants in the democratic process and that cannot be applied selectively. Democracy is an absolute and stifling minority opinions because of their objectionable nature does not neuter them; quite the opposite. The BNP's views are their own worst enemy and for them to be challenged and refuted in a public forum is the best way to ensure they are not taken seriously.

My only hope is that the opposition against Nick Griffin on the programme will be as intelligent and ferocious as it deserves to be.

Paul Tweedy, technical lead, FM&T

I think it is a disgraceful decision, and as a black person born in the UK and working for the BBC I am disheartened that this racist is being allowed airtime.

BBC executive producer

I'm with the BBC on this one. The BNP may be a racist organisation but they are a racist organisation capable of winning votes. I would rather they were given a platform on QT where they can have the flaws in their racist arguments exposed to debate, than be left to distribute their racist material unchallenged because the mainstream parties and media shy away from discussing difficult issues.

Mary Gledhill, development manager, BBC Worldwide

I figure if the BNP is allowed to stand in the election and has MEPs then it's a legitimate party and has the same rights as other political parties. Also bringing them onto QT opens up discussion – and knowledge is power. Once people hear what they have to say, and they are challenged rationally, voters will be able to make up their own minds. QT should expose the BNP's racism which they often hide in propaganda as being pro-UK.

Joanna Witt, multiplatform producer

The BNP are not a legitimate party – they are anti-democratic as well as racist – and in the name of impartiality, the BBC is bending over backwards when it doesn't need to. They should not be given a platform to promote their racist policies.

Luke Crawley, BECTU

Salford finishing line 'is now in sight' says Salmon

by Peggy Walker

The first building that will be occupied by the BBC in Salford is ready for its internal fit out.

Building C, on what is still very much a building site, is the largest of the three BBC office blocks and will be home to Radio 5 live, Sport and local and regional news.

Peel Media, the developer and owner of the MediaCityUK site, officially delivered the building, ahead of schedule, last week.

The hand over ceremony was hosted by *North West Tonight* presenter Ranvir Singh and *A Question of Sport* team captain Matt Dawson.

To mark the occasion, John Whitaker, the chairman of Peel Holdings, passed a glass baton to BBC Trust chairman Michael Lyons.

Peter Salmon, director of BBC North, said: 'This is the first, exciting step in rewiring the BBC in the North of England. I feel like a runner on the last leg of a relay race. The finishing line is now in sight.'

'Though there is still much work to do before we can broadcast and launch operations in 2011, we can now see that ambition taking physical shape.'

Chief operating officer Caroline Thomson added: 'The BBC needs to serve audiences across the north. It's very special to be able to construct something from scratch, and the dream is starting to turn into reality.'

The BBC will take delivery of two more buildings – to house BBC Children's, BBC Learning, Religion,

Radio, hundreds of technologists and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra in the spring of 2010, creating the corporation's second largest base after London.

All those in the divisions scheduled to move from London have now voted on whether or not to relocate, with the 'yes' vote much higher, at around 45 percent, than the average for big company moves, although some staff say they have decided to go north not because they really want to, but through fear of redundancy.

Network news gets more of a UK feel

by Sally Hillier

'Significant improvements' have been made in covering the nations across network news and current affairs, but more still needs to be done, according to a report by the BBC Executive.

The report, which examines progress in implementing the findings of the BBC Trust's initial review of network coverage of the UK, published in June 2008, highlights some of the steps already taken.

These include:

- An expanded Reporting the UK online training module produced by the College of Journalism

- The launch of a scheme in which senior network editors have placements in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regions to help improve their understanding of devolution stories

- Workshops at which subject specialists across the UK in health, science and the environment, education and social policy and home affairs share ideas and information.

In addition, the merger of News with the English Regions has created stronger ties and closer co-operation between London and the BBC in the rest of England.

The trust's review last year included assessment by Anthony King of Essex University, who found weaknesses in the way the BBC covered news from the devolved nations in its network output.

Following that review, the tenth

anniversary of devolution pushed political stories from the devolved bodies up the national news agenda, with some network shows temporarily decamping from London (for example Radio 2's Jeremy Vine show and BBC Two's *The Daily Politics* with Andrew Neil broadcasting from the Welsh Assembly studios).

More recently, there has been 'genuine UK-wide' coverage of the recession, with network business and economics correspondents reporting from towns and cities across England, as well as reflecting how the downturn is affecting communities in places such as Inverness, Ebbw Vale and Belfast.

The trust has now commissioned its own independent research to assess progress so far.

'The trust is determined that the BBC should serve all audiences, and licence fee payers themselves tell us they want to know more about what's going on in the nations and regions,' says chairman Michael Lyons.

'The trust's report last year showed that while there was no doubt about the impartiality of the BBC's news reporting, greater accuracy was needed to improve coverage of the UK's nations.'

'It is encouraging that management have acted on this, and made operational changes... We now look to the director-general and his team to build on this progress and demonstrate that they can sustain the momentum already built up in order to deliver long-lasting change.'

Take that for a terrific line-up



PAUL MCCARTNEY, SHIRLEY BASSEY, LILY ALLEN and DIZZEE RASCAL will join Take That for a special concert next month. Children in Need Rocks the Royal Albert Hall takes place on November 12. Take That singer Gary Barlow had been due to announce the star-studded line-up at a press event in London last Friday, but had to cancel due to a family bereavement, so Terry Wogan gave the details on his Radio 2 show. The concert, to be hosted by Chris Moyles, will be broadcast on BBC One during the weekend before the main Children in Need appeal on November 20. Coverage of the concert will be repeated on BBC Three on November 18 with highlights, presented by Kate Thornton, on Radio 2 on November 19.

Candida Watson to lead Ariel

Candida Watson has been appointed the new editor of Ariel. Most recently assignment editor in the BBC newsroom's business unit, she is a former assignment editor in newsgathering's health and science unit and its impact unit. She has also worked in a number of BBC newsrooms across the UK, including as network news editor in Belfast, and has experience of the independent sector and weekly newspapers. She takes up her new job on November 2, succeeding Andrew Harvey who retired three months ago.

The Culture Show has a new editor

Janet Lee has been appointed the new editor of *The Culture Show* and will run the BBC Two programme across production bases in both London and Glasgow.

Currently editor of the BBC One strand *Imagine*, presented by Alan Yentob, and before that commissioning editor for arts at Channel 4, Lee takes over from Edward Morgan, who is stepping down from *The Culture Show* to become head of the college of production for the BBC Academy.

The Culture Show, which returns on October 22, presented by Mark Kermode and Simon Mayo from The London Film Festival, was expanded recently to 60 minutes and is now filmed on location at different cultural events across the country.

Frankie Boyle in deep water

The BBC Trust Editorial Standards Committee has upheld a complaint over remarks about swimmer Rebecca Adlington, made by Frankie Boyle last year on *Mock the Week*. They had the potential to offend ... while humiliating someone who 'had not sought celebrity status or courted media attention'.

Another Boyle joke, relating to the Queen, was deemed in 'poor taste' but in line with audience expectations. That complaint was not upheld.



Crusaders: Declan Curry of Working Lunch meets the locals

WHEN THE GOING gets tough... you need a superhero. This trio turned up at the BBC's Money Matters roadshow in Glasgow last week. Tv, radio and online teams joined financial experts to explain the economic situation and answer questions.



National dress: Clare Lyons, Iain Haddow and Ann Charles outside the Camden Roundhouse

DOVETAILING OF INDIE AND FOLK

EPIC INDIE ROCK and the massed choral sounds of a traditional Bulgarian choir from London. Not a typical combination experienced by plastic pint glass-toting gig goers, eager to hear the soulful sounds of Doves, but the appearance of the London Bulgarian Choir alongside Doves is a creative flourish typical of the BBC Electric Proms, now in its fourth year.

Thirty five of the 60-strong London Bulgarian Choir will tread the boards at the Roundhouse on Thursday.

The group, led by renowned Bulgarian singer Dessislava Stefanova, are no strangers to rock'n roll after regular slots backing guitar-toting

Didn't get a ticket to the Electric Proms? Know any Bulgarian choral music? Adam Bambury meets the BBC backing singers

romantics British Sea Power. Comprising a motley crew made up of varying nationalities, they include a large Bulgarian contingent as well as UK natives – three of whom happen to work at the BBC.

Longest serving is Clare Lyons, who joined the choir five years ago after hearing iconic 1986 album *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*. A deputy planning editor at World News, she

persuaded World tv colleague Iain Haddow to sign up; project manager Ann Charles joined in January 2007, eager to get back into singing after a break and looking for a choir that 'didn't require 800 sight tests to join, and people you could go to the pub with afterwards'.

The London Bulgarian Choir has a unique style, fusing the power of a massed choir with an earthy phys-

icality. 'It's an amazing sound,' says Clare. 'First of all it's lovely to listen to – very resonant, powerful and emotional, with close harmonies. It's like vibrational therapy. The whole room moves and you're a part of that. It's quite different from any other kind of singing.'

Composer Avshalom Caspi has been brought in to rearrange Doves' indie anthems so they work with the choir. 'We're quite interesting to rehearse with because we sound horrible for a while and then we suddenly get it right,' says Ann.

'I think he's used to singing with session musicians...'

The choir has been rehearsing since July for the event on October 22, which goes out on 6 Music, BBC Two and BBC HD.

Clare admits it has been slightly tricky fitting in all the rehearsals, particularly as August is the month the choir usually takes off to rest their throats. They didn't even meet the Doves until Sunday (Oct 18). 'We call them our backing band,' Ann whispers.

As for where they got their stylish traditional Bulgarian outfits – it's a trade secret.

BBC Electric Proms, October 20 - 24

Asian Network discovers that all you need is a hug

EVERY DAY FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS – people have queued to get a hug from a living 'saint'. Mata Amritanandamayi, or Amma (Mother) as she is known, has embraced millions of people from around the world and for many the experience has been life-changing.

Asian Network presenter Ameet Channa caught up with the Hugging Guru – the woman born in a remote fishing village in southern India who has made it her spiritual mission to uplift humanity – in Finland at the start of her European tour.

'We went to interview her and over two days there must have been

about 2000 people who came to hug her. It was an incredibly well oiled machine,' says Channa. 'Everyone was given a token with a letter and number. It was a bit like Noah's Ark – we were called up two by two.'

Each pair was invited to kneel before the seated Amma. 'She asked what our mother tongue was and then whispered a few words in our ears as she clasped us between her bosom and her armpit and hugged us,' Channa continues. 'It felt like it lasted quite a while and it was, actually, a rather comforting sensation.'

Despite a huge crowd, nobody could put the feeling into words.

'Even people who had seen her several times couldn't explain what kept bringing them back,' Channa says, 'but it seemed to me that people were looking for something. I was particularly surprised by the number of young people – the 16-18 year olds – who were there.'

So is the spiritual leader, who has founded schools, hospitals and orphanages, the real deal?

Channa is no wiser. 'But if someone's giving you a hug and raising money for good causes then... well, why not?'

Listen again bbc.co.uk/asiannetwork



Close encounter: Ameet Channa in Finland with Amma (behind) in full hug

Goodbye Mediawire, hello Newswire – a faster, more sophisticated service, **Clare Bolt** discovers

SAM TAYLOR, Newswire's editor, is by his own admission a little sleep deprived, following the birth of his twin daughters.

He has also been staying up late overseeing the relaunch of Newswire, which this week transformed from wire service Mediawire into a grown-up multimedia news agency.

'We want it to be like Reuters,' Taylor offers. 'Everyone who uses ENPS will be able to get our content in a single feed, so that's audio, text and video. We've created a single stream of output and we're using a single name

with a strong editorial reputation.'

Newswire's picture editors and UGC experts, its video recording and logging operation and monitoring teams, are dotted around the Television Centre newsroom, where they landed from the seventh floor. 'This is the next step,' Taylor says. 'We've brought them together physically, and now we need them to work in a genuinely multimedia way.'

The changes were in part designed to help news online: Newswire transcribes audio visual clips, and has a ready made supply of up to the minute quotes to drop into stories. Unlike Re-

uters, they don't publish finished stories, but will act as a kind of 'one stop shop' where you can pick up headlines, video floats and audio clips. The UGC team can also point you towards interviewees who can speak eloquently (for tv) or eye witness accounts (transcribed for online).

'What's changed is that we're not just bringing in material,' Taylor says. 'We check it, assess it, work out what people can do with it. It's about applying editorial judgement and getting stuff quickly into news bulletins.'

Turning material round at speed is their USP. When David Cameron derided all Tweet-ers as 'twats' in an interview on Absolute Radio, Newswire was listening: they called the station, got the cues, agreed credits so that the BBC had the story on air and online at the same time as Sky, a business partner of Absolute.

When rioting broke out in Tehran, where newsgathering has a limited operation, Newswire tracked down UGC footage, verified it with the Persian Service and published it in one centralised place in the ENPS, making it easier for everyone to find.

'It's a huge labour saving device,' says assistant editor Rob Lawrence, referring to the party conferences, where 'people in news knew that they could come to us for the best pictures from the feeds and the best soundbites'.

Luke Ellis, one of Newswire's media co-ordinators, was on standby during the conferences. 'News were coming over to check that we were across specific speeches, because they wanted to reflect the best bits. They wanted to make sure they were expressly looked after, but it's what we do routinely anyway.'

The existence of Newswire gives people the confidence to 'go off and do other things', he reasons.

'Obviously people will want to tailor stuff to their own needs, but if

you are up against it, time-wise, you have something you can trust, that you know is accurate and up to date.'

But if everyone is drawing on one set of centralised content, wouldn't the output end up rather bland? Taylor insists that the existence of Newswire doesn't represent 'a drift towards homogeneity', with *Newsnight* indistinguishable from *Newsbeat*. 'If we have strong content everyone needs to be aware of it. If we can develop relationships with other parts of the BBC so they bring stuff to us, we can actually create more variety in our core output.'

Ellis points to programmes like *HardTalk* as well as the Asian Network, which have been successfully using Newswire as a virtual shop window to promote their own content around the organisation. When Anton du Beke's remarks were made public, the Asian Network sent their best vox pops to Newswire, which then shared them around the rest of the BBC.

Taylor also points out that most people would prefer to send their best content to Newswire, rather than be besieged by 15 programme editors calling them up for a clip. 'The idea is that when you have stuff, you don't sit there with people shouting, *where's the footage*. We will take it and we have a loud voice.'

Although it's a multimedia operation, he wants to maintain specialisation. 'You need real expertise to make sense of social media and UGC, and ours is very high: we can handle vast volumes of content and still spot things which other people might miss because they had a tv head on.'

'The question for everyone is, have I got something editorially valuable passing through my fingers?'

He pauses. 'It means we can be sure we don't blow content that could be helpful to the BBC.'

jportal.bbc.co.uk/sites/teams/newswire

Breaking news down the wire

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS CAPSTICK



The next step: Sam Taylor above the hub

COVER STORY The View from W1

The curtain has lifted on the W1 newsroom, revealing a spiral staircase connecting the basement levels with the second floor. The two lift shafts, which will be in shot as bulletins are presented, share the BBC News colour palette. Construction company Bovis Lend Lease created the images, using drawings from architects Sheppard Robson. They're a work in progress, showing how the building should look when handed over to the BBC at the turn of 2010/11.

But, if the aesthetics don't appeal,

it's not too late for you to have your say. Interior designers HOK will be presenting their ideas for the space at the W1 sessions and taking feedback.

Anyone affected by the move is invited to attend. It's a chance to meet W1 director Andy Griffiee and put questions to senior management.

The sessions take place in the Radio Theatre on October 28, November 23 and then in December and February. Go to tinyurl.com/W1October or tinyurl.com/W1November.



People in glass houses: how the central staircase is expected to look

Radio 3 pulls some of today's top thinkers

by Claire Barrett

FANCY BEING SEDUCED? Well, there are ten potential suitors lined up and raring to woo in Newcastle.

But this is seduction Radio 3 style, and the candidates will be aiming to impress with their brilliant proposals for the future rather than with their good teeth or high cheek bones.

Part of the station's fourth Free Thinking Festival – a celebration of ideas through debate, interview and performance with leading thinkers, artists, scientists and writers – Speed Dating with a Thinker offers 20-odd ordinary people two minutes with each cerebral date before they choose the best idea. Past winners have included the notion that everybody should give up one piece of technology and that there should be a people's house of lords operating along similar lines to jury service.

'It's huge fun but genuinely stimulating,' says Matthew Dodd, editor of *Night Waves*, the R3 arts and ideas magazine programme that, together with Friday night's *The Verb*, is the festival's broadcast home. 'The thinkers start competing and their sell becomes sexier and sexier.'

After three years in Liverpool, Free Thinking has moved to the north east. It will draw on local minds – from South Shields MP (and foreign secretary) David Miliband to Newcastle University-based bioethicist Tom Shakespeare – while festival drama, *Beware the Kids*, is penned by local writers Fiona Evans and Karen Laws and based on interviews with real inhabitants of Byker, the experimental inner city Newcastle estate.

'The festival is always locally rooted but nationally relevant,' asserts Dodd. 'Vitality, it's a broadcast festival.'

Its opening lecture sets the tone for the weekend. This time Tanya Byron, clinical psychologist and presenter of BBC Three's



R3's Ian McMillan presents a special edition of *The Verb* from the festival

Little Angels, follows the likes of Brian Eno and Will Self to the lectern. She'll lay out her vision for the family in the 21st century – a theme that, while not all embracing, will be reflected in debates like the growing gap between young and old and whether men have a future.

But is there a danger that, with all these intellectuals vying for ascendancy, things could get a little esoteric? Not with a live audience, reckons Martin Smith, exec producer, Free Thinking. 'Away from the studio, these people tend to talk in a less academic way. The audience can ask questions and change the course of debate. When Will Self finished his lecture last year, hands shot up immediately. The second question brilliantly exposed what was seen as a flaw in Will's argument.'

The chance of being challenged hasn't put off the big names, with William Orbit, Mike Brearley, Dan Cruickshank and Julia Neuberger in this year's line-up. 'We want people who are good in front of an audience, enjoy the cut and thrust of live debate and who have something to say,' says Dodd.

Ticking all three boxes is Ken Livingstone. The former mayor of London will talk on the lessons north eastern cities can learn from the capital. 'He's a popular draw,' says Smith, 'a direct talker and one of those public figures people want to hear.'

But don't worry if you can't be there, reassures Dodd. 'We can all make a date with it at 9.15pm on Radio 3.'

Matchmaking again...

Free Thinking, Radio 3, from Friday and on Radio Newcastle



WS Trust is helping to build a stronger media in Ghana

It has been improving lives for a decade; now it's time for the BBC's development charity to shout about it

by Sue Llewellyn

IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED as 'the hidden gem of the BBC' and 'a key that fits the lock' yet according to Caroline Nurse, executive director of the World Service Trust: 'A lot of people don't really know what we do.'

She explains: 'We're regularly confused with the BBC Trust or the BBC World Service and even the word 'trust' can give the impression that we disperse funds,' she says. Since she joined the BBC in March, Nurse has been working to correct the confusion and has made rebranding the trust and raising its profile her top priority.

But first she and her staff are marking 'a decade of transforming lives through media'. As the BBC's development charity, the trust aims to reduce poverty and promote human rights in developing countries through the 'innovative and creative' use of tv, radio and the internet.

With extensive experience in the field, including seven years at Oxfam, Nurse acknowledges there are many good organisations working in the development sector, but says nobody fills quite the same niche as the WST. 'Communication is vital in the developing world and people have a right to information in the same way they have a right to food, education and health,' she insists. 'The trust is doing something very special in giving people access to reliable information which helps them to shape and take control of their own lives.'

She points out that many people in developing countries lack the kind of basic information around HIV and the spread of malaria that the information-heavy developed world takes for granted.

With a staff of more than 500 based in 14 offices around the globe, the trust is funded independently of the BBC and has a turnover of around £20m a year. It has a wide operational remit.

'We have provided advice to mothers on their families' health, helped people understand their rights in elections, rebuilt radio and tv stations destroyed by conflict and been on the spot in the aftermath of disasters to

10 YEARS OF TRUST



'People laughed and that seemed to get them talking about condoms'

the ringtone. Condom purchases increased by a staggering 85 million. 'The campaign has had extraordinary impact,' says Nurse. 'People laughed and that seemed to be the best way to get them talking about condoms in a society that's uncomfortable about it.'

Research helps decide which message and medium to use and Nurse believes the data collected by staff on the ground is an invaluable resource. The latest project on climate change, which collated information from more than 1000 voices in ten African countries, revealed that people didn't know what climate change meant, nor how to adapt their lives to prepare for it. 'We have all this evidence that we can use to help people adapt, mitigate and change their lifestyles.'

Full of praise for her staff, she is keen to strengthen relationships with the rest of the BBC.

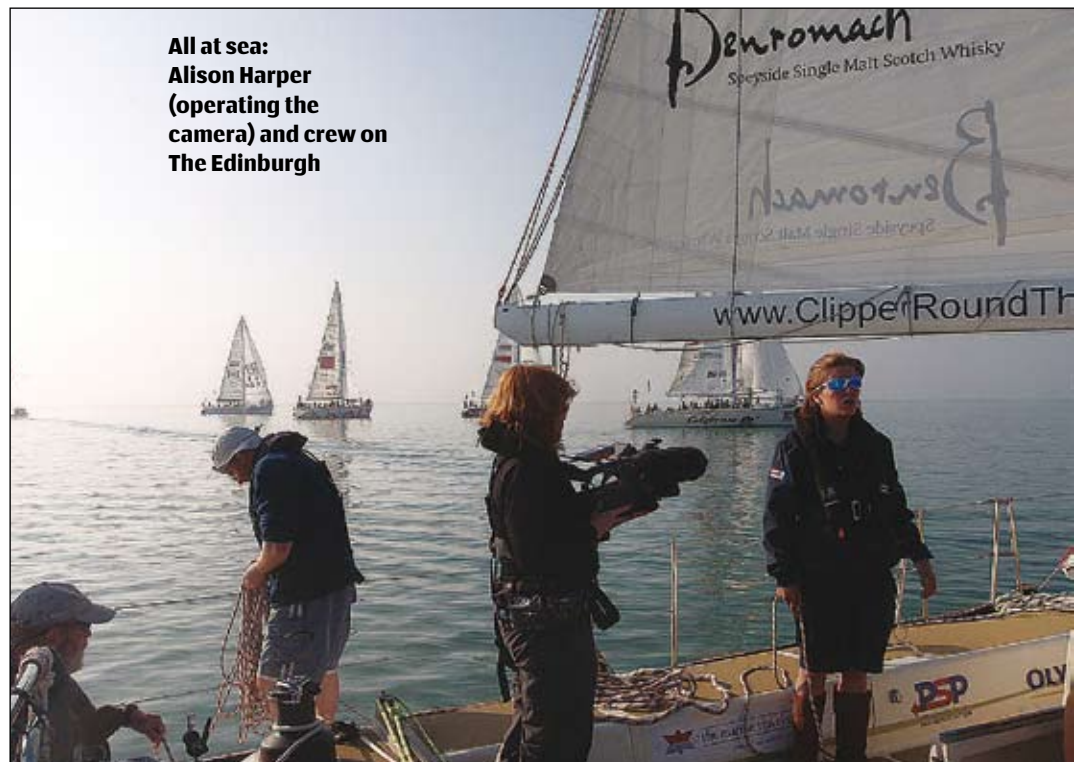
'We have gained enormously from BBC colleagues coming in and helping, particularly those from nations and regions whose relationships with their audiences closely reflect our relationship with our audience.' She hopes to offer more placement opportunities in future.

Meanwhile, she'll be metaphorically rattling the collecting tin, looking for staff support 'through payroll giving or holding fundraising initiatives like BBC Scotland's cake bake'.

www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/trust/

my week@work

Alison Harper is a one woman band, reporting for radio, tv and online, as well as filming and editing the Clipper Round the World Race. She is on board The Edinburgh and due back this week after a challenging 5000 mile journey on the high seas



All at sea:
Alison Harper
(operating the
camera) and crew on
The Edinburgh

WHILE THE CREW ARE BUSY trimming the sails, making the most of the light winds, I'm trying to convince viewers that this is a race across the Atlantic and not a leisurely cruise to Rio. Broadcasting

live from one of the ten boats taking part in this year's global race isn't easy when you're the cameraperson, editor, reporter and technical wizard. I set the camera up on the helm rail, run below deck to sort out

the wireless talkback before pressing the all important live button – all while trying to stay upright. To broadcast I've been using M Link Live software on the boat's computer. Vts are sent via the Inmarsat Fleet broadband service. Armed with three cameras, a laptop and contingency kit galore, I'm set up to record key moments from this unique race – the only one in which amateurs get to circumnavigate the globe. People have given up jobs, left friends and family and sold their houses to take part in what's billed as the 'adventure of a lifetime'.

One of the hardest parts of the journey has been watching the changing emotions of the crew. Of course there will be problems, but when the boat's sail got wrapped up for the second day running, costing us valuable miles and pushing the boat to the very back of the race, you could sense that morale had reached its lowest ebb. Filming people who have become your friends as they lose confidence in their abilities has been choking.

So far I've sent vts to six regions, provided regular live updates on the News Channel and reported on local com-

petitors for ten local radio stations. Online are also following my journey with short videos about life on board. I should be back on dry land on October 23 after 28 days at sea. I'm looking forward to steak, champagne, a diet coke with ice and even an apple as we've had no fresh fruit or veg for three weeks. Oh, and a bed I can stretch out on rather than a sweaty bunk with my feet resting on my camera case.

tinyurl.com/alisonharper

If you've done something out of the ordinary as part of your job let us know

ONE MILE RADIUS

◆ **REBECCA WRIGHT, BJ, TVC**

I spotted this sculpture nestled in the confines of Blythe House, a government building that holds reserve pieces from the Victoria and Albert, Science and Natural History museums. It's really striking so it seems a waste not to have it on public display – but that's also what makes it so interesting. Blythe House is a 20 minute walk from TVC in Brook Green.



COMING UP

◆ CBBC viewers will get to explore Japan with **NAI! KARATE – JOURNEY TO JAPAN**, a new series that will whisk some of them off to the country to study the martial art. The ten part series will be exec produced by Jamie Rea and Gillian Scothern and will go out next year. It was commissioned by channel controller Damian Kavanagh.

A bit scary:
Simon Amstell
will make his
acting debut
in *Grandma's
House*



◆ Kavanagh has also commissioned **BARNEY'S SOUTH AMERICA** for the channel next year. Presented by Barney Harwood the programme will take a humorous look at the natural world. A CBBC and NHU co production, it will be exec produced by Elaine Bancroft and Wendy Darke.

◆ Simon Amstell will make his acting debut in comedy series **GRANDMA'S HOUSE**. Penned by the presenter and Dan Swimer the 6x30 minute series has been inspired by Amstell's own life. Due to go out on BBC Two next year, the series will be made by Tiger Aspect and exec produced by Jeremy Dyson. It was commissioned by Janice Hadlow, channel controller.

◆ Controller of daytime Liam Keelan has commissioned a second series of Alexander Armstrong's gameshow, **POINTLESS**. The programme, in which points are awarded for the most obscure answers, will be exec produced by Pam Cavannagh. It will be broadcast on BBC Two.

BBC IN ACTION

LIFE'S FIRST OUTING on BBC One was a resounding success, scoring the highest AI of last week with 92 – the factual average is 81. The hour-long episode on Monday attracted an average audience of 6.5m (26.4 percent share). The Pulse survey also found that seven out of ten viewers thought it was a high quality programme, liked the subject matter and learnt something new.

'We're thrilled with how it has been received by the audience and we've had some fantastic feedback from colleagues,' says producer Patrick Morris who worked on upcoming episodes *Birds* and *Primates*.

The ten-part natural history unit series, looking at the fight for survival by animals and

plants, took almost four years to make: one year of research and preparation, two years' filming and eight to 12 months in post production, involving thousands of people around the world.

Cameraman Justin Maguire (pictured) travelled to South Africa to film great white pelicans for the *Birds* episode.

'We filmed pelicans on Dassen Island where they nest and also on Malgas Island where they feed on gannet chicks,' explains Morris. 'Until the 70s they would feed on fish but in more recent years – partly because of loss of habitat and a shortage of food – they've had to become more resourceful.'

Life continues on BBC One on Mondays at 9pm.



PHOTOGRAPH BY BEN DUFFY

CHANGING PLACES



◆ Ariel reporter in the North, **PEGGY WALKER** (pictured), starts a six month attachment as a bj at Radio Lincolnshire... **BHAVNA BHATT** becomes manager of the freelance contracts team... **SAM SMITH**, head of audiences for FM&T, replaces **STEVE POLLOCK** as head of audiences services and operations... Chief advisor to the director of MC&A **CLAIRE BOWERS** leaves the BBC... Last week we referred to **SARAH GRIFFIN'S** former job title as chief executive of the London Club. She was in fact general manager and is now project manager of the club's move to amalgamate the nations and regions and London.

LEARNING CURVE

Do you want to know what BBC Two has lined up for 2010?

Controller Janice Hadlow will give an insight into her plans at a never stop learning event run by the BBC Academy next month. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. The session will be held in room B200 at TVC on November 12 between 1-2pm.

To book a place visit tinyurl.com/janicehadlow



SHAMELESS PLUG

◆ **CLARK AINSWORTH, SBJ, TUNBRIDGE WELLS**

In November I will embark on a road trip through Vietnam with a friend.

Unfortunately *Top Gear* managed to get there first but I won't be wimping out and getting the train at any point during the 1710km journey – I'll be relying solely on the power of a 150cc Vespa scooter.

My girlfriend has multiple sclerosis and I thought the trip would be a good opportunity to raise money for the MS Society and SOS Children's Villages, which run some fantastic facilities for orphans in Vietnam and throughout the world. I visited one of the orphanages in Hanoi in 2007 when I produced a feature for the World Service, and now sponsor a child there.

During my trip I'll be posting images on the BBC Kent website and doing regular live (depending on the connection) phone-ins. You can sponsor me at justgiving.com/clarkainsworth-vietnam-ms/ and justgiving.com/clarkainsworth-vietnam-sos/



blogbites

What we found on the blogs this week

Steve Jobs: Teenage hero?

You would think most 12-17 year-olds would be getting hot under the collar over the Jonas Brothers or Miley Cyrus. Not so. It seems the wayward youth of today has given that honour to a golden oldie – Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. A survey found that the Apple boss is the most admired entrepreneur among teenagers. Of the 1000 teens questioned, 35 percent gave Mr Jobs the thumbs up followed by 25 percent for Oprah, 16 percent for skateboarder Tony Hawk and a dismal 10 percent for twenty-something Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Testament to the power of shiny gadgets like the iPod and the iPhone.

Maggie Shiels
bbc.co.uk/blogs/technology/

Personally, I blame the kids

The Labour MP and former minister Malcolm Wicks admitted yesterday that 'there is a widespread perception that Labour... is intellectually exhausted'. And, one might add, not just 'intellectually exhausted'. Exhausted full stop. Personally I blame the kids. No seriously. An interesting feature of the Blair and Brown governments is just how many leading ministers have young children (by which I mean children under 10). Both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have been in this category, of course, and among Mr Brown's senior colleagues, both of the Milibands, Ed Balls, Yvette Cooper and Douglas Alexander all have young children, and those are just the ministers I can think of off the top of my head. The current situation is the product of two trends. First, the tendency of middle class couples to have children much later – in their 30s and 40s rather than their 20s – and conversely the declining age of Cabinet ministers.

Michael Crick, *Newsnight* editor
bbc.co.uk/blogs/newsnight/michaelcrick/

Changing the weather

Last month *PM* and *iPM* tried various ways of doing a weather forecast – and there was a great deal of audience reaction. From today we are going to try a new way of telling the audience about the weather on *PM*. The key changes are: forecasters will use a new standard map of UK weather regions, so the naming of regions will be consistent; clear signposting of each region before each bit of weather information; the forecaster will pick out some major population centres and the narrative will normally flow from South to North (although this will change in the case of major weather disruptions elsewhere). We'd like to know what you think. Respond here or on the *PM* blog and I will peruse your responses.

Mark Damazar, *Radio 4* controller
bbc.co.uk/blogs/radio4/

Friday's quote of the day

'You are Scottish, we have nothing in common and you are an economist. But somehow, Gordon, I love you' – Nicolas Sarkozy to Gordon Brown. It was the thick of the economic meltdown in February and the French president, a man noted for his passionate approach to life, confessed his strong feelings for the British prime minister... although he hastened to add 'not in a sexual way'.

Magazine Monitor
bbc.co.uk/blogs/magazinemonitor/

Steps in the right direction for TV's out of London revolution

It's a year since Jana Bennett announced a commitment to base half of network production out of London by 2016. Cathy Loughran reports on progress



Jana Bennett and Bal Samra: plan for sustainable growth on track

THE CLOCK IS SERIOUSLY ticking now on Salford and the plan to relocate 2500 BBC jobs there from 2011. But of itself, the move from London of Children's, Sport and Learning, along with Radio 5 live and parts of FM&T, is not nearly enough to hit the floor 50 per cent out-of-London tv target set by the BBC's network supply review (NSR).

The plan is for English regions to take 33 per cent of network budget by 2016 with 17 per cent split between the devolved nations: nine per cent in Scotland, five in Wales, three in Northern Ireland.

Network supply review work was led by Anne Morrison, now head of the BBC Academy, and the first year of implementation has been one of intense planning to relocate sizeable productions like *Weakest Link* and *Imagine* to Scotland in the first half of next year and, further down the line, *Crimewatch* and *Casualty* to Wales. Two indie Lottery shows have already been rooted in Glasgow and the phased transition of daytime's *Homes Under the Hammer* is under way.

The strands, though, are only the building blocks, 'the stable ballast to keep talent there all year round' says Bal Samra, director of vision operations and rights. 'They're not enough, so we need ambitious new commissions if we are to have sustainable, expanded production bases, serving network and global audiences, by 2016.'

On that score, year one has seen a shift in the right direction. In 2007, network spend was 32.6 per cent outside London. At the end of 2008 it was 35 per cent – the nations' segment jumping from 6.4 to 8 per cent – with evidence of

more growth this year.

Allowing both in-house and indies to capitalise on creative specialisms – as Wales has in drama and now factual – remains central to sustainability, Samra argues. He wants more examples like Cardiff's *Human Planet* commission, building on the success of *Tribe*, which also paved the way for Bafta-winning indie, *Amazon*. Partnerships, like BBC Scotland's with STV and the new agencies partnership announced in Bristol, will also be increasingly important, he says.

In-house, it is hoped that in the freelance-heavy economy of network production, permanent staff on relocating strands will be able to transfer to other programmes, if they don't want to move with the show. 'The aim is to redeploy if not relocate, and the hope is to avoid any compulsory redundancies,' says Felicity Milton, project manager.

As numbers will be small, individuals won't be offered the bespoke relocation package available to Salford movers. The BBC says it will contribute to 'actual moving costs'. There won't be cash incentives.

Vision director Jana Bennett told Ariel: 'We're on course for a very important year, but even before the first of the strand moves, new ideas are coming through, for instance in daytime, where there's never even been a nations strategy before.'

NSR is ambitious at a time of great uncertainty in broadcasting. Aren't there unknowns that could rein in those ambitions?

'Whatever size and shape we end up with and whatever the future of the licence fee, it would take an earthquake to knock network review off track now,' Bennett says.

Nations say it's all about connections

AILSA ORR, head of programmes for BBC Northern Ireland, is not alone in thinking the biggest impact in year one has come from the appointment for the first time of out-of-London genre commissioners.

'The channels of communication they bring have made the biggest difference,' says Orr, who has seen her claim on the network budget rise from 0.4 per cent of total to 0.6 per cent.

Three new independent factual commissioning execs, one in each nation, jointly report to Emma Swain, head of knowledge commissioning and the nation's head of programmes. Nick Shearman in Wales, James Hayes in Northern Ireland and Sam Anthony in Scotland split their time between national HQs and the decision-makers on the sixth floor of Television Centre.

Entertainment has Alan Tyler as the single new commissioning executive editor outside London for indies and Jo Street is daytime exec for all out-of-London commissions, across in-house and indies. Both are based in Glasgow.

In the last year, BBC NI in-house has delivered a network slate that includes 12 films for *The One Show*, 11 *Panoramas*, the BBC One factual drama *Atlantis* and will be piloting a new Sunday morning religious programme for BBC One by the end of the year.

Building on the success of big indie dramas like *Occupation* and *Five Minutes of Heaven*, Orr is aiming for more than

£6m of high profile drama every year, plus longer running series.

In Wales, where network spend has already jumped from 2.6 to 3.6 per cent, the *Doctor Who* legacy and the prospect of a new drama village in Cardiff has put drama centre stage.

Additions like *Merlin* from Shine, *Sherlock* from Hartswood and now the new in-house revival of *Upstairs Downstairs* is 'creating critical mass to benefit indies and in-house', says Clare Hudson, head of programmes in Cardiff.

On the indie factual side, Shearman confirms that BBC Wales is 'well down the road' on a new Bruce Parry series and in talks with Gryff Rhys Jones on a follow up to *Rivers*.

BBC Scotland's share of network production has risen from 3.3 to 3.7 per cent in a year and director Ken MacQuarrie is confident of reaching 5 per cent in 2009. Returning shows like *Life of Riley* and *A Question of Genius*, as well as Lottery shows, *In It To Win It* and *Who Dares Wins*, have seen PQ's main studio reach record capacity.

MacQuarrie sees benefits for local relationships with indies in having Jo Street and Alan Tyler on the spot: 'They're a very easy point of contact and can save companies the cost of a London flight for every meeting.'

Street's first commission was the 20-part daytime series *Antiques Road Trip* from STV, commissioned out of the Wocc.

STRANDS ON THE MOVE

SCOTLAND

- *Homes Under the Hammer*, a phased move from June 2009
- *Saturday Lottery* shows, from June 2009
- *Motorway Cops*, July 2009
- *Eggheads*, in studio from this week, October 2009
- *Newsnight Review*, retitled, relaunched, on air January 2010
- *Weakest Link*, in studio from February 2010
- *One Show* inserts, April 2010
- *Imagine*, June 2010

WALES

- *Crimewatch*, January 2011
- *Casualty*, end of 2011, awaiting financial approval for planned drama village in Cardiff
- *One Show* inserts, June 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

- *Panorama*, April 2010
- *One Show* inserts, May 2010
- *New Sunday morning* religious programme, now in development. On air from June 2010

WEAKEST LINK BLAZING A TRAIL TO GLASGOW

AFTER 18 MONTHS OF PLANNING, the mixed London/Scotland team moving *Weakest Link* to Pacific Quay will have their first recording date in Glasgow's studio A on February 18.

It's the biggest beast in the first wave of strand moves and Anne Robinson and the team will be recording 132 shows in the first series from PQ. BBC Scotland staff, including key programme producers Gillian McNeil and Nick Gunaydin, have already been working on the current series in London. They will move back to Glasgow in time to prepare for series 12, by which time an exec producer is likely to be appointed in Scotland.

The programme team – responsible for finding 1300 contestants a year and compiling around 150 questions a show – fluctuates between 20 and 40, a large proportion of whom are freelance.

So far, two people from the question team have committed to move with the show. Researcher Stuart McCartney is one of them: 'I love my job and am attracted by the opportunities I hope the move will present,' he told Ariel.

'The studio crew are mostly freelancers and we'll bring a few up from London for the first weeks

A few 'scary' months ahead for Anne Robinson and the team who will record 132 shows in Pacific Quay



of the run, but the aim is to train up people in Scotland,' explains Mark Munro, Scotland's production exec for comedy and entertainment.

The plan is for part of the question team to remain in London with new members recruited in Glasgow along with new contestant researchers.

'The next few months will be scary,' says Munro. 'It's a great brand and the transition will have to look seamless to the audience. It's also a great opportunity to train new people in craft and production.'

This is the page that everybody reads. Please email claire.barrett@bbc.co.uk
You can also contribute to the mail page directly from the Ariel Online home page

Stop force feeding us the internet

So 21 percent of the adult population don't use the internet, according to a new BBC-commissioned report which also suggests what action could be taken to get them connected. What happened to choice? Are people not allowed to choose not to use the internet. I much prefer shopping at small local shops but I am being denied that choice more and more. I much prefer to spend my evenings and

weekends with real people doing fun things like talking and laughing and putting on plays and going for walks. Has it become compulsory that I can only have friends via the internet? Also it costs money to be on the web and some people would rather spend, or have no choice but to spend, their money on other things.

Salley Rear
production manager, A&M factual

Party games

Were the BNP an entirely legitimate party then it would be difficult not to allow them a place on the *Question Time* panel, despite what many think of what they stand for.

Giving them airtime may show them up for what they are – depending on the questions raised. Their responses may alienate some, but equally win over others.

The BNP has demonstrated, by its proposal to change its membership policy, that it does not comply with the BBC's criteria of any party that has members elected and acts lawfully having a right to appear. And until the party has actively and consistently demonstrated its compliance then it should not be given airtime. And, in my opinion, it shouldn't be given airtime then, either.

Yes, they may well open their membership to non-indigenous Caucasians, but the day the BNP leadership is welcoming and inclusive towards such members and supports and passes motions they propose is a truly surreal prospect. The change is another attempt by Griffin et al to enhance the shallow veneer of legitimacy that they are attempting to strengthen and use to fend off those that try to stop the BNP's wrong.

Kevin Doig
trainer, Wood Norton

Stop in the Nick of Time

The BBC unions are strongly opposed to the appearance of BNP leader Nick Griffin on

this week's *Question Time*.

The National Union of Journalists believes the BBC has handed a political party – which is regularly shunned by 98 percent of voters outside of London and the north west of England – a 'soap box' opportunity to parade itself as part of mainstream British politics.

The BBC invoked guidelines designed for the lead-up to general elections as a way of persuading the Labour Party to drop a long-held policy of not sharing platforms with racist and fascist groups, in order not to be 'empty chaired' when Nick Griffin appeared on the programme. Now, it faces distorting those same guidelines by allowing the BNP leader to take part in *Question Time* when the party is fielding a candidate in the Glasgow North East by-election.

BBC editorial guidelines say producers should be 'aware of the different political structures in the four nations of the United Kingdom' and that 'we must take care when inviting politicians to contribute to our output on the basis of their expertise outside their political field, not to give them such prominence as to give them undue advantage over their opponents.'

Rather than allow Nick Griffin – and the crowd of BNP supporters who will inevitably pass under the radar and make it into the *Question Time* audience – to trample their boots across the BBC and NUJ's editorial guidelines, the programme should halt this travesty on the grounds that it will hand a propaganda coup during the by-election to a minority par-

ty which attracts virtually no support either in the constituency or in the rest of Scotland.

Peter Murray, *sbj*, Radio Scotland and vice president, National Union of Journalists

No call for name-dropping

Re: the Radio 1 *Newsbeat* interview with leading BNP members: Jack Straw would not be introduced as Jack – a northern lad and a member of the Labour Party. And nor should the BNP's head of PR. At what point does a party's PR chief get to take part in a broadcast interview anonymously?

Ingrid Kelly
deputy editor, Panorama

Eye off the ball

Somehow the Ariel Online report about *Newsbeat*'s BNP interview failed to mention the main criticism of the interview – that 'Mark' and 'Joey' were not challenged about their ridiculous comments about the footballer Ashley Cole. It might be that style prevented *Newsbeat* from properly identifying the party officials interviewed but a robust response from an interviewer would have given Radio 1 and BBC News a figleaf of protection from criticism.

Jeremy Hayes
World Tonight

You better watch out

With regards to the cancellation of all BBC Christmas parties, I have today posted a letter to Santa c/o The North Pole, requesting Mark Thompson be placed on the Naughty list.

Steve Blears

sbj, R1/R5

Losing their cool

While cooling towers do not emit carbon dioxide directly (green room, October 6), they are largely responsible for the poor efficiency figure of about 50 percent for a power station.

This is because they release 'low-grade' heat which is not used to generate electricity but with forethought could be used elsewhere, such as for heating buildings or greenhouses.

Matthew Marks
Kingswood Warren

stinct for connections, that made him an almost unbeatable force on Radio 4's *Round Britain Quiz* which, with his friend Peter Stead, he won five times in ten years.

His career crossed newspapers – he had been industrial editor of the *Western Mail* – as well as radio and television, and when he became a freelance in the mid-eighties, he remained a constant presence on Radio Wales (presenting the weekly *Called to Order* that was at the centre of Welsh political debate), and contributing to Radio 4 with *Tea Junction* and *Out of Order*. He also spread his wings into radio and television documentary and wrote five books that brought into play all the colour and wit that broadcasting often screens out, and which always made him the very best of company.

Not the least of his services to the BBC over the last decade was his unswerving support for his wife, Menna Richards.

Is that OK, Patrick? 'Hmm....'

Geraint Talfan Davies

OBITUARY

PATRICK HANNAN

You cannot write about Patrick Hannan without that feeling that he is just behind you weighing up your own judgments and polishing your language. He worried about every word. 'Hmm....,' he would say quizzically, before his well-honed professional scepticism prodded you in the ribs.

It is hard to imagine BBC Wales without him. As a regular presence on air and on screen across nearly 40 years, his distinctive voice and distinguished reporting helped shape the place. He joined the BBC in 1970, in the formative years of Welsh broadcast journalism and, from the beginning, gave it an authority and depth that lived up to the challenge of the times.

He was BBC Wales's first political correspondent – a post he held for 13 years –

although in a period when strikes and politics were more closely intertwined, his title at first included the word industrial. In very large part it was Patrick Hannan who daily told the people of Wales their own story, as the decline of coal and steel changed their society irrevocably, and the politics of identity took centre stage. In his own words, he began by reporting politics in Wales and finished by reporting Welsh politics.

He always brushed aside any notion that journalism was a profession, preferring to call it just a 'rough old trade', but that carried a familiar self-deprecation that masked the vast knowledge of history, politics, literature, films, music and opera that gave him the richest intellectual hinterland of any journalist I have known. It was that hinterland, and an in-



arielview



SALLY HILLIER

The net can't catch 'em all

'WHAT'S A WEBSITE?' This question from a participant in a survey on online use, or rather non-use, neatly illustrates the scale of the task facing those trying to build digital Britain.

'I'm so confused,' and 'I'm frightened I'll do something and it [the computer] will go boom!' were also right up there in the responses.

The BBC, which commissioned the survey, believes that the ten million UK adults who never use the internet (see Page 2) are missing out – for example, on opportunities to pursue hobbies and interests, keep in touch with loved ones, and save money on goods and services. Along with the government and other agencies, the BBC has pledged to do what it can to get more people connected. Good luck with that.

As delegates at last week's Online Access Forum at Television Centre acknowledged, winning over internet 'resisters' won't be easy. More than half of non-users are over 65 and one-third are 75plus. Forty six percent are from social categories D and E.

It's easy to forget that millions in these age and socio/economic groups have never sat at a keyboard in their lives; for them, the thought of starting now is not exciting and stimulating but completely overwhelming.

And, whatever their age, getting new recruits up and running on the web is only part of the battle. 'Even once they're on the internet, many people find it difficult to navigate their way around,' Stuart Knapman of independent company Essential Research observed.

This was borne out by another contributor at last week's Forum. A retired professional, he had owned a computer for several years, but had only just started using the web and a recent attempt at using it to book a flight had almost floored him: 'I started the process on Monday morning and didn't finish until Thursday night.'

Despite this, he could see how being on the web had 'opened up a whole new world'.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to bridging the digital gap is that 66 percent of those questioned in the BBC survey simply had little or no interest in the internet.

Fair enough. Not everyone wants to surf the web, just as not everyone wants a mobile phone, iPod or games console. The BBC's wish to increase digital uptake is well intentioned but there is a danger its efforts will smack a bit too much of trying to change people 'for their own good'.

Even Peter Barron, director of communications for Google, concedes it is pointless trying to force matters and that people 'have to want to go online'.

Exactly. And if they don't want to, no amount of 'carrots', 'amazing content' or targeted initiatives will persuade them otherwise.

Sally Hillier is deputy editor of Ariel

FOR RENT

1 bedroom flat W12. Modern, fully furnished, with south facing balcony. New kitchen/ bathroom and heating/water included. TVC 15 minute walk. Tube 5 minutes. £220pw exclusive. Call Oily 07731 314491

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2 bedroom garden flat close Askew Road. £1,100pcm plus bills. Call 07860 663563

Acton Lane W3. Bright 1 bed garden flat. Good transport links. £950pcm excl bills. Telephone 07734 000756

A flat sit rental in Poets Corner W3. Immaculate and spacious living room, kitchen, Italian bathroom, underfloor heating, sunny bedroom overlooking Mediterranean garden. 5 minutes car White City. Close to Overground, tubes, buses, restaurants. Available now. Single non-smoker. £195pw excl. Info/photos jrose@mgamedia.com

A good sized double bedroom available at the end of November in a spacious 2 bedroom flat with roof terrace. Looking for a considerate, tidy flatmate who does not mind sharing with a cat. Excellent location and walking distance from the BBC. £769.16pcm. Contact Lucy on 07855 945893

B&B London/Bucks/Bristol homes inexpensive, flexible. Telephone 020 8840 1071. Email home_rentals@btinternet.com

BBC house share Perivale tube opposite, 12 minutes White City. Bedroom (WC ensuite) overlooking garden £365pcm. Call 01895 634610

BH street adjacent. Furnished studio. Portered block. £240pw incl CH, HW, S/C. Telephone 01789 840251

Barcelona. Lovely flat in Raval. 4 minutes from Ramblas. Sleeps 2. Call 07989 344167

Bright double room in W6. 2 bedroom flat with sitting room, shower room, bathroom, kitchen, 2 balconies. The flat has a new W/M, D/W, boiler and WiFi. No smoking flatshare W/female professional. £720pcm, includes all bills. Please call Katy on 07881 622797

Chiswick single room to let in shared house with garden. £400pcm inclusive call 07774 692864

Double room with own private bathroom available in Barnes. Sharing lovely split level conversion located amidst the local bars and restaurant. A stone's throw from the river too. Rates and terms negotiable (short lets considered) Please contact me. Alex 07909 994679

Fab flatshare in trendy Kensal. Available 1 November. Bright furnished double in designer flat in Kensal Rise. £595pm incl bills + CT. All mod cons. 8 minute walk to Kensal Green tube/ Kensal Rise overland. See http://www.gumtree.com/london/56/46094156.html for pics + details. You'll be sharing with editor/interior designer in a relaxed, modern and clean home. Ideally looking to share with friendly female looking for a place to call home. Call me on 07788 715031. Email yvonne@absoluteflowersandhome.com to view

Kensal Green. Non-smoking double room in lovely, newly decorated, 2 bed Victorian conversion available now. Flat shared with friendly, female owner. 2 minutes from Kensal Green tube, buses and Overground. Ideal for TVC or Central London. £620pcm inclusive. 07960 339427

Large room for rent in large house in Islington, on 73,38 and 30 bus routes, Highbury and Islington station. £90pw includes all bills, except phone. Available from November. Contact Jane on 07985 169744

Large spacious light 2 bedroom masionette to rent 1 minute BBC and Westfield. £300pw. Call 07922 017373

Large sunny room in Shepherd's Bush. Upmarket house with garden and lots of space. Leafy safe street 20 minutes walk to TVC. Sharing with two others in their 30s that work in TV. £660pcm. Telephone 07920 818837

Lime Grove 2 double bedroom high specification refurbished open plan flat. Sunny light spacious 07957 616520 or 07815 122404. Email sdma@mobileemail.vodafone.net

Lovely 2 bed Georgian house in Kentish Town NW5. Furnished/unfurnished. 1 November to March. Newly refurbished. Huge kitchen/diner with doors to sunny garden. Wood floors. 5 minutes to tube, Overground (direct White City) and bus (BH 15 minutes). £2,500pcm inclusive of all utilities. Telephone 07956 916060

Lovely double bedroom available in a two bed maisonette with garden. N4. Sharing with one other female (BBC) 6 month let. £595pcm excl. kay.edwards@bbc.co.uk

Luxury 2 bed furnished apartment Manchester Macintosh Mills M1, for Monday to Friday or short term lets. central MCR. Photos available. Monday to Friday £800pcm or day and weekend rates available. Telephone Ray 07836 266123

Luxury room to rent Macfarlane Road Shepherd's Bush W12. Large modern room £650pm bills included. Share kitchen, 2 shower rooms, TV Freeview. WiFi. Fridge. Non-smoking. Contact Pete 07970 074627

Manchester city centre, 1 double bedroom in 2 bed house, sharing with young professional male doctor. £550pcm including all bills + internet and parking. Just behind Piccadilly station, 5 minutes walk from BBC. Close to all amenities and night life. Telephone 07811 347145

Media City, Manchester. Luxury 6th floor, two bedroom apartment overlooking Lowry Centre and BBC centre. Available from November. £775pcm. Email Adrian at a1454129@yahoo.co.uk

Monday to Friday lodgings in West Hampstead. Bright spacious double room in top floor flat. West Hampstead Jubilee line tube 10 minutes and Kilburn 4 minutes. Available from early November. £475pcm. Please call Vanessa 07979 808612

Monday to Friday Shepherd's Bush let. Large double room in garden flat. 15 minutes walk from TVC. £450pcm including bills. Call Joel 07787 184401

Newly refurbished Victorian 3 bed flat with access to a shared garden on a quiet road at the border of East Dulwich/ Peckham. Ten minutes equal distance walk to Peckham Rye and East Dulwich station. Excellent amenities. Contact beckfoja@aol.com Call 07780 691267 £1,200pcm

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Salford Quays. Stunning 11th floor 1 bedroom apartment in Sovereign Point. Water views, next to Lowry Centre and close to Media City. Unfurnished, £700pcm. Car park space available. Email vicki@addey.co.uk Telephone 01962 884355

Shepherd's Bush Monday to Friday let. Massive room in gorgeous, quiet garden flat. 15 minutes walk from TVC. £450pcm inc bills. Call Joel 07787 184401

Shepherd's Bush. Refurbished two double bedroom flat Stanlake Road. Large lounge, new bathroom. £320pw. Tim telephone 07769 705507

Spacious 2 double bedroom top floor flat, with balcony overlooking residential gardens in Munster Village, Fulham £335pw available immediately. Email annabel.gormley@yahoo.co.uk

Stockwell. Huge room in beautifully designed artistic flat. 4 minutes tube £600pcm. Telephone 020 7737 6380

Sunny top floor split level 1 bed flat on quiet leafy road in Crystal Palace. Newly decorated throughout £800pcm. Telephone 07976 285066

W10. Stylish, furnished, bright one bedroom flat close to Portobello Road. First floor, split level. Off street parking. £1,100pcm. 15 minutes walk BBC. Available now. Telephone Emma 07780 638496

Warm, sunny 3 bedroom flat, W/M + GCH. £1,170pcm and ... studio loft with superb views, above flat but self contained. £800pcm. Both available December. East Acton Central line and Bakerloo tubes zone 2. Email sophie@sophienville.co.uk. Telephone 01590 578438

West Ealing 2 bed. Delightful ground floor furnished flat in Seaford Road. Recent full refurb. Shared garden. £1,100pcm excluding bills. Telephone 07843 435100 wjgrist@tiscali.co.uk

Willesden Green NW2. Pleasant two double bedroom furnished flat in quiet street. Washing machine. Close shops, restaurants. 10 minutes walk to Jubilee line. £950pcm (excl bills). Contact Caroline 020 8960 5975 mw@winterburn.plus.com

PROPERTY

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One bed flat required November 09 - March 2010. Need somewhere close to TVC for duration of four month placement. Have a budget of £800pcm. Can you help? Contact victoria.bartlett@bbc.co.uk

Salford Quays 35 miles away in beautiful Nantwich, a Grade II* Georgian end terrace off town square on private road. "Surprisingly metropolitan" writes Pevsner. 6 bedrooms, 4 reception, annexe, double garage, games room, large garden and ample parking. Rightmove or 01270 627350. £895,000

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HOLIDAYS

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www.menaduemill.co.uk sleeps 8, walking, beach, surfing, stunning seaviews. Long weekends. Telephone 01840 214920

PERSONAL

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SERVICES

Accounting services. Please call Albert Martin mobile 07956 920910. Email albert18@virginmedia.com

A tax return to complete? Let us help! For all taxation and accounting services contact Anthony, Wells & Co, Chartered Accountants, Room 4502, White City (and London N2). For free initial consultation call Alan Wells on 020 8455 7733. Email aawells@waitrose.com

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PROGRAMME MAKING

Deputy Editor, A&M Factual
Birmingham
10D/Ref: 20486809
🇬🇧 04-Nov-09

Executive Producer, Radio 2
London
Western House
9D/Ref: 20559309
🇬🇧 27-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Producer, Songs of Praise
Manchester
9D/Ref: 20177609
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09 🇦 09 months

Script Producer, Casualty
Bristol
8P/Ref: 20404009
🇬🇧 26-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Series Script Editor, Casualty
Bristol
8P/Ref: 20403909
🇬🇧 26-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Senior Producers, You & Yours
London
Broadcasting House
8D/Ref: 20257709
🇬🇧 02-Nov-09 Various

Breakfast Producer (Senior Broadcast Journalist), BBC WM
Birmingham
8D/Ref: 20035309
🇬🇧 30-Oct-09 🇦 12 months

Assistant Producer, Factual Development
Manchester
7D/Ref: 20199309
🇬🇧 22-Oct-09 🇦 03 months

Assistant Producer, Format Development
Manchester
7D/Ref: 20192209
🇬🇧 22-Oct-09 🇦 03 months

Studio Managers
London / Salford Quays
5/7H/Ref: 20462909
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09

Broadcast Journalist (Drivetime Producer), BBC WM
Birmingham
5/7D/Ref: 20035609
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Researcher, Dragons' Den
Manchester
5D/Ref: 20199209
🇬🇧 22-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Researcher, Factual Development
Manchester
5D/Ref: 20192709
🇬🇧 22-Oct-09 🇦 03 months

Researcher, Format Development
Manchester
5D/Ref: 20192109
🇬🇧 22-Oct-09 🇦 03 months

Broadcast Assistants, A&M Factual
London
Broadcasting House
3/4D/Ref: 20204109
🇬🇧 02-Nov-09

Runner, Dragons' Den
Manchester
2D/Ref: 20199009
🇬🇧 22-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Trainee Studio Managers
London / Salford Quays
TSMH/Ref: 20462809
🇬🇧 08-Nov-09

Studio Manager, BBC Afrique
Dakar
N/A/Ref: 19004509
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09

JOURNALISM

Assistant Editor, 5 live News Programmes
London
10D/Ref: 20566409
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Producer, Television
Cambodia
9D/Ref: 20510509
🇬🇧 08-Nov-09 🇦 06 months

SBJ Producers, News programmes & Multimedia Planning
London
8/9D/Ref: 20440809
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09

Senior Broadcast Journalist (Weekends) BBC Points West
Bristol
8D/Ref: 20278509
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09

Senior Broadcast Journalist (TV Reporter) - Dorset
Plymouth
8D/Ref: 19352609
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09

Broadcast Journalist, The Westminster Hour
London
Millbank
7D/Ref: 20479109
🇬🇧 28-Oct-09 🇦 04 months

Producers, Brazilian Service
London
Bush House
7D/Ref: 20429509
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09 🇦 03 months

Broadcast Journalists - BBC Look North
Hull
5/7D/Ref: 20278609
🇬🇧 26-Oct-09 Various

Political Reporters (Broadcast Journalists)
Multi Location
5/7D/Ref: 20058209
🇬🇧 02-Nov-09

Web Producer (Broadcast Journalist) BBC Local
Luton
5/7D/Ref: 19476109
🇬🇧 30-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Researcher, Multi Media News Programmes
London
TV Centre
5D/Ref: 20281309
🇬🇧 26-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Broadcast Assistant, BBC Look North
Hull
3/4H/Ref: 20472809
🇬🇧 28-Oct-09

Broadcast Assistant, 5 live
Manchester
3H/Ref: 20520409
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Senior Producer, BBC Afrique
Dakar
N/A/Ref: 19004309
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09

Producer, BBC Afrique
Dakar
N/A/Ref: 19004009
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09

BUSINESS SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT

Senior Programme Manager - Professional Services
London
White City
10D/Ref: 20515509
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09 🇦 12 months

Development Producer
London
Media Centre
9D/Ref: 20584209
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09 🇦 12 months

Adviser, Performance, BBC Trust
London
9D/Ref: 20268909
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09 🇦 12 months

Commercial Manager, BBC Workplace
London
White City
8D/Ref: 20262209
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09

Business Manager, Multiplatform Productions
London
Media Centre
8D/Ref: 20255309
🇬🇧 27-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Policy & Public Affairs Manager
London
Media Centre
6D/Ref: 19444509
🇬🇧 26-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Scheduler, Multimedia Newsroom
London
TV Centre
5D/Ref: 20326809
🇬🇧 22-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Rights Assistant, Literary Copyright
London
White City
4H/Ref: 20010409
🇬🇧 25-Oct-09 🇦 Various

Float PA
London
TV Centre
4D/Ref: 20518109
🇬🇧 26-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Float PA
London
TV Centre
4D/Ref: 20518009
🇬🇧 26-Oct-09

Broadcasting and Online Assistant, Chinese Service
London
Bush House
4D/Ref: 19868609
🇬🇧 25-Oct-09 Continuing 08 months

Sales Assistant (part-time) - Brighton
Brighton
2H/Ref: 20393809
🇬🇧 25-Oct-09

Sales Assistant (part-time) - Tunbridge Wells
Tunbridge Wells
2H/Ref: 20393009
🇬🇧 25-Oct-09 🇦 03 months

Urdu Audience Champion (Part Time), BBC World Service
Islamabad
N/A/Ref: 20438909
🇬🇧 22-Oct-09 🇦 12 months

Office Manager, BBC Afrique
Dakar
N/A/Ref: 19004409
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09

NEW MEDIA

Technical Project Manager
London
Media Centre
8D/Ref: 20567709
🇬🇧 25-Oct-09 🇦 06 months

Senior User Experience Designer
London / Salford Quays
8D/Ref: 20520909
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09

Content Producer, Digital Audio 5Live
London / Salford Quays
7D/Ref: 20484809
🇬🇧 01-Nov-09

Content Producer, Social Media R1 1X
London
Yalding House
7D/Ref: 20477709
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09

Content Producer, Social Media R2/6Music
London
Western House
7D/Ref: 20477609
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09

Content Producer, Digital A/V, Radio 4
London
Yalding House
7D/Ref: 20477509
🇬🇧 02-Nov-09 🇦 12 months

Content Producer, Digital Audio, Radio 2/6Music
London
Yalding House
7D/Ref: 20477409
🇬🇧 02-Nov-09 🇦 12 months

Content Producer, Digital Audio, R1/1Xtra
London
Yalding House
7D/Ref: 20477309
🇬🇧 02-Nov-09 🇦 12 months

Content Producer, Visualisation, R1/1Xtra
London
Yalding House
7D/Ref: 20477109
🇬🇧 02-Nov-09 🇦 12 months

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Controller
Technology Development & Delivery
London
Broadcast Centre Media Village
SM2/Ref: 20534009
🇬🇧 29-Oct-09

Creative Director for mobile
London
Broadcast Centre Media Village
9D/Ref: 20314909
🇬🇧 27-Oct-09

Test Manager
London
Broadcast Centre Media Village
8D/Ref: 20412109
🇬🇧 28-Oct-09

Web Developer
London
White City
7D/Ref: 20394809TB
🇬🇧 23-Oct-09 Various

Software Engineer, Client Side Developer
London
Bush House
7D/Ref: 16846609
🇬🇧 26-Oct-09 🇦 12 months

Broadcast Engineer, BBC Sussex & BBC Surrey
Multi Location - South East
5/7D/Ref: 15422609
🇬🇧 25-Oct-09

See Attachment

Finding a partner

Move the London job north? **Paul Corcoran** should be so lucky... lucky, lucky, lucky

'I REALLY WANT THIS ATTACHMENT, but do I have to be based in London?' That was me in my interview for an attachment as partnership manager with a brilliant team called Connect and Create in late 2008. I wasn't being awkward; I could see the value in the post being based in the north. Having a young family settled in Newcastle made relocating difficult... and I could continue my regular visits to St James's Park, home of Newcastle United.

After six years in BBC Learning, working with school teachers and delivering learning campaigns, I was in need of a fresh challenge and I was keen to make more use of my background in training.

I'm now part of the BBC Academy, a skilled and



creative bunch of people who develop, design and deliver a wide range of training that ensures all staff across the BBC develop to their full potential.

Connect and Create is a team of four. I liken us to Kylie Minogue – small but perfectly formed. Connect and Create takes an innovative approach to staff development while benefiting charities and communities across the UK. My role is to create and plan ongoing projects that meet the skill development needs of staff as well as deliver real impact in communities.

The projects I run are varied and inspiring. A typical week will see BBC staff learning camera skills to shoot a film for a charity in Glasgow, or developing leadership skills mentoring the long term unemployed in Bristol. Other staff might be delivering career workshops to hundreds of eager students in Birmingham schools. Or we might have 30 people bonding as a team through decorating a children's centre in Nottingham.

In the nine months I've been here I've learnt so much. Parts of the job have been a really steep learning curve; other areas have certainly developed my existing skills and taught me new ways of approaching situations. The feedback from both staff and the charities is what makes all the hard work and travel worthwhile. A personal highlight was witnessing a 17 year-old part-time shop assistant screening her own news story to millions of viewers as a result of the Step Up project.

The icing on the cake is that recently my attachment was made permanent... and Newcastle United are even starting to win games again.

Been anywhere nice? Send your attachment stories to Clare Bolt

FULL DETAILS AND HOW TO APPLY

Full details and how to apply are on Gateway at:
https://jobs.bbc.co.uk/fe/tpl_bbc02.asp
For assistance contact BBC Recruitment's Response Team on: 0800 082 8080 or 0370 333 1330

EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS

Vacancies published on this page are open to BBC Staff. Where indicated (🇬🇧), external applicants may also be considered. Please contact (quoting the appropriate ref.no.): Recruitment BBC HR Direct, PO Box 1133, Belfast BT1 9GP Tel: 0370 333 1330. Textphone: 028 9032 8478

You've been at the BBC 25 years, most of those at Radio York

Yes. I love it here and I love local radio. It doesn't mean I'm not ambitious. I can turn my hand to anything here. I get to talk to people at the happiest, saddest and most controversial times in their lives. They trust you to laugh with them, challenge them, cry with them and to get their story across. What a privilege.

York is also a great place to live.

Did you always want to work for the BBC?

No, I wanted to be a teacher but failed my A levels twice. Now, I get invited to a lot of school prize days because I prove you don't need to be academic to succeed.

How did you get into the BBC?

I was a freelance secretary and good at shorthand and typing. When the radio station opened I came in for a nosey around and it all started from there. I started freelancing for Radio York two days before my 21st birthday.

And your job now?

Well, I'm a senior broadcast journalist, a presenter and a team leader for sport so I have a lot of titles. The most important thing to me is my drive programme. It starts at 3pm and lasts for four hours. It's a mix of people stories, main news stories and reaction to those.

You have had a lot of attachments

I've been all over the place including the World Service sports unit. I also went to BBC WM to do a seven week news convergence course. It was for people who had radio skills but no formal journalism skills.

What do you remember from your time there?

It was the late 1980s and Birmingham had one of the first multimedia newsrooms. Everybody worked together. If tv couldn't send a reporter out they'd ask us in radio to hold a mic and ask certain questions for them. I don't think that happens as much now. It was really forward thinking and worked brilliantly.

Where else have you been?

I worked in Leeds on a live political programme. It was half an hour on BBC Two and then a follow up half hour on radio. I helped on the radio programme, which was for the whole of Yorkshire. I also went on attachment to Radio Humberside.

CV

Degree: None, but diplomas in business French and Spanish

First job: Working in Dolcis shoe shop in York

Career landmark: Meeting the Duke of York at an event where I was compere

Special Skill: Can write French shorthand

ELLY FIORENTINI

**PRESENTER
AND
SPORT TEAM
LEADER
BBC YORK**

She failed her A levels twice and her driving test seven times but is still motoring on after 25 years at the BBC



PHOTOGRAPH: MARK ROBERTSON

Did you enjoy that?

Yes, but I became known as the reporter who got lost on the way to stories. I also had my first bump in a BBC vehicle. I reversed into a fence. I'd only been driving for four months, though, and it took me seven attempts to pass my driving test.

You're into rugby?

I used to work on a rugby league review programme which went out across ten local radio stations in the north. It was funny because I've always been a rugby union fan. I was at the rugby world cup final when England won, but I support Ireland. I set off to Australia when Ireland were heading for the quarter finals, but then they got beaten by Australia by one point. I had a friend who was working for the sponsors so I managed to

get a ticket for the final anyway as a competition winner had dropped out. My mobile phone bill was over £700 that month because I rang everybody I knew.

What are your Irish links?

I'm Irish Italian, but was born in York. My family has an ice cream business on the Strand in Derry which is just down the road from BBC Radio Foyle. I went on a tour of the station once and was introduced as 'Elly - you eat in her uncle's café every morning'. I go back to Northern Ireland regularly and people do comment on my surname. My grandfather left Italy for Ireland in 1911 so I'm very proud of my heritage.

What's the biggest story you've covered?

Two stand out. I was presenting breakfast in 2000 and we could see the river was rising. It turned out to be the worst floods that York had ever seen and I worked through the night with colleagues. We got a Sony Gold for our coverage.

What about other big stories?

The train crash at Great Heck near Selby, in 2001. We got a phone call in the newsroom

from a woman who thought there had been an accident. I came off air and went to the scene. I ended up as a reporter and a social worker. People who had family members on the train were ringing the newsroom. We showed we could cover the story without upsetting the community. That was very important to us. We were going to be here a long time after the national media had left. We were invited to a memorial service in the village and were allowed to broadcast the service from York Minster.

What stories have affected you most?

I have interviewed people who've gone through very sad times and I'm not ashamed to say I've shed tears with them. To understand people's stories you've got to understand their emotions.

I recently covered a soldier's military funeral and service of thanksgiving at the Minster. It was such a privilege to have been able to report on such a sad occasion. He was a local lad killed in Afghanistan who had come home to be laid to rest.

Interview by Peggy Walker

foreign report



ELIZABETH CLARK

RADIO SCOTLAND SENIOR PRODUCER GOES STATESIDE

ICEBREAKERS ARE GOOD when you're flying solo at a conference. Registering for the PRPD (Public Radio Program Directors) event in Cleveland, Ohio I didn't notice the typo on my delegate pass. But on closer inspection, it said I was from Glasgow, Scotland. So I had my icebreaker.

Glasgow sounds like just the kind of city I'd like to be from. But once people had stopped laughing, they started to ask about my city. Americans are obsessed with statistics. What's the population? Average temperature and rainfall? Number of students in our universities? I'm ashamed to say I didn't have all the answers. But I could tell them all about Radio Scotland's ground-breaking Zones [themed output grouped in specialist areas such as Celtic, history, comedy].

I joined a panel discussion on Lean Models for Quality Production. Our Zones are just that. We discussed how to make great radio in a chal-

Not a session went by without mention of Twitter

lenging financial landscape. Canada's CBC Radio, for example, shared details of its Content Factory - producers working across output rather than assigned to particular programmes or strands.

Back to Americans and their obsession with statistics. I learnt that currently there are around 30 million listeners to public radio. By 2020, it's thought this will have grown to 50 million. Set against the demise of the newspaper industry, radio is thought uniquely placed to win new listeners through inclusiveness, authenticity, diversity and ambition. And they're investing in fully integrated websites, particularly in the delivery of news. They're keen on social networking too. Not a conference session went by without mention of Facebook and Twitter.

And how will the audience be consuming radio? One billion dollars has been spent advertising HD radio but, so far, there's only a 29 percent awareness across the country.

Internet streaming figures are down year on year, while the real growth is in mobile.

One conference event stood shoulders above the rest. The Moth is a live story-telling organisation which recently launched The Moth Radio Hour. In Cleveland, they presented three emotional stories: one about a Mormon virgin who fell in and ultimately out of love with an atheist; one about a miracle survivor of a murderous gang initiation; finally, a man whose suicidal thoughts were turned around by the song In the Arms of An Angel - the song which led him to discover he was adopted. I left the conference hoping to bring the Moth Radio Hour to Radio Scotland.

bbc.co.uk/radioscotland/zones

green room

THE ARIELATOR

A weekly take on life at the BBC: who's up, who's down, who's off



UPSIDE This cat is a hypnotherapist. No, we're not being cute, though we admit a purring ball of fur on one's lap is a very effective stress reliever. Those certificates are the property of **George the cat**. He got them with the help of his owner Chris Jackson, presenter on North East and Cumbria current events programme *Inside Out*, as part of an investigation into how easy it is to become a registered hypnotherapist. Pretty easy as it turns out, and now George the Hypnocat (as the newly famous feline now styles himself) has gone viral on the internet appearing on blogs, news sites, and a museum of hoaxes. Tinyurl.com/hypcat

DOWNSIDE

More than one million people have now witnessed a rare kakapo parrot attempting to mate with presenter and zoologist **Mark Carwardine's** head thanks to YouTube. The clip, from BBC Two series *Last Chance to See*, sees travelling companion Stephen Fry excitedly issue the immortal phrase 'You are being sxxxxx by a rare parrot!', while Mark grimaces in pain as the bird (which now has its own Twitter and Facebook accounts) digs its claws into his neck and rhythmically beats his head with its wings. Ouch.



EARWIGGING

OVERHEARD AT THE BBC

...Have you got five minutes to talk to me about Life?...

... He's someone who'll drop his drawers for three minutes of airtime, any time.

...I may, or may not, be able to pop in, depending on my insomnia...

...He's going to get Siemens to pump up Wales...

...I'm hearing you're about to whip off your skirt...

...Somebody nicked my shoes when I wasn't looking and put different shoes on me...



Cafe scene:
Thick of It actors
Rebecca Front,
Joanna Scanlan
and James Smith



IN THE THICK OF THE ACTION

A MINISTER STANDS fumbling for change at the till in TVC's Fuel Stop cafe. She's flanked by special advisors who nervously chatter into their phones as they prepare for her debate with the opposition on 5 live. It's a common enough scene in that media hub, where the great, the good, and the rest rub immaculate shoulders on their way to their moment in the spotlight. Except this minister has the unusual title of Secretary of State for the department of Social Affairs and Citizenship. Not a department you're familiar with? Before handing in your resignation in shame at your lack of current affairs knowledge, be advised that she's actually the fictional

creation from the comedic mind of one Armando Iannucci for the new series of his political comedy series *The Thick of It*, which starts on Saturday. The team took over the Fuel Stop last month as part of an episode set at the BBC, but thanks to their guerrilla filming methods the cafe remained open the whole time – with indifferent staff passing by the crew to purchase a medicinal double espresso. The foray into TVC did have some challenges, however. 'One of the big issues was getting the right radio mic frequency,' said producer Adam Tandy. 'We didn't want Malcolm Tucker bursting in on News 24.' Now that's what green room would call breaking news.



'WE'LL HAVE A FEW TINS, THEN RANSACK A VILLAGE'

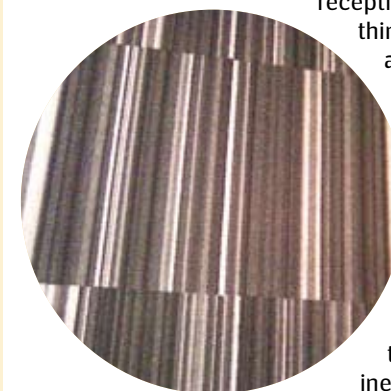
MEDIEVAL BANDIT LEADERS probably did drink a lot of beer in the course of duty. As well as wine, mead, and the occasional horn of ram's blood when they wanted to get super tanked up. But what they probably didn't do was sit back and crack open a cool can of their favourite lager – so it was sur-

prising to see Hengist from BBC One's *Merlin* doing just that, handily pointed out at the weekend on *Points of View*. We know *Merlin* is set in a fictional fantasy universe with dragons and magic and such, but spells for mass produced beer receptacles really is a step too far...

WE HEAR THAT...

WITH THE prospect of MediaCityUK looming, the BBC Manchester building isn't likely to get a fresh lick of paint any time soon. So staff and visitors alike have been surprised by the installation of a new carpet in the reception area. An Ariel mole describes it as looking like 'bad tv reception.'

Green room thinks they have a point, and has been told the crazy carpet (left) has now invaded the lifts.



WE'VE ALL come up against the rigorous process of claiming for taxi journeys and train rides, so imagine convincing HR to

pay up for a giraffe leg. The

NHU's Alastair Fothergill did just that when he returned from a trip to Africa. 'They wanted proof of purchase so I had to explain that Maasai warriors don't give receipts,' he explained at White City's Managing Creativity conference. 'Years ago David Attenborough also claimed for some horses he bought while filming in Patagonia. When he returned HR wanted to know where the BBC's property was. 'We ate them' was his reply.' Attenborough in 'ate my horses' shocker?

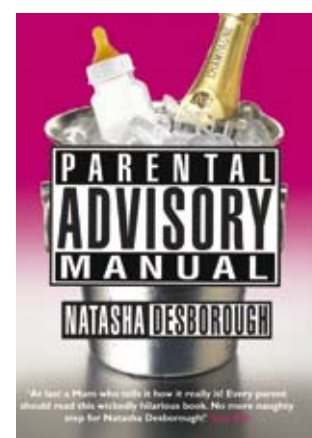
Green room can confirm that the animals were in fact left alive and well by the naturalist.

21 MONTH

old Isaac FitzPatrick (pictured) popped in to lend a hand in the Broadcast Centre. Dad Shane FitzPatrick, a manager in FM&T, ensures us: 'He's not that cute when you get to know him, I promise.'



YOUR CHANCE TO WIN THIS BOOK



PRESENTER AND mum Natasha Desborough tells it like it is in her new book on the fine art of parenting. Natasha tells us: 'The inspiration for the book came from my show on 6 Music when a listener (who was a parent) texted in asking if I thought it was weird that she had a proper full-

on crush on Justin Fletcher from CBeebies. This then became the discussion topic for a good 45 minutes of the show. I'll happily stand up and say that I'd like to have it off with Sportacus from *LazyTown* - phwoooooar.'

TO WIN one of ten copies of the Parental Advisory Manual, answer this question: From which country does the *LazyTown* series originate? Email ariel competitions by October 26.