



### **Only the BBC!**

The NUJ's members in the BBC are proud of the corporation's role as a public service broadcaster. This is what they say about just a few of the programmes they believe show the corporation at its best.

### **Investigative journalism**

Panorama's exposure of the abuse of vulnerable adults at Winterbourne View Hospital is an example of the BBC's excellent investigative journalism, despite the many cuts to the news budget. Joe Plomin, producer director of Panorama, said: "No other broadcaster in the world invests as seriously in the sort of undercover investigations I produce – nor would they. It could never make commercial sense. The sort of long-term infiltrations of institutions where all else has failed and where complaints have been ignored would not happen outside of the BBC, at least not in the way we manage them over very long periods. I worry whether salami slicing or outsourcing the BBC could one day have an unintended consequence. Could it mean that I am told of terrible abuse, but am not able to investigate it? And where all agencies have already failed, where complaints have been ignored, what would that mean for the vulnerable who had turned to us?"

### **At the heart of the community**

BBC Radio Lincolnshire has been at the forefront of innovative projects, bringing high-quality arts events to a part of the world often decried as a cultural desert. Lincoln Lip Dub was a community event that could only have been organised by local BBC, which celebrated the historic heart of this cathedral city. It involved creating a film with more than 500 members of the public and 43 community groups, who danced and sang their way through the city's streets. It has been viewed by about 200,000 people around the world and has played a role in promoting the city to visitors. The radio station also took a major part in city's celebration of the anniversaries of the Magna Carta and the First World War. In the past year, the station provided comprehensive coverage of local and national elections, organising and broadcasting hustings from each constituency; preparing constituency profiles, adding live coverage and reaction from every election count, far outstripping the efforts of commercial radio.

BBC Radio Sheffield's week-long series in March marked 30 years since the end of the miners' strike and assessed what progress former pit communities had made since the mines shut down.

## **Westminster**

BBC Parliament & Democracy Live put the politicians on air unedited and with little or no commentary. Many MPs love that and support it. No commercial broadcaster delivers that level of parliamentary coverage.

The Political Research Unit produces detailed internal briefs on Parliament, political parties, elections etc, for the whole of the BBC. It has been described as the envy of other broadcasters.

## **Voice – and eyes – of the people**

The BBC's user-generated content hub brings together eyewitness accounts from citizens across the globe. It was the tsunami on 26 December 2004 which led the way in this brand of reporting. Since then, events such as the terrorist attack in London on 7 July 2005, the Buncefield fuel depot fire, protests in Iran and Burma, where journalists had been banned, the London riots of 2011 and the Arab Spring, people on the ground have sent their pictures and tweets to the BBC. The journalists on the hub check every image, video or key contact before broadcasting them, to make sure they are genuine.

## **Cultural identity & community values & faith**

Radio Cymru is the only national radio station in Welsh, providing a full range of programmes which no-one else would make, from political discussions to hymn singing. Cymru Fyw is the only national online site in Welsh.

BBC Local Radio's commitment to two hours of faith-based local content each Sunday morning is unrivalled in any other media, giving a vital platform to sharing and exploring an aspect of our community values which is often referenced but seldom investigated.

BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong and Choral Vespers is the only example in the world of an hour's live sacred classical music performed to the highest standards by a different line-up of top professionals each week. It is broadcast (and repeated) in perfectly-engineered quality - but at staggeringly low cost - for the enjoyment of music lovers from any faith - and none - in its original authentic liturgical context.

BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme is the only example of rigorous, balanced, international, multi-religion and ethics news and current affairs, factual and features journalism in the world.

The Asian Network connects the 3 million UK-Asian population like no other commercial organisation. Especially when it comes to news, the Asian Network covers high-impact stories right from the heart of the Asian community, because we know what matters to our audience. You won't find a newsroom in any other organisation that can do what we do.

## **Public-interest journalism**

As a correspondent, the BBC gives me time to find and develop original stories of public interest. Recent examples include a story about Libyan soldiers who sexually assaulted women in Cambridge and police confusion in three forces over which should attend a motorbike crash on the border of three counties. Both stories were picked up nationally, with extensive coverage.

## **Joyously highbrow**

A History of the World in 100 Objects – only Radio 4 and only the BBC could undertake a project that offers its listeners a history of the world, as told through 100 hundred objects in the British Museum's collection. This unique partnership project between two leading public sector organisations has had 40 million downloads worldwide. It has been described as "perfect radio" (Independent) and "joyously highbrow ... deserves to take its place alongside television classics such as Kenneth Clark's Civilisation and Jacob Bronowski's The Ascent of Man" (Telegraph). Shakespeare's Restless World – a 20-part series, also presented by Neil MacGregor, was a further result of this partnership as was the acclaimed Germany: Memories of a Nation.

## **BBC Radio 4**

A special edition of **All in the Mind**, to mark the programme's 25th anniversary won the Mind mental health radio award in 2014. There were some very powerful and moving stories from listeners about not only their experience of mental health but their relationships with people around them and how the programme had in many cases changed their lives.

**Bookclub** is a fantastic opportunity for ordinary people to meet the world's leading authors in an intimate setting to discuss their novels. We often welcome groups of students from schools and sixth form colleges. We also support smaller communities through Outside Broadcasts from small literary festivals – not just the big ones like Hay, Cheltenham and Edinburgh which enjoy the support of major newspapers.

**Digital success:** I'm working on a series about UK computer pioneers since the 1940s and it is clear that the drive in the 1980s to release the BBC Microcomputer System, and the associated educational programmes, such as Making the Most of the Micro did an enormous amount to start a huge boom in the UK's software industry. Children who learned coding on the Micro went to form companies that created computer games, start software houses and begin the big internet sites we have today. The new BBC Make It Digital season in 2015 aims to inspire a new generation of coders by handing over a new piece of software called the Microbit free to every 11-year-old in the UK to help teach them how to code.

**The Radio 4 Appeal** is a unique BBC initiative to support the charity sector. Every week we work in partnership with a charity, giving an invaluable chance, particularly for small charities, to become more widely known and reach new potential donors. The charities are scrutinised so minutely before being given a Radio 4 Appeal that to have achieved this is considered a seal of approval in the charitable world and often leads to further donations.

**The Infinite Monkey Cage** is the programme that started the boom in combining comedy and science, winning a Sony Gold prize (radio's equivalent of an Oscar). It appeals to young audiences and smashes through the boundary between science and our wider culture.

**The Life Scientific** - where else but Radio 4 can you find a scientific discussion on weekday prime-time radio (09.00)? It doesn't even have the draw of a big-name presenter. Only the BBC would dare to try such a show. Everybody said it would fail, but it has not just worked but has become hugely popular beyond its target audience and has won a listeners' award.

## **BBC Radio 3**

The BBC Proms is the world's biggest music festival and is shared across the globe via radio, television and multiplatform. In 2015 there were 88 concerts and more than 80 complementary indoor and outdoor events. Well over 300,000 tickets were sold – 37,500 of them to first timers at the Proms and 8,600 to under-18s. The Wireless Nights Prom, a 2015 collaboration between Radio 3 and Radio 4, brought a whole new audience to classical music <http://www.bbc.co.uk/events/e5q5v2#b068tsj1>. Presenter Jarvis Cocker weaved story, song and classical music into a unique event to be enjoyed both at the Royal Albert Hall and at home.

It's often claimed that Breakfast on Radio 3 is "aping" Classic FM, due to its high proportion of shorter, well-known classical pieces. But spend half an hour listening to one, then the other, and you'll hear there's a world of difference, musically, in presentation, and in station sound.

Through the Night on Radio 3 is produced by the BBC and shared with European Broadcast Union broadcast partners across Europe. It's full of unique music and live performances across the world. You cannot hear these performances on CD. The range and diversity of classical music played in Through the Night is enormous. There is no other programme on UK radio like it.

Radio 3's The Verb entertains while taking writers and writing seriously. We support talent by investing part of the budget in commissioning new writing. In collaboration with the Arts Council and writing organisations, we mentor new writers from across the North – a region which is under-represented in the national media.

## **Big themes**

Themed days such as Democracy Day <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-30734123> and Freedom 2014 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-25683135> brought together a range of the BBC's departments and platforms to create these unique events.

## **BBC training**

As well as its breadth of programmes, the BBC also provides world-class training for not only its staff but also for workers the wider creative industries. The BBC Academy works across the BBC and with outside partners such as Creative Skillset. Much is offered online from online courses open to everyone to podcasts and craft skill training videos, in an industry where training opportunities can be rare, let alone free. The BBC Academy also runs entry level schemes, such as apprenticeships, desperately needed to bring in new talent and increase diversity in the industry. It spearheads and runs BBC and industry campaigns to increase diversity on and off screen, with events such as Expert Voices, Women in Radio and BAME Welcome Back for Black, Asian and minority ethnic professionals.