



BBC English Regions

Annual Review 2005-2006

Purpose, Vision and Values

Our purpose

Our purpose is to enrich people's lives with programmes and services that inform, educate and entertain.

Our vision

Our vision is to be the most trusted and creative community broadcaster in the country, serving a widely diverse range of urban and rural communities.

Our values

- Trust is the foundation of the BBC: we are independent, impartial and honest.
- Creativity is the lifeblood of our organisation.
- Audiences are at the heart of everything we do.
- We respect each other and celebrate our diversity so that everyone can give their best.
- We take pride in delivering quality and value for money.
- We are one BBC: great things happen when we work together.



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Foreword by the Governor for the English Regions



Network partnerships are thriving, building on the impact of wide-ranging series such as *Springwatch*, *The British Isles: A Natural History*, *Coast*, *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *Nation on Film* – series which our advisory councils have not only praised but described as unique to the BBC. When I first took up office, no such partnerships existed, nor were there any network commissions to BBC English Regions.

The more traditional role of BBC English Regions, as one of the BBC's main training grounds for new talent, has grown apace and gained a fresh momentum with the establishment of the Nations & Regions best practice centre, SON&R, in Bristol. One of the results has been an increased professionalism, demonstrated in the number of industry awards won, and the high standards set in the BBC's own Ruby and Gillard Awards, for regional television and English Local Radio respectively.

But most of all there has been a desire to engage directly with audiences which I have supported whole-heartedly. A whole range of initiatives including the Open Centres and BBC Buses, the *Where I Live* sites, the *Roots* partnership with Arts Council England, and this year, the Local Television pilot, have built new relationships with people across England.

All of these share one thing – a celebration of everything that is best in our multi-cultural society.

As I come to the end of my appointment as Governor with special responsibility for the English Regions having served two terms of office, it seems a fitting time to look back and see what's happened over the past eight years.

There has been a sea change in this multi-million pound, multi-centre business, driven by the desire to achieve greater localness and to connect more deeply with local licence fee payers around the country. In my travels around the 50 or so BBC sites in England, I have noticed a new confidence emerging amongst the 3,000 strong staff who deliver local services in the BBC Local Radio stations, *Where I Live* local websites, and the regional television centres.

Each year has seen the launch of new, local services in response to audience demand, and each year their popularity has built so that in many cases, it is those local and regional services which are winning the highest audiences and achieving recognition for their public value both inside and outside the BBC.

It has been one of my aims during my time at the BBC to foster a debate on what it means to be English today and I have delighted in the paradoxical nature of the BBC's services, offering a rich mix of programming for diverse audiences and bringing the country together at momentous times in the life of the nation.

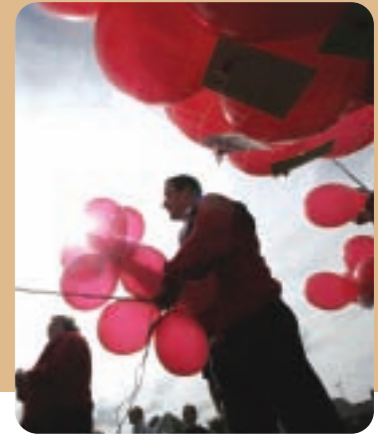
I hand the continuing debate on to my successor and commend the enthusiasm, dedication, and professionalism of the staff under the inspired leadership of Andy Griffiee. It is his clear vision which has guided BBC English Regions through unprecedented growth and recently the impact of job cuts and the new priorities under the *Creative Futures* initiative.

Finally, I would like to bid farewell to the many friends I have made in the BBC and to the 530 advisory council members who have so graciously supported me in my role with their knowledge of BBC services and frank feedback.

I will continue to watch and wonder at the progress of this great organisation and wish it well in its unique role of bringing people together across England, across the UK and around the world.

Ranjit Sondhi - CBE

The English National Forum and the Advisory Councils



The English National Forum is an independent body of advisers which meets four times a year. Its members are drawn from the BBC's 50 Regional and Local Advisory Councils across England, whose 530 volunteers reflect the views of licence fee payers in their area.

The Forum reports regularly to the BBC Board of Governors on local and regional performance and advises the Governors on issues arising from the feedback of the advisory councils. It contributes to the Governors' review of the BBC's overall performance and helps the Governors set BBC objectives, taking into account the needs and interests of audiences throughout England.

Regional Chairs	Advisory Council
Sue Kelly	North East & Cumbria
Bernie Steed OBE	South West
Sue Pomeroy	West
David Pryer	South East
Jacqui Francis	West Midlands
Julie Pangarry	North West
Annette Priestley	South
Amarjit Gill	East Midlands
Dr Dwain Neil	London
Clarke Willis	East
Elizabeth Peacock	Yorkshire
Edward (Ted) Wright	Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

In addition to their annual cycle of programme and service review, the Advisory Councils and English National Forum spent a significant amount of their time during the year contributing to the debate on the future of the BBC's governance and accountability under the new BBC Trust.

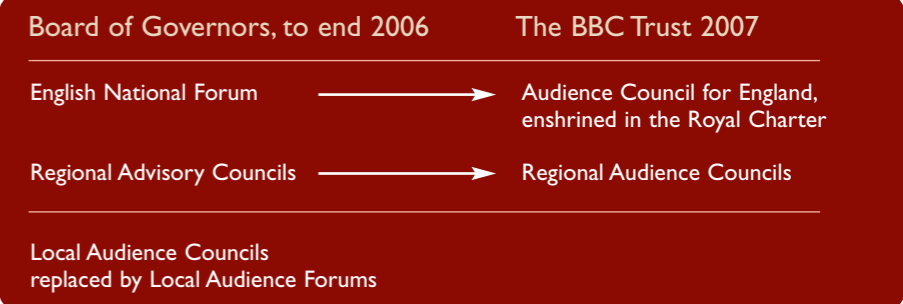
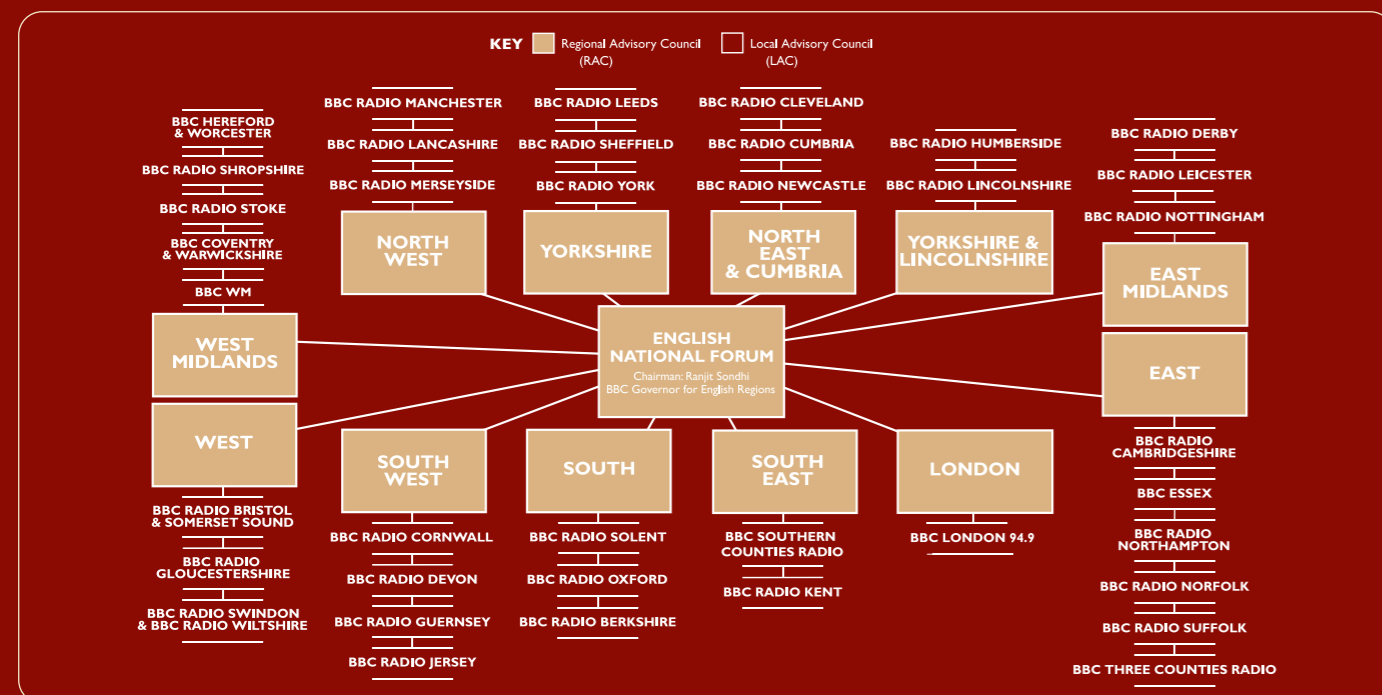
The Forum welcomed the draft wording of the new Royal Charter with its recognition of the national identity of England and the creation of a new Audience Council for England as its successor. At the same time, it noted the importance of safeguarding the diversity of regions and localities within the BBC Trust's structures for England.

Among the accountability activities which took place during the year was a round of 38 BBC Local Radio phone-ins with council chairs and members. The Forum also responded to the government's Green Paper on the future of the BBC and its Charter provisions. In September, representatives from the Forum and the National Broadcasting Councils met at the first UK-councils' conference in Cardiff, and members also participated with the National Broadcasting Councils in a briefing on their work for officials from the Department of Culture, Media & Sport, in January 2006.

- 1: LEFT TO RIGHT: Garden designer Penny Smith, presenter Andy Garland, and Sally Dowler celebrate winning *Most Creative Garden* at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show 2005. The garden was designed in memory of Millie Dowler, who was murdered in 2002.
- 2: LEFT TO RIGHT: Dwain Neil, Julie Pangarry and Bernie Steed presented the ENF Annual Report in April 2006 to the Board of Governors at TV Centre, London.
- 3: Presenters of BBC Radio Cumbria released five hundred balloons from Carlisle Castle in August 2005 to launch a week of programmes, called *Voices*, exploring the way people speak around the UK.

Members took part in two BBC consultations: on the last set of pan-BBC objectives prior to the introduction of the new Royal Charter and Service Licences, and on complaints handling by the Board of Governors.

Finally, all councils were briefed on proposed changes to the accountability structure under the new Charter; and a working party established to agree recommendations. These informed the Board of Governors' decision in April 2006 on the new accountability structure in England, as illustrated below. Under the new structure, the Local Advisory Councils are to be replaced with Local Audience Forums consisting of public events aimed at attracting more people including those from hard-to-reach groups, but still reported on to the regional councils.



Review of Performance



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

1: Babita Sharma and co-presenter Joel Mapp in BBC Jersey's new studio.
 2: BBC Southern Counties Radio Presenter John Lees has his oversized image on the side of the buses of Brighton and Hove, as part of a campaign on local characters who take the bus to work.
 3: Tabetha Painten is a community content producer on Shropshire Local TV.
 4: Eamonn O'Neil is co-presenter of BBC Radio Manchester's *The Two Fatlads*.



ABOVE: One of the participants in the Luton Carnival in May 2006 displays her costume. The event was covered by BBC Three Counties Radio.

Last year's objectives for BBC English Regions

Objective One

Make services attractive to audiences:

- Early evening regional news - increase reach up to 24 per cent.
- BBC Local Radio - reach of at least 20 per cent.
- Website growth - to exceed that of bbc.co.uk
- Appreciation Index for local opt-out programmes to match or exceed the network average for their genre.

Objective Two

Deliver impact both in English Regions' own programming and through pan-BBC initiatives.

Objective Three

Implement the *Value for Money* Review to reduce overheads and increase production efficiency.

Objective Four

Pilot a Local Television service in the West Midlands.

Objective Five

Reshape external relationships.

Objective Six

Launch two new *Politics Shows*, in the East Midlands and South East regions.

Objective Seven

Continue to implement the diversity strategy.

Summary

The English National Forum, representing the 50 advisory councils in England, noted the Controller's report of performance against the year's objectives and the Statement of Programme Policy at their March 2006 meeting. They were pleased to see that all targets had been achieved and that the 25 per cent independent production quota had been exceeded, reaching 28 per cent across 2006.

In the comparison of performance against last year's objectives, the following points were made:

- Greater impact for regional television and BBC Local Radio through increase in amount of local and specialist programming; further progress hampered by conflicting funding priorities in wider BBC.
- Impact of Local Television pilot in the West Midlands, particularly among small community groups.
- Proposed changes to accountability structure aimed at improving contact with audience groups including the hard-to-reach.
- Political and current affairs' programmes launched to positive reception in two under-served regions (East Midlands and South East).
- Funding choices in English Regions limit further expansion in newest region of Yorkshire & Lincolnshire.

More generally, the English National Forum welcomed new, more local services across all platforms, on radio, television and online, and congratulated the BBC on maintaining the high quality of output despite efficiency savings and job uncertainties.

They identified a big appetite for more regional programming and services including buses but felt that there was generally poor promotion of regional factual output, both on television and radio.

Gaps in reception continued, for both analogue and digital, and some reservations were expressed over the funding for digital switchover, partly through the licence fee.

Network news' judgements were occasionally questioned and there was felt to be little reflection of the regions in network drama. Network factual programmes celebrating Britain were praised, with the notable exception of Trafalgar Day. The General Election coverage lacked representation of the smaller political parties, and as in previous years, football was felt to dominate sports' coverage across the whole of BBC.

While councils across England were able to identify where they were having an impact on local and regional services, the Forum found little evidence of impact of the accountability bodies on network output. Diversity of membership was at its highest level to date and councils were confident that they were well able to reflect BBC audiences; they recognised the difficulties in connecting more with the young and other hard-to-reach groups, and felt that a balance had to be struck between continued engagement with core audiences and efforts to connect with others.

Looking ahead, councils expressed reservations about the scale of the BBC's aspirations under what is likely to be a modest licence fee settlement. Maintaining the quality of current, core services will be more important than expanding services and over-stretching people and resources.

News & Current Affairs

The quality and impact of *BBC News* remained high. Councils approved the attempts to extend reach by varying style to appeal to different parts of the audience, from BBC One's 6pm News to Radio One. Doubts were expressed around value for money and the BBC's ambitions when several reporters were sent to cover major stories, for example Hurricane Katrina.

The coverage of some of the year's big news stories raised several questions. There were serious concerns over privacy and ethics in the coverage of the London bombings in July, but the trust-worthiness of the reporting and its accuracy were not in doubt. The reporting of Hurricane Katrina had volume and depth; not so the reporting of the devastating Mumbai floods which was cursory by comparison.

The 6.30pm regional news programmes were noticeably improving in reach and impact, and a number had achieved wider geographical coverage; Dorset was a rare exception.

Now in its third year, *Inside Out* was highly valued by councils, regularly featuring a diverse and informative range of stories with good geographical spread. There was a big appetite for more regional output of this kind, including more follow-ups and all-year-round transmission.

Much discussion had centred on the new weather graphics, particularly in the more rural and coastal regions where it was felt quality and authority had suffered through a loss of detail and unclear graphics' style; improvements in presentation and content were noted during the year.

Politics

The *Politics Show* met its remit 'to bring politics from Downing Street to your street'. Councils acknowledged that its aim to be accessible and of appeal to a wide audience came at the expense of depth.

It was felt that the impact of the regional opt-out could be increased by extending its current 20 minutes, and by more holding to account of the many quangos, their Chairs and Chief Executives, who control so large a part of the public purse. The debate over how hard politicians should be pressed in interview continued.

The launch of *Politics England* on BBC Parliament was valued in increasing the amount of informative and entertaining output from the regions on the networks but it was felt to be too lightweight for a dedicated politics' audience. With the right resourcing it could develop real weight and hold decision makers to account.

Political reporting in general continued to be robust, with the BBC's much valued independence and balance in evidence. On *General Election* coverage, however, a minority felt the BBC had pandered to the government's agenda and failed to widen the debate; and there had been little coverage of the smaller parties.

Factual

Picture of Britain and *Coast* were applauded as high quality, uniquely BBC series. The regional *Picture of Britain* programmes had not resonated in the same way and there was confusion over the brief which differed from the network programmes; however in some regions, notably the West, East Midlands and West Midlands, the passion of the local presenters made a huge impact on viewers.

Reach for *Coast* was affected by the twice weekly transmissions which councils felt had not been flagged clearly enough in trails and TV listings.

A number of councils expressed disappointment at the lack of network coverage from Portsmouth on 28 June to mark Trafalgar Day 200, and at the subsequent explanation of competing network demands including coverage of Wimbledon.

Poor promotion reduced the impact of programmes such as *Voices*, described as an important and valuable project which only the BBC could tackle, *People's War*, and *Nation on Film*, which was absorbing and powerful. Councils were pleased to learn that similar BBC archive material was to be made available in the new Creative Archive. *Seven Man-made Wonders* was valued as a further regional strand.



ABOVE: BBC Radio Berkshire's Andrew Peach chats to a different kind of royalty among the crowds gathered for the Royal Wedding at Windsor in April, 2005.

Review of Performance



Drama & Entertainment

North East & Cumbria RAC welcomed the return of *55 Degrees North*, set in part of their region, and noted the positive impact of the region's portrayal on network television. This was one of the few examples during the year of regional portrayal. All councils had praise for *Dr Who*, which had become a rare opportunity to view with all the family.

Sport

Football still dominated all BBC coverage particularly on television, at the expense of other sport including most notably cricket and women's. Female presenters were still in short supply, especially in local and regional services. Councils considered that this was the time for the BBC to take the lead and vary its offering to achieve greater impact and value for the fans of all sports. The loss of major sports rights was disappointing but councils acknowledged the value for money priority.

Councils recognised the unique nature of the BBC Local Radio sports service: it was a fine example of public service broadcasting, providing match commentaries on local teams and conveying the passion of its presenters even to the non-sports fan.

BBC Local Radio

Local Advisory Councils described the impact of the service on its core audience as high in the face of fierce competition from independent radio.

Schedules were delivering a good mix of national and local news, information and entertainment. Quality and impact had improved through the provision of more local output including split programmes, opt-outs and minority interest programming.

Reach and impact were significantly extended at times of local emergencies, for example the Buncefield oil depot fire; however there was some dissatisfaction at the continuation of shared evening programmes which reduced impact through a loss of localness.

Maintaining that 'local' flavour was felt to be key to the identity of BBC Local Radio.

The many specialist programmes for different parts of the community, including minority languages, sexual orientation, ethnic groups, and specialist music tastes, were praised, and the launch of a new radio station for Coventry and Warwickshire, previously served by BBC WM, was welcomed.



1: Ray Stubbs (left) presents Steven Gerrard with Footballer of the Year award at the BBC North West Sports Awards 2005.

2: Geraldine McCullagh manages the Big Screen in Chamberlain Square, Birmingham. The screen is live 24 hours a day, seven days a week, showing content from the BBC, as well as short films, interactive games and coverage of big national events.

3: Sally Taylor of BBC South Today reports live from the top of Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower, which opened in October, 2005.

Reach was of concern to 12 Local Advisory Councils whose stations remained unavailable either on digital multiplexes or even on FM, as in Somerset; a further five stations suffered from patchy FM coverage. Reach also suffered through analogue and digital reception difficulties in all parts of Essex, around London (for example Berkshire), and parts of the Channel Islands, Cornwall, Devon and Cumbria.

bbc.co.uk

The *Where I Live* network of 44 sites grew in reach during the year, appealing to larger sections of the audience in addition to the 16 to 35 year olds at whom they were originally targeted; more could be done for older people and minority ethnic groups.



ABOVE: BBC Radio Jersey supported Remembrance Day at the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal HQ at Portelet Hotel.

Interactive Services & Public Engagement

Buses & Open Centres

Those councils in areas with buses and open centres noted their impact on local communities and saw them as a key part of the BBC's public service offering. Other councils pressed for their regions to be equally supplied.

Local Television Pilot

The West Midlands RAC reviewed the pilot, currently underway in the five counties of the West Midlands, for the first time in March 2006. Members valued the community aspect more highly than news which they felt was generally better covered on BBC Local Radio, both through speed of response and depth. Overall, the council believed this unique service looked likely to represent good use of the licence fee.

Social Action

Children in Need: There was no arguing with the impact of the campaign and programme as a money-raiser but despite improvements this year, the content compared poorly with Comic Relief. Councils would like to have seen a greater focus on where the money went, and more regional content.

Comic Relief: This was the best year yet. Impact could be improved for younger viewers with an earlier start, perhaps within children's programmes; and it was felt that a greater diversity among participants would have driven up reach. Its appeal was to the young rather than older viewers.

Outreach

Over 80 events including open days, outside broadcasts and community events were attended by council members who sought feedback from local people, often based on questionnaires around consumption of BBC services.

Several councils have expressed their interest in developing this activity in a more structured way as the plans around the new Trust's accountability strategy develop.

Rural Issues

A number of councils had shared concerns on behalf of rural licence payers.

These included digital distribution, particularly in Cumbria, scheduled as the first region (within the Borders designation) for analogue switchoff, and Cornwall and Devon, scheduled as the second; infrequent portrayal on national and regional television; and low understanding by largely urban-based television reporters of the significant contribution to the economy by country-dwellers and industries, most notably the food industry.



1: Journalists Lesley Young and Paul Scoins of BBC Three Counties Radio at Luton Airport.

2: Visitors to BBC Leicester Open Centre learn about digital cameras.

Commitments to Audiences 2006-2007



1: Young reporters practise their interviewing skills as part of Blast, the BBC's Young Reporter Scheme.
2: Local musicians celebrate Diwali as part of BBC Radio Coventry & Warwickshire's first World Music Festival.

This year's Statement of Programme Policy for BBC English Regions sets out how management is planning to meet audience needs during the year, based on the BBC's six Public Purposes. It will form the basis of management reporting at regular intervals over the year to ensure that the commitments are being met. A summary is given below.

The full document can be accessed at www.bbc.co.uk/info/statements2006

1. Reflecting the UK's nations, regions and communities

This year we will:

- Continue to develop our local TV pilot, launched in December 2005, testing out formats, content and technology and aiming to provide up to 50 local services on full roll-out, subject to approval.
- Continue to develop our proposals for four more local radio stations based in Somerset, Dorset, Cheshire and Bradford, and work on gaining approval and securing property and technology ready for the launch of Somerset and Dorset.

Measurable commitments

- At least 230,000 hours of local radio output.
- Less than 2.5% of this will be repeats.
- At least 3,500 hours of regional TV news.
- At least 250 original hours of local and regional television non-news programming, including current affairs.
- The speech content of BBC Local Radio will average at least 60% in core hours, and 100% at the breakfast peak.

2. Sustaining citizenship and civil society

Specifically this year we will:

- Strengthen our links with the Community Media Association – primarily through a training partnership.
- Further roll out our *Junior Football* web initiative, which offers support for children's sport and promotes IT skills in families.
- Support BBC Sport's *Your Game* initiative, which aims to promote sport in disadvantaged and marginalised communities.

3. Stimulating creativity and cultural excellence

This year we will:

- Extend our *Roots* partnership with the Arts Council for a further year.
- Further develop audio and video storytelling projects from our listeners and viewers.
- Run sports awards events across England celebrating the best of local and community talent.

4. Building digital Britain

This year we will:

- Use our Local TV pilot as a portal to draw in audiences to the BBC's wider digital offering.
- Continue to use our buses and open centres to demystify new technology and provide a supportive environment for those starting to cross the digital divide.

5. Promoting education and learning

This year we will:

- Provide relevant and engaging local content for pan-BBC projects that foster learning such as *Breathing Places* and *RaW*.
- Offer high-quality work experience, with a particular focus on developing an interest in the media amongst ethnic minority communities.
- Add two new buses, in Surrey/Sussex and Somerset.

6. Bringing the world to the UK and the UK to the world

Specifically this year we will:

- Develop the links that local radio built up with BBC World Service over 2005's *Africa* season.

Key priorities for 2006/2007

- To successfully conclude our pilot of Local TV in the West Midlands and begin to assess the way forward for the potential roll out of the service to other areas.
- To work towards launching new local radio stations in Dorset and Somerset.

Statutory commitments

BBC English Regions has no statutory commitments but works with BBC television and radio networks and interactive services to provide content for audiences in England and throughout the UK.

Overview from the Controller

What will the BBC's local services look like in ten years time? It's almost impossible to answer this question given the extraordinary pace of technological development in the broadcasting industry. Our audiences will receive our programmes and services in completely new ways on devices which are still undreamt of. They will demand them at times which are convenient to them. They will want them in audio, video, text...or all three together. But they will want them. If there is one thing of which I am certain, the demand for information about the area in which we live, work and play will become stronger than ever.



For many people that area is often contained in no more than a fourteen mile radius. Life is local and the BBC is well placed to be the most trusted and creative local broadcaster in every corner of this country at the end of the next decade - even in a world of almost limitless choice.

Just look at how we have ended this year. The previous year's unprecedented clean sweep, with every BBC regional evening news programme attracting more viewers than its ITV competitor; has been maintained for a further 12 months. The 6.30pm news programmes remain a cornerstone of the BBC One schedule, often attracting the highest audiences on the channel (after *EastEnders*) and relishing their combined position as the most watched national or regional news programme in the country - on the BBC or commercial television.

Our weekly television services - particularly *Inside Out* and *The Politics Show* - have gone from strength to strength with new editions being launched in the South East and East Midlands regions.

Our local radio audience figures have remained rock steady, attracting one in five of the population each week in spite of a huge and continuing increase in the number of ILR (Independent Local Radio) stations. Moreover, in spite of many more attractions for people's time, the average 11.5 weekly hours per listener have also stayed the same.

And our local online sites ended the year being used by more than ten million individuals in a month, attracting a phenomenal 112 million page impressions.

It's an impressive story of real achievement that has been complemented by real innovation.

More than a third of a million people had face to face contact with the BBC by visiting our buses or open centres and most recently, 50,000 people turned up for our family history days when BBC Local Radio joined forces with the BBC Two series *Who Do You Think You Are?* Initiatives like this are increasingly using BBC English Regions to give added depth to big pan-BBC projects. When we do this, we strengthen the BBC's relationship with licence fee payers who are stimulated to get up off the sofa and do something which really enriches their lives.

We are also using new technology to gather a richer variety of voices in our programmes. This ranges from an exciting pilot scheme at BBC Radio Lincolnshire in which every single member of staff and many members of the public can capture high quality audio and send it back to the station over the mobile phone network, to our new Local TV pilot in the West Midlands. This was launched on time and on budget to assess the level of interest in an on-demand television news and information service which is as local as local radio. With the pilot ending in August 2006, the launch team has risen to the challenge of using completely new technology and new ways of working to deliver a brand new type of service. Results at the time of writing are encouraging and we will take forward a case to roll the service out across the UK.

If approved, I am convinced that it will help to build a new plural local television industry in every part of this country.

This is just one of many ideas we have to ensure we are as relevant and successful in ten years' time as we are today. It will take huge energy, commitment and considerable resources but we owe it to licence fee payers to avoid standing still whilst delivering value for money.

It has also been a year of tough management challenges. The reduction of our workforce by nearly ten per cent has caused a lot of disquiet amongst our dedicated staff.

I remain confident that we can deliver these savings with sensitivity and minimum pain. And I am also confident that they are absolutely necessary if we are to find the funding to deliver the new services which will be so essential to our future.

As our services converge onto mobile devices which can receive video, audio and text or as television and radio merge with computers, we have a real advantage in our long history of providing television, radio and online.

We have the enormous advantage of providing these services universally across the country to rural and urban areas alike. And we have the real advantage of contributing to a BBC brand which is still trusted around the world and uniquely delivers global, national and local services.

But all these advantages must continue to be earned in the high approval and high take-up of our audiences. That should never be taken for granted. And as anyone reading the detail of this annual review will realise, we are a long way from doing that.

Andy Griffiee - Controller BBC English Regions

What's new in England?



LEFT: The BBC's Director-General Mark Thompson opens the new BBC Oxford centre.

The White Paper and Charter Review

- The proposals for the new BBC Trust as set out in the government **White Paper and draft Charter & Agreement** published in March 2006 included the creation of Service Licences for each of the BBC's distinct services.
- The Service Licences will provide a **clear, published basis for performance review** by the BBC Trust.
- While the Board of Governors cannot determine how the Trust will operate, some preparatory work is being carried out by the Governors during the current Charter period so that the Trust is able to provide **robust governance** of the BBC from the outset of the new Charter.

There are several further key elements, including:

- **increasing network production from the Nations** from 11 per cent to 17 per cent, and creating a new role of Controller Network Production to spearhead this growth;
- **increasing the proportion of network television drama** made outside London from 30 to 50 per cent; and
- **putting commissioning executives for key genres into centres** such as Bristol (Documentaries), Birmingham (Daytime), Manchester (Comedy) and Glasgow (Entertainment).
- the proposal to **move key departments, channels and networks** from London to Greater Manchester, as a major plank of the BBC's vision for the future including BBC Children's (CBBC and CBeebies); BBC Children's Learning, including *BBC Jam*; BBC Children's Radio; BBC Sport; BBC Radio Five Live and BBC Five Live Sports Extra; and BBC New Media and Technology including Research & Development.

A recommendation for a preferred site in Manchester is to be put to the BBC's Executive and Board of Governors in summer 2006 with the **final decision on the move** resting with the Board of Governors who fully support the strategy and have given the green light to the development stage of the project – while stressing that they will take into account affordability and value for money for licence fee payers in making the final decision on the move.

Out of London Plans

In *Building Public Value* the BBC publicly committed itself to meeting **three targets** during the next Charter period:

- increasing its total spending in the Nations & Regions by around 35 per cent to more than £1 billion;
- locating half of all the BBC's public service staff outside London; and
- moving a fifth of all commissioning decisions (by value) outside London.

The BBC's **Out of London** strategy is driven by a desire to spend the licence fee more equitably and effectively across the UK, reflect more accurately the diversity of our audiences, and open doors to new talent.

BBC Coventry & Warwickshire

- **The first brand new BBC Local Radio station for a decade**, BBC Coventry & Warwickshire, became a full stand-alone radio service in September 2005. From the vibrant new premises in Coventry city centre, over 110 hours of local programming are broadcast every week.
- The Open Centre has welcomed over 30,000 visitors since May 2005 and offers a range of creative, multi-media taster courses. A number of **key partnerships** have been made with local training providers including Creative Partnerships and Arts Council England.
- A network of four radio correspondents is based in libraries across Warwickshire gathering content from communities around their patches and demonstrating **the more local and public face of the BBC**.
- Performance of the associated *Where I Live* website has grown and this year weekly page impressions have topped 200,000.
- The station is also part of the **Local Television pilot** which has generated a number of key partnerships with various communities in terms of generating content.

Isle of Man

- We are developing a better service for the Isle of Man which has traditionally felt underserved by the BBC. Elements include a new partnership with Manx Radio - the island's key public service broadcaster - and the appointment, later this year, of two staff based on the island and working to BBC outlets.

Compliance and Complaints



1: Presenter Annie Othen welcomed guests to the official opening of BBC Coventry & Warwickshire's Open Centre in May 2005.

2: 'TV Just Got More Local' – the logo for Local Television.

Compliance and Complaints

- BBC English Regions' new compliance and complaints procedure appears to be working well. At the start of the year, complaints handled within the regions and logged by BBC Information were more than 90 per cent inside the **ten-day turnaround** target and in step with the BBC-wide figure.
- In the 12 months to April 2006, the Editorial Complaints Unit investigated 20 complaints about BBC English Regions, most commonly concerning harm to an individual or organisation, undue on-air promotion and bias. Two, involving **BBC Radio WM** and *Spotlight*, were upheld and three, involving **London News**, **BBC Radio Cornwall** and **BBC Radio Stoke**, were partly upheld. The remaining 14 were not upheld and for one there was no finding.
- Complaints upheld or partly upheld by Ofcom involving BBC English Regions output rose and two required on-air adjudications to be broadcast. The regulator investigated 23 complaints. None of the 18 complaints about standards was upheld. Of five fairness/privacy complaints, involving *South East Today* and *Inside Out West Midlands*, two of unfair treatment were partly upheld and one of privacy against **BBC Three Counties Radio** was pending at the time of writing.

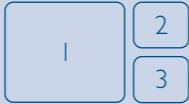
- The BBC successfully defended a libel action arising from a *Points West* report in May 2004. It was brought by Marion Henry, a senior NHS manager, whom a former employee at Western General Hospital had accused of being involved in the manipulation of hospital waiting lists to meet NHS targets. In summary, the judge found Henry was aware of waiting list manipulation, permitted it to take place and was involved in a cover up.
- The **BBC West** health correspondent, Matthew Hill was described as having pursued the story with **vigour, integrity and professionalism**.

Freedom of Information

- The BBC, along with all public bodies in the UK, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 but only 'in respect of information held for purposes **other than those of journalism, art or literature**'. This derogation means that only certain non-programming information held by the BBC is covered by the Act but the presumption is that as much information as possible will be published in the interests of transparency and openness.

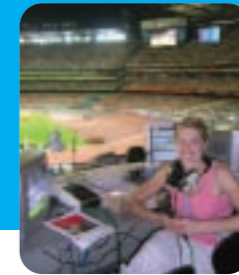
- Under the Act, the BBC has to maintain a **Publication Scheme** which makes information readily available. It is also obliged to respond to anyone wanting access to other information within 20 days.
- BBC English Regions received a **total of 16 Freedom of Information requests** during the year plus one resolved appeal to the Information Commissioner. Subjects included appointment to the advisory councils, spend on public art, local radio presenter changes, advisory council minutes, and the costs of the move from Pebble Mill to the Mailbox in Birmingham.
- A phased programme of **publication of full advisory council minutes** was agreed by the Board of Governors in mid 2005, with the first set of English National Forum minutes being published in January 2006 followed by Regional and Local Advisory Council minutes.

People



- 1: Brady Haran is a video journalist for BBC Birmingham's new Local TV pilot. For more information see pages 16 - 17.
- 2: Radio Stoke's Janine Machin and Radio Leeds' Eno Eruotor celebrate the BBC Local Radio Presenter Team's victory on the BBC programme *Test the Nation*. The special edition quiz linked into the BBC's new adult literacy campaign *RoW*.
- 3: *Look North* presenter Carol Malia found herself upstaged when lightning broke over Newcastle city centre in September, 2005.

Television



- 1: Blast reporters Dionne and Claire at the SON&R Centre in Bristol.
- 2: Long-time radio presenters Tony Wadsworth and Julie Meyer are regulars on BBC Radio Leicester.
- 3: Jodie Fielder from BBC Radio Kent was one of the English Regions reporters at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in March.

People

- It has been a **challenging year for staff** in BBC English Regions, with the Division facing over 250 job closures as part of the BBC's *Value for Money* programme. The aim has been to minimise the impact on front line staff and to avoid compulsory redundancies, and work is continuing with the trade unions to implement the plans. This has been a difficult time which has required considerable flexibility and support from all BBC English Regions' staff including the management teams around the country.
- However, the year has also brought considerable opportunities for all our teams. **The Local Television pilot** in the West Midlands led to the creation of more than 40 new jobs for the life of the nine month project and this has given many people a real opportunity to develop their skills and get involved in a highly creative and exciting project.

Diversity

- Throughout this period, the drive to ensure that **our workforce reflects the audience it serves** continued. There has been good progress in increasing the number of staff from minority ethnic groups as well as the disabled. Key to this is the implementation of our Recruitment Outreach Strategy and, with our English Regions Diversity Forum, we continue to drive through a variety of initiatives and projects as well community employment projects, for example PATH Yorkshire, to ensure greater staff diversity.

Valuing Our Staff

- We continue to focus on the development of our teams and, in particular, on our standards of journalism. Using the BBC's new Journalism College, hundreds of our staff have received updated training in legal and editorial issues. Using the SON&R Centre, staff continue to attend events where they share best practice with colleagues across the business. We are also ensuring that our managers receive management training through the BBC's Leadership Programme.

SON&R - Sharing Opportunities across Nations & Regions

- The **SON&R Centres** in Bristol and Newcastle are designed to inspire and stimulate journalists from across the BBC's Nations & Regions. They provide creative environments for groups of people who do the same job but might not have met, and who can come together to share and discuss new ideas to enhance television, radio and online services for viewers and listeners.
- During the year 2,422 staff passed through the Bristol centre, 1,883 of them from BBC English Regions, and a total of 157 events was organised.
- Highlights included **Technology Days**, which brought the first look at uPod television transmission vehicles (uPod is a remotely controlled satellite uplink system) wireless cameras, and handheld radio broadcasting devices.

- Fifty 16 to 21 year olds working for **Blast**, the BBC's Young Reporter Scheme which gives young people the chance to experience what it's like to work for the BBC, spent the weekend at SON&R.
- SON&R hosted the **Lords' Broadcasting Committee** gathering information for the Green Paper; supported the cross-platform launch of *Springwatch* and hosted the roll-out to dozens of managers and users of the **content management system** for handling all of the content on the *Where I Live* websites.
- The centre ran several targeted days, on reporting a pandemic, secret filming, using the Freedom of Information Act, and an in-depth analysis of how we coped with the big stories of last summer, including the **London Bombs** and the **Buncefield** oil depot fire. It also ran an event for the entire postgraduate department of Cardiff University on *The Changing Face of BBC Journalism*.
- Support was also given for the new partnership with **Manx Radio** by arranging training on the Isle of Man and invitations to journalists from the station to the Bristol Centre.
- The SON&R Centre in Newcastle ran six, three-week **Video Journalism courses**, training 117 BBC journalists, and last July it held a European **VJ Conference** which included delegates from the BBC, Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands and Sweden to share best practice.
- Thirty-five video journalists were trained for the launch of the **Local TV pilot** in the West Midlands.

- Audiences around the country have shown their appreciation for the BBC's continuing efforts to provide **high quality, locally relevant news**, which tell the stories that capture their concerns, focus on the issues which matter to them, and on occasion, inspire them to action. Regions have worked hard to deepen the relationship with the audience during 2005 - in particular through strong and original journalism.
- It has been a good year for the early evening **regional news** programmes. Reach stands at 29 per cent, down 1.2 per cent year on year (BARB February 2006) and remains above ITV reach in every region. All BBC regions are now ahead of ITV for share (except for the North East, where the BBC and ITV are level). Overall, BBC English Regions' share is 28 per cent with ITV at 20 per cent.
- The Politics Show** regional opt out sections have had an average share of 13.4 per cent in the political year so far (BARB February 2006) and an average audience of just under 900,000. This is stable on last year's figures but appetite for regional politics appears to have fallen in some of the northern regions which were previously among the strongest-performing.
- Inside Out** has performed strongly, building on last year's figures. Its most recent series average is 16.6 per cent with overall audiences of over three million, due in part to better performances in the North.
- Audience appreciation** in England has been encouraging. The BBC English Regions series *Hands on Nature* was the second most appreciated programme on

BBC Two in the first week of February. Our reputation with the BBC networks has developed, with *Seven Man Made Wonders* running as 12 regional opts, going out on BBC Two. Our work on pan-BBC projects has added significant value. The **family history days** set up by BBC Local Radio stations to support *Who Do You Think You Are?* saw nearly 50,000 people attending.

- The **independent production quota** for 2006 is forecast to be 28 per cent.
- Highlights** in original journalism and programming for the last 12 months include:
 - Inside Out North East* which ran a full half-hour in October on the financial state of **Gateshead's Baltic**. The programme was nominated for a Ruby Award.
 - An *Inside Out South West* exclusive on **speed cameras** revealed potential errors in the speed reading mechanism in one of the most common mobile speed cameras used by police forces throughout the UK. The film was re-versioned for London, the South and the West, attracting a joint audience of more than 1.3 million and significant press and broadcast coverage.
 - Inside Out South* transmitted a special half-hour on **degree standards** in October. The story was picked up by the *Today* programme and *The Sunday Times* and achieved the highest audience of the series with just over half a million viewers.
 - The North East Region broadcast a special *Politics Show* about **quangos**, supplemented by information requested under the

Freedom of Information Act. It established that while all major parties want to see quangos cut or made more accountable, none agrees on which should disappear:

- The Media Guardian* acknowledged *BBC East Midlands Today's* adept use of the Freedom of Information Act in researching its exclusive about **knives in schools**.
- A pilot for a new 'scoops and hunches' unit in the East Region, designed to produce more original journalism, focused on the extraordinary **suicide rate** among stable lads in Newmarket.
- Through the work of *Midlands Today's* Home Affairs Correspondent Peter Wilson, the one **Guantanamo Bay** relative prepared to talk about the release of the detainees was persuaded to visit BBC Birmingham to watch live footage of the plane landing and provide commentary for regional and network outlets.
- BBC North West Region ran a powerful exclusive with the mother of **Anthony Walker** in which she said that when she first saw his killers she wanted to mother them.

DEFINITIONS:

- WEEKLY REACH:** The number in thousands or as a percentage of the UK/area adult population who listen to a radio service for at least five minutes, or view a TV service for at least three minutes in the course of an average week.
- SHARE:** The percentage of total listening/ viewing time accounted for by a service in the UK/area in an average week.

The Ruby Television Awards 2005



The ceremony for the fourth annual Ruby Awards which celebrate the best in news and current affairs throughout BBC Nations & Regions was held in the magnificent surroundings of the Great Hall in Belfast City Hall in April and hosted by Pat Loughrey, BBC Director of Nations & Regions.

The awards ceremony was presented by **Nick Ross** with special guest BBC Director-General **Mark Thompson** who commended the wealth of excellent talent across news and current affairs, both in front of and behind the camera.

BBC South East Today journalist Jon Hunt picked up two prestigious awards, being named **Best TV News Journalist** and winner of the **Best News Film** category. The judges commended his 'commitment to original journalism and an ability to make even difficult subjects into compelling television'.

BBC London News won two categories: **Best Broadcast of Diversity Issues** and **Best Evening News Programmes**, for its 'huge skill, flair and truly sensitive storytelling in the aftermath of the 7/7 bombing in London' and its 'excellent broadcast film-making and journalism, taking on difficult film ideas'.

The other Ruby Award winners were:

- Outstanding Camera Work:** Johnny Rutherford, *Spotlight South West*
- Best Exclusive Story:** Marco Van Belle, *Look North* (Yorkshire)
- Best Political Programme:** *The Politics Show*, South West
- Best Current Affairs Film:** Jonathan Swift, *Inside Out South*
- Best Presentation Team:** Carol Malia and Jeff Brown, *Look North* (North East & Cumbria)
- Best Audience Generated Content:** Brady Haran, *Community Correspondents East Midlands Today*
- Outstanding Craft Skills in Post Production:** Andrew Davidson, BBC Northern Ireland
- Best Current Affairs Programme:** *Spotlight*, BBC Northern Ireland
- The Lifetime Achievement Award:** Andrew Colman, BBC Northern Ireland's Head of News and Current Affairs.

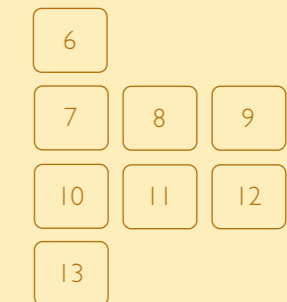


1. **Best Evening News Programme** - BBC London News: Mark Thompson with Riz Lateef and Cath Hearne.
2. **Best Current Affairs Film** - *Inside Out*, BBC South: Mark Thompson with Jonathan Swift, Andrew Head and Neil Ansell.
3. **Best Political Programme** - *The Politics Show*, BBC South West: Mark Thompson with Chris Rogers and Martyn Oates.
4. **Best Exclusive Story** - *Look North*, BBC Yorkshire: Mark Thompson with Marco Van Belle.

'...celebrating the best in news and journalism...'



6. **Best Audience-Generated Content** - WM Local TV, BBC West Midlands: Mark Thompson with Brady Haran.
7. **Best Current Affairs Programme** - *Spotlight*, BBC Northern Ireland: Andrew Davidson, Gwyneth Jones, Kevin Mead and Andrew Colman.
8. **Outstanding Craft Skills in Post-Production** - BBC Northern Ireland: Mark Thompson with Andrew Davidson.
9. **Best News Film** and **Best TV News Journalist** - BBC South East: Jon Hunt with Mark Thompson.
10. **The Lifetime Achievement Award** - BBC Northern Ireland: Presented to Andrew Colman.
11. **Best Presentation Team** - *Look North*, BBC North East & Cumbria: Mark Thompson with Carol Malia and Jeff Brown.
12. **Best Broadcast of Diversity Issues** - BBC London News: Mark Thompson with Penny Wrout.
13. **Outstanding Camera Work** - *Spotlight*, BBC South West: Mark Thompson with Johnny Rutherford.



A day in the life of Local Television

'TV Just Got More Local'

That's the slogan of the Local Television pilot which was launched in the West Midlands in December 2005 for nine months in six areas of the West Midlands – Birmingham, the Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire.

The aim of the pilot is to serve individual cities and counties using the latest broadcasting technology to create different kinds of on-demand local television news, on both broadband and digital satellite TV. It includes a commitment to provide a quarter of the content from within the community – through local partnerships, material which the BBC has helped members of the community to present or film, and films submitted by viewers themselves.

Digital satellite viewers can access the service via the red button on BBCi. On broadband it is available on demand via www.bbc.co.uk/localtv

Once the pilot scheme is completed an independent public value test will be conducted, including an assessment of its market impact in the West Midlands and detailed scrutiny by the BBC's Board of Governors. Subject to the outcome of this appraisal, the BBC hopes to introduce around 60 similar services across the UK as a key part of its *Out of London* strategy, first outlined in *Building Public Value*, the BBC's manifesto for the next Charter period published in June 2004.



09:10



Planning

1. – 2. The editorial meeting at BBC Hereford & Worcester, where material is commissioned for the day by the Local Radio News Editor in a hook-up with the Launch Editor and Assistant Editor based at the Hub in Birmingham.

10:45



Out and About - Newsgathering

3. Video-journalists Leonie Collier and Robert Thompson get out across the patch with the BBC Hereford & Worcester community vehicle. 4. Birmingham-based video-journalist Nadine Towell interviews participants on the HP Sauce rally in Aston prior to producing a package that will be ready for air. 5. Covering the same story, Nadine demonstrates her multi-skilling talents, taking audio for the local radio station BBC Wm and using a digital camera to snap images for the Birmingham Where I Live local website.

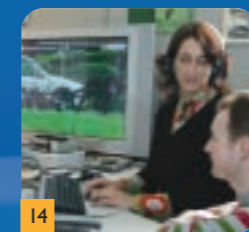
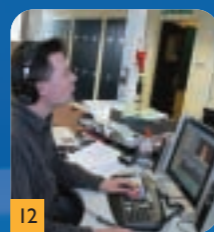
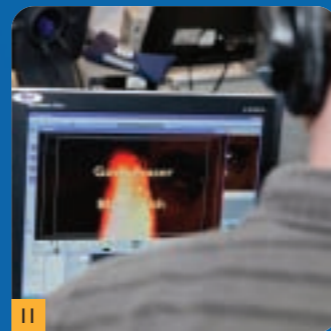
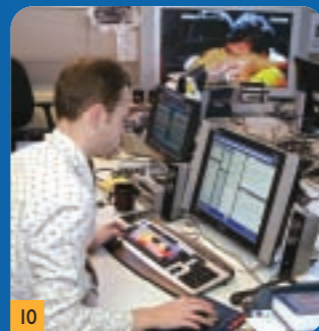
12:05



Local Partnerships and Community Contacts

6. – 9. Each site has a dedicated community content journalist whose job it is to build partnerships in the community and find different ways to help people make material and send it in. Leonie Collier and Robert Thompson work with local schoolchildren, teaching them how to use the equipment and make their own content.

13:32



Editing

10. The editing process begins: getting to work on a filmed piece. 11. Adding graphics to an edited story. 12. Checking the sound levels. 13. Material is sent down the line to the Hub in Birmingham. 14. Video-journalists at work in BBC Hereford & Worcester newsroom.

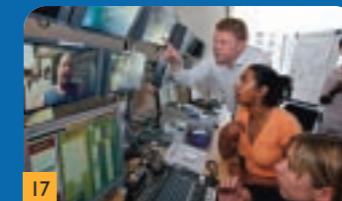
15:00



Citizen Journalists

15. – 16. Members of the community take part in presenter tryouts at BBC Birmingham.

16:22



The Hub at BBC Birmingham

17. A multi-skilled team is based at the Hub in Birmingham, co-ordinating the content as it arrives from the six centres and providing support to their colleagues in the local radio station newsrooms. Here, a story is checked as it comes in. 18. Reading through the script to check it meets the BBC's Editorial Guidelines. 19. Collating the edited stories and ordering them into a bulletin. The final edit is checked before transmission on satellite and broadband.

17:40



The Regional Advisory Council

20. The West Midlands Regional Advisory Council, made up of local licence fee payers, is keeping a watchful eye on the progress of the pilot and giving feedback to the BBC's Board of Governors.

New Media

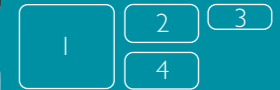


1: The BBC Coventry & Warwickshire Open Centre ran family animation workshops with footage being shown on BBC Coventry & Warwickshire Local TV.

It has been a year of record growth in the use of **New Media** content produced by the BBC English Regions' local teams across England. It also saw the launch of the 44th *Where I Live* website providing news, *Video Nation* and other content for the Isle of Man. BBC English Regions New Media saw 37 per cent growth in **unique users** year-on-year to March 2006. The average number of unique users in the 12 months to March were 9.9 million, with use peaking at 11.5 million in February.

- **News Interactive** across England saw a 67 per cent increase in page impressions to March. Average page impressions in the 12 months to March were 55.5 million, and hits peaked at 70.6 million page impressions.
- There were 1.4 million page impressions to the *Coast* content on England's *Where I Live* sites during the series' airing in 2005.
- The live streaming of **BBC Local Radio** on the *Where I Live* sites recorded a bumper 865,000 requests in March, up 36 per cent year-on-year.
- Without the aid of any heavy publicity campaigns, users are finding BBC English Regions' **New Media** content attractive – especially when major news stories break. Increasingly, users don't simply want passively to absorb the BBC's content but relish the opportunity to contribute to the editorial picture with their own views, comments, pictures and videos.
- The **London bombings** of 7 July last year saw record numbers of people using the BBC London website – contributing to message boards, offering testimonials and, of course, sending in their pictures as the day's dramatic events unfolded. User contributions were often very powerful in reflecting the mood of the city.
- When the fire raged at the **Buncefield** depot, the team at BBC Three Counties Radio rallied to offer a place where people could exchange comments, testimonials and post their photographs to build up a fuller picture of the event.
- The coverage of the **Birmingham Tornado** attracted 94,000 users in the week, with one of the most attractive sections being the user-generated picture galleries where residents and eyewitnesses could contribute to an audience account.
- **Partnerships** have been strong and successful this year. Working with BBC Two's highly acclaimed *Coast* series, the relevant *Where I Live* sites developed their own **coastal walks** which users could print and follow. They proved popular with 1.4 million page impressions during the series. This content was then dramatised, using stories connected with the locality, and made available via mobile phones in a **pilot scheme** in ten areas throughout the UK.
- Last year saw the introduction of a **content management system** to handle the *Where I Live* content. The first-stage syndication of content was achieved this year when entertainment features were syndicated to digital satellite as part of the **Local TV pilot** in the West Midlands.
- The year has seen a major overhaul of the editorial thrust of the *Where I Live* sites – focusing the agenda that teams should follow and ensuring the **quality and distinctiveness** of our content. This continues the work started during our response to the 2004 Graf report into the BBC's New Media activity.
- **Video Nation** is also growing in popularity and now has about 30 production sites in England and Wales. In the past 12 months, films from local contributors have enhanced major BBC campaigns such as *Voices*, *Coast* and *Africa Lives*. Through projects such as the *Magic of Winter* and *Reason to Rhyme*, *Video Nation* also extends the opportunity to participate to children, young people and hard-to-reach communities.
- As well as featuring on local television as part of the Local TV pilot in the West Midlands, regional and network television, *Video Nation* shorts and *Digital Stories* – two BBC projects which give the audience the skills to make short films – are now broadcast every day on *Your Stories*. This is a **BBCi** service available under the red button on digital satellite.

BBC Local Radio



1: 2Tone came home to Coventry & Warwickshire with the Neville Staples' band performing live in the Open Centre.
 2: Senior citizens representing Better Government for Older People (BGOP) spent a day at the SON&R Centre.
 3: BBC Radio Berkshire's Tim Dellor interviews Reading FC's Ibrahim Sonko following their historic promotion to the Premiership in the spring of 2005.
 4: The Reverend David Yabbacombe is one of the guest contributors using a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) to record local stories in Lincolnshire.

Enduring popularity with audiences, deepening levels of engagement with local communities and technological innovation are the three headlines from **BBC Local Radio** for 2005-2006.

- In an era of burgeoning competition in analogue and digital radio, BBC Local Radio secured a weekly reach of 7.91 million listeners in the first quarter of 2006 (compared with 7.88 million the previous year), representing 19.8 per cent of the population. Share of all radio listening was 10.7 per cent (10.6 per cent in 2005).
- By March 2005 865,000 listeners were hearing BBC Local Radio streamed on bbc.co.uk – and were listening for an average of more than 40 minutes per hit. As well as streaming, 40 hours of weekly output from each station is now available online for 'listen again'.
- September 2005 saw the opening of **BBC Coventry & Warwickshire**, the BBC's newest local radio station. Its base in brand new premises in the centre of Coventry includes an Open Centre where members of the public take part in a wide range of events on and off-air. In April this year, the former Greater Manchester Radio returned to its original name of **BBC Radio Manchester**.
- **BBC Radio Leicester**, the oldest BBC Local Radio station, moved to new studios shared with the **BBC Asian Network** in the centre of Leicester and incorporating an Open Centre for the public to participate in programme-making and learning opportunities. At the time of writing, work is nearing completion on new studios for **BBC Radio Merseyside**.
- BBC Local Radio was again recognised in the industry-wide **Sony Awards**, with **BBC Hereford & Worcester** winning Gold for the mental health series *Hearing Voices* and **BBC Radio Oxford** winning Silver for coverage of Didcot Town in the **FA Vase Final**.
- Stations continued to be involved in a wide range of national and local partnerships, internal and external to the BBC. One of the highest profile was BBC Local Radio's local follow up of the *Who Do You Think You Are?* genealogy series, with family **history days** at each station. The events attracted some 50,000 people.
- The five BBC Local Radio stations in the West Midlands were central to the Local Television experiment there – harnessing existing contacts and newsgathering infrastructure to support the experimental output.
- BBC Local Radio excelled in its traditional role of providing information and companionship at times of civil emergency, during **floods in North Yorkshire** – where BBC Radio York stayed on-air overnight – and during BBC Radio Kent's coverage of **major snowfalls** in the county. In both cases there were hundreds of thousands of hits to the stations' sister online *Where I Live* sites.
- Coverage by BBC London 94.9 of the **July 7 bombings** was considered to have been sensitive, measured and well attuned to the needs of Londoners. The rolling output came the day after a big three-centre outside broadcast to mark London's **successful Olympic bid**.
- Technological innovation was evident in production methods as well as in distribution. A pilot project by **BBC Radio Lincolnshire** equipped all staff and 25 members of the community with mobile phones which had been adapted to record, edit and transmit audio, still pictures and video. The project generated a range and quantity of material not previously enjoyed by the station and allowed its **rapid transmission** from the remotest parts of the county. The technology is to be tested further across BBC Local Radio.
- **Voices** – a partnership with BBC Radio 4 – was a unique audit and celebration of the rich diversity of language, dialect and accent across the country.
- Stations continued modest experiments in extending their **genre range**: BBC Radio Devon, BBC Radio Berkshire and BBC Radio Bristol, for instance, in drama. And a number of stations began programmes showcasing **the music of unsigned local bands**; this activity is being co-ordinated with the BBC-wide *Creative Future* work on music.
- BBC Local Radio continued to invest in improving the quality of its **religious programming** and the impact of this was recognised in awards and reviews.
- **A programme for travellers**, presented by a Romany gypsy, was launched by BBC Three Counties Radio.
- BBC Local Radio continued to pursue original journalism, one example being an investigation by BBC Radio Suffolk into the working conditions of **stable staff in Newmarket**. The output included a 30-minute radio documentary, as well as TV and online output.
- Acting as a catalyst in charitable appeals was again a key activity of many local stations. BBC Radio Lancashire listeners collected **17 tonnes of rice** to send to Malawi after the failure of the harvest there.
- BBC Local Radio continued to use its expertise to reach out to a range of communities. BBC WVM was involved in a project to pass on radio skills to **prisoners**, and *Origins* – a project at BBC Three Counties Radio – moved 12 **pirate DJs** from their illegal platform and gave them a legitimate outlet for their programming. At BBC Essex, a team of four from the station who walked the 81 mile **Essex Way** were joined by 200 local people on the last leg of their journey.

The Frank Gillard Awards

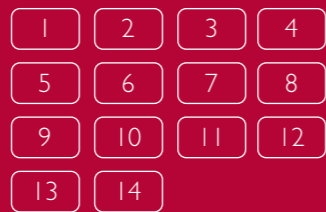
This year's awards celebrating the very best of BBC Local Radio took place in September at Portsmouth's historic naval dockyard. The host was presenter Jane Garvey who began her BBC career at BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester before moving on to become the first voice on BBC Radio Five Live in March 1994. The awards were presented by Michael Grade, the Chairman of the BBC.



ABOVE: Jane Garvey.



RIGHT: Guest of honour, Lord Nelson lookalike Alex Naylor.



LEFT: Receptionists of the Year, Ros Carr (second left), and Marcus Heald (centre), representing the winning team from BBC Hull and Susan Cole, BBC Essex, (second from right) with typical local radio listeners Dave and Sue.

BBC Radio Berkshire won Gold in the Programme Presenter, Social Action and Diversity categories. A first-time winner, the station received three of the coveted busts of BBC Local Radio founder Frank Gillard. Persistence paid off for Andrew Peach who took the Programme Presenter award, having previously gained a bronze in 2002.

BBC Radio Cumbria repeated its 2001 triumph by winning the Station of the Year Award. Last year's winner and the station host for this year's awards **BBC Radio Solent** showed its strength in journalism by taking the honours in the Coverage of a News Story and Reporter categories.

BBC Radio Newcastle's Mike Parr Breakfast Show scooped the keenly contested Breakfast Programme award.

BBC Radio Devon won the Radio Promotion award for an unprecedented three years in succession.

Two awards were made for Outstanding Contribution to BBC Local Radio. They went to Kenny Burton, the popular, long-serving **BBC Radio Nottingham** station engineer known for his gadgetry and problem solving, and to **Nigel Kay, Head of Journalism Development** for the Nations & Regions Directorate who retired from the BBC last year after a career embracing all aspects of regional broadcast journalism.

Congratulating the winners, **Michael Grade** said: "In an increasingly global world people are cherishing that which is familiar, friendly and local. On behalf of all licence fee payers, I'm delighted that a global BBC provides a much-valued local presence throughout England via BBC Local Radio."

A total of 41 BBC Local Radio stations and services put forward 261 entries for the awards.

TOP OF PAGE: The BBC Radio Cumbria team celebrate winning Station of the Year in this year's Frank Gillard Awards.

1. THE BREAKFAST PROGRAMME

- 1) BBC Radio Newcastle – *Mike Parr Breakfast Show*
- 2) BBC WM – *The Adrian Goldberg Breakfast Show*
- 3) BBC Three Counties Radio – *The Robert Perrone Breakfast Show*

2. PROGRAMME PRESENTER

- 1) BBC Radio Berkshire – *Andrew Peach*
- 2) BBC Radio Merseyside – *Tony Snell*
- 3) BBC Radio Leeds – *Graham Liver and Nicola Rees*

3. COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY

- 1) BBC Radio Solent – *Lisa Hardisty & Julian Clegg, Silent Calls*
- 2) BBC Radio Nottingham – *The Death of Brian Clough*
- 3) BBC Southern Counties Radio – *General Election*

4. INTERACTIVE PROGRAMME

- 1) BBC Radio Northampton – *John Raitt & Ian Griffin, The Weekender*
- 2) BBC Three Counties Radio – *The Robert Perrone Breakfast Show*
- 3) BBC Radio Oxford – *Bill Heine Show*

5. REPORTER

- 1) BBC Radio Solent – *Jo Palmer*
- 2) BBC Radio Cleveland – *Jonathan Swingler*
- 3) BBC Radio Cumbria – *Gordon Swindlehurst*

6. SPORTS COVERAGE

- 1) BBC Radio Derby – *Colin Gibson & Grahame Richards, SportsScene Special: Brian Clough*
- 2) BBC Radio York – *City Till I Die*
- 3) BBC Radio Oxford – *Didcot Town FA Vase Special*

7. SOCIAL ACTION CAMPAIGN

- 1) BBC Radio Berkshire – *Marie Kemp & Duncan McLarty, Oxford Road – The Story*
- 2) BBC Radio Bristol – *Babe's Big Appeal*
- 3) BBC GMR – *BBC GMR's "4 Life" Campaign*

8. RADIO FEATURE

- 1) BBC Radio Stoke – *Sarah Harness & Joel Moors, Making Waves*
- 2) BBC Southern Counties Radio – *Diary of a Sex Change*
- 3) BBC Radio Lincolnshire – *Carla's Story*

9. OUTSIDE BROADCAST

- 1) BBC Radio Merseyside – *Liam Fogarty, Halfway to Paradise*
- 2) BBC Radio Cleveland – *Tees Valley Day*
- 3) BBC Radio Solent – *Trafalgar 200: The Son et Lumiere*

10. RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMING

- 1) BBC Radio Nottingham – *France Finn & Celia Bellett, Sunday Breakfast and Lunchtime programmes*
- 2) BBC Radio Derby – *Compilation Sunday Breakfast Show*
- 3) BBC Radio Shropshire – *BBC Radio Shropshire Religion*

11. RADIO PROMOTION

- 1) BBC Radio Devon – *Simon Furber & John Coates, A Christmas Murder Mystery*
- 2) BBC Radio Bristol – *Bringing Home the Bacon*
- 3) BBC Radio Gloucestershire – *Dick Whittington*

12. DIVERSITY

- 1) BBC Radio Berkshire – *Andrew Peach, Dani Sinha & Marianne Bell*
- 2) BBC Radio Lincolnshire
- 3) BBC Radio Merseyside

13 & 14. OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO BBC LOCAL RADIO (TWO AWARDS)

Kenny Burton, BBC Radio Nottingham (LEFT) and Nigel Kay, Head of Journalism Development

STATION OF THE YEAR

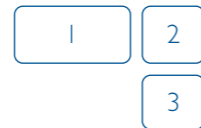
- 1) BBC Radio Cumbria
- 2) BBC Three Counties Radio
- 3) BBC Radio Merseyside



BBC English Regions' sports teams from television and radio travelled the length and breadth of the UK - and sometimes further afield - to reflect the successes, failures, passions and stories of their local sports teams and stars.

- BBC Local Radio stations continued to follow their local football teams throughout the year, with regular commentary on more than 60 football clubs. **BBC London 94.9** and **BBC Radio Cleveland** travelled all over Europe to deliver commentary on Arsenal and Middlesbrough as they reached major European finals, while at the other end of the scale, **BBC Radio Oxford** followed non-league Didcot Town to glory in the **FA Vase**.
- Every **Premiership** rugby union match was covered by BBC Local Radio, whose commentaries were broadcast not only on local radio and *Where I Live* sites but on club websites for fans listening worldwide. This season **BBC Radio Cornwall** started to commentate on every match played by its successful new side, the Cornish Pirates.
- Rugby League has a special place in the life of the north of England. *The SuperLeague Show*, broadcast at Sunday lunchtime throughout the season and with new producers, was television's only weekly terrestrial programme on the sport. The popular *Rugby League Raw* focused on the gritty world of the lower league play-offs, winning a north-west **Royal Television Society** award in December, while BBC Local Radio broadcast commentary, magazine programmes and phone-ins on the sport.

- In a year dominated by England's victory over Australia in the **Ashes**, cricket was well reflected by BBC English Regions. BBC Local Radio had a reporter at every day of the series. At county level commentary was done on all major one-day matches on BBC Local Radio, and **BBC London 94.9's** unique ball-by-ball coverage of every Surrey and Middlesex match on its *Where I Live* site attracted thousands of supporters from the UK and around the world.
- International sporting events have dedicated staff working for BBC regional television and local radio output. Teams based at **Wimbledon** and the **Commonwealth Games** in Melbourne provided dozens of reports, stories and features tailored to regional TV and local radio audiences, complementing the main BBC Sport coverage. Meanwhile, **BBC Radios Jersey and Guernsey** joined forces to go to the Island Games in Shetlands in July - the "Olympics" for small island countries - to bring news of their teams to listeners.
- Sports output continued to win top awards. **BBC Radio York's** audio diary *City Till I Die*, following the drama of York City football club and their battle to remain solvent, won the sport category at the **2005 Sony Awards**, while Dan Walker of *North West Tonight* claimed the Regional Sports Presenter honours at the Royal Television Society Sports Awards.
- Top sports stars are key to BBC English Regions' sports output. **Olympic gold medallist** Denise Lewis worked as a sports reporter on *Midlands Today* and former British sprint star Katharine Merry produced a series of **Commonwealth Games** previews for both **BBC Radio Wiltshire** and *Points West*.



- English Regions Sport reporter Grant Coleman provided live updates for the BBC Local Radio network from the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.
- Ten year old swimmer Eleanor Simmons brought home five gold medals from the World Dwarf Championships in Paris and won the Young Disabled Sports Award at the BBC Midlands Sports Awards.
- BBC Essex hosted live coverage of the victory parade through the streets of Southend after their football club had achieved promotion to the Championship.

- A record nine regions held their **Sports Awards** in December, events now firmly established as a highlight of the sporting year. Each region chose an **Unsung Hero** - people who dedicate their lives to sport in their community for no reward. The overall winner, Trevor Collins from the West Wight swimming club in Hampshire, was presented with his trophy live on the *Sports Personality of the Year* programme on BBC One.
- Sports staff met regularly to swap **good practice** ideas and find new ways of working. A joint scheme funded by BBC Sport and BBC English Regions allowed staff from both divisions to work in other areas for short periods to pass on their skills and learn from others. Dan Pallett of *Midlands Today* joined the BBC Sport Grand National team and the BBC Radio Five Live Cheltenham team as a reporter.



- Produced by the network production centre in Birmingham, **Coast** proved one of the unexpected hits of the year for BBC Two. BBC English Regions provided the films which digital viewers clicked onto via the red button, taking them to an array of coastal walks across the country. These also featured across the *Where I Live* sites, with maps and detailed information.
- Natural History** has been a developing new genre, breaking the mould when politics and current affairs has been the only major audience offering at a regional level from the BBC for many years. After the success of the partnership with the Natural History Unit in 2004 for *British Isles: A Natural History*, our teams produced a ten-part nature series for BBC Daytime, *Hands-On Nature*, which rapidly moved to peak-time BBC Two. A new 40-part series is in production.
- Another hit was *Seven Natural Wonders*, which began life as regional landmark programmes and was snapped up by BBC Two, proving to be one of the channel's most popular **factual series** of 2005.
- People's War* also started life as a series of regional opt outs to mark the 60th anniversary of VE day, and moved to a **network series** for BBC Two. In partnership with BBC Learning, people recorded their memories of the war on a special BBC website.
- Several regional independent production companies were commissioned in the making of this output and also produced **landmark programmes** marking major events in the life of the regions. These have become tremendously popular and have included a **Trafalgar** special for BBC South and neighbouring regions; the making of **Live 8's Eden Project** concert for BBC South West and a **Christmas special** on a remarkable fair for BBC East, at Thursford in Norfolk.
- This year saw the beginning of a new BBC broadcasting agreement with the Royal Horticultural Society, which gives BBC Local Radio extensive access to the passionate gardeners who flock to the main RHS flower shows at Chelsea, Hampton Court, and Tatton Park in Greater Manchester. The Chelsea Flower Show is often seen as the start of the summer season, and our central team of journalists in the BBC English Regions' Special Features Unit once again helped to get the very best from Chelsea and the other shows for audiences across the country.
- At Hampton Court 2005, BBC Local Radio supported the BBC's *People's War* campaign with a special exhibition and show garden. The focus was on the great British passion for growing your own and the wartime legacy of 'digging for victory'. Several regional television programmes also broadcast live from the events.



- Garden designer Trevor Tooth displays his award winning show garden on a *Dig for Victory* theme at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show 2005, covered by BBC Local Radio.
- Some of the eight thousand visitors to the *Springwatch* event at the Forest of Marston Vale, Bedford.
- Luke and Robert show off their birdboxes at Marston Vale.

Technology



Connecting Communities

- The **BBC Open Centres** and **BBC Buses** have four key aims: connecting with communities; reaching new audiences; developing media literacy; and promoting the BBC.
- They operate in **partnership** with local learning providers such as colleges, universities and community learning centres, and bring the range of material developed by BBC **Factual & Learning** into the heart of our learning offering, for example *RaW*, the **new literacy campaign**.
- It has been a further year of growth for the Open Centres and Buses, with 370,000 visitors having face-to-face contact with community staff.
- New Open Centres have opened in **Coventry** and **Leicester**, adding to those in **Blackburn**, **Hull**, **Sheffield**, **Gloucester**, **Stoke** and **Liverpool**. These have helped to drive visitor numbers up to 255,313.
- A new Open Centre, in **Liverpool**, opens in July 2006 as part of BBC Radio Merseyside's new building. In **Middlesbrough**, a 'Community Space' makes up part of the refurbishment of BBC Radio Cleveland, enabling greater public access to the BBC including the internet and new BBC digital services.
- Visits to the ten-strong fleet of BBC Buses currently total 112,559. They are based at **Radios Newcastle**, **Cleveland**, **Cumbria**, **Sheffield**, **Humbly Grove**, **Lancashire**, **Merseyside**, **Derby**, **Lincolnshire** and **BBC Manchester**. A replacement for the BBC Bus in **Cumbria**, destroyed in the floods of January 2005, is now on the road.
- New BBC Buses for **Southern Counties** and **Somerset** are due in the autumn – a first for the south and south-west of England.
- Broadcasting is at the heart of the BBC Bus and Open Centres project and special emphasis is placed on users developing their own content for radio, online and television. Each week around 70 hours of output is broadcast on stations taking part in the project. Programming from the BBC Buses and Open Centres has also featured on BBC One, bbc.co.uk, Radio One, Radio Four and BBC 7.
- The **success** of the BBC Buses and Open Centres has led the BBC to aspire to provide a Bus or Open Centre in **every Local Radio station** throughout England. This was set out in *Building Public Value*, the BBC's manifesto for the new Charter period. Plans are to be drawn up over the coming 12 months to bring this vision to fruition within the next five years.

Social Action across England

- As the nation commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, our listeners and viewers collected 45,000 stories in *The People's War*, from those who served at home and abroad - memories that made moving programmes for BBC Local Radio and regional television and which have now been archived for future generations at bbc.co.uk/www2
- BBC Local Radio distributed 25,000 booklets in support of Esther Rantzen's *How to Have A Good Death*. Our listeners also supported DoNation, the organ donation series, and the *Big Challenge Workplace Awards* which highlighted healthy eating in the office.

- During the BBC's *Africa* season five BBC Local Radio stations linked up with the World Service and stations in Africa during an edition of *Africa Live*. BBC Radio Cornwall joined up with MCR in Maputo, Mozambique with both sets of listeners discussing the effects of tourism.
- For this year's *Children in Need* BBC Local Radio and regional television hosted events at venues like East Midlands Airport and Lincoln City Centre to highlight the good causes helped by the charity and the thousands of fundraisers. A huge concert at RAF Brize Norton was hosted by BBC Radio Oxford and featured performances from Girls Aloud, Jamie Cullum, Status Quo and Tony Christie.
- A team of BBC Local Radio presenters won a special edition of *Test The Nation* hosted by Anne Robinson and Philip Schofield on BBC One to support *RaW*, the BBC's adult learning initiative. Amongst the teams beaten were ballroom dancers, grocers and surgeons... Meanwhile *RaW* continues throughout 2006.
- In *Open Road*, our listeners and viewers helped BBC Two reunite people who took part in **the first colour films taken in the 1920s** by Claude Friese Green. Their stories formed the basis of a subsequent TV series, mixing archive and memories.
- Through **our partnership with CSV** (Community Service Volunteers), each of our BBC Local Radio stations played a major part in the charity's *Make A Difference Day* and *Year of the Volunteer*.
- The year's *Teaching Awards* were hosted by regional television presenters, with our *Video Nation* journalists providing individual stories for the show's interactive service.
- And finally inspiring stories from regional television have been re-broadcast on the Community Channel in a series called *Charity Champions*.

Over the year BBC English Regions has focused on emerging technology that can be used to send pre-recorded and live material back to the studio more quickly and from more places than ever before. Much of the work has been pioneering - experimenting with 3G telephones, WiFi, WiMax and wired broadband - and some world firsts in the broadcast industry were achieved by BBC English Regions. We are working with suppliers and manufacturers in the telecommunications industry to overcome some of the inherent limitations.

- At **BBC Radio Lincolnshire** staff were issued with handheld **Personal Digital Assistants** (PDAs), a tiny pocket computer with an in-built mobile phone, adapted with some software for recording and editing audio and then transferring the completed item back to base using the phone connection or a WiFi 'Hot Spot'. The material is sent as a computer file so it arrives in broadcast rather than telephone quality, ready for transmission from the playout computer. As PDAs are relatively cheap, fit in a pocket and are simple to operate, the station has been able to lend them to guest contributors, transforming the way people's stories are told on-air.
- BBC English Regions' **refurbishment programme** continues. During 2005, video server technology - which replaces tape for editing and transmission of TV news - was added in Manchester and Oxford, at the same time replacing the very old TV facilities in **Manchester** and developing those in **Oxford**. The **Cambridge** TV facility was converted to widescreen, eliminating the change in picture shape some viewers saw during *Look East*. **BBC Radio Coventry & Warwickshire** re-opened in a new purpose-built facility in Coventry and **Radio Leicester** - with the co-sited **Asian Network** - was relocated to a new studio complex in the city centre.
- Every week brings another new device or emerging technology with the potential to transform how broadcasters work and interact with audiences. But assessing and implementing new systems is time-consuming and budget limitations impose restraints. The refurbishment programme will continue for the next five years and beyond. Meanwhile, to cut the risk of on-air failure of equipment that in some older stations is becoming unreliable or obsolete, we have invested in some **remedial work** to replace critical parts of the oldest radio stations with computer-operated controls and new phone-in systems.
- Live reporting for television still demands expensive equipment, although it is becoming more compact and easier to operate. BBC English Regions has invested in **wireless cameras** for use with our **satellite newsgathering** vehicles in each region. These use digital radio links instead of a cable to connect the camera to the vehicle, enabling quick and safe access for the camera operator and reporter and allowing them to move around locations that would be impossible to reach while tethered by a cable. Using the same technology we are developing the **TV car**, which transmits into a receiver installed on a city-centre high-building roof, much like the radio cars we have used for more than 20 years in BBC Local Radio.



1: BBC Radio Lincolnshire's *Drive Time* presenter William Wright interviews Jamie Oliver using a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant).

2: PDA close up.

3: BBC Coventry & Warwickshire Open Centre officially opened on 31 May 2005.

- Technology is changing so quickly that our technical support staff and managers face a constant challenge to keep their knowledge and skills up to date. With BBC English Regions **engineers** spread across England, sharing knowledge and information and providing access to specialist skills is a critical success factor and much has been achieved this year by a team committed to keeping us on-air.



- 1
- 2
- 3

1: BBC Radio Cornwall's team visited the Newlyn Lifeboat in February 2005 as part of the Sea Sense Campaign.
 2: Simon Gross volunteered to become a weather presenter as part of the Making it programme on BBC South East Today.
 3: Local viewer Maheesah Kottegoda became a reporter for the day with BBC South East Today.

The BBC Listens



ABOVE: Eleven pirate DJs from the Luton area turned legitimate and switched their shows to BBC Three Counties Radio.
 TOP OF PAGE: BBC Guernsey breakfast show presenter Adrian Gidney at the rocky shoreline of la Corbiere interviewing Helen Spoelstra.

External Assessment

- A panel of four external independent assessors this year reviewed some of the methods used by BBC English Regions to engage with the public and particularly the under-served and harder-to-reach. Each panel member was invited to experience one of four approaches to public engagement: the *Roots* project based at BBC Radio Merseyside; the Local Television pilot in the West Midlands; the interactive elements in the *Where I Live* sites; and an outreach event undertaken by the Regional Advisory Council for Yorkshire & Lincolnshire.
- The assessors identified a number of common themes across these four very different approaches to public engagement.
- All four projects displayed aspects of exemplary practice with high levels of commitment and enthusiasm on the part of BBC staff to engage with licence fee payers.
- There was huge potential for the BBC to develop its public engagement but also several obstacles including a lack of clarity and consistency of purpose and outcomes; an institutional inertia preventing cultural change and openness; and little assessment of projects which would benefit from an ongoing iterative process.
- While the panel acknowledged that each of the four projects had developed separately with varying levels of support from different parts of the BBC, they felt that all would benefit from a sharing of best practice, most importantly around purpose and outcomes.

- Other points raised in the panel's discussions were questions over the genuineness of the BBC's public engagement and its identification as a cultural issue for the BBC; the recognition that the image and accessibility of the BBC was often counter-productive in achieving wider engagement; that effective public engagement required a more varied range of practices; that an openness to change was the hardest lesson of participation activity; and that wider public representation was needed for all accountability practices.

Political and Community Engagement

- As part of our ongoing drive to engage with our audiences, BBC local and regional staff have been gathering opinions during the Charter Review period.
- The **local broadcasting ecology** in England is changing rapidly. A new tier of community radio has been established and the number of stations is fast increasing; the growth of broadband has revolutionised the accessibility and supply of local information and local television is moving to centre stage.
- In parallel with this, increasing numbers of **community media organisations** are engaging with the BBC on a variety of levels. Working with CMA members has already helped the BBC to move closer to its diversity targets on and off-air; improve its connectivity at a local level with audiences and boost its creative talent base.

- In the **East Midlands** BBC Radio Nottingham has forged a partnership with Faza FM to provide Faza FM staff with paid placements to BBC Local Radio stations in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester while BBC staff have spent time at Faza FM.
- In **Northampton**, Inspiration FM and BBC Radio Northampton are sharing expertise to produce a weekly programme. The programme fee is paid to Inspiration FM which is credited on-air, giving them a year-round on-air presence between RSL (Restricted Service Licence) broadcasts.
- In the **West Midlands**, Wolverhampton Community Radio and BBC Radio WM have collaborated for years to broadcast a community programme on BBC Radio WM which is produced by WCR and edited by the local BBC producer in Wolverhampton.
- There are also web links to **community broadcast sites** across England; for example, Drystone Radio in the **Yorkshire Dales** has a feature page and links on the BBC *Where I Live* site for North Yorkshire, while Inspiration FM is credited on the BBC Radio Northampton website for their shared weekly programme.
- In **Leicester**, Takeover Radio and BBC Radio Leicester are using the facilities in the BBC Open Centre in Leicester to run a joint radio production course. Young trainees have been recruited on-air by both stations and the output produced by the delegates will be showcased on each station.
- BBC Radio Solent invited each of the community radio stations across **Hampshire, Dorset** and the **Isle of Wight** to discuss working together in future. Ideas ranged from shared output to radio workshops, engineering advice and sharing of outside broadcast equipment at large events. The first workshop for volunteers will be held later this year.
- Schools Question Time** is an active citizenship and communication initiative supported by the BBC. The challenge uses the format of the BBC *Question Time* programme as a springboard for engaging young people and helping them to discuss issues that affect them, their communities and the wider world. Twelve regional winners were chosen to run an event with professional help from the BBC and many went on to be featured on their local and regional BBC outlets.
- Fourteen members of **BBC South East's** audience took over the reins for a day - researching, producing and presenting programmes and stories for radio, TV and online, with BBC Director-General Mark Thompson as their Editor-in-Chief. This was the first time the BBC has worked with audiences so closely to generate stories, different angles and a refreshing perspective. With diverse backgrounds ranging from **lifeboat man** to **mother of five**, they brought stories which may never otherwise have been found and reported them in an engaging and involved way.

Faith Groups

- A **day-long conference** was held at the Islamic Foundation in **Leicester** attended by Muslims from all over England and all the BBC Local Radio station faith producers. It was a mutual sharing of ideas and helped develop a deeper understanding of faith and broadcasting issues.
- A multi-faith seminar was held in **Bradford** with an emphasis on the sharing and development of media skills; this was particularly useful for faith communities who want more meaningful access to the media.
- BBC staff were also involved with the **Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival** attended by 20,000 people over four days. We staged a sculpture, fine art and photography exhibition linked to the *Africa Live* season, and supported the festival radio station by providing BBC producers to **shadow volunteers**. The BBC Bus from Sheffield was also used to support the event.

Corporate Social Responsibility - CSR

- A **CSR Conference** in Newcastle 2005 highlighted the BBC's corporate social responsibility policies and aimed to widen potential regional partnership networks. Delegates were amazed at the level of CSR work in the BBC. The day led to an action plan to develop further the dialogue between BBC output areas and external organisations, supporting the BBC to become an even better partner.



ABOVE: Pudsey Bear makes some new friends at RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire.

Facts and figures for English Regions 2005-2006

Charitable Appeals

- The 40 BBC Local Radio stations in England are able to adopt one or more local charities to support, subject to the approval of their Local Advisory Council and in addition to their other social impact activity. While fund-raising is an important element of these appeals, just as important are the encouragement for people to volunteer to help local good causes and the provision of public information and awareness-raising on various health needs and social issues.
- During the year, twelve BBC Local Radio stations carried out charitable appeals raising close on £513,300. The appeals also brought donations of goods ranging from disused mobile phones to toys and books.
- In addition BBC English Regions participated in the BBC *Children in Need* 2005 appeal which raised a total of £33 million, and supported other national appeals via regional television, BBC Local Radio and online, including the Disasters

Emergency Committee's *Niger Crisis Appeal* which raised £25 million and the *Asia Quake Appeal* which raised £40 million of pooled income and a further £19 million retained by DEC members.

Region	Appeal	Amount	Region	Appeal	Amount
Bristol	Roger Bennett Memorial Appeal	£12,000	Leeds	Leeds City Council's Tsunami Appeal	£3,000
Cambridge	Trustline Appeal 2005	£60,000	Lincolnshire	Specific Lincolnshire causes	£40,000
Cornwall	• Shelterbox	£10,000	Merseyside	Rwanda Appeal	£8,500
	• Local charities	£ 5,360		Norfolk	Helpline Charity Trust
	• RNLI Cornwall	£ 5,000	Nottingham		Christmas Present Appeal
Derby	Money Mountain 2005	£37,344		Stoke	
Essex	• Helen Rollason Cancer Care Appeal - mobile phones	£6,500 - ongoing	West Midlands		• Radio WM Annual Toy Appeal
	• Race for Business, approximately £50,000, of which £1,000 was raised BBC Essex team of 11 runners	£1,000		• Animal Appeal for local animal sanctuaries	
	• MacMillan Coffee Morning 2005, administered by MacMillans	£275,00 in total			
	• BBC Essex Tea at Three 2005 for the eight hospices in Essex	£24,000			
	• Essex Air Ambulance - raised during the station's 13 day walk along the Essex Way	£9,700			
	• Farleigh Hospice Fashion Show - 20 BBC Essex staff worked as models	£4,000			
	• Various charities - 600 volunteers found, including 300 for the 2012 Olympics				

1. 2005-2006 Regional television hours of output by genre

	BBC ONE England	BBC TWO England	TOTAL HOURS Summary/England
News	3,671.3	23.5	3,694.8
Political broadcasting	122.7		122.7
Local Election coverage	5.8		5.8
Current Affairs (<i>Inside Out</i> only)	94.05		94.05
Landmark documentaries	3.36		3.36
<i>The SuperLeague Show</i>	0.5	25.8	26.3
<i>Children in Need</i>	3.5		3.5
Repeats	0.5	1.95	2.45
Sport Awards	0.75		0.75
Factual	11.78		11.78
Sport	3.0		3.0
Arts	6.0		6.0
Sub-total	3923.2	51.25	3974.5
Continuity	34.4		34.4
PUBLISHED HOURS	3957.6	51.25	4008.9
Independent productions (included above)	46.9	25.8	72.7

2. Local Radio hours of output

	2004-2005	2005-2006
Berkshire	4,677	4,978
Bristol (incl Somerset Sound)	6,150	5,967
Cambridgeshire	6,419	6,256
Cleveland	6,305	6,686
Cornwall	5,601	5,612
Coventry and Warks	1,993	4,084
Cumbria	6,265	6,705
Derby	5,121	5,167
Devon	7,162	7,638
Essex	5,336	5,227
Gloucestershire	5,093	5,107
GMR - Manchester	6,802	6,751
Guernsey	4,133	4,377
Hereford and Worcester	5,282	5,412
Humberside	5,844	5,796
Jersey	4,729	4,730
Kent	6,148	6,179
Lancashire	7,435	7,374
Leeds	7,722	8,660
Leicester	5,194	5,250
Lincolnshire	5,258	5,248
London Live (formerly GLR)	8,760	8,760
Merseyside	7,194	7,172
Newcastle	6,882	7,217
Norfolk	6,943	6,638
Northampton	5,016	4,949
Nottingham	6,346	6,309
Oxford	5,443	5,502
Sheffield	6,091	6,333
Shropshire	5,563	5,554
Solent (incl Dorset)	6,987	6,783
Somerset	1,996	2,093
Southern Counties Radio	8,184	8,296
Stoke	5,198	5,241
Suffolk	4,966	5,572
Three Counties Radio	7,260	7,436
Wiltshire Sound	6,925	6,599
WM	7,179	7,083
York	5,933	5,638
Total	231,535	236,379

3. Landmark programme hours of output by region

REGION	TITLE	DURATION
South	Trafalgar	0.50
	Spinnaker	0.48
	VJ Day	0.45
West	Fun factory	0.48
East	VJ Day	0.45
	Trafalgar	0.50
	Thursford	0.50
		3.36

Factual programme hours of output by region

Pan England	People's War	6.00
	Seven Man Made Wonders	5.28
SW	Live8	0.50
		11.78

Arts programme hours of output by region

Pan England	Picture of Britain	6.0
		6.0

Sports programme hours of output by region

North West	Rugby League Raw	3.0
		3.0

4. BBC Local Radio in England, Q4 2005

Weekly Reach:	19.80%
Hours per listener per week:	11.46
Share of all listening:	10.5%

Over three million people (3.1m) who listen to BBC Local Radio in any given week do not listen to any other BBC radio service. 1.69 million listeners do not hear any other radio stations.

5. English Regions on bbc.co.uk: Where I Live

44 *Where I Live* websites across England
March 2006 monthly unique users: 11.384m

(A unique user is an identified individual computer/user that is recorded as having visited the English Regions websites.)

6. Costs

Tariff income	£000s
News	70,175
Political	3,221
Current Affairs	6,478
Radio	85,623
TOTAL Income	165,497
New Media income	6,905

7. Staff numbers

Effective full-time staff: (as at 31st March 2006) 2,981.0

Awards 2005-2006

The Andrew Cross Awards

- BBC London 94.9 – Jumoke Fashola, Religious Broadcaster of the Year
- BBC North West - Winner, Festivals, Worship, Discussion, Magazines, News category – Inside Out: Street Pastors
- BBC Radio Merseyside - Three nominations with one commendation for United in Song
- BBC Radio Nottingham – Gold, Thought for the Day: Steven Smith, Holocaust
- BBC Radio Nottingham - Gold, Response to News Story: Muslim Labels
- BBC Radio Humberside – Short-listed in Documentary/Feature Category

Business in the Community

- BBC Radio Berkshire – Oxford Road – Big Tick

Jerusalem Awards

- BBC Radio Berkshire – Ufton Nerve Remembrance Sunday
- BBC Radio Kent – Commended: Lynn Wallis Eade

Home Office Respect Awards

- BBC Radio Gloucestershire Action Desk – Taking a Stand: working with young people

Royal Television Society Regional Awards

RTS Midlands

- BBC East Midlands – Winner, Best Regional programme: A Picture of Nottinghamshire by William Ivory
- BBC West Midlands – Winner, Best Current Affairs Programme: Inside Out - Siege Village
- BBC West Midlands – Winner, Best Independent programme: The Birmingham Bombings - 30 years on

RTS Southern

- BBC South – Winner, Best Camerawork: Trevor Adamson
- BBC South – Winner, Regional Television Personality: Sally Taylor
- BBC South East – Winner, Best Regional TV Journalist: Robin Gibson
- BBC South – Winner, Best Magazine Programme: South Today – Spinnaker Tower
- BBC South – Winner, Best Engineering Innovation: Soton Link

RTS North West

- BBC North West – Winner, Best Regional News Programme, North West Tonight
- BBC North West – Winner, Best Regional Presenter: Gordon Burns, North West Tonight

- BBC North West – Winner, Best Regional Programme: Inside Out – Donna's Story

RTS West

- BBC West – Best Regional Personality: Tessa Dunlop
- BBC West/Flashback Bristol - Best Regional Independent Production: A Picture of Bristol by Roni Size

RTS North East & Borders

- BBC North East & Cumbria – Best Factual Programme (up to £50k per hour): A Picture of Tyneside by Chris Donald, directed by David Morrison
- BBC North East & Cumbria – Winner, Professional Excellence - Production: Steve Paton, Camera

RTS London

- BBC London – Winner, News Story of the Year: Olympics
- BBC London – Winner, Reporter of the Year: Andrew Winstanley, BBC London News
- BBC London – Winner, Spirit of London: End of the Line
- BBC London/Juniper Communications – Winner, Best Independent Production: for an edition of The Politics Show

RTS Yorkshire

- BBC Yorkshire – Winner, Unsung Hero of the Year: Diane Marshall
- BBC Yorkshire – Winner, Best News Magazine: Look North Yorkshire
- BBC Yorkshire – Winner, Best News or Sports Reporter, Morland Sanders, Inside Out BBC North
- BBC Yorkshire - Winner, Best Network Camerawork - Keith Massey for Restoration (North) BBC4
- BBC Yorkshire & Lincolnshire – Winner, Innovative Idea of the Year: Spark TV

RTS Devon & Cornwall

- BBC South West - Best Current Affairs Programme : Inside Out – Speed Cameras
- BBC South West/A38 Films - Best Regional Documentary: A Picture of Cornwall by Kurt Jackson
- BBC South West - Best Regional Feature Programme: Inside Out

National Royal Television Society Awards Journalism Awards

- BBC Yorkshire & Lincolnshire - Nations & Regions News Coverage: Look North - Joanne Nelson Murder Case

RTS Sports Awards

- BBC West – nomination for Inside Out West: Skeleton Bobsleigh

European Prix Circom

- BBC West - Special Commendation for Inside Out West report on vicar who lost daughter in the 7/7 bombings

Hollywood Black Film Festival

- BBC West - Special Award for A Picture of Bristol by Roni Size by Flashback Bristol production for Inside Out West

National Health Journalist of the Year

- BBC West: Matthew Hill

CSV National Campaign of the Year

- BBC Radio Gloucestershire

National Adult Learners Award

- BBC Gloucester Open Centre

South West Media Awards

- BBC Bristol Where I Live site: nomination for Website of the Year

PROMAX Awards

- BBC WM - Gold Award for Best Print/Poster for a Radio Station

UK Country Music Awards

- BBC Radio Lancashire – Country Music Presenter of the Year, Joe Fish
- BBC Radio Lancashire – Favourite Radio Station

Garden Writers' Guild

- BBC Radio Cumbria Gardening Show - Best Radio Broadcaster 2005, Paul O'Neill

Gospel Entertainment Music Awards

- BBC London 94.9 – Best DJ/Presenter: Jumoke Fashola

The Radio Academy Celebration of Music Awards

- BBC London 94.9 – Winner, The John Peel Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music Radio

EDF Energy Awards

- BBC Radio Suffolk – Winner, Regional Radio Journalist of the Year: Mark Murphy, Breakfast Presenter
- BBC Radio Swindon & Wiltshire – Winner, Reporter of the Year: Sarah Moore



1

1: BBC radio presenter and jazz musician Roger Bennett died aged 69 in July 2005. He was a part of BBC Radio Bristol from the day it opened in September 1970 until he retired in December 2003. In his years presenting *Morning West*, Roger received many awards and became the longest serving breakfast presenter on radio. He became Sony Presenter of the Year in 1983, Local Broadcaster of the Year in 1994, and a recipient of a Sony Gold Achievement Award in 1998. BBC Radio Bristol led an appeal to create a permanent memorial in his name and commissioned a stained glass screen at the church of St Mary Redcliffe.

2: Editor Mark Norman in the newsroom of BBC Three Counties Radio, which won *Sony Station of the Year* in 2005.



Plain English Campaign Awards

- BBC Radio Jersey – Winner, Regional Station of the Year

VOX Awards

- BBC Radio Cornwall – Winner, Best Use of Humour: Phil Hilton

PEARL Awards

- BBC Radio Jersey – Winner, Business in the Community: Fiona Evans

CRE Race In The Media Awards

- BBC Radio Berkshire – Oxford Road: The Story
- BBC Radio Merseyside – Documentary, Golly in the Cupboard
- BBC Radio Kent – Gold: Romany Voices

Christian Broadcasting Awards

- BBC Radio Nottingham – Bronze: Praying for Nottingham

Sony Awards 2005

Gold Awards

- DJ Of the Year: Danny Baker, BBC London 94.9
- Sports Award: City Till I Die, BBC Radio York
- Event Award: The Drive Show - D-Day Anniversary, BBC Radio Kent
- Interactive Radio Award: Three Counties Breakfast, BBC Three Counties Radio
- Station of the Year (300,000 - 1 million): BBC Three Counties Radio

Silver Awards

- News Output Award: BBC Radio Berkshire News
- Event Award: The Ray Clark Afternoon Show Live from Normandy, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire
- Community Award: Oxford Road: The Story, BBC Radio Berkshire Bronze winners (from N&R)

Bronze Awards

- Specialist Music Award: Charlie Gillett, BBC London 94.9
- News Story Award: Boris & Bigley, BBC Radio Merseyside
- Speech Broadcaster of the Year: Stephen Rhodes, BBC Three Counties Radio
- Sports Award: I Don't Know What It Is But I Love It, BBC Radio Merseyside
- Short Form Feature Award: Short and Precious Lives, BBC Radio Bristol
- Event Award: The Welsh Weekender, BBC Radio Cleveland
- Interactive Radio Award: Groundswell, BBC Radio Nottingham
- Promo Award: Closer to the Boro, BBC Radio Cleveland

FROM MAY 2006

Shepherd Neame Awards

- BBC Radio Kent – Broadcast Journalist of the Year: Highly Commended - Jonathan Witchell UK Country Music Awards
- BBC Radio Merseyside Bus Young People Now Awards

- BBC Where I Live Liverpool - Nominated for Young People in the Media Portrayal Award

Sony Awards 2006

Gold Awards

- BBC Hereford & Worcester – Community Award for Hearing Voices
- BBC Radio Kent – Drive Show D-Day Anniversary, Dominic King
- BBC London 94.9 – Danny Baker, DJ of the Year

Silver Awards

- BBC Radio Berkshire – Winner, The Community Award: Oxford Road, The Story
- BBC Radio Berkshire – Winner, News Output Award: Ufton Nerve Rail Crash
- BBC Radio Berkshire – Business in the Community Award: Big Tick
- BBC Radio Oxford – Winner, Coverage of a Live Event category: Didcot's FA Vase Final

Bronze Awards

- BBC London 94.9 – Charlie Gillett, Specialist Music Guildford Mayor's Award For Access
- BBC Southern Counties - Employment Award for Disability

Getting in Touch

BBC English Regions

REGIONAL TELEVISION CENTRES

BBC North East & Cumbria (Newcastle)

Broadcasting Centre
Barrack Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE99 2NE
Tel: 0191 232 1313
email: look.north.northeast.cumbria@bbc.co.uk

BBC North West (Manchester)

New Broadcasting House
Oxford Road
Manchester
M60 1SJ
Tel: 0161 200 2020
email: nwt@bbc.co.uk

BBC East Midlands (Nottingham)

London Road
Nottingham
NG2 4UU
Tel: 0115 955 0500
email: emt@bbc.co.uk

BBC East (Norwich)

The Forum
Millennium Plain
Norwich
NR2 1BH
Tel: 01603 619 331
email: look.east@bbc.co.uk

BBC Yorkshire (Leeds)

Broadcasting Centre
2 St Peter's Square,
Leeds LS9 8AH
Tel: 0113 244 1188
email: look.north@bbc.co.uk

BBC West Midlands (Birmingham)

The Mailbox
Birmingham
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email: midlands.today@bbc.co.uk

BBC West (Bristol)

Broadcasting House
Whiteladies Road
Bristol
BS8 2LR
Tel: 01179 732 211
email: pointswest@bbc.co.uk

BBC South West (Plymouth)

Broadcasting House
Seymour Road
Mannamead
Plymouth
PL3 5BD
Tel: 01752 229 201
email: spotlight@bbc.co.uk

BBC South East (Tunbridge Wells)

The Great Hall
Mount Pleasant Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1QQ
Tel: 01892 670 000
email: southeasttoday@bbc.co.uk

BBC South (Southampton)

Broadcasting House
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Southampton
SO14 7PU
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email: south.today@bbc.co.uk

BBC London

35 Marylebone High Street,
London W1U 4QA
Tel: 0207 224 2424
email: yourlondon@bbc.co.uk

BBC Yorkshire & Lincolnshire (Hull)

Queen's Court
Queen's Gardens
Hull
HU1 3RH
Tel: 01482 323232
email: looknorth@bbc.co.uk

BBC LOCAL RADIO

BBC Radio Berkshire

PO Box 104.4
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RG94 8FH
Tel: 0118 946 4200
email: radio.berkshire@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Bristol & Somerset Sound

PO Box 194
Bristol
BS99 7QT
Tel: 01179 741 111
email: radio.bristol@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire

PO Box 96
104 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB2 1LD
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email: cambs@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Cleveland

PO Box 95FM
Newport Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 5DG
Tel: 01642 225 211
email: radio.cleveland@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Cornwall

Phoenix Wharf
Truro
Cornwall
TR1 1UA
Tel: 01872 275 421
email: radio.cornwall@bbc.co.uk

BBC Coventry & Warwickshire and BBC Open Centre

Priory Place
Coventry
CV1 2WR
Tel: 02476 551000
email: coventry.warwickshire@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Cumbria

Annetwell Street
Carlisle
CA3 8BB
Tel: 01228 592 444
email: radio.cumbria@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Derby

PO Box 104.5
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DE1 3HL
Tel: 01332 361 111
email: radio.derby@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Devon

PO Box 1034
Plymouth or Exeter
Tel: 01752 260 323 or 01392 215 651
email: radio.devon@bbc.co.uk

BBC Essex

198 New London Road
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CM2 9XB
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email: essex@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Gloucestershire

London Road
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Tel: 01452 308 585
email: radio.gloucestershire@bbc.co.uk

BBC Gloucester Learning Centre

Holloway House
71-73 Eastergate Street
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GL1 1PW
Tel: 01452 418180

BBC Radio Manchester

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M60 1SD
Tel: 0161 200 2000
email: gmr@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Guernsey

Bulwer Avenue
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GY2 4LA
Tel: 01481 200 600
email: radio.guernsey@bbc.co.uk

BBC Hereford & Worcester

Hylton Road
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BBC Radio Humberside, BBCi Hull and BBC Open Centre

Queen's Court
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email: radio.humberside@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Jersey

18 Parade Road
St Helier
Jersey JE2 3PL
Tel: 01534 870 000
email: radio.jersey@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Kent

The Great Hall
Mount Pleasant Road
Tunbridge Wells
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email: radio.kent@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Lancashire and BBC Open Centre

26 Darwen Street
Blackburn
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Tel: 01254 262 411
email: radio.lancashire@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Leeds

Broadcasting Centre
2 St Peter's Square
Leeds
LS9 8AH
Tel: 0113 244 2131
email: radio.leeds@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Leicester and BBC Open Centre

9 St Nicholas Place
Leicester
LE1 5YP
Tel: 0116 251 6688
email: radioleicester@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Lincolnshire

PO Box 219
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LN1 3XY
Tel: 01522 511 411
email: radio.lincolnshire@bbc.co.uk

BBC London 94.9

35 Marylebone High Street
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W1U 4QA
Tel: 0207 224 2424
email: yourlondon@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Merseyside and BBC Open Centre

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L69 1ZJ
(postal address)

BBC Radio Merseyside and BBC Open Centre

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(for personal callers)
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BBC Radio Newcastle

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BBC Radio Norfolk

The Forum
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Tel: 01603 617 411
email: norfolk@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Northampton

Broadcasting House
Abington Street
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NN1 2BH
Tel: 01604 239 100
email: northampton@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Nottingham

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NG2 4UU
Tel: 0115 955 0500
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BBC Radio Oxford

PO Box 95.2
Oxford
OX2 7YL
Tel: 01865 311 444
email: radio.oxford@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Sheffield and BBC Open Centre

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Sheffield
S1 4RS
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BBC Radio Shropshire

2-4 Boscobel Drive
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SY1 3TT
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BBC Radio Solent

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Tel: 02380 631 311
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BBC Southern Counties Radio

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email: southern.counties.radio@bbc.co.uk

BBC Radio Stoke and BBC Open Centre

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BBC Radio Suffolk

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BBC Radio Swindon

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BBC Three Counties Radio

PO Box 3CR
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BBC Radio Wiltshire

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BBC WM

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COVER: The Angel of the North was the backdrop for these observers of a solar eclipse photographed by Owen Humphreys which featured on the BBC North website in 2005. Courtesy of EMPICS.

This Annual Review is printed on Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) paper which contains virgin wood fibre from sawmill residues, forest thinings and sustainable forests in Finland and Russia. The mill and printer used both have ISO 14001 Accreditation.

