



Programming Matters – May 2010

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Programming is what we listen to on shortwave and this column presents and discusses programs. The presenters of these programs and the stations they speak from are also topics for coverage. We also delve into many other topics to see how radio impacts our lives.

Quote of the Month

Mrs. deVries: "Will you take a message to my husband in London?"

...

Escaping RAF pilot: "Do you hear from him often?"

Mrs. deVries: "Yes, 5 days a week. He is an announcer on Radio Oranje."

Dialogue from the film *One Of Our Planes Is Missing* (1942)

Across the Bands

Russia

May 8 – 65th Anniversary of VE-Day

Check around May 8 for programming from many countries of the world in recognition of the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II. Events in May 1945 were dramatic in many parts of the world such as then Czechoslovakia, the fall of Berlin and suicide of Hitler, the liberation of Holland and the German surrender at Rheims, and later in Berlin. Programming should abound in these days. I'll try to give you a heads up on the ODXA Yahoo group and or the website as the anniversary approaches.

Another rehearsal for Victory Parade in Red Square

May 3, 2010 10:16 Moscow Time



Victory Parade . Photo: RIA Novosti

Another rehearsal for the 65th Victory Parade has been held in Moscow. This is for the first time that servicemen of the CIS countries, Poland, and also of the United States, the UK and France, which were the Soviet Union's main Allied Nations, have marched across Red Square. During the Second World War the United States and Great Britain helped the USSR with supplies of arms and military hardware, and brought the Victory nearer by opening the Second Front. Taking part in the rehearsal were Poland's company of honour guards, officers of the legendary French air squadron Normandie-Nieman, a battalion of a US Infantry regiment, the main band of Britain's Royal Air Force and the servicemen of the First Welsh Regiment, which liberated France in autumn 1944.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/05/03/7231002.html>

Russiapedia



I found a link to this site on the Voice of Russia website. It seems quite interesting for Russophiles or anyone just looking into all things Russian.

http://rt.com/Russia_Now/Russiapedia.html

It appears to be a work in progress, but is very promising and is also evidence of the blurring of distinctions between Voice of Russia radio and Russia Today television. VoR seems to be weaning listeners away from shortwave to the internet. Then again so does everyone these days.

United Kingdom

In a few days the UK will vote in a national General Election. It could be one of the most interesting elections in many years, and perhaps a sign that times are changing very dramatically. The Liberal-Democrats, an alliance formed in the 1980s between the tiny Liberal Party and disaffected Labour MPs who stood as Social Democrats, has surged in the polls with a charismatic leader Nick Clegg. At various times, in pre-election polling the ruling Labour Party has been running third. The election just a short time ago seemed to point to the return of the Conservative Party to power now seems to mark the beginning of a new era of minority or coalition governments. Will Gordon Brown continue to lead Britain? Will David Cameron? Or will Nick Clegg lead the first Liberal government since 1911. Or will Clegg use his seats in parliament to set the agenda and decide who leads. Interesting times ahead.

BBC World Service's language teams connect global audiences with UK Election 2010

Date: 27.04.2010
Category: World Service

In the run-up to Election Day, BBC World Service's 32 language and regional services have mounted extensive programming, making the connection between the UK's key political event on the one hand and the lives of people around the world on the other. The international broadcaster is placing UK Election 2010 in the context of the issues relevant and important to its audience – across platforms, across languages and across regions.

BBC World Service's journalists examine why the decision made by the British electorate matters to people in places as diverse as China and the Arab world, Ukraine and Burma, India and Albania, Indonesia and Russia, Iran and Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Bangladesh. They will follow and report the campaign trail, analysing the effects of the possible outcome on countries and regions.

Peter Horrocks, Director, BBC Global News, says: "The British General Election is of huge interest to audiences around the world who want to discuss and debate the impact the UK votes may have on their lives. The BBC's international multimedia services have gathered the thoughts, hopes and fears of other countries, while reflecting the excitement of this race to a global audience."

BBC Persian TV has embarked on the Great British Election Road Trip 2010 – a series of short films in which the presenter, Pooneh Ghoddoosi, and her team hit the road to discover the issues that really matter to the British people and look at themes that are often bypassed by standard daily news coverage.

BBC Arabic correspondents, too, are travelling across the UK. On the campaign trail with the three party leaders, they are gauging opinions of the UK's Arab and Islamic communities.

On Election Day, presenter Tony El Khoury will be anchoring a major multimedia broadcast talking to the main parties and audiences, with young British Arabs sharing their views via webcam. The day after the election, the BBC Arabic flagship multimedia interactive programme, Nuqtat Hewar, will feature a studio audience of British Arabs discussing the election result and the impact it will have on their lives.

Representatives of the leading parties were quizzed by Russian-speaking online users on BBC Russian. While, on the BBC Afghanistan service in Pashto and Dari, MPs are answering the questions from UK's ethnic Afghans, journalists from the BBC Uzbek for Afghanistan team broadcast from Wootton Bassett – talking about the UK as a military power, asking how people in the UK see Britain's place in the world and the role Afghanistan plays in the UK election.

A panel of four ethnic Albanians – a Conservative council candidate in London, an advisor to a Labour MP, a political activist and a business expert – talk about economy, emigration and foreign policy on BBC Albanian. BBC Indonesia discusses these issues with UK-based Indonesians, while BBC Ukrainian explores the party policies with regard to an issue of utmost interest to its audience – the EU expansion.

The educational aspect of the election is an important focus of the coverage by the Central Asian and Caucasus services – BBC Azeri, BBC Kyrgyz and BBC Uzbek. They look at how the elections work in a Western democracy, how the opposition functions, what are the forces influencing UK politics and politicians and what's the role of the British media.

BBC Azeri is reporting from Belfast as the city's conflict-resolution background is relevant to Azerbaijan's conflict with Armenia.

As the Burmese government is planning to hold a general election for the first time in 20 years, the BBC Burmese programming specifically targets Burma's young people who have never voted. The BBC Burmese journalists report on the UK parliamentary system, the relationship between the UK government and the opposition parties, why people vote – and whether they vote for the personality or for electoral platform.

The Head of African News & Current Affairs, Joseph Warungu, is doing a series of reports for BBC World Service and BBC Radio 4's The World This Weekend on how the British "do" elections – from canvassing to party leaders' meetings, and the issues the voters are talking about such as sleaze. Using his experience

in covering elections in Africa and the US, Warungu takes a personal look at what marks out British elections from other democracies.

BBC Swahili puts under the spotlight UK nationals of African descent who are campaigning for parliamentary and civic seats – or simply playing an active role in the election. All key Swahili programmes will bring live updates reporting the vote on the Election Day, and will analyse the outcome on the next day.

BBC Hausa is looking at a range of issues, from funding of political parties to ideology to vote count, and talking to the UK's Hausa-speaking diaspora about their views of the elections.

This general election sees a growing number of candidates from ethnic minorities. The BBC Chinese online forum offered the audiences an opportunity to question a panel of the UK's ethnic Chinese candidates. And as five parties are fielding ethnic Bangladeshis in a London constituency, the BBC Bangla multimedia programming explores the attitudes of the non-Bangladeshi electorate to these candidates, how UK citizens of Bangladeshi descent see their role in mainstream UK politics, and the influence of Islamists within this community.

The stake and clout of the Indian diaspora in certain constituencies is in the focus of BBC Hindi. The service also explores similarities and differences between elections in India and the UK, compares the representation of women in the UK and Indian parliaments and profiles female candidates of Indian descent and their campaigns.

Another theme is the role of "Indian" money – financial contributions to political parties from businesses such as Mittals, Pauls, Noons. Teaming up with BBC Tamil and BBC Sinhala, BBC Hindi also explores the constituencies with sizeable Tamil populations in the aftermath of the fall of the Tamil Tigers.

On UK election night, BBC World Service English will broadcast a seven-hour election night special. The programme will offer global audiences bespoke analysis and regular updates throughout the night. Presenter Robin Lustig will be joined by leading politicians and political pundits as they bring the results to the world.

For details of programmes and more information, go to bbcworldservice.com.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2010/04_april/27/ws_election.shtml



Ask your question – BBC Russian rolls out UK election coverage

Date: 21.04.2010

Category: World Service

BBC Russian has announced its plans for coverage of the UK General Election. In the weeks leading up to Election Day on Thursday 6 May, BBC Russian journalists will bring their audience comprehensive news and information about this important political event in the UK.

MPs representing the UK's three main political parties – Richard Spring, Conservative; Denis MacShane, Labour; and Michael Moore, Liberal-Democrat – will be answering questions put by BBC Russian audiences through the dedicated Ask British Politicians Your Question page, on bbcussian.com. Interviews with the politicians based on the questions will run across the BBC Russian multimedia output on radio and online.

In addition, the bbcussian.com website will feature background information on the election, including an introduction by the BBC's Political Editor, Nick Robinson. Special content also will include an explanation of the term "hung parliament", which is a leading theme of the election, and the translation and explanation of key election terms. BBC Russian will also talk to ethnic Russians voting in the UK election – and report from the UK Embassy in Moscow where expatriate Britons will be voting on 6 May.

BBC Russian's Andrei Beketov reports on the series of Britain's first-ever televised election debates, offering radio and online audiences analysis of the

parties' positions on home affairs and immigration, foreign affairs and the economy.

Special editions of the flagship morning and evening news programmes, *Utro na BBC* and *Vecher na BBC*, will feature Alexei Gromyko, Deputy Director of the Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Science, and the leading UK academic and expert on Russian and Soviet affairs, Geoffrey Hosking. They will look at how the election may impact on the relationship between Russia and the UK.

Head of BBC Russian, Sarah Gibson, says: "Our audience is interested in events in the UK, and how they affect the Russian-UK relationship at all levels – foreign policy, immigration, trade, cultural, education. The election on May 6 is a key moment in UK political life. We will be explaining why and how the election matters, not just to those in the UK, but to countries such as Russia and the wider region."

Notes to Editors

BBC Russian is a multimedia broadcaster offering radio, online and mobile content to Russian-speaking audiences, with up-to-the-minute news, features and analysis.

BBC Russian radio programmes are streamed online via bbcrussian.com and are broadcast on shortwave, on medium wave in Moscow (1260 MW), St Petersburg (1260 MW) and Yekaterinburg (666 MW). They are also available direct to home via the Hotbird 2 satellite.

The 24/7 website, bbcrussian.com, offers news and information in text, audio and video, while the latest headlines and video news bulletins are available for download on mobile phones via bbcrussian.com/mobile.

BBC World Service is an international multimedia broadcaster delivering 32 language and regional services. It uses multiple platforms to reach its weekly audience of 188 million globally, including shortwave, AM, FM, digital satellite and cable channels. Its news sites, which received 4.7 million weekly visitors in September 2009, include audio and video content and offer opportunities to join the global debate.

It has around 2,000 partner radio stations which take BBC content, and numerous partnerships supplying content to mobile phones and other wireless handheld devices.

For more information, visit bbcworldservice.com.

For a weekly alert about BBC World Service programmes, sign up for the BBC World Agenda e-guide at bbcworldservice.com/eguide.

BBC World Service International Publicity

http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2010/04_april/21/russian.shtml



The General Election

Radio 4's coverage of the 2010 general election



As the election approaches Radio 4 will offer unparalleled coverage of events and analysis of party policies, through our regular news and current affairs programmes and also through a range of special programmes illuminating the political melée from different perspectives.

Related Links On Radio 4

- * Today in Parliament
- * Week in Westminster
- * Westminster Hour
- * Any Questions
- * Latest News
- * News Briefing

On bbc.co.uk

- * BBC News Election page
- * Newsnight
- * The Andrew Marr Show
- * Question Time
- * This Week
- * BBC Parliament

Elsewhere on the web

- * Political websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/election/>

Whose Voice is That Anyway?

Some years ago a program called *Whose Line is it Anyway?* Debuted on BBC Radio. It then moved to TV and as is often the case, the idea was “borrowed” and it became an almost identical TV show in the US.

I decided to borrow the name, for a new feature on the people we hear on the radio.

Jim Lee – BBC

One of my favourite continuity announcer, newsreader and occasional program presenter is Jim Lee.

I first heard him when I began listening regularly to BBC Radio 7 online where he is often heard.

From Wikipedia:

“Jim Lee (born James Lee on 21 April 1953) is a freelance continuity announcer on BBC Radio 4, a newsreader and announcer at the BBC World Service and also provides links for BBC 7. He often reads the Shipping Forecast.

“He worked in Hospital radio at Walsgrave Hospital, and in 1980 was asked to join Mercia Sound in Coventry. He joined the BBC in 1989. He did the Breakfast Show on BBC Coventry for 18 months from 1990, then the Afternoon Show for two years. The BBC then decided to merge BBC Coventry with BBC West Midlands in Birmingham.

“Shortly after he re-joined as a freelance continuity announcer on Radio 4 and the BBC World Service, and joined BBC Radio 7 in 2002. He is known for his distinctive accent, and often interjects humour into his announcements. After the Radio 4 UK Theme made it into the UK popular music charts, he introduced it by saying ‘You don't often hear a hit single on Radio 4...but here's the UK theme’.”

In recent years I have heard him at midnight as the New Year struck in London. I like his relaxed, humorous style and regional accent. He's very good at what he does and is definitely responsible for part of the style of BBC 7.

If you were to ask Jim Lee, he'd readily tell you that it's appropriate that he's ended up working on Radio 7 as he was involved in the very first BBC DAB test transmissions back in the mid 90's. (It wasn't for his encyclopaedic knowledge that the BBC appointed him to look after a series of four hour jazz programmes, five nights a week from Pebble Mill, but because he was about to be made redundant, and going spare.)

These days Jim's recognizable as an announcer and newsreader on Radio 4, the World Service and still occasionally goes back to his local radio roots. A media tart if ever there was one.

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In 1989 Jim was approached by the BBC to set up a social action unit at the forthcoming BBC CWR. As well as fulfilling a management role there, and because it didn't cost them any extra, he also spent a lot of time on air. For about 18 months he presented the afternoon show from a shop window in a local shopping centre and then spent two years on the Breakfast Show. Good practice for the silly hours he keeps these days.

When the BBC decided to merge CWR with their Birmingham based BBC WM, redundancy appeared on the horizon. That was postponed for a couple of years with temporary postings in London running the BBC's first ever Audio on Demand Trial, and at Pebble Mill on regional Radio and Television including that spell on the aforementioned DAB Jazz pilot.

However redundancy was never far away and in 1997 on the day Tony Blair walked into Downing Street, Jim left the BBC. Nothing personal Tony. Proving that there is life after redundancy he soon landed a freelance position with Radio 4 although initially he doubted they would even consider employing someone with flat Nuneaton vowels! Those vowels have sparked the odd complaint but he's used to it now and even quite proud of Michael Buerk's description of him as Radio 4's "bit of rough!"

In an act of desperation Radio 7 asked him to help with their dummy runs prior to opening in December 2002. Feeling guilty they felt they had to give him the opportunity to host the Sunday schedule, and media tart that he is, he was delighted to accept.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio7/presenters/jimlee/>

