



Anti-clockwise from top

- 1 Ian Robinson and the BBC Radio Newcastle bus, one of 13 BBC buses across the UK
- 2 Offering local content and information online with 55 *Where I Live* websites
- 3 *Monarch of the Glen*, produced in Scotland for network television

BBC Nations & Regions in 2004/2005

BBC Nations & Regions seeks to provide high-quality local, regional and network programmes and services that are valued by audiences in all parts of the UK, connecting them to their communities and contributing to their sense of belonging.

Making sense of our world

News lies at the heart of our offer. The integration of network and national/regional news has provided a coherent framework for all the BBC's television news output and has placed greater emphasis on local journalism.

Over the past three years BBC Nations & Regions has extended and enriched what it has to offer, launching an additional five local television news programmes, offering access to all our local content on digital satellite, creating a further four local radio services and launching a total of 55 websites under the *Where I Live* banner: all in order to get closer to our audiences and to serve them better.

We will continue to invest in a range of initiatives that add vigour and freshness to our reports. Over the last two years 375 journalists have been trained in Personal Digital Production and they are now adding more texture and vibrancy to our television news programmes. In Hull, we have trialled an on-demand local news service and we are now looking at ways to extend this offer across the UK using new digital technology. On radio, we will continue to ensure that our news services keep people in touch with core local issues and provide a lifeline in times of crisis. This coverage is augmented by our *Where I Live* sites and further enriched by contributions from our audiences through the new media of *Digital Storytelling* and *Video Nation*.

Our core political programming has also been integrated with network output to form the BBC flagship programme *The Politics Show*. The transfer from BBC Two to BBC One has more than doubled audiences. Our political output has also been enriched by the trial of the *iCan* project, an online service that aims both to invigorate grass-roots politics and enhance our programming across all media by allowing our audience to set the agenda.

In current affairs, our new format in England – *Inside Out* – has bedded down well. There will be 18 new programmes in the coming year. In the summer of 2004 BBC One will broadcast a series of *Inside Out Extra* that will bring the best stories from across England to a network audience.

Investing in communities

Over the last three years we have also made the largest single investment in the BBC's history in the production of drama, entertainment and popular factual programmes for audiences in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Drama is flourishing in the nations. In Scotland, *River City's* storylines are strengthening and *Monarch of the Glen* continues to prove popular across the whole UK. BBC Wales's local drama *Belonging* has a strong, loyal following and it will continue to provide programmes to the networks – including, this year, *A Year in the Life of Kew Gardens* and *Big House Weekend*. BBC Northern Ireland continues to provide powerful and entertaining drama to Radio 4.

Over the coming year the BBC Nations & Regions will ensure that different production centres across the UK continue to make commanding dramas for the networks that reflect the passions and interests of our audience, with pieces such as *The Master of Ballantrae* on Radio 4 and the new *Dr Who* for BBC One.

Echoing the richness of experience

BBC Nations & Regions' network factual programming really broke through in 2003, with *Restoration* proving to be BBC Two's signature programme of the summer. In 2004 major projects will include a second series of *Restoration* and there will also be a greater role for the English Regions in major pieces such as *The Natural History of Britain* and *Nation on Film*. At local level, factual pieces covering the sharp end of life have made a real impact – for instance *Drug Wars* in Scotland and

Hospital in Wales – and there will be more programmes in this genre over the coming year such as *Adoption Stories* and *Social Workers*.

The increased investment in local entertainment is also reaping dividends. Programmes such as *Just for Laughs*, *Chewin' the Fat*, *Give My Head Peace* and *Still Game* have proved to be enormously popular in their home schedules and are helping to nurture local talent, as well as providing output to the networks reflecting the diversity of humour that exists around the UK.

Connecting with audiences

Sport continues to be a key unifying source in all of the nations of the UK. Over the coming year, BBC Nations & Regions will maintain its commitment to reflect sports that capture the passions of local audiences. We will have exclusive coverage of the Scottish Premier League on BBC Radio Scotland, in Northern Ireland we will broadcast the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Isle of Man TT races on television, and in Wales we will continue to cover rugby in *Scrum V*.

A central objective is to forge stronger relationships with local communities and local audiences. To this end, over the coming year, we will be operating ten Open Centres/Community Studios and 13 BBC buses across the UK to improve our outreach to local audiences. These new services will continue to act as 'front doors' for the BBC's services and operate as platforms for audience involvement and debate.

Connecting across England

BBC English Regions aims to be the most trusted and creative local broadcaster in England, serving a widely diverse range of urban and rural communities. It provides an accessible yet authoritative service of news, current affairs, politics, arts and music, religion, sport and weather on regional television, local radio and online.

BBC English Regions' key service priority

In 2004/2005 BBC English Regions will continue to develop its services on local radio, television and online to make them more relevant for the multiplicity of interests represented by our audiences. It will broaden its genre base to encourage local talent in arts and drama, and will extend religious content to all 42 English *Where I Live* local websites.

Connecting people across England

One in five of the population listens to an average of 12 hours of BBC Local Radio output each week. Working with this audience base, each of our 40 local radio stations will continue to run its own campaigns on and off air, ranging from organ donation to debt counselling, and often with local partners.

This activity is in addition to the BBC's UK-wide campaigns, such as the Children in Need Appeal, now in its 25th year.

Last year's increased quantity and range of sports coverage will be maintained across regional television, local radio – where we are often the only provider of local football commentary – and online.

Accurate weather and travel information will be essential to all our services.

As part of our continuing drive for greater 'localness' across England, we will launch:

- a new weekday breakfast programme for Harrogate and the edge of the Yorkshire Dales
- a new radio station for Coventry and Warwickshire

Strengthening communities through informed citizenship

We will build on the success of our 6.30pm news programmes in the 12 regions as the most watched news output on English television, sharing best practice and developing our video journalism through the wider use of hand-held digital cameras to deliver more breadth and depth.

Devolution in the English regions is likely to be one of the big stories in 2004. We will be devoting special coverage to it in *The Politics Show* on BBC One and across local radio, television and online.

All of this output will be governed by new guidelines developed specifically for coverage of the devolution referenda due to take place in late 2004. These guidelines will also cover our extensive radio output, BBC English Regions' primary vehicle for fostering debate.

Our 42 *Where I Live* sites will support active citizenship through the use of online chats with key local people on topical issues, and in particular through two projects which enable people to tell their own stories and perspectives: *Telling Lives* and *Video Nation*.

Over 2004/2005, BBC English Regions commits to:

- training up to a further 160 staff in the use of video journalism
- sending 1,500 staff through our new best practice centre
- evaluating *iCan* – which encourages people to take part in local democracy – in new, untested parts of the country

Taking learning to the community

By early 2005 seven BBC Open Centres and 12 BBC buses will be in operation. Our aim is for them to reach people within local communities who have little or no direct experience of the BBC and open up the world of learning for them.

We will develop the BBC *Headstart* project, first launched in 2001 in Hull with the aim of delivering video-rich learning content, and engage with students and teachers to inspire them to create their own. At least another 15 schools will join in 2004/2005.

Inspiring and celebrating the variety of UK life

Religious broadcasting will continue to be core for BBC Local Radio. For the first time religion will also be featured across all of our *Where I Live* websites, where greater depth of information and experience can be provided.

Our *Roots* partnership with Arts Council England will be extended, and a new talent project for black writers, actors and producers will be trialled in four of our regional centres.

Further series will also extend the genre range offered by BBC English Regions, such as an observational documentary series based around St Paul's in Bristol from BBC West, and an archive-based series looking back over the past 40 years from BBC Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

Over the coming 12 months we will:

- work to a new recruitment outreach strategy in order to meet our workforce targets on ethnic diversity and disabled staff across the 12 regions
- broadcast over 1,300 arts stories from ethnic minority communities on regional television, local radio and online

Reflecting our own diversity

We will reflect the UK back to itself by providing opportunities for connection and debate between the English regions.



On the television networks, *Homeground* will feature the best of BBC English Regions' landmark programmes, with the best of current affairs being shown in a new series called *Inside Out Extra*. There will also be at least three more new factual series:

- *The Natural History of Britain*, including regional variations
- a social documentary series, *Nation on Film*, based on public film archive and supplemented by personal testimony
- a series of at least six landmark programmes made by independent companies

We will continue to work with the independent sector to explore new programming ideas that broaden the BBC English Regions portfolio.

- We will commit an additional £500,000 to independent production.
- For the first time, we will contribute regionally commissioned programming to the BBC networks – a minimum of seven hours, including *Inside Out Extra* and *Nation on Film*.



Other commitments

Over the course of 12 months, BBC English Regions will also commit to:

- over 3,200 hours of daily television news programmes
- at least 250 hours of further programming across other genres, including current affairs
- enriched local radio output of 225,600 hours across a wider range of lifestyle passions, daily concerns and cultural life than ever before, to be assessed by the Local Advisory Council for each station



Anti-clockwise from top

- 1 BBC Radio Derby broadcasting as part of the *Voices* season
- 2 Jim Hancock and Jacey Normand present *The Politics Show* in the North West
- 3 *Midlands Today* news, read by Sharuna Sagar

The national broadcaster

BBC Scotland produces a rich and broad range of high-quality and distinctive television and radio programmes for all age groups, properly reflecting the diverse nature of Scotland and celebrating all aspects of Scottish culture and heritage.

BBC Scotland's key service priority

BBC Scotland will continue to deliver a broad mix of factual and entertainment programmes to all sections of the audience in Scotland.

Encouraging involved citizenship

BBC Scotland provides the nation's most watched television news programme, *Reporting Scotland*, and its most listened-to radio news programme, *Good Morning Scotland*.

In the year ahead, these will be supplemented on television by more in-depth reporting in programmes such as *Newsnight Scotland* on BBC Two and on radio by the *Lesley Riddoch* discussion programme and the drivetime journalism of *Newsdrive*.

Gaelic speakers will continue to receive a comprehensive service on BBC Radio nan Gaidheal and online, offering coverage of local, national and international news, and, on TV, European affairs in *Eòrpa*.

Comprehensive analysis and comment on Scotland's politics from Holyrood, Westminster and Europe will continue. We will provide special reports across all our media platforms during the European election campaign.

This year BBC Scotland will broadcast:

- over 500 hours of television news and current affairs
- at least 2,200 hours of radio news and current affairs

BBC Scotland will also support pan-BBC social action campaigns with appropriate television, radio and online content.

Supporting a distinctive curriculum

We will continue to provide resources for school pupils in Scotland and across the UK.

New resources for schools will cover Scottish topics for a range of age groups. Online sites will accompany television programmes.

New media technologies offer opportunities to improve services to a wider range of audiences, including those who live in rural and island communities. We will look to develop interactive output on new platforms, including broadband, mobile phones and interactive TV.

We will continue to develop partnerships with appropriate external bodies such as local authorities, Learning and Teaching Scotland and National Grid for Learning Scotland. We will work to maximise digital take-up across the board by making great, 'must-see' content, and aim to achieve broader and more comprehensive coverage of Scotland in our internet content.

Existing initiatives will continue. For example, our seven-year project to build a literacy resource for Gaelic-medium primary education will reach fruition with provision for upper stages writing in *Snas* (television) and *Snasail* (online). Following a survey last year which showed that the language had strong support among non-Gaels, our provision for adult learners of Gaelic will continue on radio and online.

In the coming 12 months, we will:

- provide 58 hours of schools programmes on television and radio
- launch a new multimedia language learning resource for adults

Inspiring and celebrating Scottish culture

BBC Scotland will reflect Scottish culture, from Hogmanay and the Edinburgh Festival to national and international football and the National Mod.

There will be a further series of Scotland's most popular comedy *Still Game* and we will continue to develop new opportunities for Scottish-based comedy talent.

The *Artworks Scotland* strand will reflect the range and strength of the arts in Scotland on television.

BBC Radio Scotland's specialist music programmes will continue to promote live music-making across all genres.

We will cover arts festivals from Edinburgh to the St Magnus Festival in Orkney on BBC Radio Scotland's daily strands and, in our daily radio arts output, will reflect the arts in Scotland and debate topical cultural issues.

A range of documentaries will celebrate Scotland's unique past and the diversity of its present.

We will work with new and established writers to produce drama reflecting aspects of Scottish experience for network and Scottish audiences. We will continue to support short film making through *Tartan Shorts* and *Tartan Smalls*, and will develop projects to build on the writing and directing talent they have identified.

In projects such as our twice-weekly serial drama *River City* we will continue to nurture Scottish writing, performing and craft talent and to explore topics relevant to contemporary Scotland.

We will continue to search for the talent of tomorrow across a wide range of artistic endeavour and will:

- continue to solicit demo tapes from new pop music talent
- continue to sponsor the Young Traditional Musician of the Year award
- launch a new radio comedy competition, with a view to developing new comedy output
- commission new radio drama



Linking people across Scotland and beyond

Through digital television, digital radio and the internet we will continue to connect Gaelic speakers and those interested in Gaelic across the UK. The move to unencryption on satellite enables Gaelic speakers across the UK to access our television output. We will also connect our UK audiences with the Gaelic-speaking diaspora and reflect their lives and experiences in our content.

A shared love of sport unites people – and in the year ahead we will provide a wide and distinctive range of sports and pursuits including football, rugby, shinty and curling, to reflect the interests of Scottish audiences.

Across the television networks, the popular *Monarch of the Glen* will return to BBC One, and the unique pre-school drama *Balamory* will continue to have a high profile in the CBeebies schedule.

We will evaluate the *Island Blogging* website on bbc.co.uk and look at ways of extending it across Scotland. We will seek ways of promoting user-generated content online, via mobile phones and interactive television.



A radio storytelling project will aim to capture extraordinary stories from the lives of ordinary people. With programmes such as *Let's Do the Show Right Here*, BBC Radio Scotland will continue to support and profile the work of community groups across the country, and we will launch new formats which highlight the importance of volunteering.

In the year ahead, BBC Scotland will broadcast at least:

- 184 hours of local television programmes across a range of genres, excluding news, current affairs and sport
- over 9,200 hours of live or originated radio programmes

We will spend £2.1 million on Gaelic output, including online.



Anti-clockwise from top

- 1 *Reporting Scotland*, presented by Sally Magnusson, Jackie Bird and David Robertson
- 2 Network drama, *Sea of Souls*
- 3 BBC Scotland's popular comedy, *Still Game*

Connecting with communities

BBC Cymru Wales aims to produce high-quality, distinctive programming which reflects the unique culture and history of Wales and its social and political landscape. Our key ambition is to foster an inclusive and participatory engagement with audiences in Wales across our range of services.

BBC Cymru Wales's key service priority

Over the next 12 months, we will continue to offer a range of services on terrestrial and digital television, on radio and online, as well as supplying ten hours per week of Welsh language television output to S4C.

Making sense of the world

News will continue to be a cornerstone of our offering. The flagship programme *Wales Today* has been extended to our digital service BBC 2W every weeknight and will continue to be central to the BBC 2W schedule. In Welsh, *Newyddion* and the daily news bulletin for children, *Ffeil*, provide a unique service for S4C viewers.

We will continue to reflect the distinctive political landscape of Wales through our extensive coverage of the National Assembly, Westminster and local government on radio, TV and online. We will provide comprehensive coverage of the 2004 local and European elections in June.

Informed citizenship will also be promoted through factual and documentary programmes including the consumer show *X-Ray* and hard-hitting documentary series like *The Fix*, which examines the relationship between drug use and crime and will culminate in a major debate on the issues. Our well-established factual series *O Flaen Dy Lygaid*, on S4C, will again offer human interest documentaries reporting on social trends within a strong narrative format.

BBC Cymru Wales commits to broadcasting:

- over 430 hours of English language news, current affairs and politics on television
- over 1,500 hours of news and current affairs on BBC Radio Wales
- over 1,000 hours of Welsh language news and current affairs on BBC Radio Cymru

We will also supply television coverage of the National Assembly for transmission on S4C2 (around 500 hours, subject to Assembly sessions).

Inspiring and celebrating Welsh culture

We will cover major national cultural events such as the National Eisteddfod, Royal Welsh Show, Brecon Jazz and the Urdd Eisteddfod.

We will increase the number of editions of the arts strand *On Show*, which offers critical review, documentary and debate.

The BBC National Orchestra of Wales will make more than 80 programmes across Radio 3, BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio Cymru, BBC Four and S4C, and hold over 60 public concerts. It will celebrate the 75th birthday of distinguished Welsh composer Alun Hoddinott and will perform new works by other Welsh composers.

A key landmark series on BBC One Wales will be *Bread of Heaven*, about the history of Christianity in Wales, marking the centenary of the Welsh Revival of 1904. The series will end with a major debate on the status of religion in modern Wales.

Our sports coverage will see an enhancement of the *Sports Extra* element of *Wales Today* on BBC 2W, making it one of the best sources of coverage of sport in Wales. BBC Radio Wales will split frequencies to provide extra sports coverage on medium wave, offering listeners real choice.

- We will ensure that, excluding news and current affairs programmes, BBC Radio Cymru output will exceed 6,000 hours and BBC Radio Wales will broadcast over 5,500 hours.
- We will make 600 hours of television across a range of genres, excluding news and current affairs.

- BBC Cymru Wales will supply 520 hours of Welsh language television programming to S4C, including its most popular drama, the soap *Pobol y Cwm*, which celebrates its 30th year in 2004. This will account for over 90 hours of original drama.
- We will pilot local opt-outs on BBC Radio Cymru and develop our *Lleol i Mi* (Local to Me) websites.

Connecting people across Wales and the UK

We will improve our range of new media services, focusing on *Lleol i Mi* and *Where I Live* sites.

Community studios and the BBC Wales buses will build local content. The *Digital Storytelling* project will be expanded through partnerships.

On BBC Radio Cymru there will be another *Lleisiau* (Voices) project in south-west Wales, and BBC Radio Wales Community Weeks will see the station based in different areas around the country, finding new stories and voices to enrich our output.

Our contribution to network television and radio will connect us with the rest of the UK.

- We expect to supply output worth at least £30million to the BBC television and radio networks, an increase of approximately 70% from last year.
- We will launch a second BBC Wales bus to better connect with communities in north Wales – we expect around 10,000 visitors every year will use it.
- We will develop *Where I Live* sites to generate 60% content pages which include contributions from local people.

Exciting interest in learning

We will encourage and support formal education and lifelong learning.



Work will begin on the digital curriculum, focusing on addressing the distinctiveness of the curriculum in Wales.

BBC National Orchestra of Wales's education programme will include schools projects throughout Wales. It will also continue its partnership with the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and, for the first time, will hold a public concert.

The success of last year's *Raga and Rhapsody* concert will be followed by work with South Asian communities in Wales. For the first time, the National Chorus of Wales will be involved in education and outreach work.

In addition, this year we are aiming to:

- deliver an online archive resource tailored to the needs of teachers in Wales
- work in partnership with the National Library of Wales to make our archive even more accessible

We will also create, through our online, radio and television services, a forum for a national conversation about our shared history and heritage.



Other commitments

We will work with the wider BBC, participating in network events, and collaborate across social action campaigns and through shared editorial goals.

- We will lead a major project for the BBC, *The UK Speaks*, a multi-platform project which will celebrate and explore the diverse languages, dialects and accents of the UK today.
- BBC 2W will continue to offer Welsh audiences consistent and relevant programmes in peak time every weeknight, including enhanced sports coverage.
- We will launch a new strategy for learning Welsh with a cross-service animation project, in collaboration with BBC Northern Ireland and BBC Scotland.



Anti-clockwise from top

- 1 Dancers from India Dance Wales performing Sangeet Kala, part of the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales's *Raga and Rhapsody* project
- 2 The Moslem Garden made as a part of the Community Literacy Project with BBC Wales staff and pupils from St Mary the Virgin school, Butetown, Cardiff
- 3 Proms in the Park in Swansea

Growing home

BBC Northern Ireland aims to provide something of value for everyone in the community through a broad range of programmes and services which inform and stimulate debate, celebrate and support cultural and sporting life, and reflect local interests and experiences for audiences within Northern Ireland and across the rest of the UK.

BBC Northern Ireland's key service priority

Responding to changing audience needs and developing opportunities for community involvement will be key priorities for the year ahead, as we work to create synergies between our radio, television and online output.

The BBC will celebrate 80 years of broadcast services from Northern Ireland in September 2004.

Authority and trust

Our audience in Northern Ireland has a passionate interest in news and current affairs, and BBC Northern Ireland will continue to play a critical role in reflecting and informing the diverse views and experiences of local communities.

Our output will provide impartial and authoritative coverage of events at home and around the world and will make use of the BBC's newsgathering capabilities to deliver informed comment, reporting and analysis.

Talkback, *Let's Talk* and related online message boards will provide interactive opportunities, and *The Stephen Nolan Show* on BBC Radio Ulster will offer a listener-led agenda focusing on social and local community concerns.

Factual radio and television documentaries and series including *Derry City Beat*, on the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and *Voyage of Discovery*, an assessment of our scientific heritage, will explore the issues and personalities behind the headlines. Programmes for network audiences will include *Dinner with...* on BBC Four and *Just for Laughs* on BBC One.

- BBC Radio Ulster will broadcast over 2,000 hours of local, national and international news and current affairs (excluding Assembly proceedings).
- BBC Radio Foyle will broadcast over 380 hours of news and current affairs.
- On television we will provide at least 295 hours of local news and 70 hours of current affairs and factual programming for BBC One.

Cultural life and activity

We will continue to explore and reflect the many facets of our cultural, linguistic and sporting heritage across radio, television and online.

BBC Radio Ulster will continue to broadcast a weekly religious service and *Sunday Sequence* will provide in-depth coverage of contemporary religious and ethical issues.

We will broadcast performances and reviews from the Belfast Festival at Queen's and will work to deliver a large-scale programme of concerts, events and broadcasts as part of Music Live.

Our sports portfolio will aim to reflect the varied sporting interests and enthusiasms of local communities and will include coverage of Northern Ireland's soccer internationals, Ulster Rugby, motorcycling and the Gaelic Athletic Association's Ulster and All Ireland Championships.

A new series for BBC Two Northern Ireland will provide fuller coverage of the Irish Football League, together with news and features on minority sports.

- We will focus on nurturing the next generation of writers and performers, and will work to develop opportunities to showcase local creative and production talent.

Resources for learning

Engaging the audience in lifelong learning through attractive and challenging broadcasts and online material is at the heart of the BBC's purpose.

As well as programming for schools and the digital curriculum, we will enhance our indigenous language programmes through the creation of an online language-learning resource.

Much of our other programming will also include integrated or associated interactive learning opportunities.

Our BBC bus will give communities across the region the chance to learn basic IT skills, with an emphasis on disadvantaged areas or places where people may have had limited previous interaction with the BBC. This will be complemented by media literacy work with teenagers, which will aim to equip them with the skills to tell their stories using digital production techniques.

- This year we will make and broadcast at least 70 hours of factual programming for BBC Northern Ireland television and over 370 hours on BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Radio Foyle.
- Of this, a minimum of 18.5 hours will be aimed directly at pre-school and school students.

Connecting people

BBC Northern Ireland is uniquely positioned to connect with local audiences in different ways and places.

This year we will provide outside broadcasts from across the region, showcasing local stories and talents. *Your Place and Mine* will give a weekly outlet for news and information about local community events, and *This Place* on BBC Radio Ulster will provide a platform for stories about what makes certain locations special to different contributors.



The highly popular *Give My Head Peace* will return for another series with its unique interpretation of family and community life in Northern Ireland. We will also focus on developing new and emerging comedy talent.

Our network of correspondents will also ensure that news programming reflects life around the country. This will be enhanced by specific output in the north-west from BBC Radio Foyle and through news bulletins for communities in the south-west on BBC Radio Ulster.

On a broader basis, we will connect with a UK and global audience through the provision of online material which will allow the expatriate community to access local news, information and entertainment.

- BBC Northern Ireland will broadcast at least 645 hours of original local television and over 8,500 hours of local radio in 2004/2005.
- We will invest an additional £1 million in our local services.



BBC Northern Ireland also has a crucial role to play in meeting the wider BBC objectives. In 2004/2005 we will encourage local involvement in pan-BBC initiatives, including Music Live 2004, the second series of *Restoration*, and *Battlefield Britain* (which will include a programme on the Battle of the Boyne).

Anti-clockwise from top

- 1 The BBC One skateboarding ident was filmed in Belfast docks
- 2 John Daly and Donna Traynor with Children in Need's Pudsey Bear
- 3 The Balmoral Show