Welcome back to the BBC Alumni newsletter and a special hello to our new members - we're glad to have you.

Exciting times lie ahead for the BBC Alumni, including an exclusive Q&A with former BBC newsman Robin Lustig (below) and the welcome return of the W1A cast to Broadcasting House which will, of course, mean another preview screening later in the year. Hooray! We'll also be rolling out some new initiatives over the coming months thanks to Julia Goga-Cooke and a crack team of BBC Alumni who have had some great ideas - we may need a few enthusiastic volunteers so stand by...

There are lots of BBC show tickets up for grabs this month so get your applications in ASAP.

See you soon.

**Major Licence Fee investment into local journalism sector**

Unique and ambitious partnership plans, including the creation of 150 local democracy reporters, which were outlined in joint proposals by the BBC and the News Media Association last May, have been given the go ahead for roll out across the country. In this [blog](#) Matthew Barraclough,
Editor BBC Journalism Working Group, talks about making those plans a reality.

BBC faces tough challenge to do ‘More Of Less’ as cameras return to W1A

The BBC’s Head of Values Ian Fletcher (Hugh Bonneville, pictured) is once again throwing open the revolving doors to New Broadcasting House to allow cameras to film series three of W1A. Head of Output Anna Rampton (Sarah Parish) succinctly describes the BBC’s new mission statement of doing ‘More Of Less’ as “putting what we do best front and centre, and identifying better ways of doing less of it more”. W1A returns to BBC Two later this year.

Save your memories of the BBC

Former BBC producers and BBC Alumni members David Allen and George Auckland (pictured) have developed a website especially for ex-BBC people to bank their memories of the BBC. It’s called (unsurprisingly) the Memory Bank. Here David talks us through what it is and how the ex-BBC community can contribute. Huge thanks to David and George for writing this piece for us.

History of the BBC

There is a wealth of BBC information to be found at the History of the BBC website, including anniversaries (were you there?), a virtual tour of TV Centre as it was shortly before its closure in 2013 (find your old office), exciting collections of art and programme-related objects (the Mastermind buzzer!), the list is endless. If you’d like to contribute please get in touch.

BBC Audio Drama Awards 2017

The winners of the BBC Audio Drama Awards 2017 were announced at a special ceremony hosted by Sir Lenny Henry and Bob Shennan last month. The awards recognise the cultural significance, range and originality of audio drama. (Image: Christine Bottomley won Best Actress Award for her role in ‘The Sky is Wider’ presented by Hardeep Singh Koli)
Movers and Shakers

**Sarah Sands** (pictured) has been appointed Editor of Radio 4's Today programme. Executive producer **Julia Bond** has been appointed the BBC's first Children’s Commissioning Executive with specific responsibility for Scotland and Northern Ireland. And **Sir David Clementi** has been selected as the preferred candidate for BBC Chair.

Tickets and Events

**Robin Lustig in conversation with Torin Douglas, London**

Former BBC newsman Robin Lustig has kindly agreed to speak to BBC Alumni friend Torin Douglas about his BBC career and recently published book, *Is Anything Happening?* on the evening of **Monday 6 March** at New Broadcasting House, London. If you would like to attend this exclusive Q&A event please email "Robin Lustig" and your telephone number to **alumni.offers@bbc.co.uk** by Thursday 9 February. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

**BBC Philharmonic: The Red Brick Studio Sessions, Salford**

To apply for a pair of tickets to a recording of **BBC Philharmonic: The Red Brick Studio Sessions** on the evening of **Thursday 9 February** at the University of Salford, email "Philharmonic" and your telephone number to **alumni.offers@bbc.co.uk** by midday on Monday 6 February. Tickets will be allocated by random draw.

**The News Quiz, London**

To apply for a pair of tickets to a recording of **The News Quiz** on the evening of **Thursday 23 February** in London, email "News" and your telephone number to **alumni.offers@bbc.co.uk** by midday on Thursday 9 February. Tickets will be allocated by random draw.

**Upstart Crow, London**

David Mitchell (pictured) returns as William Shakespeare in BBC Two's **Upstart Crow** by Ben Elton later this year. To apply for a tickets to a live recording on the evening of **Monday 6 March** in London, email "Crow" and your telephone number to **alumni.offers@bbc.co.uk** by Thursday 9 February. Tickets will be allocated by random draw.
Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief, Elstree

Our friends at Whizz Kid Entertainment have kindly offered BBC Alumni members two pairs of tickets for live recordings of Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief, on the evenings of Saturday 11 and Saturday 18 March at Elstree Studios. To apply for a pair of tickets email “Sing and Dance” and your preferred date and telephone number to alumni.offers@bbc.co.uk by midday on Thursday 9 February. Tickets will be allocated by random draw.

Loose Ends - Comic Relief Special, London

A very special edition of Loose Ends will be recorded for Comic Relief in the BBC Radio Theatre on the morning of Friday 17 March. To apply for a pair of tickets email “Loose” and your telephone number to alumni.offers@bbc.co.uk by midday on Thursday 9 February. Tickets will be allocated by random draw. (Image shows Bheki Cele performing in 2015)

Rich Hall: 60 Days of Trump, London

Rich Hall follows up last year’s US Election Breakdown with 60 Days of Trump on the evening of Tuesday 21 March. To apply for a pair of tickets email “Rich” and your telephone number to alumni.offers@bbc.co.uk by midday on Thursday 9 February. Tickets will be allocated by random draw.

BBC Alumni Recommends

The Moorside, 9pm Tuesday, BBC One
Birds Of Paradise: The Ultimate Quest, 9pm Friday, BBC Two
My Life - Born To Vlog (follows Nikki Lilly, pictured), 5pm Monday, CBBC
Terry Pratchett: Back In Black, 9pm Saturday 11 February, BBC Two
I Did It My Way: Andrew Sachs, 9am Saturday, Radio 4 Extra
Heart And Soul: Burials, Symbols And Doubt - Audrey Niffenegger, 10.30am Sunday, BBC World Service
Nemone's Electronic 90s, 10pm Tuesday 21 February, Radio 2

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If you return to the BBC as a permanent staff member please let us know at alumni@bbc.co.uk

By emailing your details to alumni@bbc.co.uk you have opted to receive regular BBC Alumni e-newsletters and information. The BBC Alumni team will continue to hold your details for the purposes of keeping in touch. Please contact us if the information we have is incorrect or if you no longer wish to receive our correspondence. For more information please read the BBC's Privacy & Cookies policy.