THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS  

SUNDAY 13 MARCH

*Stories In Sound: Water Of Life*  
BBC Radio Ulster

*BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year*  
BBC Radio Ulster

*The Truth Commissioner*  
*NEW*  
BBC Two Northern Ireland

MONDAY 14 MARCH

*Pet Island*  
*NEW*  
BBC One Northern Ireland

*True North: Everything Must Go*  
BBC One Northern Ireland

THURSDAY 17 MARCH

*St Patrick’s Day Schools’ Finals*  
BBC Two Northern Ireland

EDITORIAL 2016 / BBC WEEK 11

SUNDAY 13 MARCH  

*Stories In Sound: Water Of Life*  
Sunday 13 March
Stories In Sound: Water Of Life tells the story of Irish whiskey. In this programme, the latest in the Stories In Sound series on Sunday 13 March on BBC Radio Ulster at 12.30pm, Lynette Fay travels the length of Ireland visiting whiskey distilleries.

The name whiskey comes from the Irish language as it was the Irish who invented it, while the Scots also lay claim to having had a hand in it too. The name evolved from Uisce Beatha to Fuisce and finally to the anglicisation ‘Whiskey’.

During her travels Lynette meets Colum Egan, Master Distiller in the Old Bushmills Distillery, who takes her on a tour of the distillery and explains the process of whiskey production.

Lynette also travels to Jameson’s Midleton Distillery and speaks to the Master Cooper, Ger Buckley. Ger is a fifth generation cooper who learned his trade from his father and who uses tools well over 100-years-old. Ger says: “In the whiskey business time is nothing, patience is everything”.

The programme also looks at the changing markets for whiskey worldwide, including the fact that women now make up one third of all whiskey drinkers in the United Kingdom.

Lynette pays a visit to the Kilbeggan distillery in County Westmeath and meets John Cashman to examine the changing face of the traditional whiskey drinker.

Whiskey production across Ireland has recently had a rapid rise. In 2013 there were just four distilleries, now there eight with proposals for a further 20.

The programme visits the proposed site of the first new whiskey distillery to be granted a licence in Londonderry in 150 years and looks at the importance of the Coffey Still to Irish Whiskey production with Keith McDonell, the managing director of the new Irish Whiskey Museum in Dublin City Centre.

Lynette Fay says, “My understanding and appreciation of Irish whiskey has changed remarkably since working on this programme. The processes involved are centuries old and the product itself has a fascinating story. We had incredible access to the main present day whiskey distilleries in Ireland and those we met working in the whiskey industry are all passionate and have great foresight, vision and ambition. Ever the dedicated presenter, I had to taste a whiskey or two along the way, in order to be true to the audience.”

CC

SUNDAY 13 MARCH TELEVISION & RADIO HIGHLIGHTS / BBC WEEK 11

BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year
Continues on Sunday 13 March
BBC Radio Ulster, 2pm

The search is on to find Northern Ireland’s top junior and senior school choirs.

Following on from the success of the first competition last year, 65 choirs from across Northern Ireland will be singing to impress as they battle it out for a place in the final of the BBC Radio Ulster Choir Of The Year.

Presented by John Toal and Kerry McLean, and recorded at seven venues across Northern Ireland, the series culminates in a live final from the Ulster Hall on Sunday 17 April.

This fourth programme in the series, on Sunday 13 March on BBC Radio Ulster at 2pm, is hosted by Kerry McLean from The Strule Arts Centre, Omagh and features 11 choirs all vying for a place in the grand final.
Competing in the Junior category are: Ballinderry Primary School, Lisburn; Abercorn Primary School, Banbridge; St Mary’s Primary School, Draperstown; St Mary’s Primary School, Strabane; St Catherine’s Primary School, Strabane and Termoncanice Primary School, Limavady.

In the Senior category, the following schools will be competing for a place in the final: St Mary’s Grammar, Magherafelt; Royal School Dungannon; St Dominic’s High School, Belfast; St Patrick’s College, Dungannon and Magherafelt High School.

They will be performing for judges Rebekah Coffey, Donal McCrisken and Richard Yarr.

The competition is produced in association with the Ulster Youth Choir, and supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Fergus Keeling, Head of Radio, BBC Northern Ireland said: “At BBC Radio Ulster/foyle we are dedicated to providing our listeners with the best music, and nurturing new talent is something we are extremely passionate about. We are delighted to be involved in finding some of the best young choirs in Northern Ireland and to have our listeners follow their journey towards the live grand final in the Ulster Hall.”

Ciaran Scullion, Head of Music, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, said: “The Arts Council is delighted to support the second year of the BBC Radio Ulster School Choir of the Year competition in association with The Ulster Youth Choir. This competition offers a fantastic opportunity for schools to engage and participate in the arts, nurturing a love of music and developing untapped talent in our young people. Good luck to everyone taking part.”

The winning choirs will feature across a range of BBC Radio Ulster’s programming and events during this year.

Films and photos of the choirs’ performances will be online at bbc.co.uk/schoolchoiroftheyear

CC

**The Truth Commissioner** 📽 NEW

Sunday 13 March

BBC Two NI, 9pm

Adapted from the award-winning 2008 novel by David Park, The Truth Commissioner is a powerful political thriller produced in association with Northern Ireland Screen, BBC Northern Ireland, The Irish Film Board and The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

The drama stars Roger Allam (The Queen, Endeavour, Tamara Drewe, The Book Thief, The Thick of it); Sean McGinley (Michael Collins, Braveheart, The Wind That Shakes the Barley); Tom Goodman Hill (The Imitation Game, Mr Selfridge); Conleth Hill (Intermission, Salmon Fishing in Yemen, New Amsterdam, Game of Thrones); Ian McElhinney (Game of Thrones); Bird Brennan (Shadow Dancer) and Barry Ward (Jimmy’s Hall).

Set in a post-Troubles Northern Ireland, The Truth Commissioner follows the fictional story of Henry Stanfield, played by Roger Allam, a career diplomat who has just been appointed as Truth Commissioner to Northern Ireland. Eager to make good as a peacemaker, the Prime Minster urges a commission following the South African model of Truth and Reconciliation. But, though Stanfield starts bravely, he quickly uncovers some bloody and inconvenient truths; truths which none of those in power are prepared to have revealed.

The story revolves around the lives of three men who are directly or indirectly involved in the murder, 20 years earlier, of the 15 year-old Connor Roche. Stanfield calls the three men to testify: Francis Gilroy, played by Sean McGinley, a government minister and former IRA member; retired policeman James Fenton, played by Ian McElhinney, who recruited Connor as an informer; and Michael
Madden, played by Barry Ward who has been brought back to Belfast to “admit” to Roche’s murder. In a society trying to heal the scars of the old, a secret past conspires to destroy the present. For the truth is often less about what might be gained rather than what might be lost.

Directed by Declan Recks (Eden, Big Swinger, Quando, Pure Mule, The Clinic) and produced by David Collins (Once, Run & Jump, The Sea), Eoin O’Callaghan (Five Minutes of Heaven, Before You Go) and Kevin Jackson (Behold the Lamb), The Truth Commissioner is a fictional and dramatic tale of how the truth is sometimes never pure nor simple.

Produced by Belfast-based production company BT9 Films for Big Fish Films and Samson Films, The Truth Commissioner was filmed at locations in Belfast and Londonderry in Northern Ireland and Dublin and other parts of the Republic of Ireland. Prestigious and historic locations include Derry’s Guildhall setting for the Bloody Sunday enquiry and Belfast’s Stormont Castle – seat of the Northern Ireland Executive.

There will also be an opportunity to watch local journalist Malachi O’Doherty discuss the dramatisation of The Truth Commissioner with David Park, the author of the novel on which the film was based. This will be available to watch on bbc.co.uk/northernireland from Wednesday 09 March at 5pm and on the Red Button on Sunday 13 March between 9.30pm to 12.30pm.

MONDAY 14 MARCH

Pet Island  NEW
Begin on Monday 14 March
BBC One Northern Ireland, 7.30pm

There’s no doubting the fact that people in this part of the world really adore their animals.

And a new six-part series entitled Pet Island, beginning on Monday 14 March on BBC One Northern Ireland at 7.30pm, meets some people from these shores who are taking pet ownership to another level.

A TV co-production for BBC NI and RTÉ, the series was filmed on location in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

It features a cast of quirky characters and explores their love for ferrets, budgies, raccoons, alligators and not forgetting cats and dogs.

The first programme in the series includes Loca, the pug that couldn’t run, from Belfast who has become an internet sensation and David Boyd, Northern Ireland’s top budgie breeder.

The series has been produced by Ronan McCloskey of Ronin Films. And Ronan says: “Pet Island is packed with laugh out loud moments which we hope will have chins and tails wagging as we meet some great people truly devoted to their pets.”

MONDAY 14 MARCH

True North: Everything Must Go
Monday 14 March
BBC One Northern Ireland, 10.45pm
We all have things that remind us of departed friends and family – furniture, ornaments on the mantelpiece, photographs – each bringing back memories of good times past, now tinged with the sadness of loss.

When a loved one passes away, it’s not always possible to hold on to all of their possessions.

A little showroom in Newtownards is one of the places where many pre-loved items end up.

Owned by ex-chef Craig Morrison and his wife Karen, the Used Unique Boutique second-hand emporium is a ramshackle cross between an Aladdin’s cave and an elephants’ graveyard for once-treasured objects.

In True North: Everything Must Go, Craig takes us into his world – a world filled with other people’s memories – and his working life, where many jobs can spark an emotional story.

We meet clients such as Regan Smyth, who asks Craig to do a house clearance after the death of her parents, and Karin and Renee McKinty, who want rid of a cumbersome antique wardrobe.

While some could find the task maudlin, Craig loves his job and the fascinating insight into other people’s lives that it affords him.

However, he admits to being deeply affected when he comes across photographs and old 8mm film reels, especially if they belonged to an elderly person.

Craig said: “Not only do you often get a look into someone’s younger life; you also see how people lived and what older generations enjoyed doing in times gone by.

“I always feel sad that the times and the people are gone.”

Karen recalls being deeply moved during one house clearance when she discovered an exquisite wedding dress and old love letters.

As well as running the boutique, Craig and Karen are keen antique collectors and up-cyclers and regularly travel to auctions to purchase unwanted items for themselves.

The programme also introduces us to up-cycler Jonathan Geary, who buys a lot of pre-loved items from Craig’s boutique.

Craig added: “Personally, I’d like to be remembered, not just as someone who collected old furniture, but also as someone who collected memories.”

Producer and director Mairtin de Barra said: “Everything Must Go is all about love and loss – the nostalgic things we hold on to, that people live on through.

“Craig is a very caring man, who loves history, people’s life stories and the journey of the things he sells.

“You get more than furniture from this place, you get a small slice of local history.”

AW

THURSDAY 17 MARCH  TELEVISION & RADIO HIGHLIGHTS / BBC WEEK 11

St Patrick’s Day Schools’ Finals
Thursday 17 March
BBC Two Northern Ireland, 1pm
BBC Sport Northern Ireland brings you a St Patrick’s Day Schools’ sport special. Four hours of live coverage starts at 1pm with Gaelic football’s MacRory Cup followed by the rugby Schools’ Cup Final on BBC Two Northern.

Thomas Niblock presents the Gaelic football decider from the Athletic Grounds in Armagh where St Paul’s, Bessbrook face St Patrick’s, Maghera. Austin O’Callaghan will provide commentary.

At 2.45pm, attention switches to the Kingspan Stadium in Belfast as RBAI take on Campbell College in rugby’s Schools’ Cup showpiece. Gavin Andrews will be joined by Ulster starts Ian Humphreys and Chris Henry with commentary from Jim Neilly and European Cup winner Tony McWhirter.

Both games will be streamed live worldwide via BBC Sport NI at bbc.co.uk/sportni

CR

bbc.co.uk/tv/programmes/a-z/by/a

All Programme Information copy may be used free of charge on condition that it credits the relevant BBC programme or service. The material contained on the Programme Information pages is protected by copyright which is owned by the BBC. Material may not be reproduced or used other than in respect to BBC programmes © British Broadcasting Corporation 2013.

Please note that television & radio programmes are subject to change. Schedule additions will be submitted in the event of any significant change.

Transcripts of BBC Radio Ulster and Foyle programmes are not available.

Additional copy on a wide range of BBC network programmes is available from the main the BBC Media Centre website: bbc.co.uk/mediacentre

Keep up-to-date with all the latest press releases and packs from the BBC via Twitter: http://twitter.com/bbcpress