



### From Cathy Come Home to Doctor Who

In January 1960 Sir Hugh Greene became Director-General and he encouraged programme-makers to reflect the social changes and attitudes of the Sixties. After the arrival of *That Was The Week That Was* in 1962 with David Frost the British Establishment would never be seen in the same light. More anarchic stars were waiting in the wings. A new radio programme, *I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again* (1965) introduced John Cleese (*Monty Python's Flying Circus* (1969) and the future *Goodies*, Bill Oddie and Tim Brooke-Taylor. Radio comedy flourished with new programmes like *Round the Horne*, *I'm Sorry I'll Read that Again* and *Just a Minute*.

Viewers enjoyed the portrayal of a new breed of gritty policemen in *Z Cars* (1962), wept at the plight of the homeless in the Wednesday Play, *Cathy Come Home* (1966) and were riveted by *Doctor Who* (1963), *Top of the Pops* (1964), *Horizon* (1964), *Tomorrow's World* (1965) and *Dr Kildare*, all attracting large audiences. Landmark documentary successes ranged from Sir Kenneth Clark's *Civilisation* (1969) to the memorable 26-part series on *The Great War* (1964). *Omnibus* set a new standard for television arts programmes while *Masterclass* successfully showed an innovative way of covering music on television.



*The wind of change in broadcasting as in other fields...*  
Hugh Carleton Greene, BBC Director-General

### Expansion of programmes and services

The nation laughed with *Steptoe and Son* (1962), *Not Only ... But Also* (1965) with Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, *Till Death Us Do Part* (1966), *Morecambe and Wise* and *Dad's Army* (1968). This was the decade of *The Forsyte Saga* (1967), *Dr Finlay's Casebook* (1962) and *Maigret* (1960). Notable long-running programmes like *Match of the Day*, *Man Alive*, *Nationwide* and *Animal Magic* all began in the Sixties.



This was also a decade of expansion for television and radio. BBC Television Centre in West London opened in June 1960, the world's first ever purpose-built television building. In 1964 BBC2 was launched with the remit of offering an alternative and more experimental style of television broadcasting. Radio 1 began in 1967 following the banning of the pirate radio stations. The *Light*, *Third* and *Home* services were renamed Radios 2, 3 and 4. The start of *World at One* in 1965 and *PM* in 1967 marked the strengthening of agenda-setting news and current affairs programmes. From the late Sixties, Radio

listeners were able to enjoy more programmes broadcast in the superior sound of FM stereo. In November 1967 the first BBC local radio station opened in Leicester and within a few years there were 20 local stations.

### Technology breakthroughs

This was an era of momentous technical breakthroughs. A spellbound nation watched pictures from America via *Telstar* (1962) and live pictures of the first moon landing (1969). Colour television broadcasts began on BBC2 in 1967, followed by BBC1 in 1969. Colour pictures of the Mexico Olympic Games were beamed by satellite in 1968. Within ten years there were 12 million colour licences. The Sixties was also the decade when the monarchy first went public on television in *The Royal Family* (1969), when England won the World Cup (1966) and when Mary Whitehouse became a household name with her "Clean Up TV" campaign.

### HUGH CARLETON GREENE

Hugh Carleton Greene became Director General of the BBC on 1 January 1960 – a position he was to hold for just over nine years. Greene believed that the BBC should provide something for everybody. And he was determined that the Corporation should reflect changes in society.

### MARY WHITEHOUSE

This Shropshire school teacher was Greene's fiercest opponent, holding him personally responsible for Britain's moral decline in the sixties.

### THE PILKINGTON COMMITTEE

In 1960, the government announced an inquiry into the future of radio and television, under the chairmanship of Sir Harry Pilkington. The Committee's report, published in June 1962, was an almost total vindication of BBC broadcasting. Public service values were praised and commercial values questioned. It also authorised the setting up of a second channel- BBC2. The report was described by the press as the Corporation's 'Greene Light'.



### OBITUARIES

#### **ANTHONY JOHN (TONY) HANCOCK Comedian 1924-1968**

Enlisted in the RAF in 1942. Toured with ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association) and the Ralph Reader Gang Shows. In 1948 appeared at the Windmill Theatre. But it was with the BBC that Hancock became a household name. From radio's *Workers Playtime*, *Variety Bandbox* and *Educating Archie*, he graduated in 1954 to his own show, *Hancock's Half Hour* - first on radio, then on television.

#### **RICHARD F DIMBLEBY, OBE, CBE Journalist and Broadcaster 1913-1965**

Joined the BBC in 1936. Was one of the Corporation's first news reporters. Pioneered the development of reporting and public commentary on both radio and television. Was the BBC's first war correspondent, the first correspondent to fly with Bomber Command and the first reporter into Belsen. Post-war, was the BBC's 'voice' on all major state occasions and general elections.





### **BBC2**

BBC2 was launched in 1964, with the rather quirky symbol of Hullaboo and Custard - a kangaroo and its baby. Opening night was a candle-lit affair of an unexpected kind. A massive power failure in West London plunged the studios into darkness, blacking out the planned glitter of the 'night that nearly was'. To begin with, BBC2 struggled to survive against the popularity of BBC1. Programme scheduling was radically overhauled.

### **COLOUR COMES TO TELEVISION**

In 1967, the BBC led the way by broadcasting the first regular colour television service in Europe. In July, during the Wimbledon Championships - and the BBC's first day of transmission - the grass turned green. By mid-1968 almost every BBC2 programme was in colour. Six months later, colour came to BBC1.

### **TELSTAR... AND AFTER**

In July 1962, thirteen days after Telstar was launched, the first television signals were beamed across the Atlantic. 9 European countries watched this first tentative step in satellite broadcasting. By 1968, colour pictures of the Mexico Olympics were beamed across the Atlantic - transmitted by satellite around the globe using the BBC's newly developed electronic standards convertor.

### **TELEVISION CENTRE**

In 1949 the BBC acquired 13.5 acres on the Shepherds Bush site of the Franco-British Exhibition of 1908 for their new Television Centre. During the 1950s, after work was delayed by the government cash limitations, original plans were reshaped to take on board the latest advances in television.



**1960**

- 26 March - Grand National first televised.
- 6 May - The wedding of Princess Margaret televised.
- 20 June - First female television newsreader: Nan Winton.
- 29 June - BBC Television Centre in West London opened.
- 19 September - Start of Ten O'clock news and current affairs programme (Radio).

**1961**

- 14 April - First television relay from the Soviet Union.
- 29 May - First television interview by a member of the Royal Family – the Duke of Edinburgh in *Panorama*.
- 3 June - *Afternoon Theatre* (Radio).
- 1 October - *Songs of Praise* (TV).
- 2 October - *Points of View* (TV).
- 6 October - *The Rag Trade* (TV).
- 8 October - *In Touch* (Radio).

**1962**

- 2 January - *Z Cars* (TV).
- 13 April - Johnny Morris launched the long-running *Animal Magic* (TV).
- 7 June - *Steptoe and Son* (TV).
- 11 July - First live television from America via Telstar.
- 16 August - *Dr. Finlay's Casebook* (TV).
- 28 August - Stereo radio experimental transmissions began.
- 30 October - *The Men From The Ministry* (Radio).
- 24 November - *That Was The Week That Was* (TV).

**1963**

- 5 October - TV Adult education started on BBC 1.
- 23 November - *Doctor Who* (TV).

**1964**

- 1 January - *Top of The Pops*.
- 20 April - First BBC2 programmes on 625 lines UHF transmitted from Crystal Palace. A massive power failure in west London eliminated most programmes.
- 21 April - *Play School* (TV).
- 26 April - *News Review for the Deaf*, later called *Newsview* (TV).
- 2 May - *Horizon* (TV).
- 30 May - *The Great War* (TV).
- 22 August - *Match of The Day* (TV).
- 28 October - *The Wednesday Play* (TV)
- 13 November - *Not So Much a Programme, More a Way of Life* (TV).
- 12 December - *Jazz Record Requests* (TV).
- 15 December - *Culloden* (TV).

**1965**

- 6 January - *Petticoat Line* (Radio).
- 9 January - *Not only...But Also* (TV).
- 7 March - *Round the Horne* (Radio).
- 1 May - General Overseas Service renamed BBC World Service.
- 7 July - *Mogul*, later *The Troubleshooters* (TV).

- 7 July - *Tomorrow's World*. (TV).
- 4 October - *The World At One* (Radio).
- 4 October - *I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again* (Radio).
- 10 October - Immigrant's programmes began on radio and television.
- 17 October - *Call My Bluff* (Radio)
- 18 October - *The Magic Roundabout*. (TV).
- 3 November - *Up The Junction* (TV).
- 13 December - *Jackanory* (TV) 1966
- 5 January - *Softly, Softly* (TV).
- 2 February - *Man Alive* (TV).
- 5 April - *The Money Programme* (TV).
- 2 June - First live television pictures from the moon.
- 6 June - *Till Death Do Us Part* (TV).
- 18 June - *Chronicle* first transmitted (TV).
- 30 July - World Cup final between England and West Germany televised.
- 7 August - *It's a Knockout* (TV).
- 16 November - *Cathy Come Home* (TV).
- 28 December - *Alice In Wonderland* (TV).

### 1967

- 3 January - *My Music!* (Radio).
- 7 January - *The Forsyte Saga* (TV).
- 26 March - *Frost Over England* (TV).
- 6 May - *One Pair Of Eyes* (TV).
- 25 June - *Our World*, first worldwide live satellite programme televised.
- 1 July - BBC2 began regular colour television transmission from Wimbledon using 625 lines.
- 3 August - *Face The Music* (TV).
- 17 September - *The World This Weekend* (Radio)
- 30 September - Radio 1 launched. Home, Third and Light renamed Radios 4, 3 and 2.
- 2 October - *The Jimmy Young Show* (Radio).
- 13 October - *Omnibus* (TV).
- 8 November - BBC Local Radio launched with Radio Leicester.
- 3 December - *The World About Us* (TV).
- 22 December - *Just A Minute* (TV).

### 1968

- 5 January - *Gardeners' World* (TV).
- 7 March - *Newsroom* became the first news programme televised in colour.
- 31 July - *Dad's Army* (TV).
- 12 September - *Sportsnight* with Coleman (TV).
- 9 November - *Braden's Week* (TV).
- November - *Morecambe and Wise* (TV).

### 1969

- 2 January - *Holiday* (TV).
- 23 February - Sir Kenneth Clark's *Civilisation* (TV).
- 28 April - *Waggoner's Walk* first transmitted (Radio).
- 21 June - *Royal Family* (TV).
- 10 July - Publication of *Broadcasting in the Seventies*, with initial plans for the future of radio and non-metropolitan broadcasting.
- 18 July - *The Liver Birds* (TV).
- 21 July - Neil Armstrong's landing on the moon televised live.
- 23 July - *Pot Black* (TV).
- 9 September - *Nationwide* (TV).
- 5 October - *Monty Python's Flying Circus* (TV).
- 15 November - Colour television extended to BBC1 and ITV on 625 lines.