

## BBC Charter review public consultation: **YOUR BBC YOUR SAY**

The following opinions are shared by Raymond and Rosemary Harris living at the above address.

### What do we like about the BBC?

- 1 Radio 3: all receivers permanently tuned to it, except Radio 4 at breakfast time
- 2 Radio 4 occasional talks programmes, Sunday morning service.
- 3 BBC 2; Newsnight, Documentaries, Drama, University Challenge, some gardening programmes, really funny comedies (not enough), Fred Dibnah!
- 4 BBC 4 and UK History.
- 5 World Service when abroad.
- 6 BBC Online

### What we do not like about the BBC

- 1 Crude and noisy trailers advertising other programmes by the most violent and tasteless clips, sometimes before the credits of the previous programme have rolled.
- 2 The tendency to trivialise serious subjects, especially those with a Christian element, while leaning over backwards to avoid giving offence to other faiths, acceptable in itself, but keep a balance.
- 2 A very irritating habit in serious programmes like Horizon to smother the programme with irrelevant loud music and excessively dramatic images but seldom a simple diagram or plan to show what was going on. Scientific discoveries are seldom Damascene conversions on windy nights.  
  
Some dodgy grammar: "like" followed by a verb, the usual confusion of "due" and "owing to" or "on account of"
- 3 Gratuitous bad behaviour and language, not called for by the dramatic content of the work presented
- 4 The BBC can either follow the popular taste for frenzied mindless entertainment, which the majority of licence payers may prefer; or produce programmes in a manner designed to lift people's minds, by all means through entertainment. The BBC does of course do this on some programmes, including the Digital ones and special broadcasting eg to schools. It is the old flagship, BBC 1 which seems to be sinking lower and lower in the water

We are satisfied with the range of technology offered by the BBC most of which we can access, or enough for the time available in busy lives. We also consider the licence fee to be reasonable for the great wealth of service available.

We have no advice to give on matters of management. Neither do we think that public consultation on matters of management will produce anything useful. By all means ask for public comment on actual proposals or alternatives available and then appoint the right people to devise a management strategy to achieve what is wanted.

We hope that in the wake of the government's wish to provide university education for 50% of the population, someone somewhere is planning to gear up the population to a sufficiently high level of culture, discussion, or appreciation to take advantage of what is going to be on offer. Programmes have been stripped of many of the type which might inspire young people to take a professional interest in science, engineering, architecture and fine and applied art, even music on television is a rare sight. We wish to see much more professionalism in the actual content of programmes and rather less presentational hullabaloo surrounding the small nuggets of real information..

Even investigative programmes and those like Panorama covering current affairs in depth have almost disappeared into the night.

Yours in hope of some return to normality

Raymond G Harris

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Harris', written over the printed name 'Raymond G Harris'.