

29 January '04

Dear Sirs,

I picked up a copy of 'Your BBC Your Say' at the local library, and these are my views: -

What I think the BBC do well are news broadcasts, programmes like Crimewatch UK, history programmes (but they should concentrate on social history and archaeology - not, please, yet more programmes on World War I or World War II, or the Crimean War). Please, no more programmes showing slaughter on the battlefield - if we must have these periods, it would be much more interesting to show what's happening on the home front, what people's everyday lives were like.

I enjoy programmes about antiques, but find them much more interesting if the antiques are works of art in some way (not just old football programmes). Prefer 'Antiques Road show' to 'Floggit' - as it's less mercenary.

I really enjoy 'University Challenge', which is the best ever of all quiz shows, and still going strong. I don't care for quick-fire, only-one-answer quizzes, nor those which carry big prizes.

These days we don't get enough substantial art programmes - things like Andrew Graham-Dixon's ~~Antiques~~ 'Renaissance' series. We don't get ANY drama written for television (God help the playwrights!), nor often enough dramatizations of novels. And comedy: I think 'The Good Life' for instance was superb - but isn't anything of that quality being done now? These "Best of..." programmes (Best Book, best comedy programme etc) are just an excuse for repeats, really, and tend to suggest that nothing comparable is being done now.

For my money, there is too much emphasis on sport, too much on violence, death, disaster, cars, finance, doing up houses or getting to hell out of them.

I get extremely annoyed when a programme is advertised on BBC 1 or 2, and then actually shown on another channel I can't get. (The Licence Fee is high enough, and this should cover all BBC channels) In fact, I really deplore having advertising of any description

on the BBC. It shouldn't be there, and it cuts into the time that should be devoted to the programmes.

Please don't let the BBC become COMMERCIAL!
It should be a bastion against this sort of thing.
And please let it also be a bastion for FREE SPEECH;
Live discussion programmes are great.

I suppose it's all right the BBC getting income from things like the Radio Times (tho' I never buy it myself, it's become a very down-market publication) and videos, fair enough. But don't let the tail wag the dog. The time-honoured virtues of the BBC should be that it is non-commercial, balanced, and independent.

And for heavens sake, we have seen ENOUGH of young people dressed in red doing gymnastics on roof-tops! Who on earth dreamt that idea up? Makes me feel like switching over straight away to Channel 4!

Well, you asked for my opinions...

Sincerely,

June Osborne

I haven't said anything much about administration, because as an ordinary viewer I don't feel qualified to do so.

Please don't assume that all viewers have computers, by the way, some of us prefer the simple life.

I have signed this letter, but please don't give my name without permission. I am a writer, and I may prefer to keep any publicity for that, rather than for my random opinions.