

BBc Charter Review

London

Dear Sirs

Thankyou for the invitation to express my views about the future direction of the BBC, especially television.

I view with some dismay the continuing lowering of standards, lack of interesting content, commentaries or documentaries usually drowned by the intrusive and incessant music, viewing spoilt by fast forwarding camera shots.

It is a sad reflection of an organisation with such a potentially vast scope, an ever vaster money supply, and fabulous educational value, that whilst the British Public are amongst the worlds

but a chain-cooker, gardeners, D.I.Y. purchasers of property both at home & abroad, antique experts, families with auction rooms, and have been prompted to examine in some detail the contents of their attics, are so blissfully unaware of the huge reservoir of skills and craftsmanship which exist in this and other countries around the world.

I have yet to see a documentary which devotes time to the finer details of the present day skilled craftsmen. I was disappointed with the Fred Dibnah programme, so much promise to let the craftsmen demonstrate his skills, plus the huge educational potential to permit today's young people to see a career which they might like to pursue when leaving school.

If the BBC can financially afford & support the BBC3 radio programme, with its very limited audience, surely they can devote some time & money to a series on BBC 4, showing these skills to a limited audience.

I know that you will immediately argue that

there is no audience for such a programme, but sure if you do not experiment the viewing public will not have the opportunity to judge its success or failure.

Please also be more selective in your choice of presenters. Frushshanks would make hard work of a child's programme.

I have no objection to dramas & soap opera, not being myself an addict, I have enough drama in my life without a share of other peoples.

So come on Auntie Beab, shed a few of those starchy garbs, show some imagination and encompass the great new opportunities around you, but I beg you please do not allow the presenter to interfere with the irritating request. "Can 'oi 'ave a go?"

Would you please, at your convenience, pop your head round the door of the Today Programme studio, and ask them to examine their awful use of grammar. It would appear that the mild illiteracy is not confined to school leavers.

and university students. It already exists on the radio, newspapers, magazines & T.V. amongst mature presenters & editors.

I read the BBC is reducing its present workforce. If you dismiss the music makers who make sure we cannot hear the commentary, the groups who dream up the weirdest of sounds, the graphics designers who make sure we can at times neither see or hear the programme, you will surely benefit both your staffing levels and the poor viewer.

When the next vacancy occurs on the Board of Governors, I would like to be considered as an applicant.

Yours Sincerely

L. F. Wallace