



50
YEARS



BBC Television News is 50 years old at 7.30pm on July 5th, 2004.

Since its launch half a century ago BBC Television News has maintained its core commitment to strong, impartial, distinctive journalism covering events both here and across the globe. The broadcasting landscape may have changed beyond all recognition but in today's multi-channel world it continues to be a trusted voice in the UK and across the globe.

Television News now belongs to the wider stable of BBC News - the largest broadcast news operation in the world with more than 2,000 journalists and over 40 newsgathering bureaux, the majority of which are overseas. It is responsible for the BBC One bulletins, Breakfast and

1964 – 1973

BBC TV's Nine O'Clock News launched on September 14th, 1970.

The newsreader on that first evening, Robert Dougall was not impressed with the set and described the bulletin itself as “rather jumpy” but audiences were high - and the Nine O'Clock News was to go on for thirty years.

The many changes included the appointment in 1975 of the first woman presenter, Angela Rippon. Later additions saw the arrival of John Humphrys and John Simpson. It was a Nine O'Clock news report that perhaps had more repercussions than any other. It was Michael Buerk's report of the Ethiopia famine that inspired Bob Geldof to organise Live Aid.

1964 News Review - first news programme for the deaf

1968 Launch of Newsroom - first half hour bulletin transmitting at 7.30pm on BBC Two. Within weeks became the first programme to switch from black and white to colour

1969 News moves from Alexandra Palace to Television Centre. Final BBC One bulletin from Alexandra Palace was read on Friday 19th September

1969 Nationwide appeared for the first time

1970 Nine O'Clock News begins

1972 John Craven's Newsround launched as the first regular news bulletin for children



1974 – 1983

At half past six on the morning of January 17th, 1983, Breakfast Time became Britain's first early-morning TV news programme.

The programme broadcast for two-and-a-half hours from the BBC's Lime Grove studio and was presented by Frank Bough and former ITN newsreader Selina Scott.

Breakfast Time lasted more than six and a half years, broadcasting for the last time on September 30, 1989. Now called Breakfast, the programme is presented by Dermot Murnaghan and Natasha Kaplinsky.

The decade also saw another BBC first - Newsnight. The BBC's flagship current affairs show started on an inauspicious note when it failed to come on air as planned on January 23rd, 1980 due to trade union objections. Twenty four years later, however, the programme is still going strong with presenters Jeremy Paxman, Kirsty Wark and Gavin Esler.

1974 CEEFAX starts regular transmission on September 23rd

1980 Launch of Newsnight

1983 Launch of Breakfast Time

1983 Final edition of Nationwide broadcast on August 5th 1983

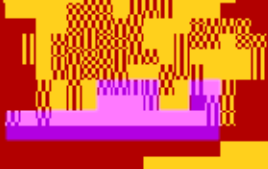


THE HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

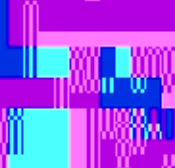
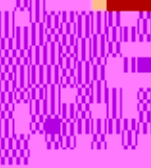
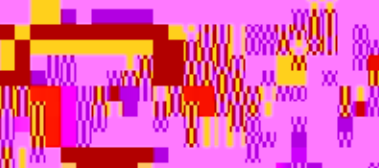
1896



1900



1908



1994 – 2004

BBC News became a tri-media provider of news in November 1997 with the launch of BBC News Online.

The service has gone on to become the most popular news site outside of America, winning every major award available including a prestigious Webby award for Best News site.

Just one week after the launch of BBC News Online, BBC News 24 began as the Corporation's first digital channel on November 9th, 1997. At 6pm, the launch presenter Gavin Esler opened with the words: "Hello, and welcome for the first time to BBC News 24".

Audiences to News 24 coverage reached an all-time high during the War in Iraq. With simulcasting on BBC One and BBC Two, the service was watched by 23 million people on one day alone.

Another tumultuous change took place on October 16th, 2000. After 30 years in the nine pm slot, BBC One's main late evening bulletin moved to Ten O'Clock.

The BBC Ten O'Clock bulletin is now presented by Huw Edwards and Fiona Bruce and, like its early evening counterpart, regularly attracts more than five million viewers a day.

1995 Panorama attracted 22.8m viewers for Martin Bashir's interview with Princess Diana on November 20

1997 Launch of BBC News Online

1997 Launch of BBC News 24

2000 Main news moves from 9 to 10pm

