



BBC Week 6

Week Commencing 6/2/2016

Programme Information

Television & Radio

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THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

TELEVISION & RADIO / BBC WEEK 6

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Stories In Sound – Jocelyn And The Radio Star **NEW** BBC Radio Ulster

MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY

The Docklands Bomb: Executing Peace **NEW** BBC One Northern Ireland

Ar Mo Bhealach Féin BBC Two Northern Ireland

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY

Nolan Live BBC One Northern Ireland

Stories In Sound – Jocelyn And The Radio Star  **NEW**

Sunday 7 February

BBC Radio Ulster, 12.30pm

Marie-Louise Muir meets Lurgan-born scientist Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, famous both for making one of the most significant astronomical discoveries of the 20th century and for the Nobel Prize controversy that ensued.

In Stories In Sound – Jocelyn And The Radio Star, on BBC Radio Ulster on Sunday 7 February at 12.30pm, they discuss sexism in the Sixties, inspiring young women today and the search for meaning in the universe.

Currently Visiting Professor of Astrophysics at Oxford University, it was in 1967 that Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell detected the first pulsar, short for ‘pulsating radio star’, which turned out to be the kind of star nobody had dreamt of.

Despite having failed her 11 plus, which she admits did dent her confidence, an undeterred Jocelyn started Lurgan College and recalls: “As soon as I got to do science in secondary school it was clear I was good at it, particularly the physics bit. Getting into the grammar stream in secondary (school) and doing well in many, many subjects enormously helped.”

It was during her time in secondary school that Jocelyn made the decision to pursue a career in radio astronomy, a decision that would take her all the way from Lurgan to the discovery of pulsars which are still making waves today.

It was a small signal during many hours of work which made Jocelyn’s ears prick up and she began to realise she may have found something very special.

Of her discovery, Jocelyn says: “Eureka moments come a bit slowly and after a lot of trying and failing I finally was able to get an enlarged version of this funny signal which turned out to be a string of pulses. It was a significant moment because we knew nothing in the cosmos could produce anything like that, and yet here it was.”

In 1974 Jocelyn’s PHD professor and another colleague were awarded the Nobel Prize for discovering the pulsar but her name was not mentioned.

She reflects: “It became known as the ‘No Bell’ Prize because my maiden name was Bell and it was particularly my generation of graduate students and young astronomers who were really upset on my behalf. However I have subsequently had just about every prize that moves.”

Stories In Sound – Jocelyn And The Radio Star is on Sunday 7 February, BBC Radio Ulster at 12.30pm.

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The Docklands Bomb: Executing Peace **NEW**

Monday 8 February

BBC One Northern Ireland, 9pm

Twenty years after the Docklands bomb exploded in London, *The Docklands Bomb: Executing Peace* tells the dramatic story of the IRA operation to end its ceasefire and how the security forces in London and Northern Ireland tracked down the bombers.

When US President Bill Clinton visited Northern Ireland in November, 1995, there was a celebration of peace on the streets. However, unknown to him, on the same day the IRA was already planning the attack that would end its 17-month ceasefire. Against the backdrop of an extraordinary political climate and the road to peace, the film unpacks the events that led to the bombing and follows the trail that led police to the South Armagh team behind it.

Made for BBC Northern Ireland by Fine Point Films, the documentary, to be broadcast on BBC One Northern Ireland on Monday 8 February at 9pm, includes an interview with the man responsible for bringing to justice those responsible for planting the bomb, John Grieve, Head of The Metropolitan Police Anti-Terrorist Unit from 1996 – 1998, who speaks for the first time about his investigation.

Also featured in the programme are Lord Butler, Secretary of the British Cabinet from 1988–1999; Sean O’Uiginn, former Second Secretary General, Anglo-Irish Division, Irish Department of Foreign Affairs; Sir John Homes, a former advisor to John Major; Nancy Soderberg, White House National Security Advisor 1993 – 1997 and former US Congressman Bruce Morrison.

The film’s director, Trevor Birney of Fine Point Films said: “This was an extraordinary period of time. For many living in Northern Ireland, this was their first taste of peace. When a US President turned on the lights in front of Belfast City Hall, it was a celebration of peace, arguably the only event of its kind that ever occurred on the streets of Northern Ireland. But at the same time, the IRA was already preparing the bomb that would shatter both the ceasefire and the hope. But the reaction of Scotland Yard and the security forces was also very interesting. They wanted to bring to justice those responsible, but they didn’t want to do anything that would prolong or provoke further conflict. As one of our contributors says, it was the moment of truth.”

The Docklands Bomb: Executing Peace is on BBC One Northern Ireland, Monday 8 February at 9pm.

CC**Ar Mo Bhealach Féin** **NEW**

Begins on Monday 8 February

BBC Two Northern Ireland, 10pm

The Donegal novelist, Seosamh Mac Grianna is renowned and celebrated for creating a new literature for the Irish language in the 20th century.

On the 9 April 1934 Seosamh Mac Grianna set off on a 300 mile trek through Wales in the hope of rediscovering his creative muse in a sister Celtic Nation. This fascinating character made promises - not to sleep under a roof, nor ride in a car or train and not to back away from a fight. But could he keep those vows? And would his journey, if completed, have any impact on his writing?

In this three-part series for BBC Two Northern Ireland, beginning on Monday 8 February at 10pm, Seán Mac Labhraí retraces the steps of his literary hero through Wales, using Seosamh Mac Grianna's book 'Mo Bhealach Féin' as his guide.

Eighty years after Mac Grianna's adventure, Seán Mac Labhraí takes the same path, through the valleys, villages and stunning Welsh landscape to discover personal insights into the complex character of Seosamh Mac Grianna. He asks why one of Ireland's greatest Gaelic novelists undertook this arduous physical journey and what - if anything - he got from it.

Ar Mo Bhealach Féin is made by Macha Media for BBC Northern Ireland with funding from Northern Ireland Screen's Irish Language Broadcast Fund.

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WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY

TELEVISION & RADIO HIGHLIGHTS / BBC WEEK 6

Nolan Live

Wednesday 10 February,
BBC One Northern Ireland, 10.45pm

Nolan Live is back on BBC One Northern Ireland for a new six week run beginning on Wednesday 10 February at 10.45pm.

In the series Stephen gets people talking about the current issues sparking debate and invites guests into the studio for lively entertainment.

Nolan Live is the series that gives people a chance to talk about and challenge the issues affecting them - giving viewers at home as well as the studio audience a platform to ask the questions they want answered. Viewers can join in with Stephen Nolan by being part of the audience in studio or from the comfort of home through text, email, telephone and social media.

And this series promises more big interviews and music performances.

To be part of the studio audience register for tickets at www.bbc.co.uk/tickets

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