

CHANGES AT THE TOP OF VOICE OF LISTENER & VIEWER

Richard Lindley comments

Over the last year and a half as Voice of Listener & Viewer's Chairman I've had the job of telling the broadcasters and regulators, the programme makers and politicians, what VLV stands for and why our members care so much about British broadcasting. It's been a great privilege, and I like to think that we have got the message across that just because broadcasting is going digital does not mean that we are going to abandon our determination to support high quality television and radio programmes.

But there's no denying the many different pressures that threaten that quality, and the time it takes to see that VLV is fighting them all effectively is very considerable. A voluntary post as Chairman that we all thought would keep me busy for at most two days a week has turned out to be a virtually full-time job: I'm in danger of neglecting prior commitments as chairman of a housing charity and governor of a hospital trust. As a result I am stepping down as VLV's Chairman a little sooner than I had expected.

The process of appointing a new Chairman is already under way, and I am very pleased indeed that John Clark, a former Board member and now a VOLT Trustee, has agreed to hold the fort meanwhile as Deputy Chairman. Few people know VLV's business better than John does, and he has always been a doughty champion for VLV.

I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking our distinguished President and founder Jocelyn Hay, our Treasurer Hugh Peltor, our office staff Sue Washbrook and Linda Forbes and my colleagues on the VLV Board and The Voice of the Listener Trust

John Clark responds

I am flattered to be asked by the VLV Board and VoLT Trustees to fill the role of Deputy Chairman of VLV Ltd whilst we face the difficult task of replacing Richard Lindley as Chairman. I have had a long and rewarding association with VLV including many years on the Board and am delighted to be able to help further at this time.

As Jocelyn Hay has said in a statement released to the press we are immensely grateful to Richard for leading VLV through one of its busiest periods ever, a time of intense activity and change in the media industries. It was a period which also included celebrations to mark the first 25 years of VLV's campaigning — on behalf of listeners, viewers and new media users — to maintain the principles of public service in broadcasting.

Richard threw himself into VLV's affairs from the start, generously sharing his energy, enthusiasm and experience as a broadcaster. He was unstinting in the time and care he gave to



Richard Lindley (left) with Culture Secretary the Rt. Hon. Ben Bradshaw at a VLV Westminster Evening Seminar in the House of Commons on 3 November. Richard welcomed Mr. Bradshaw to his first VLV event and a capacity audience in the Grand Committee Room. During a lively question and answer session the Minister responded on a wide range of issues, including the Digital Economy Bill, BBC funding and digital switchover.

for their support; also Sandy Chalmers, Susie Gilbert, Vincent Porter and Bryher Scudamore. They have all worked with tremendous energy and goodwill with me to see that VLV continues to flourish, and I am very grateful to them all. Thanks too to all our members who have urged me on at our Conferences and other events to fight for the best of British broadcasting. I have so much enjoyed my time as Chairman of VLV and I intend to remain an active member of this great organisation.

leading and representing VLV, and promoting the cause. We are all grateful to Richard for agreeing to continue offering *pro bono* advice to the VLV Board on news, current affairs and communication matters. I am also delighted that he will continue his long-term membership of VLV.

This year looks like being an even more demanding and busier year for VLV. The Digital Economy Bill is progressing through Parliament, the transition to an all-Digital TV UK is well under way, Channel 4 and ITV face further financial problems and the BBC continues to confront attacks on its management and funding.

VLV will be active on all these issues through its Board and loyal membership. The Spring programme includes VLV's 27th annual spring conference, voting for VLV's 2009 Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting, and the 2010 Student Essay Competition.

Our high level of activity will require the full attention of the Board and the generous support of members if we are to continue the momentum. As the only organisation continuously pursuing listener and viewer interests at many levels, I believe this momentum is essential. So I look forward, with the Board's support, to continuing VLV's tradition of campaigning for quality, diversity and impartiality through editorial independence in British broadcasting.