



**ANNUAL REVIEW OF 2019 FOR
ITV BORDER & THE ENGLISH REGIONS
AND
STATEMENT FOR 2020**

1. MAJOR NEWS STORIES

ANGLIA

Anglia followed developments surrounding Harry Dun, the Northamptonshire nineteen-year-old killed when his motorcycle collided with a car driven by Anne Sacoolas. The wife of an American working at a nearby USAAF base sparked an international row when she claimed diplomatic immunity and returned to the United States.

The team also reported on the Grays lorry deaths, where the bodies of 39 Vietnamese men, women and children were discovered in the back of a lorry at the port, leading to the most extensive international inquiry ever conducted by Essex police. The world's Press descended on north Norfolk when a Range Rover driven by the Duke of Edinburgh collided with another car and rolled over. The then 97-year-old Duke was apparently unscathed but decided to stop driving.

Anglia once again provided detailed and in-depth coverage and analysis of the General Election campaign and results, led by Political Correspondent Emma Hutchinson. Detailed profiles of marginal seats sat alongside reports on the key national and regional issues affecting viewers. The team also followed the myriad twists and turns at Westminster, as almost every evening Emma Hutchinson fought to make herself heard above the protesters on Abingdon Green.

Anglia also produced a number of original reports covering a series of issues across the year. These included gambling, body image, excluded pupils and teenage drug gangs.

BORDER

The team reported on the resumption of a passenger service at Carlisle Airport for the first time in almost 25 years, offering flights to three short haul destinations. It was a major boost for the tourist industry in the region. ITV Border broadcast a full half hour OB on the launch day.

There was also extensive coverage and analysis of the Conservative Leadership Election with local MP Rory Stewart a prominent candidate.

The team also provided coverage of the 10th of the devastating 2009 Cumbrian floods in which a police officer lost his life.

CALENDAR

The team covered many stories during the year, including the disappearance in January (and ultimately the murder) of Hull student Libby Squire.

The team also decoded the many Commons Brexit votes, how MPs in the Calendar region voted and what it all meant for businesses and livelihoods. In June ITV Calendar covered the flooding in Wainfleet in Lincolnshire and later in the year the flooding in South Yorkshire, which prompted visits from Prince Charles and the Prime Minister

The Calendar team provided comprehensive coverage of the 2019 General Election. The team provided an examination of the issues in key seats, including Lincoln, Grimsby, Keighley, Sheffield Hallam and Pudsey, along with set-piece interviews with key party figures. The team also provided coverage of the European Elections and why they mattered.

CENTRAL

The big story of the year was the General Election where, echoing the national pattern, the Tories made big gains in traditional Labour seats taking nine seats in the East Midlands and nine in the West Midlands.

The inquest into the Birmingham pub bombings of 1974 found the 21 victims were unlawfully killed by mass murder and ITV News Central had a reporter at the inquest every day.

In one of the largest investigations into child sex abuse ever carried out an inquiry found children had been exposed to horrific abuse for more than five decades at children's homes and foster care in Nottinghamshire. We produced a special programme live from Nottingham on the day of the report's publication.

Protests against the teaching of LGBT+ equality lessons at a Birmingham primary school divided the communities there. It resulted in legal action against the demonstrations. ITV News Central gained good access to those at the heart of the dispute on both sides of the argument.

On becoming Prime Minister, Boris Johnson ordered a review into the future of the High-Speed Rail Project HS2. ITV News Central dedicated an entire programme to looking at the case for and against. It also extensively covered the progress of the Oakervee Review.

In November we had some of our best viewing figures of the year for the major flooding in the East Midlands and Worcestershire. We managed to report live from multiple locations.

In football, ITV Central covered Wolves' qualification for the Europa League, their first time in a European competition since 1972, as well as Aston Villa's promotion to the Premier League.

CHANNEL

By far the biggest story in 2019 for ITV Channel was the Emiliano Sala plane crash, challenging the team to respond to a big breaking story that had national impact. The focus for the team was the plane's disappearance and the search effort with a location off the island of Guernsey that was challenging. ITV News collaboration between Network, ITV Wales and ITV Channel delivered strong programming and lives over two weeks of the search and recovery of the plane.

ITV Channel also ran a programme special during 2019 on the future of vital travel links to the Channel Islands. The programme's ambition was to take an analytical look at air and sea links to and from all the islands, their current cost and reliability, the effect on lives and business, and their future. The programme was anchored from Jersey airport with lives in Guernsey, Heathrow and St Malo.

The Island Games is an international week-long sporting event, held every two years, involving 25 island nations including the Channel Islands. In 2019 the Games were hosted by Gibraltar. ITV Channel sent a full team to cover the Games delivering extensive live coverage into each of our 6pm programmes during the week and ensuring up to the minute digital coverage of results and medals.

GRANADA

The biggest story was of course the election in December and ahead of this Granada Reports covered the initial debate between Jeremy Hunt and Boris Johnson over the conservative party leadership here at Media City. It was a key moment in the contest to ensure the engagement of the British public. We also covered the subsequent debate between Jeremy Corbyn and Boris Johnson in November anchoring our programme in the spin room and speaking to key North West politicians before and after their debate.

In the summer we covered the evacuation of Whaley Bridge in High Peak after a dam there threatened to flood the entire town risking the lives of its six thousand residents. Granada Reports was live there as Chinook helicopters airlifted sandbags to try and save the dam from collapse.

In July we dedicated the whole of Granada Reports to the difficult subject of suicide. The statistics coming through monthly from our county coroners courts were showing on average 9 suicides a month in just one county. We heard from families directly affected, charities who support people at times of crisis and high-profile figures who'd attempted to take their own lives and those who were able to offer hope after overcoming their own mental health struggles. The programme won the RTS award for Best News programme in the North West.

We ran a couple of special series in Granada Reports looking at the finances of our football clubs after losing Bury and then seeing other clubs facing court proceedings over unpaid bills we were able to examine why this was happening and the lack of support from the EFL and other governing bodies.

This was also the 30-year anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster and the year the match commander faced the criminal courts, in April a jury was unable to come to a verdict and in

November David Duckenfield was cleared of manslaughter. Our coverage was able to reflect the families feeling they've achieved the truth but remain without justice.

LONDON

In 2019, ITV News London had a clear focus to explain Brexit to viewers and highlight the impact it would have on the capital. The last quarter of the year was dominated by the general election, with distinctive content including a panel of floating voters who we spoke to each week over a six-week period.

As part of the programme's 'Martel's markets' series, reporter Rags Martel visited markets across London and the Home counties to take the pulse of the electorate was creative and distinct. Elsewhere, we reported comprehensively on the threat to funding of women's refuges in London. A special programme aired in April 2019, presented from a refuge, was praised by leaders working in this field as 'excellent' and 'impactful'. The programme was a finalist at the 2020 Royal Television Awards for 'Regional programme of the year'.

MERIDIAN

ITV Meridian covered some high-profile stories in 2019, that not only made the news locally but nationally. They included the tragic death of serving Thames Valley police officer PC Andrew Harper, who was killed while on duty responding to reports of a burglary in Sulhamstead, Oxfordshire.

The team also covered Bob Higgins' trial and conviction. The former Southampton youth coach was found guilty of historic sex offences. He used his position of power to groom trainees, desperate to make it in the game, between 1971 and 1996.

In the South East of the region, ITV Meridian continued to report on migrants arriving along the Kent Coast, in small dinghies. On one day in August 2019, 86 people were rescued trying to cross the channel from France. In October we had to inform viewers of a grim discovery, when the bodies of 39 Vietnamese nationals were discovered in the back of a lorry in Grays, Essex. They suffocated in the refrigerated vehicle they were in.

D-Day 75 was commemorated around the world and on June 5th the eyes of the world were on Portsmouth, as the Queen and Donald Trump joined veterans at a special event in the city, to mark the anniversary. The veterans then travelled to France from Portsmouth on board the boat the 'Boudicca.' Over two days we anchored our programmes first from Portsmouth and then France and devoted our coverage to commemorations of the Normandy landings.

One of the other in-depth programmes of the year was our election special. Our teams were stationed at overnight counts, right across the region and we delivered the results on air and online, as they came in. At 6pm our flagship show revealed the stories of the night, gave a full breakdown of the winners and losers, along with analysis from our political Correspondent.

TYNE TEES

The team covered a range of subjects for the region. In May there was engaging coverage profiling the candidates in the election for a mayor in the devolved North of Tyne region and

for the post of Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria. and in July the team also covered flash flooding on the Yorkshire Dales.

Tyne Tees provided television and Digital coverage across six days of the World Transplant games, which took place in Gateshead and Newcastle in August.

The team also travelled to Norway for a special report on green energy and the link between Blyth in Northumberland and Norway. Undersea cables were laid to allow carbon-free electricity from wind and water power to be exchanged between the two countries.

There was also depth coverage on the results of an inquiry into child sexual abuse at Stanhope Castle Approved School in County Durham in the 1960s and 1970s.

Like other regions, one of the key stories was coverage of the General Election in December, including reports in key constituencies

In sport, the also team provided daily coverage over an eleven-day period in September of the World Cycling Championships and Paracycling Road Races in Yorkshire.

WEST COUNTRY

Following funding appeals from both the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset and the Police and Crime Commissioner we decided to investigate how a tightening of finances is affecting front line policing. With great access to police operations we decided to build the whole show around the issue and presented from location including an interview with the Chief Constable in a police car.

Knife crime has become a big issue in the West Country and following a number of incidents we decided to dedicate a whole programme to the issue. The studio based programme had a variety of pre-planned packages including filming with a night team looking out for teenagers possibly involved in knife crime and a piece filmed by our presenter Alex Beresford with a woman who had been convicted of a knife attack. The programme also contains a number of lives featuring recent attacks.

After a section of the roof collapsed at Pontins in Brean multiple viewers got in touch to share their stories of terrible visits to the holiday camp. We decided to go undercover to find out the real situation including filming in a chalet and then subsequent scientific testing of the levels of hygiene. The programme was presented live from locations around the park and included a sit-down interview with a whistleblower who had worked at the park. The investigation was deconstructed on our digital channels and we also produced an online documentary with our findings.

On the 100th anniversary of Lady Astor taking her seat in parliament to become the country's first female MP we took the bold decision to present our programme from Plymouth. The show was celebratory but also reflective on the current hostility in politics and combined the

latest from the campaign trail in the General Election. The show was co-anchored from another location in Plymouth where commemorations also started that day for the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower.

Like other regions, one of the key stories was coverage of the General Election in December, including reports in key constituencies

2. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

ANGLIA

ITV Anglia has Diversity and Inclusion Panels based in Norwich and Cambridge. They represent a range of communities and meet six times a year to give constructive and critical feedback on our output. Panel members regularly suggest ideas for programme content, this year including the first Disability Pride event in Norwich and an initiative bringing communities together through football in Luton.

Anglia held its annual ITV News Day in the summer, giving a diverse group of school pupils an insight into the technical and editorial demands of a day's programme production.

BORDER

ITV Border's Diversity Panel met quarterly and provided valuable insight and feedback to the team.

The team also organised a series of "Confidence on Camera" sessions to encourage more women to put themselves forwards as spokespeople, driving up the visibility of women on the programme.

The team also marked health awareness week with a series of reports across the week.

CALENDAR

As part of the team's work to encourage more diverse young people to think about a career in television journalism, pupils from Mount St Mary's Catholic High in Leeds and Corpus Christi Secondary School in Leeds were part of ITV Calendar's open newsroom day, where they experienced doing a live report, completing a running order exercise.

CENTRAL

ITV News Central held two open newsroom days, one for a school in Wolverhampton and one for a school in Nottingham.

We took on our first pathway trainee, a wheelchair user, to help breakdown access barriers for disabled people in TV news.

Our journalism was recognised at a number of award ceremonies. Reporter Rajiv Popat won regional journalist of the year at the **Asian Media Awards**. ITV News Central was shortlisted (in categories also open to national news organisations) in the **Creative Diversity Network** awards - Broadcaster of the Year; and the **Mind** media awards - News and Current Affairs.

We continued working closely with our diversity panel which meets quarterly and discusses representation, editorial agenda and use of language.

GRANADA

This year Granada supported a paid placement for a creative access intern. Hassan Mahmood from Rochdale joined us for nine months to learn all about television journalism. He was able to deliver several reports based on his community including a moving piece about people facing eviction from their high-rise homes as the council planned to demolish the famous Seven Sisters apartment blocks in his home town. He also hosted a debate with an audience of young people on the lasting impact of the Manchester arena terror attack and the subsequent rise in Islamophobia.

We also hosted an event 'Women in News' aimed at training up female experts to be able to take part in our news programmes. The training provided media training, gave an opportunity to see behind the scenes at ITV Granada Reports but also hear live from our CEO Carolyn McCall about the importance of seeing women represent their industries and areas of expertise. As a result, we have had several exclusive interviews and stories come direct to our programme and have increased the portrayal of women on screen.

Our quarterly diversity panel continues with members offering constructive feedback from their perspective helping us to improve the use of language in our reporting and a better choice of case studies too.

LONDON

Every quarter in 2019 our diversity panel met as a group to discuss our coverage, the stories we were selecting and the contributors in our programmes. In 2019, we also introduced a breakfast meeting so we could ensure that the diversity panel were helping set the agenda, rather than looking back on our coverage. This proved successful.

Our work experience placements ensured we had a diverse range of candidates spend time in the newsroom. A new work experience form introduced in 2019 allowed us to blind pick the best candidates based on their ideas and commitment.

MERIDIAN

ITV Meridian's Diversity and Inclusion panels continue to be a good source of stories and contacts within our communities but more importantly they critique us on our content. We have two viewer panels, one based in the South of the Meridian region and one where the members live in the South East. The membership of these groups is constantly evolving and over the last year we have welcomed some new contributors.

Our panel members were a particular help last year when it came to how we covered Brexit, Social care and the Windrush compensation scheme. They are also a great source when it comes to finding original voices and feature ideas. Black History Month for example was covered with a story about 'Shebeens'- important meeting places scattered around our cities, where the African Caribbean community would come together to keep their culture alive in the 60s and 70s.

In 2019 ITV Meridian welcomed a group of students to the studios from the Rise Center School in Beijing. Organised through the Portsmouth Chinese Association they enjoyed getting a taster of how we put our news programme together and the different roles in television news.

Presenters Fred Dinenage and Sangeeta Bhabra also presented local school children from St George's School in Southampton with certificates last July- at the studios- on the request of two local community radio stations which ITV Meridian has good contacts with. The teenagers had successfully completed a broadcast module as part of their school assignment and they had a chance to talk to the faces of the programme about their media aspirations.

TYNE TEES

ITV Tyne Tees continues to monitor how our diverse communities are represented in our output by measuring against the Census figure. Our diversity panel continues to be an extremely good way of helping us stay in contact with communities across our region, helping us gain a better understanding, helping us to bring in stories and helping us by the feedback that we get from the group about our coverage.

Our ITV News Trainee attended a course on Mental Health Awareness and Diversity and five colleagues attended the Diversity and Inclusion Forum

We ran extensive coverage of Deaf Awareness Week in our programme, which attracted praise from the SignPost sign language unit.

WEST COUNTRY

Reflecting diversity and inclusion on and off screen was a key priority for ITV West Country. The team worked hard to improve the gender balance on our screens, with the number of women appearing increasing year on year since 2017 on both programmes. It now stands at 48.9% (east programme) and 48.7% (west programme).

Beyond the figures, we continued to tell the stories that reflected our audience. We were particularly proud to be nominated in the national News and Current Affairs category by the charity MIND for our coverage of mental health issues.

Our Diversity Panels continued to grow. We held a joint meeting of both Panels in Bristol and also taken them 'on the road'. This enabled us to engage with communities we have previously not reached. We will continue this strategy in 2020.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

ANGLIA

Social Media channels continued to be an invaluable resource, providing story ideas, "case histories" for hard and soft news coverage, and feedback on issues of the day which often features in our programmes.

We also get a clear idea of what some viewers think of our output - this from Wendy in Bedford: *Just wanted to thank you for the decision to go Politics/Brexit free in tonights show [sic]. I had taken to switching off all news programmes so it was nice to be able to watch and hear some local news. Still far too much sport for my liking but I guess you can't have everything :-)*

BORDER

There was good engagement with the public and viewers' opinions were regularly sought online and broadcast on our television programme.

CENTRAL

For the General Election the Central team ran a series called "Eat, Drink, Debate" that encouraged Remain and Leave supporters to meet over dinner and discuss the merits and drawbacks of leaving Europe.

The team's online activities were recognised by the Midland Media Awards, where we won best use of social media. New recruit Mojo Abidi was also highly commended in the category for multimedia journalist of the year.

We also started a series of videos specifically for social media called "Point of View" where an inspiring or exceptional person talked directly into camera about their life story.

GRANADA

In November we celebrated 30 years of Lucy Meacock presenting Granada Reports - this was an opportunity to celebrate a key public figure in the North West. We did this on screen by Lucy interviewing some famous NW cultural faces including the actor Sue Johnston, footballer Jamie Carragher and Richard and Judy Madeley.

Throughout February we decided to help our viewers kickstart some healthy eating habits with our series 'Friday Night Fakeaway'. Famous chefs from the North West for example Nisha Katona worked with us to cook healthy alternatives to takeaways - we cooked live with families, schoolchildren, fire fighters and community groups showing them how healthy choices can be quick and simple alternatives. It ran over six weeks throughout February with viewers contacting us to ask for our help to change their bad habits.

It wasn't all about food either throughout spring we ran a series of reports called 'Spring into Action' focussing on how our viewers were improving their physical fitness and wellbeing. The aim was to show the audience how others had achieved weight loss, overcome physical challenges and were able to make tangible changes to their physical fitness.

LONDON

There was a lot of engagement from the public on much of our coverage in 2019, particularly our work on the Grenfell Tower fire - with the campaign group 'Grenfell United' quoting ITV News reports in Cladding Action Group meetings. The group also sent the ITV News London

team a Christmas card in 2019. A special programme on domestic abuse and threat to refuge funding saw an increase in donations to the domestic abuse charity we worked closely with.

MERIDIAN

ITV Meridian's viewers continue to interact with the programme and our content through our social media channels. Views shared by those who engage with our content online, like Facebook, are often used as part of our broadcasts to help bring a range of perspectives on a topic. It is for this reason that we regularly speak to viewers and gauge public opinion through Vox Pops. Mobile phone footage and citizen journalism sent to us from events and incidents, continues to feature in our content on air and online and helps us cover our patch more widely. Every day viewers interact with the programme weather presenter, sharing their photo's which often appear on air as part of the forecast segment.

In 2019 we ran a successful digital interview series called 'Point of View.' As part of this series we interviewed a transgender woman who talked about her transition journey. Her aim was to raise awareness of transgender issues, in the hope she can support others who feel like they are living in the wrong body. After the report aired the interviewee was inundated with messages of support on our digital platforms.

TYNE TEES

Viewer feedback was regularly requested on news stories. Throughout the year reporter Julia Barthram followed the journey of Darren McLintock from Middlesbrough, as he lost 20 stone, going from warnings that he would die young, to learning to drive and finding love.

WEST COUNTRY

ITV West Country is no longer just a programme broadcast four times a day - in addition it is now a fully interactive digital news service our viewers can have regular input in. The growth of our digital services has meant that the public are able to learn about stories featured on our programmes in more detail, read about others, and engage in events and news relevant to their local area. In addition, our website and subsequent social media use has allowed our audience to dictate the stories we cover.

Alongside more traditional ways of interacting with our audience in places such as county shows, and specialist events, we can now use our digital platform to ensure anybody can contact us at any time - and to show we are listening to their views. We are available to our audience from the very tips of Cornwall to the northern reaches of Gloucestershire. Now, more than ever, we are available to the public on a real 24/7 basis.

Our digital development has not only enhanced the way our audience can interact with our programme, but also the way our programme can interact with them. We regularly take views and opinions expressed online by readers and use them in the programme - allowing a real go-between to exist and ensuring our programme is more accessible, and reflective of our audience, than ever.

Our Point of View series, which runs on our social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, give our viewers a direct voice to our audience. With

minimal input from the digital team they tell a story pertinent to them, and how they hope it will make a difference to our viewers.

4. INNOVATION, EXPERIMENT AND CREATIVITY

ANGLIA

In 2019, Anglia adopted the CatDV online archive library system, allowing all staff to access reports, programmes and other footage from anywhere with an internet connection. We trained a second drone pilot and one of our reporters was in the ITV News group assessing a new range of portable cameras.

BORDER

ITV Border continued to exploit the possibilities afforded by our investment in Live-Us, broadcasting from a variety of unusual locations including boats on the waters of the Lake District and from a fixed-wing aeroplane. The team also used a live drone for the first time.

CALENDAR

ITV Calendar introduced bespoke "Point of View" digital videos providing exclusive content online and on social media. This included an interview with a mother whose sons were murdered by her ex-husband and highlighted her campaign for a change in domestic abuse laws. It was consistently the most viewed story on ITV Calendar's website.

CENTRAL

ITV Central technical specialists, in conjunction with a private company, pioneered a new digital archive system called CatDV. This will be rolled out to all regions.

All our on-screen journalists were given a new Sony Z280 which have many more functions than the old cameras and can connect to the internet more easily.

In a technical first for us, for our HS2 special programme we used one of our new super powered LiveUs to broadcast live from a High-Speed train in Kent.

LONDON

Reporters from ITV News London began shooting on 2 new cameras in 2019- a 360 camera and iPhone 11s which gave the team quicker response times to breaking news.

MERIDIAN

In 2019 we decided to devote our programme to one topic, school funding and anchored the programme from a school. It was a technically complicated outside broadcast, with multiple cameras and lives from different parts of the school and dozens of guests. We walked along corridors live looking at crumbling walls and leaking roofs, we interviewed the head teacher and other teachers, from other schools in the library, talked to parents and members of the PTA in the school hall and spoke to children in classrooms. As the show was broadcast dozens of viewers - many of whom were teachers - got in touch to thank us for putting the spotlight on the issue. The programme also had reaction from the Department for Education.

TYNE TEES

Carriages for the new Azuma trains running between London and the North East were built in Newton Aycliffe. ITV Tyne Tees did extensive coverage, including a live broadcast from on board one of the first services from Kings Cross to the North.

We introduced 'Point of View' videos which proved an engaging new format on social media.

WEST COUNTRY

In our studio, a considerable amount of investment has gone into updating equipment in the studio, gallery and newsroom. Some equipment has replaced kit that is coming to end of life or just to improve our output. The kit includes studio radio microphones, a studio and newsroom camera prompt system as well as replacing the Presenter IEM kit and the DECT studio talkback facility. The installation of a new Cat DV archiving system to improve media retention in the newsroom and easier access for journalists on their laptops has been a massive success. We have also invested in two new Avid Newscutters, one for the Presenters and the other for a member of the Content Hub who is currently based in Bristol.

We have purchased new lights and fully relit the small studio in Exeter, which over the past year has been used on a regular basis for regional and national weather recordings.

With our location kits, over the year we moved away from Contract location camera crews and recruited individuals for staff contracts. This required investment in a number of full location camera kits as well as increasing our fleet of crew vehicles with one Mondeo and two Hybrid Honda CRVs. We made a conscious decision to move to a more environmentally friendly vehicle in the latter part of the year. The kit investment was made even more significant by us purchasing three Sony 400 camera kits - one to replace an aging kit and the other for new members of staff. In addition, we led the way on a wider ITV News initiative to look at the kit we use on location so that camera operators have a wider kit of parts to choose from. This resulted in us purchasing two Sony Z280 camera kits for our new Trainee Camera Operators, an additional Z280 camera ancillary kit, a Sony FS5 camera and a Sony A7 camera kit as well as a Sony RX011 Camera.

As part of an overall ITV News commitment all of our eighteen On Screen Journalist received a new Sony Z280 camera as well as anything they needed to replace broken or missing self-shooting ancillary kit. We also invested in an addition two Sony Z280 cameras to hold as general newsroom kits. All staff received one to one training on their new kit.

We continued to invest in kit to enhance our live capability whilst on location with the purchase of two additional LiveU units bringing our total roving LiveUs to twelve. We also purchased two Mavic Pro 2 drones for our operators based at ITV West Country, this has given us the capability of not only enhancing our picture quality but also being able to show live drone shots as part of our programmes as well as being able to 'night shoot'.

We continued to invest in technology to make each individuals role easier. This resulted in us purchasing eleven MacBook Airs, one for each of our Production Journalists. We also purchased a MacBook Pro with full Avid licence for one of our Production Specialists who

leads on all our in-house editing training. All new Camera Operators received a MacBook Pro laptop, Mi-Fi unit and I-Phone to allow them to fully function whilst in the field.

To ensure that we are working at full capacity we replaced aging wi-fi access points in Bristol and our smaller regional sites as well as upgrading a number of pieces of technology such as migrating from Windows 7 to 10 and enhancing legacy X-Net equipment.

We are currently pulling a project together to update our Truro office early next year, this will include a refresh of the office as well as additional technical equipment to enhance our facilities.

5. MEDIA LITERACY

ANGLIA

ITV Anglia took part in the Breaking Into News programme, in partnership with the Media Trust. Finalists are mentored in writing, reporting and production. ITV Anglia also took part in the Norwich Science Festival, with dozens of young people having a go at weather forecasting and receiving digital copies of their efforts. Weather presenter Chris Page and journalist Raveena Ghattaura took part in a number of school events designed to give pupils an insight into the technical and editorial opportunities in TV News production.

BORDER

ITV Border appointed an ITV News Trainee, who went on to secure full-time employment as a Production Journalist with us. The team also hosted Netherhall School in the ITV Newsrooms Day.

ITV Border, along with Tyne Tees, took part in the Breaking Into News programme, in partnership with the Media Trust. Across the year, there was a rolling programme offering work experience placements and staff gave talks in local schools.

The Managing Editor performs pro-bono work with the NCTJ as Chief Examiner for Broadcast Journalism.

CENTRAL

Several members of the ITV News Central team helped the RTS Midlands Careers Fair and one of our camera operators ran a workshop about using a drone for news.

For the General Election we worked with journalism departments at universities across the region to provide video coverage of the counts.

Programme Editor Nimesh Joshi continued his role on the executive board of the Broadcasting Journalism Training Council.

Several members of the news team visited schools and colleges to encourage a career in TV production or journalism.

We devised a “pop up” reporting day where we’d visit a community to explain what we do and hear their ideas for the stories they believed we should be covering. The first of these was in Ludlow.

GRANADA

Throughout the election we started to broadcast a new podcast called ‘From the North’ featuring the political correspondents from Granada, Calendar and Tyne Tees who were able to give weekly analysis of the election campaign. After the election we continued this podcast featuring issues such as homelessness, football finances, suicide and levelling up. The first dealt with the issue of the North South divide and made it into the top 10 chart for political podcasts.

LONDON

We worked closely with the NCTJ in 2019. The ITV News London Editor began attending their annual meeting with representatives from other broadcasters like the BBC and Sky. This allowed for better links between schools and colleges across the UK.

MERIDIAN

Our website complements our television output often adding more in-depth analysis on stories. Online articles are embedded with statistics from reliable sources, quotes and clips from different voices and viewpoints and experts on certain topics when required. As well as our website, we also ensure our stories appear on a range of platforms, from Facebook to, twitter. On Instagram we tell stories in short form, via a text on video clip, condensing a story into 59 seconds.

TYNE TEES

ITV Tyne Tees, along with Border, took part in the Breaking Into News programme, in partnership with the Media Trust. We appointed an ITV News Trainee, who went on to secure full-time employment as a Production Journalist with us.

Across the year, there was a rolling programme offering work experience placements and staff gave talks in local schools. Pupils from Dyke House Academy, Hartlepool, and Whickham School and Sports College attended the Tyne Tees "ITV Newsrooms Day"

WEST COUNTRY

Students took part in our ITV Newsroom Day again this year, reading the news, weather, learning how to self-shoot and were operational in the gallery. We arranged several school visits with students coming to the studio to meet the team and watch the programme go out including students from the Deaf Academy in Exeter. A number of our colleagues gave talks at schools, colleges and universities. We also arranged a number of work experience placements throughout the year, including a placement for a member of the Armed Forces through our relationship with the Forces Media Academy.

STATEMENT FOR 2020

The ITV Regional News Teams were looking to covering key stories across their regions throughout 2020. For example, the Granada News team were planning a series of reports on the North West and climate change in the run up to COP26, as well as following the fortunes of the 'so-called' red wall constituencies in the North West that turned blue and the thoughts of voters there on the levelling up agenda there. The Central News team were intending to report on the findings of the Oakervee review into the future of HS2, as well as running a series on Britishness asking what it means to be British in 2020, as well as following Wolves in their Europa League campaign. ITV West Country was intending to cover the Glastonbury Festival and Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner elections – both were postponed. The team also planning continuing coverage of 'county lines' drugs dealing, whilst 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage which took the founding fathers to America. We will be reporting on events throughout the year, centring our coverage on Plymouth and the culmination of celebrations in America in the latter part of the year.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic hit, many events were postponed and the focus has shifted to the local impact of this in each region with each team keeping viewers updated with the latest information and news for their areas.

At a time of real worry and social isolation, our news teams have stepped up to serve everyone in Britain with reliable and trusted news in an era of misinformation online, which along with our daytime programmes meant ITV was able to provide 10 hours of live programming each day. Over the extraordinary last few months ITV Regional News teams have done their utmost to support and inform people through trusted, accurate and impartial news, information, and often important reassurance.

Audiences have turned to broadcast news in the current COVID crisis, and nations and regions news have been of particular importance. ITV News teams right across the country have worked hard and in innovative ways to ensure that they continue to provide viewers with a strong news service covering the pandemic.

Programmes have attracted big audiences. In the period from lockdown on 23rd March to the last day of May, ITV News and Current Affairs programmes reached 44 million people: 72% of the UK population. Even before the audience spike caused by the crisis, the number of people watching our regional news programme at 6pm had increased by nearly 10% since 2015 and the number watching our national news programme at 6.30pm had grown by nearly 5%.

Throughout the period of lockdown our news teams have kept our national and regional public service news programmes and digital services on air, providing viewers with clear public health information and accurate and impartial news. The feedback we have had on these programmes has suggested that an understanding of what is happening close to home has been a particular public priority, given the clarity and regularity of daily government briefings about the national position which were generally well covered.

We are also at the forefront of innovation in our gathering of the news making extensive use of digital and wireless technology for reporting and editing in the field and all our journalists are multiskilled. For example, we use LiveUs paperback sized 4G enabled devices that allow a reporter to quickly go live with video without a satellite truck. Much of this investment in

technology and multiskilling has enabled us to shift to more agile working based even more out of the office during COVID. We have also maintained our invaluable contribution of political interviews with many interviews conducted virtually.

The ITV Regional News teams will continue to provide this service as events progress throughout the year.