

Cyfeillion Amgueddfa Cymru
Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NP

Friends of National Museum Wales
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP

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Saturday 11th March 2023

**Reardon Smith Lecture Theatre, NMW Cathays Park, Cardiff
at 10.30am**

**Dr. Jamie Medhurst: The history of the growth of radio &
television in Wales**

On 13 February 1923, the British Broadcasting Company (as it then was) opened its 5WA station in Castle Street in Cardiff, three months after the first broadcasts in London. Within two years another station, 5SX, had opened in Swansea. By 1937 the BBC had established a Welsh Region, and by the end of the 1940s, those living on the Welsh border with England were able to watch television programmes from the Sutton Coldfield transmitter. When television first landed on Welsh soil, in 1952, the Wenvoe transmitter was shared with the west of England ... much to the annoyance of audiences on both sides of the Bristol Channel!

In this talk, we will consider the role that the BBC has played in Welsh society – in both languages – and we'll also focus on some of the key moments in the growth and development of radio and television in what one former BBC Chairman called 'an awkward area'.

Jamie Medhurst is Professor of Media and Communication and Head of the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies at Aberystwyth University. He is author of numerous books including *A History of Independent Television in Wales* (University of Wales Press WP 2010), and *The Early Years of Television and the BBC* (Edinburgh University Press, 2022). He is currently writing a book on *Programmes, Politics, Protest: broadcasting and society in Wales in the 1970s* which will be published by the University of Wales in 2024. He is editor-in-chief of the journal *Media History*.

Cost is £10. This includes the talk itself, followed by coffee/ biscuits in the Oriel Suite after the talk.

Please pay on the day by note/s or a cheque (made payable to Friends of National Museum Wales).

It would help greatly if could indicate if you intend coming to the talk by contacting Richard Carter either by email on richardclivecarter@me.com or by phone on 02920 620687