

[Recording of the week: Wioletta Greg reads her poetry](#)

This week's selection comes from Stephen Cleary, Lead Curator of Literary & Creative Recordings.

Polish poet and writer Wioletta Greg has attracted critical praise for her coming-of-age tale *Swallowing Mercury*, which was published in January this year by Portobello Books. For this week's 'Recording of the Week' we offer a unique recording of Wioletta reading her poetry, made by the British Library in 2012 at the poet's home on the Isle of Wight. The reading is in Polish, with English translations made and read by Marek Kazmierski.

[Wioletta Greg reading_C1340/79](#)



This recording is part of [Between Two Worlds: Poetry and Translation](#), an ongoing Arts Council-funded audio recording project conducted by the British Library in collaboration with the poet Amarjit Chandan.

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[Recording of the week: Himba women's songs from Namibia](#)

This week's selection comes from Dr Janet Topp Fargion, Lead Curator of World and Traditional Music.

This is an 'ondjongo' song sung by a group of Himba women, recorded in 1998 by French ethnomusicologist Emmanuelle Olivier (BL reference [C1709](#)). The recording was made within the French-Namibian project "Living Music and Dance of Namibia" (1998-2000) directed by Minette Mans (University of Namibia), Emmanuelle Olivier (CNRS, France) and Hervé Rivière (CNRS, France).

[Ondjongo song sung by Himba women](#)



The Himba, from the northern part of Namibia, very close to the border with Angola, are well known for their elaborate hairstyles, using copious amounts of lush, orange ochre – which helps to protect them from the scorching sun. Hair cutting ceremonies are significant markers of life cycle events, being performed, for example, for naming ceremonies or in celebrations connected

with girls' first menstruation and marriage.

(Photo: Emmanuelle Olivier, 1990)


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[Recording of the week: language and identity](#)

This week's selection comes from Jonnie Robinson, Lead Curator of Spoken English.

This short exchange during a conversation between two young females talking about life and relationships offers a fascinating glimpse into how our linguistic choices reflect our identity. One of the speakers, a British Muslim, uses the phrase bringing home the bacon which instantly sparks off giggles as, culturally and linguistically, it somehow encapsulates her reflections on her joint British and Muslim identity. The phrase she chooses could not be more quintessentially English – the first citation recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary is from the 1924 PG Wodehouse novel, *Ukridge*.

[Bringing home the bacon](#)

 Photograph of participants

This extract is taken from the [Listening Project](#) – a collection of over 1000 conversations contributed by members of the public on a variety of topics of their own choosing. Listen to the full conversation between Afshan and Olivia [here](#).

Follow [@soundarchive](#) for all the latest news.


[Recording of the week: an encounter with an orangutan](#)

This week's selection comes from Cheryl Tipp, Curator of Wildlife and Environmental Sounds.

Coming face to face with a wild orangutan is something most nature lovers can only dream about. In this evocative interview extract, wildlife sound

recordist [John Paterson](#) vividly describes a chance encounter with a curious female in Borneo's Danum Valley.

[An encounter with an Orangutan_John Paterson \(C1627_3\)](#)

 Orangutan illustration from *Brehms Animal Life* (courtesy of the Biodiversity Heritage Library)

These critically endangered primates can only be found in the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra and are the subject of several conservation programmes whose work attempts to counter the effects of poaching, habitat destruction and the illegal pet trade.

More interviews with wildlife sound recordists, from scientists to hobbyists, can be found [here](#).

Follow [@CherylTipp](#) and [@soundarchive](#) for all the latest news.

[Recording of the week: surviving an oil rig disaster](#)

This week's selection comes from Dr Rob Perks, Lead Curator Oral History.

In this moving testimony recorded for 'Lives in the Oil Industry' project, oral historian Hugo Manson talks to Bob Ballantyne (1942-2004), a survivor of the Piper Alpha North Sea oil rig disaster in 1988 which killed 167 people.

[Bob Ballantyne – surviving the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster](#)



Piper Alpha Disaster Memorial (Elliott Simpson)

The [full interview](#) can be consulted at the British Library and is part of [Lives in the Oil Industry](#), a joint National Life Story Collection/Aberdeen University project, begun in 2000, to record the major changes which have occurred in the UK oil and gas industry in the twentieth century, focussing particularly on North Sea exploration and the impact of the industry on this country.

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