**Have You Heard the News? The Year in Review**Written by James Paul Hunter

**30 Minutes, Running Order**  
  
Intro/initial discussion: 3 minutes   
January: 4 minutes  
February: 4 minutesMarch: 4 minutes

April: 4 minutes  
May: 4 minutes  
June: 4 minutes  
Conclusion/back anno: 3 minutes  
 **Intro**

Hello and welcome, to **Have You Heard the News? The Year in Review**, the first of a series of three podcasts we’re producing here for BBC Radio 1, I am James Paul Hunter and I’m joined here by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
we’re recording this in a tin-pot makeshift studio [think the BBC would be able to shell out for a fancier place, wouldn’t you?] **DISCUSSION**  
  
We’re going to be reviewing the news [as the name would imply] of the entire year [2017], focusing on politics and current events   
  
In this first edition we’re looking at some the \*\***BANTEROUS POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS AND HEADLINES\*\*** from the start of the year up to the general election in June

**January**

**[National anthem]**  
The year begins, patriotism and nationalism are in the air, [RULE BRITANNIA] discussions of what kind of Brexit is going to occur are rife **CLIP** [they still are] but thankfully Iain Duncan Smith was around to make the Government’s position completely clear even in January **CLIP “The objective is simple: to leave the EU”** **DISCUSSION**Luckily, with the negotiations with the EU looking a mess, we were reportedly landing a massive trade deal with the US with Theresa May and Donald Trump looking like they were set to become some sort of reanimated Reagan/Thatcher odd couple **CLIP: Haven’t you ever noticed? Sometimes opposites attract DISCUSSION [emphasis on strange relationship, Trump/women] [Women’s March]**  
  
Labour were **“facing election wipe-out”** and the Liberal Democrats were predicted to bounce back to electoral success **Lib Dems bouncing back from the dead in 2017?** **DISCUSSION**

**February**

February begins with the speaker of the house slagging off Donald Trump **CLIP: Bercow vs Trump DISCUSSION [emphasis on state visit/Trump handshakes]**Jeremy Corbyn was facing a soft coup from his own party [again?] following the Copeland by-election, for some reason he wasn’t very interested in talking to the media **CLIP: Copeland defeat means the end for Corbyn DISCUSSION**In an attempt to have an even wider appeal to the working classes [controversial] [and to get people to stop talking about Hillsborough], Paul Nuttall [remember him?] in his first move as UKIP leader announced his pledge to end VAT on fish and chips **CLIP DISCUSSION**  
In a time before we realised Theresa May is in fact a robot, Downing Street spin doctors were doing a good job of fleshing out her backstory, having her scrap some fried potato goods of her own for Lent [smooth] **CLIP DISCUSSION** [why are we talking about this?]

**March**

Going in to March, Lord Heseltine was sacked from his Government role [what did he have to say about it?] **CLIP “There was no need to sack me” DISCUSSION**The Daily Mail were covering the real issues, **CLIP:** “**Never mind Brexit, who won Legs-it?**” **DISCUSSION [Theresa May’s odd PMQ’s laugh, Article 50, 2nd Indy Ref Scotland]** The real battle we were interested in though was happening in the Scottish Parliament **CLIP: Ruth Davidson tells Nicola Sturgeon to “sit down” DISCUSSION**Labour spent even longer wallowing in their internal divisions from the 1980s as Tom Watson launched an attack on Unite and Momentum’s “secret plan” **CLIP: Tom Watson vs Momentum and Unite’s “secret plan” DISCUSSION [Stephen Hawking v Corbyn]**And this is also the month the Conservative Party were fined £70,000 pounds over election expenses, a month before calling another general election **CLIP: Conservative Party fined £70, 000 over election expenses DISCUSSION**We’ve already discussed Donald Trump’s infamous handshakes but this is the month where he refused to shake Angela Merkel’s hand [He doesn’t want to touch a woman?] **CLIP: Donald Trump refuses to shake Angela Merkel’s hand DISCUSSION [This is McCarthyism! Wiretapping accusations]**

**April**

[National anthem]In April [national pride still rife] it looked like we were about to go to war with Spain again for the first time since 1898 **CLIP: Gibraltar: UK Government to “stand up for their interests”, Spain veto “War Talk” DISCUSSION**  
The Tories open up the biggest lead over Labour in the polls in 9 years and Theresa May calls a snap general election [two completely unrelated facts] **CLIP DISCUSSION [**Sturgeon: May election move “**huge miscalculation**”] [UKIP says Theresa May’s general election move is cynical]  
  
Boris Johnson calls Jeremy Corbyn a “mutton-headed old mugwump” [an insult we’re assuming he picked up back in his days at Eton] **CLIP DISCUSSION**This is the month all the party leaders were out in full force facing the electorate, with Tim Farron inviting a voter to have a whiff of his spaniel **CLIP: Tim Farron tells voter: “Smell my spaniel, maybe”** **DISCUSSION** [I’m a bit of a Eurosceptic quote **CLIP**]This month sees the height of UKIP’s media coverage before facing electoral oblivion, with Paul Nuttall standing in Boston and Skegness [a huge and embarrassing miscalculation of his own] **CLIP DISCUSSION [Full face veil barrier to integration CLIP]**After calling a snap general election, Theresa May announces she will refuse to take part in the leader debates **CLIP**, but insisted she was not seeking an “election blank-cheque” **CLIP DISCUSSION** [First poll showing Labour cutting Conservative lead “**poll suggests somewhat tighter race than other surveys**”]

Ken Livingstone was suspended for comments he made on Hitler and Zionism adding to the still on-going problems with accusations of anti-Semitism within the Labour party **CLIP: Ken Livingstone suspended for a year over comments he made on Hitler/Zionism DISCUSSION**George Osborne announced he was to quit as MP for Tatton at election, so he could devote more time to slagging off Theresa May in the Evening Standard **CLIP DISCUSSION  
  
May**

Entering the month of May, UKIP upped the stakes in the “most ridiculous justification for a manifesto policy” [ever] competition **CLIP: UKIP: Ban the burka to get more Vitamin D DISCUSSION**Jeremy Corbyn blamed British foreign policy for fuelling terrorism while The Sun were blaming him and John McDonnell for doing the exact same thing **CLIP: Corbyn: “British foreign policy fuels terrorism”, Jeremy Corbyn/IRA DISCUSSION**

Confirmed Eurosceptic Tim Farron found himself having a heated intellectual battle with a fellow Eurosceptic on the streets of Oxfordshire **CLIP: Tim Farron vs angry Leave voter** **DISCUSSION**The Conservative Party release their manifesto and it goes down like a bucket of cold sick with the electorate **CLIP: Conservative Manifesto launch, “Dementia Tax” and school lunches backlash DISCUSSION**Amber Rudd represents the Tories in the GE TV debate and Paul Nuttall repeatedly called Leanne Wood “Natalie” **CLIP: Amber Rudd represents Tories in GE TV debate DISCUSSION**Ed Miliband was caught operating a lawnmower and calling bingo numbers while out canvassing for Labour **CLIP** but **SPEAKING OF NUMBERS** [that was dreadful] this month seemed to find several politicians getting their numbers fundamentally wrong as we’re going to hear in a little montage here [oh, that’s nice] **CLIP: Diane Abbott LBC interview on police funding, Corbyn on Woman’s Hour not knowing cost of launching childcare policy, Hammond underestimating HS2 cost by £20bn DISCUSSION**And while Jeremy Corbyn was meeting up with JME, Iain Duncan Smith was on Good Morning Britain rapping Eminem **CLIP: Iain Duncan Smith raps Eminem’s “Lose Yourself” on GMB DISCUSSION** [Corbyn: Strong and Stable Bananas **CLIP**]This month also saw Donald Trump finally get out-hand shook by French President Emmanuel Macron, as well as Trump memorably charming the rest of Europe **CLIP: Trump v Macron handshake battle Round 1  
Trump v Europe/shoves prime minister of Montenegro DISCUSSION**

**June**  
  
Opening June, voters were just days away from heading to the polling station, so the Tories were pulling out all the stops: **CLIP: Conservative MP Greg Knight’s bizarre campaign jingle DISCUSSION** [what was that?] and Theresa May disclosed the naughtiest thing she’s ever done **CLIP DISCUSSION**  
  
This was the month Jeremy Corbyn said his cat had “socialist tendencies”, but probably not to quite the same extent as a CAT called John McDonnell [what?] **CLIP: “The rich will pay more under Labour”** **Corbyn and McDonnell call for empty flats to be requisitioned by the state post Grenfell DISCUSSION**The results of the election came in, Theresa May had “shed a tear” at the Exit Poll **CLIP** and there was a hung parliament, after her and her party made one of the most extraordinary mistakes in modern political history – it was quite nicely summed up by tory MP Nigel Evans in a radio interview after the election **CLIP: Conservative MP Nigel Evans “We shot ourselves in the head”, hung parliament DISCUSSION** [Tory/DUP deal: **DUP warns Tories “Don’t take us for granted**”]  
  
Tim Farron resigns as Lib Dem leader after an extensive PR nightmare over his views on LGBT rights **CLIP:** Tim Farron resigns **DISCUSSION**And in the last you will ever hear of Paul Nuttall, he came third place in the Boston and Skegness constituency and resigned as leader of UKIP **CLIP: Paul Nuttall resigns DISCUSSION**  
  
**Conclusion**Right, so we’re coming to the end of the show here – you’ve been listening to Have You Heard The News? The Year in Review [should probably get the scores out] What? [normally these panel shows have scores at the end] you’re joking? [I’m not] Simon, did you know about this? [nah] Well, I’m going to say \_\_\_\_ wins [normally in teams though, aren’t they?] Are they? Well, tell you what – the real winners are the listeners of this first podcast, let’s be completely honest [THAT IS AWFUL] I’ve been James Paul Hunter, this has been [can’t end it like that] Have You Heard The News? The Year In Review, be sure to check out the other podcasts we’ve got here on the Radio 1 website and give our next one a listen, hit the music.