



## **JOHN CRAVEN OBE**

John Craven is the presenter of **CountryFile** the BBC magazine programme which, every Sunday, highlights rural and environmental issues.

He joined **CountryFile** in 1989 after many years presenting and editing the programme which made him a household name across the nation, **John Craven's Newsround**. In November 1996, the **Royal Television Society** elected him a member of its exclusive Hall of Fame, "in recognition of an outstanding contribution to British television."

Born in Leeds, John started his career journalism with the **Harrogate Advertiser** and later wrote for **The Yorkshire Post** and several national newspapers before joining the **BBC** in Newcastle upon Tyne as a newswriter. He moved to Bristol as a reporter with regional television and in 1971 made his debut as a network television presenter, on the current affairs show **Search**.

The following year came the launch of **John Craven's Newsround** the first television news bulletin in the world to report directly to children, though millions of adults tuned in as well! John stayed for more than 3,000 editions, spending 17 years with the programme and filming special reports from more than 40 countries. For ten years, he was also one of the main presenters on Saturday morning television.

For **CountryFile**, John travels thousands of miles a year to all corners of the UK and mainland Europe. The programme takes up much of his time, but he makes guest appearances on many radio and television programmes and every Christmas presents a wildlife special on the **BBC**, **Animal Sanctuary** with locations that have included Australia, Africa, the United States, Mauritius and Chile.

In March, 2000, John was handed the big red book by Michael Aspel on **This Is Your Life**.

During his career, John and his programmes have received many awards, including two **BAFTAs**, and a **TV Times Award**. He also received a **Gotcha Oscar** from his old friend from Saturday morning television, Noel Edmonds.

John is married with two daughters and lives in Oxfordshire.

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