

The Best TV to Watch in July According to the Numbers

Now the football fever brought on by the *World Cup* and the antics on *Wimbledon* has passed, what does UK telly have to offer us to keep us entertained through the summer months?! Well, many fellow Brits have been tuning in to the shows I've handpicked here, according to the viewing figures, so why not let those decide your next TV binge?!

Whether it's an intense thriller you want to watch with the curtains drawn and well into the early hours or want something to get the brain cells active whilst you're tucking into your evening dinner, I'm hoping one of my top picks is right up your street.

Option 1: Ann Droid



Sue Johnston, Diane Morgan & Kathryn Hunter pictured in 'Ann Droid'.

The latest comedy outing from the irreverent Diane Morgan comes the bombastic tales of the “Ann Droid” known as Linda. Alongside TV veteran, Sue Johnston, Morgan takes on the emotionally void role of Linda, the android assistant, as she is brought into the life of recently widowed Sue. With Sue’s son, Michael fleeing the nest, he brings her the gift of Linda, whether Sue likes it or not.

The series on the exterior seems like a rather silly outing with no real substance, but the show does tackle some poignant narratives such as the loneliness epidemic for the elderly and the reliance on artificial intelligence, so it’s definitely worth a shot. With a few pretty fierce laughs thrown in too, what’s not to enjoy?!

So, if you’re wanting some easy viewing to bide your time and pass on a few hours, this would be a pretty stellar pick. Not only that, but millions have already flocked to watch; this has been one of the biggest comedy launches for some time with over 4.6 million people watching the first two episodes, data from *BARB*¹ reveals.

1. BARB is the official provider of UK TV viewing figures. It includes all those who watched live and within 7-days of initial broadcast.

Option 2: The Great British Sewing Bee



The entire cast, host and judges of Series 12 pictured.

If a sitcom is not what you fancy, but you still want something light-hearted and wholesome, perhaps some gentle competition might be the show for you.

The twelfth series of *The Great British Sewing Bee* is firmly underway on BBC One, with 10 talented sewers being welcomed into Sunnybank Mills, just outside Leeds, to whip up some of the zaniest and most beautiful creations with nothing but fabric and a sewing machine.

The latest series has found itself a new host in the form of Sophie Willan (known for the critically acclaimed *Alma's Not Normal*), and she, along with our judges, are on top form yet again. The series did return right in the midst of *World Cup* carnage, so its viewing figures took a knock, but they're on the rise with episode 2 hitting over 4.1 million.

Series 12 is now almost halfway through, but if you're enjoying the vibe of the *Sewing Bee*, iPlayer has another eleven series for you to catch up on too, so you'll definitely not be going short. If *Bake Off*'s your thing, this will be a pretty safe option for your next viewing obsession.

Option 3: The Dark



A promotional photo for the series picturing Laura Donnelly as DI Monica Kennedy.

If you're wanting something a little more grittier, then maybe ITV's latest six-part thriller might be the pick for you. Based on the G.R. Halliday novel 'From the Shadows', the show follows DI Monica Kennedy and DC Conor Crawford on their hunt for a serial killer in the Scottish wilderness.

The tone of the series has had some praise, and the numbers are shaping it up to be the best drama of the month. Almost 3.2 million tuned in for episode one and that audience has remained pretty consistent with a little under 2.7 million coming back to it for its second instalment. These may not be the biggest numbers, but viewership always hits a slump during the

hotter months, so if that many are still tuning in, why not you too?!

When it's blistering outside, sometimes sitting in a dark room with the fans on and a hard-hitting drama might be exactly what you need!

Option 4: Alan Carr's Picture Slam



Alan Carr pictured on the set of 'Picture Slam'.

Now, if after all that, you're just not feeling a comedy series or gritty drama, maybe a simple gameshow might get the cogs turning. Alan Carr is back on the BBC with yet another series of *Picture Slam*. Watch as teams of two simply say what they see, quite literally. From brands to celebrities to monuments, do you recognise as much as you think? Especially since Carr's tremendous run in *The Celebrity Traitors* last year, *Picture Slam* has picked up some very solid numbers with the latest series

launching to over 2.3 million. These numbers are enough to topple that of *Only Connect* over on BBC Two, and *The Hit List*.

This show may not test you quite like *University Challenge*, but don't get too comfortable as it's quite easy to trip up on even the most obvious answers. Head on over to iPlayer now and see how many picture slams you can get!



An image of a hand holding a remote in front of the TV

Now, if none of those can settle you for a few hours, maybe you'll find something out there we'd never even considered?! What with the endless streaming platforms and stellar British drama across the breadth of primetime TV, there'll always be something for everyone,

Come back to us next month as we take a dive into the sea of content August had to offer us!

