

# TV or no TV? That is the question

Article and illustration by Bill Naylor



**I agree with the sentiments expressed by Bruce Springsteen in his 1992 song "57 Channels (and nothing on.)" In the US, there are around 2,000 TV channels. In the UK, about 480. And most of them seem to feature the same annoying people; over-opinionated shouty**

**men and women with sink plunger lips.**

Every time a new programme or an old one is resurrected, it seems to spawn a new channel. Having once worked in the industry, I used to watch a lot of TV including the soaps. But even *Emmerdale* has gone downhill since they got rid of the sheep.

So, it was a source of annoyance recently, while I was watching the least annoying programme available, when my wife ruined the evening.

"We need a bigger TV. I know you'll say no."

"That's that sorted then."

"Give me one good reason why we shouldn't get one."

"Because it's late and all the shops are shut. Besides it's a bad time to buy a TV, recession is on the horizon. Big Donald is on the rampage, everybody says so."

"Who says it's a bad time to buy a TV?"

"The money advice guy you like with the tight trousers and long shoes, Martin Lewis, he's dead against it."

"Our TV is outdated.

People have phones with bigger screens. I'd love a cinema-sized screen."

"Don't be irresponsible, you'll cause a power cut. Besides, after every

programme you'll have a woman walk across the room and stand in front of the TV selling ice creams."

"You can joke, but I'm serious, we need a new TV."

"And I'm serious, my petal of the village. I'm not budging on this."

The next morning, I budged and was delivered to the shop to choose a TV where a pink-faced thirteen-year-old salesman in an adult's suit questions me.

"What kind of TV are you experiencing at the moment sir?"

"I'm experiencing a square one with programmes on the front, very handy as we never look at the back."

"And may I ask who is the manufacturer?"

"You may. And would you like me to tell you?"

"If you would."

"It's Japanese. Michy-bishi or mushy-peasi. One of those."

"4K, sir?"

"God no, it wasn't that expensive."

"4K is today's TV reality, sir. Over 8million pixels provides you with the 4K experience. Are you a gamer, sir?"

"You could say that. I was domino champion three years running."

"Do you stream at all, sir?"

"Not during the day, but I do have to get up in the night a couple of times."

"Then I would recommend the Songsungblue 90 inch ultra smart TV, sir."

Unfortunately, because this never came with its own room I had to go for a smaller model. It's clever but I'm not convinced it's smart, as its choice of programmes is equally as bad as that of its predecessor.

