

Springwatch will be back on your screens soon

BBC are bringing back Springwatch at the end of May for a series of live programmes to keep you entertained.

The programmes will begin on BBC Two on Tuesday 26 May 2020 with Chris Packham, Gillian Burke and Iolo Williams who will be joined by guest presenters Steve Backshall, Ellie Harrison, Gordon Buchanan and Megan McCubbin from their home patches across the country.

Wildlife presenter Steve Backshall will join the team from his area of the UK on the Thames, ecologist Ellie Harrison from her Cotswold base and wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan will cover nature stories from Scotland.

In addition, wildlife TV presenter and zoologist Megan McCubbin will join her step-father Chris Packham, with whom she has been self-isolating in the New Forest. Megan will share her fascination with animal science and her observations on how this spring is developing for our wildlife.

This series intends to celebrate both the wildlife and the science stories that showcase the diversity of UK habitats and species. Programmes will feature a number of pre-recorded films, captured just prior to the introduction of government restrictions on movement. More recent content is being shot in accordance with official guidance on self-distancing.

Steve Backshall said: "Springwatch is a time for the whole nation to come together and plug into our wild world at its very best. It's a chance to see the secret lives of our

British animals and celebrate the grand and glorious natural canvas that makes our countryside so special. This has been a spring like no other, but how has it affected our wildlife and wild places? This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to find out.”

Ellie Harrison said: “This spring, perhaps like any other, we are turning to nature to keep us well. I’m absolutely delighted to be joining the Springwatch team this year and really looking forward to sharing the wonders of our wildlife from my own patch in the Cotswolds.”

Gordon Buchanan said: “One downside of my globetrotting work as a wildlife filmmaker is that I haven’t witnessed a British spring in its entirety for over 15 years. But now, being home here in Scotland, the wonder of nature has been my key distraction in these challenging times – perpetually fascinating and endlessly fulfilling. I am hugely excited to be part of Springwatch 2020 and will do all I can to bring a big slice of wild Scotland into people’s homes from the stunning Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.”

Megan McCubbin said: “In this challenging time of self-isolation, we have found ourselves engaging with the wildlife in our communities like never before. This is an exceptional year for Springwatch and for UK wildlife, so I am incredibly excited to be part of the team bringing the latest science and stories to your screens.”

Springwatch is on BBC Two for three weeks from Tuesday 26 May 2020 at 8pm.

The series is produced by BBC Studios in partnership with The Open University and was commissioned for the BBC by Jack Bootle, Head of Commissioning, Science and Natural History. It will be executive produced by Rosemary Edwards for BBC Studios.