# Chris Packham revives musical Easter eggs for Springwatch’s 20th anniversary



Chris Packham is set to reignite his tradition of embedding song titles into the upcoming series of "Springwatch," which returns for its 20th anniversary. The popular nature show will air live from the scenic Longshaw Estate in the Peak District, featuring Packham alongside Michaela Strachan and Iolo Williams in Northern Ireland. Packham has long enjoyed incorporating lyrics from iconic bands, a unique twist that has delighted viewers over the years.

Reflecting on his early days with "Springwatch," Packham revealed to MailOnline that he originally clandestinely wove in references from bands such as The Smiths, David Bowie, and The Clash. He recounted how this practice became somewhat of an expectation among fans, leading him to eventually retire the technique due to a sense of monotony. However, for this milestone anniversary, he decided to re-engage with the concept, promising to include five or six titles from a yet-to-be-disclosed band.

Fans of the show have noted his knack for cleverly blending musical references with wildlife commentary. For example, during a previous broadcast, he referred to a bird being fed by its mother as “a case of Bigmouth Strikes Again,” demonstrating his innovative approach. Notably, many viewers have compiled highlights of his musical nods, celebrating his status as a beloved figure in wildlife broadcasting.

Packham's inventive style is not limited to just music; he has also crafted narratives resonant with historical themes, as seen in his inclusion of Second World War film titles during Autumnwatch 2014. His versatility has captured the imaginations of nature lovers, who find added joy in hunting for these musical Easter eggs within his commentary.

Despite the celebratory nature of this anniversary, Packham has expressed concerns regarding the future of wildlife in the UK. Recently, he has been vocal about the dwindling budget for "Springwatch," branding the UK as one of the most nature-depleted countries globally. "Springwatch will always be needed," he asserted in an interview with Radio Times, underscoring the importance of the show in raising awareness about biodiversity and environmental issues.

As "Springwatch" prepares to celebrate its two decades on air, audiences can expect an engaging mix of wildlife updates, heartfelt commentary, and, of course, the signature musical references that have become a hallmark of Packham's hosting style. The series will air from May 26 to June 12, with episodes broadcast every Monday to Thursday.

Ultimately, Packham's inclusive approach not only enriches the viewing experience but also signals an underlying call to action for conservation, reminding audiences of the fragility of the natural world amidst cultural celebrations.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14751029/Chris-Packham-hidden-secret-messages-Springwatch-bbc-anniversary.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/the-clash-get-surreptitious-springwatch-namecheck-from-host-chris-packham-8633913.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14751029/Chris-Packham-hidden-secret-messages-Springwatch-bbc-anniversary.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/8596009/Springwatch-viewers-spot-Manic-Street-Preachers-in-undergrowth.html), [[5]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/watch-chris-packham-cram-manic-1829334)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-50250191), [[6]](https://www.nme.com/blogs/nme-blogs/springwatch-vs-david-bowie-28309)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14751029/Chris-Packham-hidden-secret-messages-Springwatch-bbc-anniversary.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/watch-chris-packham-cram-manic-1829334)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14751029/Chris-Packham-hidden-secret-messages-Springwatch-bbc-anniversary.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14751029/Chris-Packham-hidden-secret-messages-Springwatch-bbc-anniversary.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/the-clash-get-surreptitious-springwatch-namecheck-from-host-chris-packham-8633913.html), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-50250191)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tv/article-14751029/Chris-Packham-hidden-secret-messages-Springwatch-bbc-anniversary.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/the-clash-get-surreptitious-springwatch-namecheck-from-host-chris-packham-8633913.html> - In this article, Chris Packham, the host of BBC's 'Springwatch', is reported to have subtly incorporated song titles by The Clash into the show. Viewers noticed references to tracks like 'Should I Stay Or Should I Go' and 'Hitsville UK' during the broadcast. This follows Packham's previous inclusion of songs by bands such as The Smiths, Manic Street Preachers, and The Cure in earlier episodes, showcasing his creative approach to engaging the audience.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/8596009/Springwatch-viewers-spot-Manic-Street-Preachers-in-undergrowth.html> - This piece highlights Chris Packham's practice of embedding song titles by the Manic Street Preachers into his 'Springwatch' commentary. Viewers identified at least 25 references, including phrases like 'Design For Life' and 'If You Tolerate This Your Children Will Be Next', seamlessly woven into discussions about wildlife. This technique adds an extra layer of enjoyment for fans familiar with the band's discography.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-50250191> - In this article, Chris Packham reveals that he managed to incorporate 14 song titles by Eddie and the Hot Rods into an episode of 'Autumnwatch'. This tribute to the band's recently deceased frontman, Barrie Masters, included references to tracks like 'Do Anything You Wanna Do' and 'Teenage Depression', demonstrating Packham's dedication to blending his passion for music with wildlife broadcasting.
5. <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/watch-chris-packham-cram-manic-1829334> - This article discusses Chris Packham's efforts to include Manic Street Preachers song titles in his 'Springwatch' commentary. Examples include describing a barn owl's feast as 'everything must go' and referencing 'Design For Life' when discussing biodiversity. This approach adds a playful element for viewers familiar with the band's music.
6. <https://www.nme.com/blogs/nme-blogs/springwatch-vs-david-bowie-28309> - This article highlights Chris Packham's inclusion of David Bowie song titles in his 'Springwatch' presentations. Packham managed to incorporate 49 Bowie-related puns, showcasing his creative approach to blending his love for music with wildlife broadcasting. The article includes video clips of these references, allowing readers to appreciate the subtlety and wit involved.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/tvandradioblog/2009/jun/11/chris-packham-springwatch-smiths> - In this piece, the author critiques Chris Packham's attempt to insert Smiths song titles into 'Springwatch'. The article discusses specific instances where Packham used phrases like 'a sweet and tender hooligan' and 'last night I dreamt that somebody loved me', questioning the effectiveness and appropriateness of this approach in the context of a wildlife programme.