

Springwatch Production Team

Minsmere

Suffolk

19 May 2015

Dear Springwatch



**Please Broadcast a Singing Nightingale**

We are writing to you as you are on the front line of the BBC's broadcasting that connects people with nature. You may know that the best part of 3,000 people have just signed a petition asking the BBC to re-start its historic annual May live broadcasts of Nightingales, which used to attract over a million listeners (started May 19 1924, abandoned in 1942 and never re-started). The petition is attached: please read it for the BBC.

You will know that Minsmere is one of the few remaining places where it is relatively easy to hear Nightingales, and the 'Barley Bird' as it is locally known, is well loved and celebrated by singers like Ziazan (who lives just nearby and recently recorded a live duet with a Nightingale), and the folk singers at the Harbour Inn at Southwold and locals. But most of your viewers are not so lucky. Please take the opportunity, if you can, to broadcast (or just live stream) a live singing Nightingale once again.

Our website is at [www.nightingalenights.org.uk](http://www.nightingalenights.org.uk) (@NgaleNights) and the petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/nightingales>. Last year the BBC did a recorded programme but that is part of the problem: Nightingales can live on in our culture yet disappear from real life, from nature. The attention you can help generate, and the joy that millions could share if you broadcast one of the few remaining birds, could help make a difference.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. R.', with a period at the end.

Chris Rose and Phil Rothwell (chris@campaignstrategy.co.uk)

Nightingale Nights project; 12 Jolly Sailor Yard, Wells Next the Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1LA  
01328 711526

PS

Here are some of the reasons people gave as to why they signed:

"Hearing a nightingale is one of life's magical moments". Alison R

"If the last nightingale sings its last song, we are all in serious trouble..." Cat D

"FOR OUR CHILDREN" Alison H

"The song of the nightingale is amazing and shouldn't be lost. Let's give everyone the chance to hear it" James R

"I've never heard the nightingale!" Anne L

"I heard the last nightingale sing itself to extinction in my old home patch - For four years it came, each time, perfecting its singing voice further as it tried to sing down a mate. The pathos of its carrying power, depth and range of notes was breath taking and heartbreakingly beautiful. Every nightingale I've heard since (fewer each year) could not hold a candle to this torch singer." Nicola C

"This is a great opportunity to highlight the plight of these fabulous birds". Chris M

"It is years since I last had the privilege to hear Nightingales sing. This would be a wonderful thing in its own right for the BBC to broadcast but it would also help raise awareness of the species plight and help save it as a British species". Jonathan W

"Would be tragic if this beautiful bird disappeared from our country" Hetty L

"This is a song never to be lost" Julian P

"A beautiful sound that we need to hear" Felicity B

"To hear a nightingale sing at night on a still May evening in the moonlight is just magical - there simply is nothing better in the natural world in my opinion. To learn that nightingales are heading to extinction in England is truly shocking. Let's do everything we can to support this campaign and keep those magical nightingales nights in May alive". Tim B

"it's been years since I heard a Nightingale sing!" Giorgio M

"Another member from our natural world, sadly on the decline, there are so many in this sorry situation. Nightingales, as the rest, need to be protected. So, if in the natural world, they are not heard as they once were, the BBC broadcasting its song would be a chance for so many to hear its song". Jason S

"Because it is a truly life enhancing experience to hear. A wonderment !!" Norman C

"I've never heard a Nightingale sing and I'm sure loads of others haven't either; so give us a chance, BBC, before it's too late!!" Claire B

"To have experienced at first hand the magical song of a nightingale is to have tasted some of the richest and most powerful and uplifting sensations of the world....." Rachel H

"I signed because this little bird needs all the help it can get to avoid extinction". David W