



## TAKE PART IN THE BIG LUNCH 2010 & GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS

**The Big Lunch** is calling on all neighbourhoods and communities across the UK to come together on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July**. Events around the nation are taking shape from simple tea parties in back gardens to large street parties for the whole neighbourhood.

Last year, the first Big Lunch saw the best part of a million people come together, hosting events ranging from simple back garden barbecues to full-on street parties with entertainment, games, food, music and bunting that quite literally stopped traffic. This year, The Big Lunch is encouraging millions more to join forces and knock on the door of their neighbour, say hello and invite them for lunch.

The Big Lunch is led by the Eden Project with the support of a family of partners, The Big Lottery Fund, MasterCard, EDF Energy and the Department of Communities and Local Government who all want to break down barriers and build bridges within neighbourhoods through The Big Lunch 2010.

Eden Project Chief Executive, Tim Smit, comments:

“Last year on a rainy day in July the first Big Lunch brought a huge number of neighbours together to laugh, share food and get to know each other.

“The Big Lunch is all about building stronger communities as well as being a chance to get together and have fun. This year we are hoping that many millions more will knock on their neighbour’s door, say hello and join streets across the country for an even bigger Big Lunch on Sunday July 18th.”

Sir Clive Booth, Chair of the Big Lottery Fund comments: “The Big Lottery Fund’s good cause cash is all about bringing communities together, reducing loneliness and isolation and helping to make a difference locally. By supporting The Big Lunch, we are delighted to be able to help people throughout the UK achieve this goal.”

For a whole menu of ideas on how you can run your own Big Lunch, or to find a Big Lunch in your area, visit [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com). Also become a fan of The Big Lunch Facebook fan page or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/thebiglunch](http://www.twitter.com/thebiglunch) for up to date information.

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For further information, case studies or spokespeople please contact Caroline Rams or Leena Patel in The Big Lunch Press Office at Cake on 020 7307 3104 or email [caroline@cakegroup.com](mailto:caroline@cakegroup.com) or [leenap@cakegroup.com](mailto:leenap@cakegroup.com).

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About The Big Lunch**

The Big Lunch is led by the Eden Project, with the support of a family of partners – The Big Lottery Fund, MasterCard, EDF Energy and the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Once a year, we would like as many people as possible to sit down to lunch together with their neighbours in a simple act of community. Last year, in the first-ever Big Lunch, there were 8,263 registered lunches with an estimated 730,000 people taking part, a good start on a rainy summer Sunday. This year we are encouraging millions more people to pull up a chair for the second Big Lunch on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Eden Project is wholly owned by the Eden Trust, an education charity. Eden uses exhibits and educational programmes to remind people of what nature gives us and to help them learn how to look after it in return. Since fully opening in a former china clay quarry in Cornwall in March 2001, Eden has attracted more than 11 million visitors and generated more than £900 million for the regional economy.

