

# **The Great Get-Together**

*Embargo: 00.00 22 February 2017*

## **Biggest community event since the Jubilee to be held across the UK**

### **HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, Patron The Big Lunch, hosts the launch of *The Great Get-Together* with Jamie Oliver**

Tens of thousands of community get-togethers are being planned in what could be the biggest community event since the Jubilee. Details of the events are to be announced on Wednesday, 22 February at a reception hosted by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall at Clarence House, London.

Jamie Oliver will join the Duchess in the Clarence House kitchen as preparations are being made ahead of the formal reception.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall will host the launch at Clarence House as patron of The Big Lunch, one of the founding partners of The Great Get-Together alongside The Jo Cox Foundation and dozens of other community groups, NGOs and faith groups.

*The Great Get-Together* will take place over the weekend of June 17 and 18. People are being invited to come together with friends, neighbours and others they don't yet know for street parties, picnics, barbecues and bake-off competitions. It follows the first anniversary of Jo Cox's murder on June 16 last year.

It is expected to be the biggest event of its kind since the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The weekend will be an opportunity to celebrate all that Britain's diverse communities hold in common.

Peter Stewart of The Big Lunch said: "The Great Get-Together will be a fantastic celebration. The Big Lunch has taken place every June since 2009 supported by the Big Lottery Fund. We are delighted to join forces with the Jo Cox Foundation and dozens of other groups this year to invite more people than ever to come together and celebrate in their communities. The Big Lunch is all about sharing food and coming together with your neighbours. In 2012, 8.5million people took part in The Big Jubilee Lunch in parks, streets, gardens and community spaces, all having a great time together. Like Jo, we believe in togetherness and achieving a sense of community, collaboration and fun! We want to share that idea with everyone."

Jo's husband, Brendan Cox, who will speak at the launch, said: "Jo loved a party and she would have been thrilled by the idea of *The Great Get-Together*. As she said in her maiden speech in parliament – we have far more in common than that which divides us. Jo wanted a chance to bring our communities together to celebrate what unites us. There could be no more fitting tribute to her memory than *The Great Get-Together* helping to do just that".

Jamie Oliver said: "There's nothing better than a good get-together with friends, family and amazing food. *The Great Get-Together* takes it to a whole new level! Food connects us to the best things in life – it breaks down barriers, and gets people talking and sharing happy times like nothing else. This is an awesome initiative, and I'm really proud to add my support."

*The Great Get-Together* is supported by charities, faith groups and other organisations including the Women's Institute, the Countryside Alliance, the RNLI, Help for Heroes, Mumsnet, the Glastonbury Festival, the TUC, the Premier League, Hope Not Hate, Amnesty International, Oxfam, Save The Children and the NSPCC.

In her New Year message, the Prime Minister remarked on Jo's death, saying 2017 represented an opportunity to move forward and "bring this country together, as never before". The weekend in June will be a landmark moment in seeking to fulfil that objective. Further details will be released as the weekend approaches, but this high-profile launch will be the opportunity for people all over the country to think about what they could do.

Representatives of many of the participating organisations will attend the event at Clarence House from 12.30 on Wednesday, 22 February.

Media access to the reception at Clarence House will be on a Royal Rota basis. For further details of the pooling arrangements please contact: the Clarence House Communications office on 0207 024 5728.

Pre-filming opportunities for media will be held in Jo's former constituency of Batley and Spen and in London as follows:

**Friday, 17 February. 12.30: The Aakash Indian Restaurant, Bradford Road, Cleckheaton, BD19 3PN.** This was one of Jo's favourite restaurants. Her sister, Kim Leadbeater, will be joined by locally based supporters of *The Great Get-Together* including The Big Lunch to discuss plans for the weekend of June 17 and 18 in Batley and Spen. Kim and others will be available for interview – **material strictly embargoed for use from 00.00 on 22 February.**

Tuesday, 21 February, London. 10.00 – 11.30: St. Luke's Community Centre and Cookery School, 90 Central Street, London EC1V 8AJ. St. Luke's is one of the thousands of venues that will be hosting events as part of *The Great Get-Together*. The Centre provides services across the community in a very deprived area of London. Brendan Cox and Peter Stewart will be meeting some of those who will be involved in June and volunteers will be preparing food for everyone to eat and a cake to take to Clarence House the following day. An over-55s group will be arriving for lunch at 12.00 and can also be filmed. Brendan and Peter will be available for interview as well as a representative of St. Luke's. [www.slpt.org.uk](http://www.slpt.org.uk) - **material strictly embargoed for use from 00.00 on 22 February.**

## **Notes for editors:**

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For more information about the work of The Jo Cox Foundation see: [www.jocoxfoundation.org](http://www.jocoxfoundation.org)

For more information about The Big Lunch see: [www.edenprojectcommunities.com/thebiglunch](http://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/thebiglunch)

[For more information about The Duchess of Cornwall visit www.princeofwales.gov.uk](http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk)

### **About The Big Lunch**

- The Big Lunch is the UK's annual get-together for neighbours, an idea from the Eden Project made possible by the Big Lottery Fund. This year the annual event takes place on Sunday 18 June.
- Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall is Patron of The Big Lunch.
- Over the past eight years, Big Lunches of all sizes have happened in all kinds of communities – in streets, back gardens, parks and local community venues. Thousands of events have taken place each year, with a whopping 7.3 million people taking part in 2016 in over 90,000 events.
- The Eden Project started The Big Lunch in 2009 with the belief that we're better equipped to tackle the challenges we face when we face them together. We work to connect people and communities across the UK, encouraging everyday people to make positive change where they live.
- To take part in The Big Lunch, you can request a free starter pack, which contains invitations, posters, stickers and a handy guide to getting started, at [www.edenprojectcommunities.com](http://www.edenprojectcommunities.com) or by calling 0845 850 8181 to speak to one of the team.
- The Big Lunch can be found @[edencommunities](https://www.facebook.com/edencommunities) on Facebook , Twitter and Instagram.

### **About The Great Get-Together**

- The public will be able to sign up to host an event or find out what is happening in their area by going to: [www.greatgettogether.org](http://www.greatgettogether.org)