



Under strict embargo until 12:00 (noon) on Sunday 5 June 2022

Community spirit reigns as 15 million people join in Big Jubilee Lunch celebrations for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- 15 million people join in with Big Jubilee Lunches on 2-5 June
- 200,000 individual events held in cities, town and villages UK-wide
- Members of the royal family, sporting heroes, politicians and celebrities join local community celebrations

Despite mixed weather across the nation, 15 million people in neighbourhoods in all four corners of the UK came together for Big Jubilee Lunch celebrations marking HM The Queen's 70 years of service during the special bank holiday weekend.

Record breaking numbers turned out at a variety of events ranging from street parties and garden gatherings, to picnics and barbeques. Neighbourhoods were decked out in miles of bunting, as people of all ages seized the opportunity to reunite and cherish a moment of community connection.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, patron of The Big Jubilee Lunch, joined the Lambeth community, RVS Platinum Champions and special guests including Elaine Page OBE, One Show presenter Alex Jones, Gyles Brandreth and Ade Adepitan at London's iconic Oval cricket ground. Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex met picnic goers at a Big Jubilee Lunch held at Windsor's Long Walk, while Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie surprised children and families at a fete-style Big Jubilee Lunch in Westminster.

The longest street party was held at Morecambe Bay, where more than 5k people gathered along 2,500 feet of the seafront at tables laid all the way to the town hall, as 10k people joined the party at the nation's biggest Big Jubilee Lunch - a massive multicultural celebration in Avenham Park, Preston.

The scale of celebrations reached all four corners of the UK - the most westerly event took place at Enniskillen Castle in Northern Ireland where people shared picnics and visited a special exhibition about HM The Queen's 70 years of service, while as far north as the Shetland Isles, an intergenerational Big Jubilee Lunch brought the whole community together.

Among the thousands of other events around the country were the Indian-Hindu Welfare Organisation family picnic in Northampton, Bristol Cathedral's Big Jubilee Lunch, where the community raised funds for local food charities, a multi-faith walk and garden party at Westminster Abbey, a street party extravaganza in Llandrindod, Wales, and London Youth Rowing's waterside celebration at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic

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Park, where Sir Keir Starmer was invited by three-time Olympic champion Andy Triggs Hodge to enjoy a cuppa, chat to young people and their families and try out some water sports!

Peter Stewart, Executive Director of Eden Project who heads up The Big Jubilee Lunch initiative said: “We have been bowled over by the level of enthusiasm for community celebration this year. Over 100,000 people registered to host Big Jubilee Lunches, but what we have seen has far exceeded our expectations. Who could have predicted that 15 million people would turn out to enjoy friendship, food and fun and mark HM The Queen’s momentous 70 years of service?! This phenomenal response expresses the sense of community spirit in neighbourhoods all around the UK, our appetite for making local connections, and shows just how much we have all longed to get back together.”

The Big Lunch, that this year became The Big Jubilee Lunch marking HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee is an annual opportunity to celebrate community connections and get to know one another a little better. It’s an idea from the Eden Project made possible by The National Lottery, partnered by Iceland and The Food Warehouse, PG tips, Nextdoor and Pears Foundation.

Since 2009, The Big Lunch has been bringing millions of people together every year to celebrate community, with 9 million people participating last year across the UK and over £7m raised for good causes through community events. This year The Big Jubilee Lunch kick starts a whole Month of Community throughout June.

To join in and find out more go to www.thebiglunch.com

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About The Big Jubilee Lunch

This year The Big Jubilee Lunch is an official part of Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations 2-5 June. It kicks off the Month of Community, offering a feast of opportunities to share friendship, make positive local connections and raise money for good causes where you live.

The Big Lunch is an idea from the Eden Project made possible by The National Lottery, partnered by Iceland and The Food Warehouse, PG tips, Nextdoor and Pears Foundation.

We’ve been bringing neighbours and communities together to share food, friendship and fun on the first weekend in June since 2009. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall has been Patron of The Big Lunch since 2012.

Get your free Big Jubilee Lunch pack and get your community on the map at www.thebigjubileelunch.com

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