



Proud to be supporting The Queen's Diamond Jubilee  
Patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

PRESS RELEASE  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012

**Six million sit down to celebrate sixty years**  
**- record number take part in the Big Jubilee Lunch**

A record number of people across the country sat down today with their neighbours for a Big Jubilee Lunch. Organisers estimate that more than six million people took part in the annual Big Lunch community get together – this year to celebrate The Queen's 60-year reign.

Big Jubilee Lunches were hosted in every nook and cranny of the UK: from the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides to the Isle of Wight, from Hillsborough Castle in County Down to Great Yarmouth in Norfolk to Penzance in Cornwall.

The tens of thousands of Big Jubilee Lunches took many forms, from traditional street parties to picnic lunches in back gardens or local parks. Lunches ranged in size from private gatherings of 10 people, to larger public lunches for thousands – with the largest in Greenwich, south east London, hosting up to 10,000 people.

Big Jubilee Lunch Director, Peter Stewart, said: "We knew that this year's Big Lunch was going to be extra special. It has really captured the nation's imagination – not to say its love of a royal celebration. We have been bowled over by the response from people up and down the country who not only wanted to get together and have lunch with their neighbours, but wanted to celebrate this very special occasion in a time-honoured fashion."

It's not just the UK that broke out the bunting for a Big Jubilee Lunch. From sunrise to sunset today, people in 70 countries across the globe took part in Big Lunches to celebrate The Queen's 60-year reign. International lunches have been held in Nigeria, Afghanistan, Islamabad, Delhi, Durban, Kathmandu, on the Polynesian island nation of Tuvalu and even in the Arctic Circle.

The Lottery-funded Big Jubilee Lunch is part of the programme of events taking place this weekend to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee as announced by Buckingham Palace, and has Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall as its patron. Led by the Eden Project, the aim of The Big Jubilee Lunch is to encourage neighbourhoods to come together to share lunch and a few hours of community, friendship and fun. Last year, around two million people took part in the Big Lunch.

The Big Lunch organisers announced today that next year's Big Lunch will take place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2013.

**ENDS**

**Note to Editors:**

1. The Big Lunch is led by the Eden Project, a UK Social Enterprise and Charity. Since starting in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all kinds of communities, and in 2011 the number of participants doubled to the best part of two million. This year a record number of people across the UK are expected to participate.
2. The Big Jubilee Lunch has received a message of support from The Queen. In addition, more than 50 of the UK's largest community groups, membership organisations and charities are supporting the BJL, including the Scout Association, Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, Neighbourhood Watch and Age UK.
3. Big Jubilee Lunch is led by the Eden Project and made possible thanks to funders Big Lottery Fund and partners MasterCard, EDF Energy, Kingsmill and Asda.
4. For further information visit <http://www.thediamondjubilee.org/big-jubilee-lunch> and [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com).
5. Media enquiries: The Big Jubilee Lunch Press Office on 020 7255 6429