



Press Release Wednesday 16 April

Eden Project head chef helps launch nationwide Big Lunch Recipe Search

[LINK TO IMAGES](#)

The Big Lunch is back and has today [16 April] launched a new nationwide search to unearth hidden culinary gems and the stories behind them with the help of celebrity chefs including Ainsley Harriott, Dame Prue Leith and Briony May Williams. It is part of Eden Project's campaign to invite people to take part in The Big Lunch, the UK's annual celebration for neighbourhoods and communities, which takes place on 7 and 8 June.

The recipe search has been launched in response to a new national survey conducted by YouGov that revealed Brits love to cook but are in urgent need of inspiration to get themselves out of a cooking rut. The new data reports that almost one in seven of all UK adults (14%) NEVER cook a completely new recipe, with around a quarter of people (24%) admitting that a lack of ideas discourages them from cooking from scratch.

The report dives deeper into the nation's kitchen habits, finding that while four in ten UK adults (40%) report they are more likely to cook meals from scratch compared to five years ago, many of us hold back from trying new dishes due to a lack of ideas and inspiration. **Eden Project's head chef, Mike Greer, has created a unique variation of a potato salad** to mark the recipe search launch. He aims to inspire Eden Project visitors offering up new delicious flavours and encourages home cooks UK wide to roll up their sleeves and share their favourite recipes at www.TheBigLunch.com!

Mike said: "This unique twist on a classic potato salad is a dish that is great for sharing and perfect for picnics. It is allergen free, suitable for vegans, easy to prepare and delicious. Potatoes can be grown at home quite easily and you don't need a huge amount of space for them, so it's something fun that children can get involved in too."

At the Eden Project, Mike Greer's curried potato salad uses turmeric and coriander grown at the attraction's state-of-the-art Growing Point nursery. It is one of the many culinary delights currently on offer to visitors, in a menu filled with fresh and tasty choices. Mike and his team at the Eden Project serve up a vast array of meals every day. Dishes are focused on supporting healthy people living on a healthy planet, using Eden-grown produce wherever possible and reflecting the stories told within the exhibits on site.

A Cornish home cook getting ready to submit her recipe is **Sarah Moore, who is Chair of Trustees at Friends of Bude Sea Pool**. The largely volunteer-run space has become a community hub, with more than 200 people giving up their time to ensure the pool continues to provide people with the chance to spend time outdoors, exercise and connect with each other. Bude Sea Pool has held an annual Big Lunch since 2010, with Sarah always on hand to bake hundreds of her special scones to share out at the waterside event.

Sarah

said: "I'm excited to be sharing my scone recipe as part of The Big Lunch Recipe Search. Scones are a classic f

or a reason and they always go down a storm at our annual Big Lunch, where I like to serve them with my homemade rhubarb jam. Easy to make and always perfectly fluffy, you can't go wrong with this recipe— as long as you serve your scones jam first, of course!"

Top chefs are supporting the initiative, including Dame Prue Leith, Ainsley Harriott and Bake Off's Briony May Williams.

Dame Prue Leith said: "The Big Lunch Recipe Search is more than just a way of finding and rewarding the people behind the UK's best home recipes. It is an invitation to people everywhere to join in with The Big Lunch and share food and friendship together. It is a chance to celebrate the recipes that we love sharing with others and the special role that food plays in strengthening relationships, celebrating who we are, our passions, culture and traditions and that sense of belonging where we live."

Home cooks who submit the recipes that they feel bring people together are in with a chance to have their recipe featured in a Big Lunch online cookbook and shared at thousands of Big Lunch events up and down the UK this June.

Submissions will be reviewed by the team behind The Big Lunch alongside chefs and supporters, and five finalist recipes will be

able to join a special invite-

only Big Lunch event in May, with one home cook in with the chance to take home a bumper hamper of goodies to help with their own Big Lunch event.

Lindsey Brummitt, Programme Director for The Big Lunch, said: "The Big Lunch has always been about sharing food and making new connections - and with this new evidence confirming that people agree food tastes better when we eat it together we have the perfect excuse to get in the kitchen and make a dish to share! This recipe search is about finding new and inspiring dishes to try together, so add your dish to a growing recipe bank of shareable favourites and come together to feed community spirit with The Big Lunch on 7-8 June!"

In the coming months, the Eden Project team behind The Big Lunch will be popping up around the UK to host food sharing moments, with opportunities for people to bring their recipes along to share friendship and good conversation.

The Big Lunch is an idea from the Eden Project made possible with support from the Pears Foundation and partners Co-op and Greene King. It's the UK's annual celebration for neighbours and the biggest community-led fundraiser, bringing millions of people together in a nationwide act of friendship in June every year since 2009. Her Majesty The Queen has been patron since 2013.

To find out more and share your favourite recipes go to www.thebiglunch.com

ENDS

About the research

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2081 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between

11th - 12th March 2025. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK adults (aged 18+).

About The Big Lunch

The Big Lunch is an idea from the

Eden Project made possible by the support of Pears Foundation and corporate partners Co-op and Greene King. It's the UK's annual celebration for neighbours and communities bringing millions of people together in a nationwide act of friendship on the first weekend in June every year since 2009. Her Majesty The Queen has been Patron of The Big Lunch since 2013.

For The Big Lunch follow us at @edencommunities: Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and for Eden Project news follow @edenprojectcornwall on Instagram, TikTok / @edenproject on X and LinkedIn. To find out more about The Big Lunch go to www.TheBigLunch.com and for the Eden Project go to www.EdenProject.com.

About Eden Project

The Eden Project is an educational charity that demonstrates and inspires positive action for the planet. As a growing movement of global citizens, it reconnects people with nature, demonstrates and communicates positive change, and inspires advocates of action.

For more information see www.edenproject.com.

About Pears Foundation

Pears Foundation is an independent, British family foundation driven by a desire to demonstrate the good that philanthropy can achieve in the world. It is the philanthropic foundation of the Pears family, who have given more than £450million to charity since the Foundation was established. The foundation is focused on building long-term relationships with partners, providing core funding and offering more than money through organisational and leadership development programmes, with the aim of demonstrating the foundation's vision of good philanthropy and the value of leading by example. To find out more, visit pearsfoundation.org.uk

About Co-op

Co-op Group is one of the world's largest consumer co-operatives, with interests across food retail, funerals, insurance, and legal services. Co-op is owned by and run for its 6.2 million members. With over 2,300 food stores and more than 800 funeral homes, Co-op also supplies products to 6,000 other outlets, including those run by independent co-operatives, through its wholesale business, Nisa Retail Limited. Employing 55,000 people, Co-op has an annual turnover of over £11 billion and is a recognised leader in social goals and community-led programmes. Co-op exists to meet members' needs and champion the causes they believe in.

About Greene King

Greene King is the country's leading pub company and brewer with c.2,600 pubs, restaurants and hotels across England, Wales and Scotland. It's passionate about delivering its purpose to 'pour happiness into lives' - for customers, team members, pub partners, suppliers and the communities in which Greene King live, operate and serve. Founded in 1799 with offices in Bury St. Edmunds,

Suffolk and Burton on Trent in Staffordshire they employ around 39,000 people across the group with three divisions: Greene King pubs & Pub Partners, Destination Brands & Ventures, and Brewing & Brands.



MADE POSSIBLE BY

eden
project

Pears
Foundation

PARTNERED BY

co
op

GREENE KING
PUBS & RESTAURANTS

We demonstrate and inspire positive action for the planet

Search. Join. Act.

edenproject.com | Eden Project, Bodelva, Cornwall, PL24 2SG

The Eden Project. Home of the Eden Trust. Charity No. 1093070

This message may contain information from The Eden Project that is privileged or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any further disclosure of this message is prohibited. Please let The Eden Project know that an error has occurred by calling or messaging the sender.

The Eden Project has taken all reasonable precautions to ensure that no viruses or damaging material are present in this e-mail. We cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage arising from the use of this message or attachments and suggest that you use virus checking procedures in the normal way.

