**PRESS RELEASE May 2021**

Turning a celebration of gardens into vital support for nursing and health charities

**Mary Berry launches this year’s Great British Garden Party**

Mary Berry, President of the National Garden Scheme and the Nation’s undisputed Queen of Cakes is launching the 2021 Great British Garden Party, a major event to celebrate the importance of everyone’s gardens and to raise vital funds for some of the UK’s best-loved nursing and health charities supported by the National Garden Scheme.

Speaking about this exciting initiative Mary said: “As President of the wonderful National Garden Scheme, I am delighted to invite you to join me in hosting a Great British Garden Party this year.

“We’re inviting everyone, it doesn’t matter whether your garden is large or small, tidy or untidy – it’s a place for enjoyment. This celebratory event gives us all an opportunity to share our gardens whilst raising funds for vital nursing and health charities. Your garden party could be afternoon tea and cakes, prosecco by candlelight, a coffee morning and book swap or even a plant and produce sale by the front gates – the choice is yours and everyone can get involved.”

George Plumptre, Chief Executive of the National Garden Scheme added: “Gardens and outdoor spaces have never been more important to everyone. They provide us with the perfect place to meet friends and family, to socialise and relax so celebrating them seems entirely natural. Combining these celebrations with fundraising for the amazing nursing and health charities that the National Garden Scheme supports and which have made a formidable - but largely unsung - contribution through the pandemic creates a wonderful reason to hold a Great British Garden Party.”

**The official Great British Garden Party dates are Saturday 4th – Sunday 12th September, but you can choose any day across the summer that is best for you.**

Joining the Great British Garden Party couldn’t be simpler. Sign up on the National Garden Scheme website, invite your guests and the National Garden Scheme event team will support you on your way. Together we can help support our nurses and celebrate the joy our gardens give us.

<http://ngs.org.uk/gardenparty>

Invite your friends and family to join you in a celebration of your garden while helping to raise funds for vital nursing charities and be part of something special.

“To add colour and fun to everyone’s celebrations this year, the National Garden Scheme has teamed up with Talking Tables. Their recyclable products bring eye-catching colour and joy to the table, while their generosity will help us support some of the UK’s best loved nursing and health charities,” adds George Plumptre.

As part of the partnership in 2021, Talking Tables will be donating a 5% royalty payment to the National Garden Scheme for sales of their most popular, recyclable ‘Truly Scrumptious’ ranges of party accessories and hand-curated Great British Garden Party tea party kits throughout April – September 2021. For more see: [National Garden Scheme – Talking Tables UK Public](https://www.talkingtables.co.uk/pages/national-garden-scheme)  
  
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**SUPPORTING IMAGES are available to download here:** <https://bit.ly/GreatBritishGardenParty2021>

**Please observe credits.**

Note to editors:

The National Garden Scheme has been raising millions of pounds for nursing and health charities by opening private gardens across England and Wales since 1927. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the charity to close its garden gates from April to June - its key fundraising months – for the first time in its history, leaving a shortfall in funding for its beneficiary charities. As the single largest funder of Marie Curie’s work, the longest standing partner of Macmillan Cancer Support and a key funder for Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Parkinson’s UK and The Queen’s Nursing Institute this shortfall is having a major impact on these key nursing charities.

The Great British Garden Party is an initiative designed to celebrate the key role played by our gardens and outdoor spaces in our health and wellbeing and to reduce the funding shortfall to enable key nursing and health charities to continue providing their vital services.

For more about all of the National Garden Scheme’s beneficiaries and donations see our 2020 Impact Report [here](https://ngs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NGS-Impact-Report-2020_spreads.pdf)

**National Garden Scheme gardens are now open** across England and Wales and following COVID-19 guidelines all visitors must currently pre-purchase tickets on our website for a timed slot at their garden of choice. For more information and updates see: <https://ngs.org.uk/>

**Key facts about The Great British Garden Party:**

* It’s open to everyone, not just people who open their gardens for the National Garden Scheme
* It’s completely free to take part
* 100% of all funds raised will go towards the nursing and health charities that the National Garden Scheme supports
* Included in the digital fundraising pack are invitations, posters and social media assets, plus menu and party inspiration and fundraising tips
* Participants can also host their Great British Garden Party outside the core campaign period of Saturday 4th – Sunday 12th September with fundraising materials available from 4th May
* Event partner, Talking Tables, will donate 5% of proceeds from the UK sales of their Truly Scrumptious Ranges including specially curated tea party kits from April 1st – September 30th 2021

**THE GREAT BRITISH GARDEN PARTY WEBSITE IS** [**https://ngs.org.uk/gardenparty**](https://ngs.org.uk/gardenparty)

For more information please contact:

**Vicky Flynn** – Communications Manager – [Vicky@ngs.org.uk](mailto:Vicky@ngs.org.uk) – 07980 135909   
or  
**Anna Willi** – Head of Marketing and The Great British Garden Party Co-ordinator – [anna@ngs.org.uk](mailto:anna@ngs.org.uk) 01483 213901