Press Release – April 2023

**Get together for a Great British Garden Party**

Dame Mary Berry, President of the National Garden Scheme and the Nation’s undisputed Queen of Cakes, is championing the Great British Garden Party as it enters its fourth, delicious year in 2023.

This fundraising event has been designed by the National Garden Scheme to share the Nation’s love of gardens and get-togethers to help raise vital funds for their beneficiaries, some of the UK’s best-loved nursing and health charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, The Queen’s Nursing Institute and Parkinson’s UK.

Speaking about the initiative Dame Mary Berry said: “As President of the wonderful National Garden Scheme, I am delighted to invite you to join me in gathering friends, family and colleagues for a Great British Garden Party this year.

“We’re inviting everyone to get together in their garden, green space or office and to join in the fundraising for the vital nursing and health charities supported by the National Garden Scheme; charities that so many of us, our family and friends often rely on in times of need.

“We’ve been so inspired by previous get-togethers and the ingenious variations on the garden party theme, tailoring events to suit the outside space available and to families and friends.

“Some party hosts simply threw open their garden gates and invited their neighbours for afternoon tea or morning coffee, making new friends. But your garden get-together could be anything from a barbecue or family bake-off, a picnic in the park or book swap in the office or even a plant and produce sale by the front gate. It doesn’t even have to be in a garden – 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. They provide us all with the perfect place to meet friends and family, to socialise and relax, so using them to support such important health-related causes by holding a Great British Garden Party seems like the perfect opportunity to plan something wonderful. It doesn’t need to be complicated or grand, just invite some friends over, ask them to make a donation, and help make a difference.”

Why not make your Coronation celebrations into a fundraiser too! King Charles III, as the former Prince of Wales has been Patron of the National Garden Scheme since 2002, he said: “For me, the wonderful thing about the National Garden Scheme is its unique blend of Britishness – the marriage of nursing and gardens; the exemplary role of volunteers; the cumulative fundraising power of small events; the championing of local community activity and the celebration of what gardens can do for the benefit of us all.”

**The official Great British Garden Party campaign week is Saturday 15th – Sunday 23rd July, but you can choose any day across the summer (or autumn or winter!) 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 all the way.

[SIGN UP AND JOIN IN](http://ngs-wp.tclhosting.co.uk/gardenparty)

**Talking Tables partner for a third scrumptious year …**

“We’re delighted that Talking Tables are once again our event partner for the Great British Garden Party. Their products bring eye-catching colour and joy to the table, while their generosity helps us support everyone’s fundraising,” adds George Plumptre.

Commenting on the partnership, Clare Harris, founder and director of Talking Tables said: “I am delighted that Talking Tables is partnering with the National Garden Scheme again in 2023. As an enthusiastic gardener myself, it is all too easy to be busy “doing” in the garden and not to take the time to enjoy the garden with others. To invite a few people over for a cup of tea and cake; to pause, chatter and relax in your own garden, is such a lovely thing to do.

“Many of us will be grateful for the support of nursing care as we age or need support for our family, so raising funds for such a great cause becomes even more worthwhile and a real motivation to host a Great British Garden Party.

“This summer I will be hosting my third Great British Garden Party. The first year I invited some fellow gardeners from my village to share a cup of tea and was very proud of myself making a courgette cake, prettily decorated with flower petals. The second year I hosted our senior management team from Talking Tables, and we enjoyed some time out together. In 2023 I plan to invite my local gardening friends again, and hopefully they can share some tips on improving my wildflower meadow.

“Whichever way you choose to enjoy your garden with friends or colleagues this year, you know that you will be supporting something special.”

As part of the partnership in 2023, Talking Tables will be donating a 5% royalty payment to the National Garden Scheme of proceeds from the UK sales of the most popular ‘Truly Scrumptious’ ranges of party accessories including hand-curated Great British Garden Party tea party kits throughout April – September 2023.

[EXPLORE THE TEA PARTY KITS](https://www.talkingtables.co.uk/pages/national-garden-scheme)

-ENDS-

**SUPPORTING IMAGES are available to download here – please observe credits and copyrights where shown and use only in association with the National Garden Scheme’s Great British Garden Party fundraiser:** <https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-KFqvM2/>

Note to editors:

**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 and printed fundraising packs 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
* 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 2023.

**About the National Garden Scheme**

The National Garden Scheme has been raising millions of pounds for nursing and health charities by opening private gardens across England, Wales and Northern Ireland since 1927. In 2022, the charity made record donations of £3.11 million to its beneficiaries. 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 consistent and generous funding is of significant importance to the continuing operations of these 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 created by the COVID pandemic, enabling key nursing and health charities to continue providing their vital services.

For more about all of the National Garden Schemes beneficiaries and donations see our 2022 Impact Report [here.](https://ngs.org.uk/our-impact-in-2022-3-11-million-donated-to-some-of-uks-best-loved-nursing-and-health-charities/)

**The Great British Garden Party website is:** [**https://ngs.org.uk/gardenparty**](https://ngs.org.uk/gardenparty)

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