The Big Lunch

Street parties are very popular in Britain. People put tables and chairs in the street outside their houses and have lunch with their neighbours! It’s an old tradition and it dates back to the end of World War I. When the war ended, in 1918, there were celebration parties in the streets. People decorated their streets, prepared a lot of food and organised games for the children. They called these parties ‘Peace Teas’. After that, street parties became popular at every national celebration.

Today there are street parties every year in Britain. Millions of people participate in a summer event called The Big Lunch. On the day of The Big Lunch there are street parties all over the country. In 2012, The Big Lunch was the official street party for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.
‘I live in Stretford Road in Manchester and every year my family and neighbours organise a street party on the day of *The Big Lunch*. We decorate the street and prepare some food. There’s usually a big barbecue with chicken, hamburgers and sausages. Then we have baked potatoes, rice salad and barbecued vegetables. Finally, there are a lot of cakes and sweets. Mum and I usually make a big chocolate cake and it’s always very popular!

**I think *The Big Lunch* is fantastic!** Before it started, we didn’t know the people in our street. Stretford Road is a great place to live now. Thank you Big Lunch!’