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**Big Lunch competition in Northern Ireland**

The Big Lunch is running an art and poetry competition open to people of all ages across Northern Ireland with prizes of £25 in vouchers for a range of age categories and £100 for the overall winner.

To enter, just mail in an image or a poem to be used on one piece of bunting, using words and/or images, that show what community means to you. The shortlisted images will be shared on social media and printed onto a string of bunting that will brighten up community events across Northern Ireland for years to come. Community groups and schools are welcome to submit multiple entries, in one envelope or email.

Winners will be chosen by Irish story teller, Liz Weir MBE, and Grainne McCloskey and Niamh Scullion from The Big Lunch Northern Ireland.

The Big Lunch is an initiative from the Eden Project and National Lottery that connects people and encourages friendlier, happier and safer neighbourhoods. The Big Lunch invites everyone to take part on the first weekend of June every year, to join the millions who get together to share food and fun with their communities annually on the first weekend in June. Your community may be your neighbourhood, school, community group or just a few friends.

Register online for a free starter pack or find out more at [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com).

**To enter the competition:**

Entries must be all your own work – **visual art, poetry or mixed format** - that conveys **what community means to you**. It should be no larger than **A5 landscape** and must be **received by 7pm on the 6th of May 2019**:

**Each entry should be clearly marked on its reverse side with:**

1. Entrant’s name.
2. Age category entered: Up to 7yrs; 8-10; 11-17; 18+years. If you are under 18, please provide parents name and signature of consent.
3. Name of community group or school if appropriate, with address inc. postcode, email, and contact number. Also teacher’s name if appropriate.

Schools and groups please send multiple entries in one envelope/email. Entries from individuals are also accepted. If you email please send **downloadable files** and we will confirm receipt. Personal data will only be used for the purposes of the competition. The judges’ decision is final.

Submit your entry by email to: communities@edenproject.com

or by post to:

Grainne McCloskey - The Big Lunch Competition

C/o National Lottery Communities Fund,

1 Cromac Quay Belfast, BT7 2JD

**ENDS**

For more information contact Niamh scullion on 07850914533 or nscullion@edenproject.com

**Notes to Editors:**

**About The Big Lunch**

* The Big Lunch [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com) is an idea from the Eden Project made possible by the National Lottery.
* Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall is Patron of The Big Lunch.
* The Big Lunch brings people together. On average 6 million people meet to share food and fun at The Big Lunch every year.
* Over the past 10 years, half a million Big Lunch events of all sizes have happened in all kinds of community spaces – in streets, back gardens, parks and local community venues.
* It’s an initiative run by the Eden Project Communities team who connect people and communities across the UK, encouraging everyday people to make positive change where they live.
* The Eden Project started The Big Lunch in 2009 with the belief that we’re better equipped to tackle the challenges we face when we face them together.
* Bringing communities together, reducing loneliness and isolation and helping to make a difference locally is at the heart of the National Lottery’s mission.
* The Big Lunch enables UK communities to fundraise for the things that matter to them, with £8m raised in 2018 of which over £6m was donated to local causes.
* This year the annual event takes place on the weekend of 1st and 2nd of June.
* Free starter packs, tips and ideas can be found at [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com) or call 0845 850 8181 to speak to our team.
* The Big Lunch can be found **@edencommunities** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**About Big Lottery Fund**

**Big Lottery Fund** uses money raised by National Lottery players to help communities achieve their ambitions. From small, local projects to UK-wide initiatives, our funding brings people together to make a difference to their health, wellbeing and environment. Since June 2004 we have awarded £8.5 billion to projects that improve the lives of millions of people.

[**www.biglotteryfund.org.uk**](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) on Twitter and Facebook [**@BigLotteryFund**](https://twitter.com/BigLotteryFund) or Instagram **big\_lottery\_fund**