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**Rain Stopped Play? Stoves' SoS To Save Summer BBQs**

*Saturday August 2 is expected to be the biggest barbequing day in Britain according to research, but it could well be a washout - more than three-quarters (78%) of us have had a barbeque rained off in the last year, and weather tops the list of things which stops us eating outdoors.*

**/24-7PressRelease/** - LEEDS, UK, July 19, 2008 - August 2nd Expected to See Most UK BBQs... But Will It Be A Washout?

Saturday August 2 is expected to be the biggest barbequing day in Britain according to research, but it could well be a washout - more than three-quarters (78%) of us have had a barbeque rained off in the last year, and weather tops the list of things which stops us eating outdoors.

Astonishingly, a third (33%) of the UK population has between six and 15 BBQs a year - though many have ended a damp squib according to the new survey by leading cooking appliance brand Stoves, which has prompted an SoS - 'Save our Summer BBQs' campaign with celebrity chef Brian Turner.

The research into the UK's barbequing habits has uncovered just how much the British climate is dampening the UK's passion for cooking outdoors, with more than three-quarters of respondents (78%) revealing that it is the unpredictable British weather that will keep them away from the BBQ this summer.

The survey, which questioned 1,000 people, also discovered that just over half of respondents (51%) have up to five BBQs per year, but 80% of us would happily have more if it wasn't for the damp British weather.

The poll asked respondents which day and month they would most likely to have a BBQ this year and Saturday August 2 came top - most likely a combination of school summer holidays, hope of good weather and, for dads in particular, ahead of the start of the football season.

Jane Rylands, Marketing Services Manager at Stoves, said: "The British public clearly love a BBQ, the only problem is our climate - last summer was a complete wash-out.

"The BBQ party that was either postponed or moved indoors because of rain is an all too familiar sight in Britain, so this year Stoves have come up with a 'Plan B'.

"Using little more than a bit of advance preparation, some quick marinades, and a few top tips from top chef Brian Turner we can easily cook BBQ-style food in our kitchens."

Unsurprisingly, the survey also confirmed that the BBQ really is a male domain, with over two-thirds (67%) of males admitting to taking the head chef role. Females seem happy to take a back seat though, with nearly a quarter (23%) admitting they don't enjoying cooking outdoors.

Burgers topped the poll of the nation's favourite BBQ food taking a third (33%) of respondents' votes. Steak came a close second, preferred by nearly a quarter (23%), with the Aussie BBQ favourite - shrimps (prawns) - lagging behind with only 5% of people citing them as their favourite BBQ dish.

Meanwhile, figures from the Met Office reveal that last summer was the wettest since records began with 387.6mm of rain falling on England and Wales between May and July. What is more, Met office predications for the remainder of this summer predict chances of more frequent cloudy and cool spells compared to recent summers prior to 2007 and a possibility of above-average rain.

The threat of an August 2 wash-out is worse from long range forecasters Positive Weather Solutions, Senior Weather

Forecaster Jonathan Powell said: "August will probably see the highest temperatures across the UK for the year - however, the first two-weeks of the month look distinctly unsettled, with showers very much in evidence, and thunderstorms a distinct possibility. Any fine conditions will be short lived, but there may well be sufficient enough drier weather, to enable some limited outdoor cooking"

### 'Save our Summer BBQs' Campaign

With the UK's obvious love for all things BBQ but the anticipated unpredictable soggy weather, this summer Stoves is helping the nation rescue the BBQ season by encouraging more people to make preparations for impromptu indoor cooking with its 'Save Our Summer BBQs' campaign, led by celebrity chef Brian Turner.

Brian's top tips for an indoor BBQ this summer include:

1. Set the scene by turning the indoors outdoors - use garden furniture, big plants, scented candles, lanterns, picnic plates and bowls, plastic glasses and a big bucket filled with ice and beer, cider or Pimm's
2. Think about your menu - sausages and burgers are old BBQ favourites but you can also experiment with kebabs, tasty marinades, roasted vegetables and fish or shellfish such as king prawns. For dessert, toast marshmallows on the gas hob or try fruity kebabs, apples or bananas cooked in the oven
3. Keep cutlery to a minimum - it's a BBQ not a sit down dinner!
4. Turn up some fun upbeat/ weather themed music to keep everyone's spirits high! A few favourites include: Summertime (Will Smith), Walking on Sunshine (Katrina and the Waves), Raining Men (Weather Girls)

Brian Turner added: "BBQs are a lot of fun but in this country more often than not they are subject to the changeable British summer weather. There is no reason why people can't apply the principles of outdoor barbequing to the indoors.

"Sausage, burgers, steaks and kebabs can all be cooked on a griddle pan to achieve that authentic barbequed flavour. Tasty marinades can spice up chicken, fish and beef and salads and roasted vegetables make a great alternative to chips.

"With a bit of thought and imagination it is easy to create an authentic indoor BBQ this summer."

"For Brian Turner's 'Best Burger in the World' recipe, indoor BBQ ideas and more information about the 'Save Our Summer BBQs' campaign visit [www.stoves.co.uk/bbq](http://www.stoves.co.uk/bbq)

\*For further information about Stoves visit [www.stoves.co.uk](http://www.stoves.co.uk) or call 0871 222 2625.

### Photography

The image shows celebrity chef Brian Turner launching the Stoves 'Save our Summer BBQs' campaign

### Notes to editors

1. Research was carried out in June 2008 by YourSayPays, a research panel operated by The Leadership Factor. A national sample of 1,000 people were polled.
2. All research carried out by YourSayPays, a research panel operated by The Leadership Factor ([www.leadershipfactor.com](http://www.leadershipfactor.com)), the UK's leading source of customer satisfaction data. It has a panel of 12,000 members covering the UK with all demographic sectors represented. Surveys are conducted in line with the MRS code of conduct

### Further information

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