

11<sup>th</sup> June 2012

## 2012: THE YEAR OF THE NEIGHBOUR

- *Brits more likely to get to know people living near-by*
- *North East residents most likely to know their neighbours very well*
- *People who rent increasingly likely to get to know their neighbours*

With thousands of communities coming together in 2012 for sporting and royalty themed parties, a new survey has revealed that the UK is becoming a more neighbourly nation.

The annual **HSBC Neighbours Survey**, published ahead of Neighbourhood Watch Week (16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June), reveals that we are having more interactions with the people we live near.

Compared to last year's survey, Brits are more likely to have been inside their neighbours' home (56% v 42%), lent them something (43% v 28%) or fed their pets when on holiday (29% v 16%).

Other popular neighbourly interactions on the increase include having barbecues (14%) and looking after spare keys (21%).

### Top 10 interactions with neighbours

	2012	2011
1. Been inside their home	56%	42%
2. Invited them into your home	47%	37%
3. Lent them something	43%	28%
4. They have lent you something	33%	26%
5. Feed their pets/water plants when away	29%	16%
6. They feed your pets/water your plants when away	28%	13%
7. They keep your spare house keys	22%	10%
8. You keep their spare house keys	21%	12%
9. Had BBQs together	14%	11%
10. Your children play together	12%	7%

Regional variations in neighbourly relations remain. Those living in North East England are most likely to know their neighbours 'very well' (27%), compared to just 10% in London.

The upturn in neighbourliness is not confined to people who own their home, with renters also now more likely to get to know people living near-by.

41% of people who rent have been inside their neighbours' home (up 13%) and 32% have borrowed something from their neighbour (up 16%).

Despite the apparent improvement in neighbourly relations, some of the most common causes of aggravation just won't go away. Almost of a fifth (19%) of those surveyed complained about neighbours stealing parking spaces and 12% have had to put up with loud music.

Peter Dockar, Head of [Mortgages at HSBC](#), said: 'It was great to see communities across the nation coming together to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, and no doubt many more parties are planned to mark the Olympics. Getting to know your neighbours can create a real sense of community spirit and it's great to have someone to call on when you need them most.'

Further findings from the **HSBC Neighbours Survey** can be found on the HSBC newsroom at <http://www.newsroom.hsbc.co.uk/>

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**Notes to Editors:**

Survey sample: 2056 British homeowners (aged 18+) questioned 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> March 2012

**SURVEY FINDINGS** (further data for UK regions available upon request)

**In general, how well do you know your surrounding neighbours?**

	Total
<b>Very well</b>	16%
<b>Quite well</b>	49%
<b>Hardly at all</b>	30%
<b>Not at all</b>	4%

	All	Scot	North East	North West	Yorks	West Mids	East Mids	Wales	East	London	S East	S West
<b>Very well</b>	16%	14%	27%	15%	17%	14%	18%	18%	15%	10%	15%	17%
<b>Quite well</b>	49%	50%	42%	50%	44%	45%	47%	57%	51%	48%	50%	51%
<b>Hardly at all</b>	30%	30%	26%	31%	34%	34%	30%	23%	30%	31%	31%	29%
<b>Not at all</b>	4%	6%	5%	3%	5%	5%	4%	2%	4%	8%	2%	3%

**Which of the following have you or your neighbours done for each other?**

	Total	Renters			Homeowners		
		2012	2011	% change	2012	2011	% change
<b>Been inside their home</b>	56%	41%	28%	+13%	63%	49%	+14%
<b>Invited them into your home</b>	47%	37%	27%	+10%	51%	43%	+8%
<b>Lent them something</b>	43%	35%	19%	+16%	47%	32%	+15%
<b>They have lent you something</b>	33%	32%	19%	+13%	34%	29%	+5%
<b>Feed their pets/water plants when away</b>	29%	18%	8%	+10%	34%	19%	+15%
<b>They feed your pets/water your plants when away</b>	28%	17%	7%	+10%	32%	17%	+15%
<b>They keep your spare house keys</b>	22%	11%	5%	+6%	27%	12%	+15%
<b>You keep their spare house keys</b>	21%	10%	5%	+5%	27%	14%	+13%
<b>Had BBQs</b>	14%	14%	5%	+9%	14%	15%	-1%

<b>together</b>							
<b>Your children play together</b>	12%	15%	5%	+10%	11%	11%	0%
<b>None of the above</b>	24%	36%	42%	-6%	19%	28%	-9%

**Which of the following annoy you about your neighbours?**

	Total	Renters	Homeowners
<b>Steal parking spaces on road</b>	19%	14%	22%
<b>Being noisy too early or late</b>	16%	23%	13%
<b>Annoying pets</b>	14%	13%	15%
<b>Poor upkeep on garden/house</b>	12%	11%	13%
<b>Noisy in garden</b>	12%	11%	13%
<b>Nosey/interfering</b>	12%	15%	10%
<b>Playing loud music</b>	12%	17%	9%
<b>Noisy children</b>	9%	6%	10%
<b>Having a van parked outside</b>	8%	6%	9%
<b>Endless building work/noisy DIY</b>	8%	9%	7%
<b>Putting rubbish in bin/stealing bin</b>	6%	7%	5%
<b>They have parties</b>	5%	7%	5%
<b>Always want to stop and talk</b>	5%	4%	5%
<b>Teenage children have parties when parents away</b>	3%	4%	3%
<b>Caravan parked outside</b>	3%	2%	3%
<b>Too many BBQs</b>	3%	2%	3%
<b>Defy sprinkler bans</b>	2%	1%	2%
<b>None of the above</b>	41%	40%	42%

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