

# Our party secrets

From playing family games to doing karaoke, six famous faces tell Nathalie Whittle what a good – and bad – celebration means to them...



## “I THROW A BIG CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE GARRAWAY CLAN EVERY YEAR”

**KATE GARRAWAY, 50, lives with her husband, Derek Draper in London. They have two children, Darcey, 11, and William, seven.**

**Party host or guest?** Having recently had a big party at my house, I'd say guest right now as it took a day to clear up!

**Wallflower or party animal?** Definitely party animal – but I am shyer than people think, especially if I don't know many people at a party.

**Party traditions?** I throw a big Christmas party for the full Garraway clan every year. There's about 28 of us and we'll play daft games like pass the sprout, a version of pass the parcel with age-appropriate forfeits.

**Any disasters?** I had a hideously embarrassing moment at a friend's New

Year's Eve party a few years ago. I was chatting in the kitchen, perched on their radiator, when suddenly it came away from the wall and water started gushing everywhere. I had to call a plumber at 3am and ended up borrowing my friend's wellies desperately trying to mop everything up.

**Confidence trick?** The right underwear that makes me feel smooth and sexy under an outfit.

**Tipple of choice?** A bit of mulled wine; it's so warming and makes you feel festive from the first gulp.

**Top of your playlist?** Jackie Wilson's *Higher* – we play it on my radio show and I always get up and have a bop around.

**Ever made a faux pas?** I've turned up on the wrong day, worn fancy dress to a normal party, normal clothes to a fancy

dress party – you name it, I've done it! **The moment you dread?** If it's my own party, the half hour before everyone is supposed to turn up. I always panic that no one will come, so these days I bully close friends into getting there really early. **Tip for entertaining?** Always put away or cover up things you're worried about getting damaged. You're never going to have fun if you spend all night fretting about someone spilling red wine on your cream carpet.

**NYE plans?** We'll get everyone together at a friend's house, so the kids can snuggle up together and watch a DVD when they start to flag... and we can keep going.

*Kate presents on Smooth Radio, weekdays 10am-1pm. Her book, The Joy of Big Knickers (Blink Publishing) is out now.*

## “A MASSIVE GIN AND TONIC IS MY PARTY WEAPON OF CHOICE”

**JAMES MARTIN, 45, is in a relationship with PA Louise Davies and lives in Winchester.**

**Party host or guest?** I quite like to host and then chill out in the background.

**Planner or panicker?** Definitely a planner – you have to be in the restaurant business.

**What gets you in the party mood?** A massive gin and tonic is my weapon of choice.

**Best ever party?** About six months ago I went to my mate's stag do and to be honest, I can't remember anything after 11am!

**Any disasters?** I catered for a large function when I was in my teens and working on pastry and I got the Fahrenheit and Celsius mixed up... disaster.

**Top of your playlist?** I've probably got the worst and smallest playlist of anybody – it consists of two albums: Coldplay and Oasis.

**Tip for entertaining?** If all else fails, cook for yourself and drink for yourself.

**The moment you dread?**

The cleaning up – and my dog bringing in a sausage roll two months later from the garden.

**First or last to leave?** I was always the last, but too many people have smartphones and cameras nowadays, so it's best to slip away before the mess starts.

**Exit strategy?** The dog needs to go out for a wee.

**The one thing you've learnt about parties?** Not many people believe that the dog needs to go out for a wee!

**NYE plans?** I'll be chilling at home all Christmas and New Year. >>

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