

AUGUST 2017

FROM THE EDITOR



This issue has got lots in it to amuse, inspire and put us in a summer mood - from Kyra Montagu and Simon Furlonger's breezy beach life in the Dominican Republic (pages 59-65) to the wonderful garden at the dramatically sited Lismore Castle (pages 112-117) in Ireland, which is being sensitively developed by Lord and Lady Burlington, the son and daughter-in-law of the Duke of Devonshire. But strangely, one of the more remarkable things is the extraordinarily smart melamine and acrylic picnicware on display from page 15. When plastic picnic kit was suggested as the subject for our shopping pages, I was dubious. The pastelcoloured plates on offer in our local supermarket immediately sprang to mind. But what quickly emerged is there are now plastic plates and glasses out there so smart, decorative and pretty that they could grace the most elegant of picnics and wouldn't be out of place on a dining table either. I'm choosing my plates and planning a picnic as I write.

I am also sitting here wearing the chicest embroidered slippers created in aid of designer William Yeoward's fantastic new charity Screw Cancer (screwcancercharity.com). Leaving hospital after being diagnosed with cancer himself, William felt confused and unable to navigate his way through all the information that was being thrown at him. He wanted greater clarity and thus sprung the germ of his idea for a personalised app that will guide each patient through the complexities of their cancer care. It also, vitally, keeps the important information all in one place, from contacts for the physiotherapist, oncologist, nurses and nutritionist – to name just a few – to relevant helplines and a schedule for the myriad appointments. It's a brilliant idea, which will help bring much needed calmness and positivity to people coping with stressful cancer treatment and aftercare. William is somebody with huge and infectious energy for life, who makes things happen. He is also a born host and entertainer – in 'Food for friends' (pages 119–124), he reveals some of his favourite recipes for summer, the sort perfect for lunch outdoors, perhaps on pretty plastic plates of the sort discussed above.

Enjoy your summer □

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Wallpaper background: 'Tapestry' (rose), by Quercus & Co, from George Spencer Designs