



My day in cups of tea

We asked Hats and Bells founders **HATTY STEAD** and **ANNABEL WALEY-COHEN** to describe their day in tea



HATTY STEAD &

ANNABEL WALEY-COHEN

Londoners Hatty and Annabel have known each other since they were 11 and set up their children's party food business Hats and Bells in 2007. Their book *Hats & Bells Children's Party Cookbook* (Kyle Books) is out now. www.hatsandbells.com

When's your first cup of tea?

Hatty: I start my day with lemon in hot water; this comes from my non-tea-drinking days when I wanted a hot drink to be part of 'tea time'.

Annabel: My husband Sam appears with a cup of tea for me at six o'clock most mornings.

What's your preferred tea-making ritual?

Hatty: A fresh boiled kettle and delegation!

Annabel: I've always been into herbal teas, and so the procedure is pretty quick and simple. According to Sam, I make the worst cup of builders' tea (too weak apparently) and he usually rejects my offerings.

Do you trust other people to make it?

Hatty: Definitely – if someone else makes it, it normally tastes better.

Annabel: With the exception of my immediate family, no. Never! No more than anyone should trust me to make them a standard cup of builders'.

Tea is a very personal thing and everybody likes it served differently.

Are you tea dependent?

Hatty: No, but I like the social aspect of stopping in the day to catch up, de-stress and relax.

Annabel: I think I've become so over the years. I'm quite an on-edge person and find that a cup of peppermint or camomile will soothe and relax me.

Worst tea spillage incident?

Hatty: I don't think I have ever had one; I'm sure that's tempting fate.

Annabel: I'm not sure I want to relive it! We'd just had a brand new cream sofa delivered and within two hours I managed to trip over my spaniel Enzo and spill an entire cup of tea all over it. After a serious panic about how I was going to tell Sam, I simply flipped the cushions over and carried on as normal. It wasn't until Sam did the same thing, months later, that I got busted.