Early life and childhood

Mary Berry was born on May 12th 1935 in Somerset, England, which she credits with contributing to her love of cooking because of her family’s huge and well equipped kitchen. Before attending the prestigious sports school of Milfield, she grew up with her parents and brother: Jonathan, Lucy and Steven. Originally, her mother taught Mary the many skills that have led to her daughter’s success, although her mother Lucy claims she is still the better cook! Interestingly, Mary enjoyed sports, history and more obviously, cooking. Throughout and in conjunction with her career at the BBC, Mary is now a multi-millionaire with a successful empire of cookery books, television shows and sales of her cooking equipment.

Career highlights

At the beginning of her career, Mary worked for the Royal Kitchen where she worked for three years. Throughout this time, she trained in chopping, cutting, roasting and healthy cooking. Unfortunately, while preparing a meal, Berry broke her hand; this meant that she could no longer serve for the Royal Kitchen. Although this might deter others, Mary decided this was the perfect time to plan and write her first cook book, becoming the youngest person to release a cookbook in 1956 at age just 21. Justifiably entering into the Guinness book of records, but this record has since been broken - fourteen times. At the age of 74 in 2009, she was appointed as Head Judge on ‘The Great British Bake Off’. Admirably, Mary has raised millions of pounds for charity through her various activities, including: sponsored bake offs, cake sales and decorating competitions.

Remarkable moments

Controversially, in 2007, it was sensationally revealed that Mary Berry did, in fact, not bake her own cakes as part of the television show ‘The Great British Bake Off’. Instead, Berry preferred to use the luxurious cakes and pastries made by others and falsely claim that they were her own.

Since she began working on her various television shows, Mary has sustained an unbelievable amount of injuries, including: toes broken due to falling casserole dishes, hands cut because of renegade cheese graters and even a black eye caused by slipping on soup whilst cooking. However, because she has been cooking for such a long time, she has also tasted a huge variety of foods, including: tiramisu, cannoli, chocolate fondue and mango sorbet.

Almost unbelievably, Mary also has a family of remarkable characters, including her grandson who contributed to the capture of a criminal.