



Friday 26th May 2023

Hi Folks,

We hope this week's Roundup finds you well having enjoyed something of this summer over the past few days!

This week, we share news of success, point to opportunities next week as it's **Volunteer Week**, there's news from **Tom & The Garden Team**, an update as we near the end of May on our partnership with **Edinburgh Community Bookshop** and we close by wishing the best of luck to our **Marathon Festival Team** for this weekend.....

So we are delighted to start this week's update by formally announcing that Packing Manager Luke Ball will be taking up the role of **Operations Assistant** from 5th June. This is another important step for the organisation bringing dedicated support for Mike and focus to a number of critical areas such as procurement and the management of assets. Congratulations from us all, Luke! We wish you every success.

From Sam we have a gentle reminder ahead of our first **AGM** on June 7th that if you are a member and not able to attend, to let Sam know and a voting form will be sent out to you in advance. Contact Sam Gabayno here (sam@emptykitchens.co.uk)

BUDDY-UP DAY!.....You may have read about it here already or seen Chris's message earlier this week but next week on Thursday June 1st, we are holding a **Volunteer Delivery Driver & Buddy-up Day**. Part of our Volunteer Week program, we see this as a great opportunity to learn more about delivery driving, meet other volunteers, and explore a fresh perspective on the work we do.

Aimed at anyone who wishes to find out more, would love to do it but are needing to feel a little more confident before doing so, or who simply would prefer to not fly solo or who is looking to ride-along rather than drive.

How it works: On **Buddy-up Day**, you will be paired with an experienced delivery driver who will show you the ropes. You will learn how to load and unload, be introduced to our route planning software, using Google Maps, and understand a little more about the communities we serve.

If you are confident in your driving skills, you can also sign up to do a short run yourself. This is a great way to get some hands-on experience and see how volunteer delivery driving works first hand. You could bring your own buddy!

No matter what your experience level, we encourage you to sign up for Buddy up Day. It is a great way to learn more about this key role, perhaps learn new skills, meet fellow volunteers, and help us all make that difference.

Slots are up on Rota Central for you to sign up or you can let us know via volunteer@emptykitchens.co.uk, if you'd like to sign up, or have a chat with Chris when you're in to find out more.

.....And this allows us to point to something else we'd very much appreciate your help with. Next week, as it is **Volunteer Week**.....we'd like to strengthen your presence on the website - To give a profile to your contribution and your why. Maybe a photo and a word or two? Talk to Martin or Emily if you'd like to be involved.

Calling all Kitchen Volunteers and those who'd like to try a shift in the Kitchen. We rarely if ever use these pages to "shout out" for specific roles or shifts but the **Kitchen** next week looks exceptionally light. As things stand, Fi and Scott are on their own on a number of days so please, if you can, see if you can help next week.

News from Tom in The Garden.....

"This week has been a bit of a mix of jobs. Weeding the blackcurrant bushes, pricking out the lettuces and beetroot, mowing and strimming the long grass as well as planting on some carrots (kindly donated by one of our garden volunteers). We also sowed marigolds and nasturtiums to act as companion plants, these will provide food for some of the garden wildlife and hopefully keep them off our veg!"

It's been wonderful to take a moment or two in the sunshine out there this week. Thanks for your amazing work Tom & Team!





It's almost the end of May and our time as the **Edinburgh Community Bookshop** Charity of the Month. Have you had a chance to stop in yet? For the next week or so a portion of their profits will be donated to us - we'll update you on the amount soon!

Thank you to those of you who donated books, which are on their way to the shop today!

And we end by wishing Good Luck to our and all runners participating in this weekend's **Edinburgh Marathon Festival** - If you're not running, it's not too late to support those that are by spreading the word about our team taking part - sharing social media posts to encourage donations would be an enormous help!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend in the way that's most meaningful to you,

[Mike](#), [Janet](#) & [Martin](#)

THE NOTICE BOARD

Edinburgh Community Book Shop:

We remain delighted and grateful to be their chosen Charity of The Month for May. Here's how you can support us and them as we enter the final week....

- Sharing related **social media posts** to spread the word
- Popping into the shop if you're **looking for gifts** or adding to your own book collection!
- **Donating any books** that you'd like to pass on to their next reader. You can either hand them in to Emily and we'll do a big drop-off, or go directly to the shop.

VACANCIES:

We are advertising a further Delivery Driver role. This role is temporary to support us and our core drivers over the next few months. If this position is something you, or someone you know, would be interested in then please see the separate WhatsApp Broadcasts or our website for further information and for details on how to apply

Roles:

- NEW - Delivery Driver (Temporary - fixed term). 26 hrs.

Please make family, friends and colleagues aware of the work we do and what we offer in terms of the variety of roles and the flexibility we offer....as well as being a great place to come and be!

ROTA CENTRAL:

We are doing a lot of housekeeping on Rota Central, updating and clearing, ensuring roles and details are correct. This work will continue over the coming months. If you are not receiving the Wednesday rota email or you are but the role(s) are not the one(s) you signed up for, do let us know.

Most departments are now showing shift availability through to late June. We will be updating to July next week.

This week we've added afternoon shifts (1pm - 4pm) to the **Welcome Desk** with service user on-boarding in particular in mind. Please let us know if you are interested in supporting us here.

Afternoon Delivery Shifts are now available - 2 cars and 1 bike - to allow greater flexibility and choice. Our goal remains 4 cars and 1 bike per day.

Do let us know if you are interested in any of the above roles, have any volunteering or shift queries or problems with Rota Central. Contact us via the WhatsApp channel (07918 121606) or to **Volunteer Services** at volunteer@emptykitchens.co.uk

WEBSITE:

We are extremely keen to include some volunteer testimonies and profiles. You can see the page [here](#). Could you share what being a volunteer with us means to you and perhaps say a little about yourself? Let us or Emily know. You can have a look at the new [Team Page](#) too.

Membership:

We always welcome new applications to be Empty Kitchens Full Hearts Members! As a Member, you have oversight of what we do, you'll influence strategy, and be voting on matters of constitution and governance including electing our Trustees. Members' meetings take place approximately twice a year, so we hope it's not too big a commitment! You can always come and talk to us about it if you'd like to know more before you apply...

Registration forms are available from the Welcome Desk. Our first Members' AGM will be taking place in June, and new Membership applications will be reviewed at the next Board meeting in July.

SOCIALS:

Check out our socials here....



Do please let us know what's on your mind by email at et@emptykitchens.co.uk or just come and have a chat.