

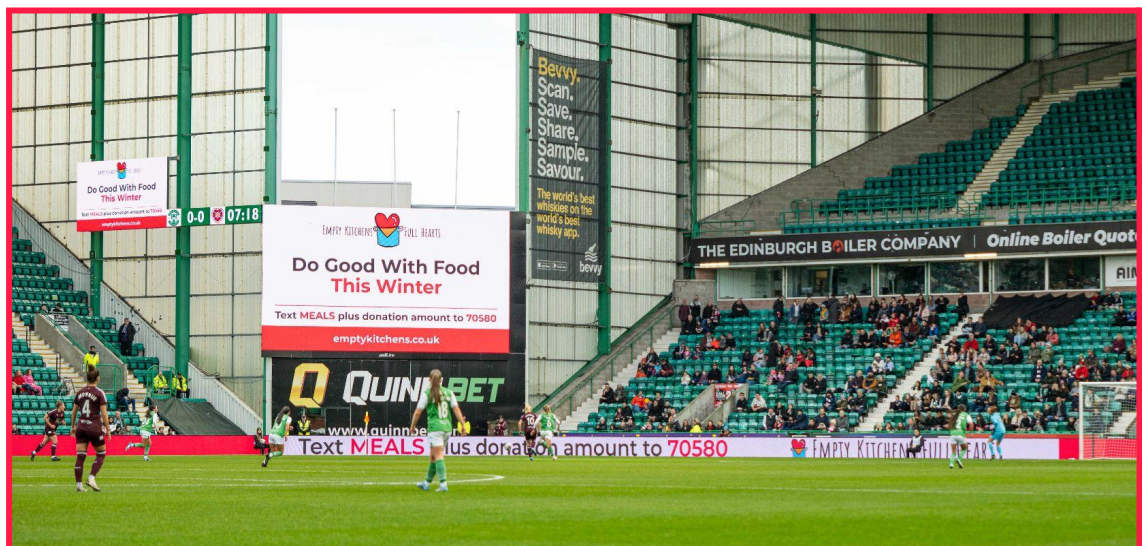


Friday 24th November 2023

Happy Friday everyone and welcome to this week's Roundup!

How's your week been? It's a beautiful Friday here as we pull this week's update together - grateful that we now have a fully functioning heating system!

So, this week.....news of football and fundraising with an opportunity to be involved at an upcoming game - not playing! There is something rather wonderful seeing us represented at the ground like this..... We invite your feedback and thoughts on the Volunteer Handbook as we look to publish an updated version to everyone in the new year.....and visits from funders, friends and of chefs reconnecting



Hibernian Women - Capital Cup Match Sponsorship

Emily went along to Saturday's Capital Cup match between Hibernian Women FC and Hearts Women's FC. As match sponsors, we were able to have our graphics on screen at Easter Road including our logo, website and text to donate information! As an added bonus, Hibernian Women came away with a 2-1 win!

Opportunity - Our next sponsored match is on **Sunday 10th December** at Meadowbank. We are planning to have a presence there with banners and some donation buckets. If you'd like to come along and help with this - or even just to watch the game - just let Emily know! The game kicks off at 4.10pm (but you wouldn't have to necessarily stay for the whole game).

A new volunteer handbook! Call for suggestions

Nobody knows volunteering at Empty Kitchens better than our own volunteers! That's why we would love your input on what to include in our new handbook. We hope this will be a great introduction for new volunteers, helping them feel supported and welcomed. We also want it to be a handy resource for all volunteers going forward.

Our current handbook is linked [here](#), if you would like to have a look.

We are aiming to reduce the word count, include more imagery, and give practical advice.

We would love to hear from volunteers on any advice they have for new volunteers. Even if you would just like to share a quick hello and welcome to the team, that would be great!

If you would like to make a suggestion, let us know in the office, email volunteer@emptykitchens.co.uk, or add to this [Google Jamboard](#). We will be putting a suggestion box in the break room, and sharing [on our Facebook page](#) too.

Shared Prosperity Fund Team Visit

This week, we also had a visit from a team from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This fund supports our Kitchen Assistant Programme, Volunteer Coordinator role, and garden space and hot service projects. It was an opportunity to talk to the team in more detail about what we do and how the funding is supporting our work.

Chefs Getting Together

Bruce, who some of you may know has been with us since the start and whose continued support in the Kitchen we are so grateful for, is reaching out to Chefs who have been part of our journey over the years. If this is you why not get in touch with Bruce or let us know here and we can reconnect you.

Support from Edinburgh Napier Communications Students

We've had some input and support on our social media and wider communications plans from a group of students from **Edinburgh Napier**. You might have worked with some of them if you were in the kitchen or packing last week. Keep an eye on recent and upcoming social media posts to see some of their ideas!



Speaking of which, here's a reminder that we have now launched our **Winter Fundraising Appeal!**



Winter Fundraising Appeal: Do Good With Food This Winter

We have launched our Winter Fundraising Appeal! We are asking people to 'Do Good With Food' and donate to help us to support our service users throughout the winter. We are **aiming to raise £15,000.**

Can you help us to spread the word about the campaign? You can do this by:

- **Sharing** our posts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X (Twitter)
- **Sending** the [website link](#) to family, friends, and colleagues who could donate

The link to the donation page is: <https://emptykitchens.enthuse.com/cf/winter-appeal>

We can also provide a **printed flyer** if that is something that would be helpful. Ask Emily about this!

Could you share this five times? That could be telling friends and family, sharing on social media, or sharing the link. If everyone does this, imagine how many people we will reach!

If you would like to make a donation that would of course be very much appreciated but we are well aware of how much time and energy you already give to us! Please chat to Emily if you have any questions or other ideas about reaching more people.

Thank you for this week everyone. Have a wonderful weekend and maybe, if you can, take a moment to share our Winter Campaign over the weekend,

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

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

THE NOTICE BOARD

Volunteer Services & Rota Central

Shift availability is now live for **December** for all departments.

December and the holidays.....To confirm we will be operational throughout the festive period. **There is extra volunteer capacity on Sunday 24th and on the morning of the 25th across Kitchen, Packing and, specifically on the 25th, drivers.**

Please, if you can, let us know if you're unable to attend for a shift, we know sometimes it's not possible to give us notice, but if you can it's really helpful!

If you are not receiving the Wednesday Rota Central email or you are but the role(s) are not the one(s) you signed up for, do let us know.

If you would like to leave anonymous feedback about volunteering with us, you can always complete [this form here](#). We check the responses regularly.

Let us know if you wish us to add or remove roles, have any volunteering or shift queries or problems with Rota Central or are leaving us.

Contact us via the WhatsApp channel (07918 121606) or to **Volunteer Services** at volunteer@emptykitchens.co.uk Our **Volunteer Coordinator**, Sarah, can be contacted on sarah.hutchison@emptykitchens.co.uk

Health & Safety

As some of you are unfortunately aware, there are a number of viruses doing the rounds. If you are unwell or are sensing the onset of symptoms, please do stay home and let us know you are unable to attend. We wish you a swift recovery.

If you have a gastro related illness or are displaying symptoms please remember that we ask you not to attend a shift until you've been symptom free for at least 48 hrs.

Board of Trustees

The next Board Meeting is on 23rd January 2024.

If you are interested in attending future Board meetings then do let the Secretary, Sam, know.... sam@emptykitchens.co.uk

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.

