



Friday 12th May 2023

Hi Folks,

All but midway through May! Where is the time going? Anyway, we hope this week's Roundup finds you well and with something to look forward to over this weekend.

For us, whilst fully occupied with much of what we've recently told you about here, this week feels like one of those in between weeks following up on and ensuring projects are progressing or as is the case with some, now coming to a head.

If you missed last week's update...Tomorrow we are at the **North Edinburgh Festival**, if you find yourself near West Pilton Park tomorrow please do come and say hi! And by all means stay a while if you can - Fi will be there looking to encourage new Kitchen volunteers but there is nothing more powerful than hearing directly of your experience with us.

We are another week closer to the **Edinburgh Marathon Festival** and our another week checked off training regimes - for those who are running those #MilesforMeals that is! To donate to Linda, Johnathon and all running #MilesforMeals with us you can visit: <https://buff.ly/3F9EraC>

And have you managed to visit **Edinburgh Community Bookshop** yet? Last week we announced that they have chosen us as their **Charity of the Month** for May! The bookshop, which is on Great Junction Street, sells **second-hand books** with the aim of raising funds for local charities and making books affordable for all.



And a reminder of how you can get involved? These sorts of collaborations work best when we can combine as much activity on both sides as possible. You could help us by:

- 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.

Garden Progress... Things are growing! And especially in the polytunnel..... which is the warmest place on site at the moment again.....



THE NOTICE BOARD

VACANCIES:

We now have the following paid opportunities. If any of these roles are perfect for you, or someone you know, then please see the separate WhatsApp Broadcasts or our website for further information and for details on how to apply.

The vacancies:

Volunteer Coordinator (Closing Date: Sunday 14th may)

And of course we are always seeking to welcome more wonderful volunteers.

Please do 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!

NORTH EDINBURGH FESTIVAL:



We'll be there tomorrow - Saturday 13th from 12 pm to around 5pm. It's a jam-packed event with live music, workshops, arts and crafts, and food and drink. We're looking forward to the event and would really appreciate some help with **volunteering at our stall** - if you'd be able to help for an hour or two, please let us know!

BUDDY-UP DAY!

Delighted to announce our **Volunteer Delivery Driver & Buddy-up Day on Thursday June 1st**. Part of our Volunteer Week program, this is a great opportunity for you to learn more about delivery driving, meet other volunteers, and explore a fresh perspective on helping us make a difference in the community.

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.

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.

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.

Our involvement with **Project Hibs** is extended to August - no changes to day or timings.

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.

The **Garden Project** shifts are now Mondays & Thursdays with shift length extended to 10am to 3pm to allow greater flexibility - no expectation of you doing a full shift - Tom will be here throughout.

May's a busy month for bank Holidays, what with the Coronation and all that. For us it's operations as usual throughout.

Do let us know if you are having any problems with Rota Central via the WhatsApp channel (07918 121606) or to **Volunteer Services** at volunteer@emptykitchens.co.uk

EVENTS:

There's still time to get involved and run Miles for Meals at this year's **Edinburgh Marathon Festival on May 27th and 28th!** And there are a number of ways to get involved - you don't need to run the whole 42.2K! Last year within our team we had those just embarking on their first running journey (pun intended) or as a fitness goal in itself, signing up to do the 5K, 10K, half-marathon, relay. A reminder about how to get involved:

1. Sign up for your chosen distance at <https://www.edinburghmarathon.com/>
2. Go to <https://emptykitchens.enthuse.com/cf/edinburgh-marathon-2023> to register as part of our Empty Kitchens Full Hearts team and create your fundraising page.

Get in touch with Emily (emily.gifford@emptykitchens.co.uk) if you have any questions.

If you're not able to take part in any of the events yourself, we would still be really grateful for your help in spreading the word about our team taking part - sharing social media posts to encourage donations would be an enormous help!

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.

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

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