

# Christmas 2019

## Could you help?

With a large increase in participating clubs and Festive Friends guests, our movement to support socially isolated elderly people at Christmas will continue.

If you believe your organisation could support our efforts, then please get in touch with the SPFL Trust via [enquiries@spfltrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@spfltrust.org.uk)

### MEDIA COVERAGE

This year's Festive Friends featured across BBC Sport, The Evening Telegraph, Deadline News and The Press and Journal.

Evening **Telegraph**

**BBC SPORT**

The Press and Journal

**deadline.**



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# Festive Friends

# 2018

# For some its the most wonderful time of the year...

For others it is the opposite. With few friends or family, Christmas can be the loneliest time.

Festive Friends is a project created by the SPFL Trust to engage socially isolated people at Christmas, a time which can be the loneliest time of year.

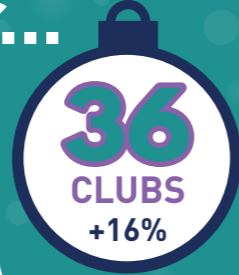
The SPFL Trust works with clubs to help them put on a very special day for members of their community which have been identified as being in need of some community support and festive cheer.

Each guest receives a Traditional Christmas dinner, with turkey and all the trimmings, live music for entertainment and some wonderful Christmas gifts.

All the Festive Friends events receive funding from the SPFL to put on their events, and more clubs than ever took part in 2018, with 36 clubs in total, five more than the previous year. In a fantastic gesture of good will, four clubs opened on Christmas Day itself.



*been I thank you for the lovely christmas lunch at the stadium.  
It was so nice to meet up with friends and chat over a beautiful lunch  
The entertainment was great and the children singing the christmas songs made my day  
the live music from Santa has the icing on the cake  
Looking forward to seeing you all soon.  
Happy New Year to you all  
Elizabeth Campbell*



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It was so nice to meet up with friends and chat over a beautiful lunch.  
The entertainment was great and the children singing the christmas songs made my day".**

**Elizabeth Campbell**



The SPFL Trust is an independent registered charity associated with the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL).

We work in partnership with Scotland's 42 SPFL clubs and external agencies to promote, support, fund and administer activities which help meet identified social needs for people in Scotland.

## How you can help

This year, the SPFL Trust has signed up with Co-op Causes to help fund Festive Friends for 2019. If you are a Co-op member, you can select the SPFL Trust as your chosen charity, and 1% of what you spend on Co-op branded items will go towards helping us fund Festive Friends. Last year, Co-op causes raised an amazing £19million for charities across the UK.



# How does Festive Friends work?



## IDENTIFY

Clubs identify vulnerable or isolated groups, through existing programmes or partnerships



## ACCESSIBILITY

Transport is organised for participants to attend and return home from the event



## LUNCH

A full Christmas lunch is served for everyone



## FUN

Fun, games and gifts are put on for all guests



## LISTEN

Staff take the time to listen to guests and talk with them



# Festive Friends

## EDINBURGH CITY



Joe Walker has been a life-long Edinburgh City fan, and at 89-years-old, he was born one year after the club was founded. The majority of Joe's family live in the far north of Scotland, and sadly Joe's daughter passed away at the end of 2018, leaving Joe quite isolated.

This is the first year Edinburgh City have taken part in Festive Friends, and they quickly identified Joe as someone who would benefit from the event. Joe is a regular at the Edinburgh City social club, and so the team have got to know him very well, and understand his situation.

**“ I wasn't going to come out [to Festive Friends], but it's made me enjoy myself. I hope to be here next year! ”**

Joe Walker



## ST MIRREN

The whole community came together when St Mirren decided to hold their very first Festive Friends event. And what better day to hold it on, than Christmas Day? The club partnered with Salvation Army, who provided the meal and volunteers to help run the event, however they weren't the only volunteers on the day.

The whole of the St Mirren FC Women's Team volunteered their time, including coach Kate Cooper, who was head chef for the day.

**“ It's really about getting people to understand the importance of Christmas and being part of a community. Our team is only a year old, so it was a chance for the girls to come down and meet the St Mirren community. It's about giving back, you just can't beat giving back. ”**

Kate Cooper



## RAITH ROVERS



81-year-old Raith Rovers fan, Dave Fleetham, has been living alone in his one-bed flat ever since his beloved wife Helen passed away seven years ago. Not a day goes by where he doesn't think about her.

Dave only ventures out of his house to go to the local shop or post office, and he relies on his dog Hendrix, for companionship. The only family Dave has is his son, step-daughter and one granddaughter.

He's a proud man from a generation that doesn't want to be a bother to anyone, so he lives very much in isolation.

Festive Friends gave Dave a reason to get out and be sociable, something which he loves doing - once he's out. It really helps him combat loneliness and ensures he gets a good Christmas dinner, and laughter with people from his club.





SPFL TRUST  
Festive Friends

# DECEMBER 2018

“ I thoroughly enjoyed the meal provided and appreciated what the young player did in serving the meal. Their demeanour was first class, and I hope they use this experience to progress their life. ”



6th



9th



11th



13th



18th



20th



22nd



“ Thoroughly enjoyed my day out at the football. Made some new friends and we are planning a return visit soon. ”



29th

5th



7th



10th



12th



14th



19th



21st



Christmas Day



“ Today was really enjoyable, we got to see parts of the stadium that we don't normally get to see. The pictures of the old players we saw were brilliant it felt like a festive football memories session with all the football chat, the food was lovely. I really enjoyed getting to have a day out with my friends. ”

“ I am sending my sincere thanks for the lovely Christmas day you gave me. Traditional Christmas dinner and all the trimmings, it made a change for me instead of crying alone, I was laughing with the company. As if you didn't do enough there was free drink and presents. Many thanks again. ”