



Jennyruth Workshops

A productive workshop where adults with learning disabilities gain confidence, skills and happiness

'Learning by Working'

Spring 10



THE WREN

Community Project: A Dr. Who 'Tardis' for the Police Museum

Chris Hewitt, the curator of Ripon's Prison and Police Museum, contacted us last autumn with an exciting order. The museum wanted us to convert the dull looking inside of a police telephone box into a 'tardis' so it would look like 'Dr. Who'.

Jill Wilkinson, former publicity officer for Ripon Prison and Police Museum said "Creativity, imagination and workmanship made us go to Jennyruth for a painted wooden backdrop for our police telephone box."

This was quite a challenge as it was hard to find an

exact picture of a 'tardis' and to replicate it within the confines of a small police box.

Many of our workers helped with research and the construction as well as the painting of the scenery. Volunteers helped with some of the art work.

The Tardis was completed for the re-opening of the Police Museum on 1 April and will help school children enjoy their visit to the museum.

We found this project very rewarding as this was another opportunity when our specialist work could be put to good use in the community.

"I liked painting the central control panel. It was hard but I am happy with it. It was fun and I liked working on it with Patrick" Oliver



"I used varnish on the stencil Chris made, to make a shiny line up the centre of the tardis. It was great being a part of this because I love watching Dr Who!" Beth



"It will be good to see it in the museum" Sam



"I was measuring, drawing and cutting out stencils to use on the 'tardis'. I worked with Jill (a volunteer). I am pleased with it and proud that it is going to the Police Museum in Ripon." Chris

"I painted the shapes using lots of colours. I also painted some of the control panel. I worked with Patrick (a volunteer) and painted the details." Ryan

"We stuck used CDs in the middle of the shapes. I think it is very good and I liked being a part of this (project)." Matthew



Our work

Jennyruth, Boomerangs and a Wedding

How does that go together? Well, a Welsh / Australian couple living in Wales, who are getting married this year, searched the internet to find someone that could make 60 boomerangs for their wedding.

This is how they found Jennyruth Workshops. When they rang us they happened to speak to Jonathan who said with confidence and without hesitating, "yes, we can make 60 boomerangs". Suddenly we found ourselves searching various aboriginal art books as well as the internet for ideas. The Jennyruth team decided on a wooden shape and tested various designs.

We think these boomerangs are so good that they won't be coming back to us!!

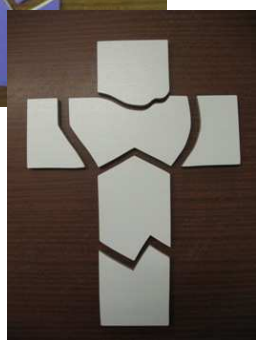


Commissioned work for 'Godly Play'



Victoria, the children's and youth worker for the Lower Wharfe Group of Parishes, approached us before Christmas 2009 as she was looking for an organisation who could make items for a faith based story-telling aid called 'Godly Play'.

So far we have made items for the advent story, the Holy Family, the church year, the parable of the good shepherd, the books of the Bible and the mystery of Easter. The projects incorporated woodworking, sewing, painting, computer skills and research work. We cut out a wooden wreath and candles, made a wooden jigsaw in the shape of a cross together with a bag which had to be purple on one side and white on the other. We also made miniature wooden books of the Bible, together with a book shelf.



Victoria came back to give us a story presentation using the cross jigsaw and the bag. We saw that the items we made help Children experience a Bible story rather than just listen to it. That makes our work very rewarding.

Jennyruth at the Link's Coffee Morning in Ripon's Town Hall

Ripon Community Link run two monthly coffee mornings in the Town Hall. We have now started to join in with a craft stall on the Thursday coffee morning next to the 'Walled Garden' team who sell their gardening items.

The events in February and March were very busy—a lot of people came to have coffee. We sold quizzes and some of our items and considered it a successful sales event. The atmosphere was lovely! We joined in and everybody helped each other. Oliver helped with taking money for coffee and gave change. We were given a scone and a cup of tea / coffee which was very nice!

When Matthew was asked what he liked best about this event he answered promptly "the scones were gorgeous"! And Oliver said he would do this event again as he thought this work was fun!

Do pop in. We would love to see any of our supporters and friends. The next dates are 29 April, 27 May and 24 June.

Our work

Oliver and Faye's involvement with the Learning Disability Partnership Board

For the past year Oliver has been attending the Harrogate Education and Employment Task Group. This group feeds back information to the Craven & Harrogate Learning Disability Partnership Board who then take that information to the relevant organisations, NHS, Social Services etc.

The Partnership Board and task groups are representatives of the Craven & Harrogate area and act as a local information and communication hub with a wide local network.

The task groups make sure that what the government's paper 'Valuing People Now' says should happen, is happening. The 'valuing people' objective is 'fulfilling lives' - to enable people with learning disabilities lead full and purposeful lives within their community.

Oliver has been involved in a sub group for the past few months helping to organise an event for the district 'Better off in work—benefit myth busters'.

This was a day event with various speakers covering issues such as valuing employment and how supported employment can help. The Citizens Advice Bureau talked about the help available

for disabled people in work or looking for work. Oliver also got involved in the group work where he discussed his own experiences in work in general as well as the work and training he does here at Jennyruth with great pride. Oliver



helped to open the event, introducing himself and welcoming everyone. He and Faye have taken part in a 4 day course run by the Partnership Board which offered training so its members getting involved in the task groups can gain the skills, confidence and knowledge to be fully involved.

A very busy time for Oliver, but he is enjoying it a great deal, meeting lots of interesting people and is proud to have a say and a voice in his area.

Faye also takes an active part in the Community Lives task group and has been attending meetings for the past year. *"I find the meetings interesting, there are lots of different things to talk about. I pass on information and news about Jennyruth to the group. I have got to know people there."* Faye

New Colour Workshop at Jennyruth



Hilary, one of our volunteers and an artist by profession, is currently running colour workshops with our workers. The aim is to produce background papers for our greeting cards. Hilary, who is a painter and sculptor and who recently started print making, says that this workshop is like printmaking—patterns and abstract shapes in contrasting colours are repeated. There are lots of opportunities to experiment with pattern and tools; for example Darcy is using a sponge with light and dark green. A toothbrush or a stiff paint brush is a great tool to splatter with. (see picture far left) When Hilary, Matthew and Darcy were interviewed for this article they all agreed and said *'it is good fun!'* as this activity is partly controlled and partly 'happy accident'. They said: *"This makes it exciting because you don't know what the result will be"*

The making of our newsletter

In this edition of the newsletter Jamie and Kirsty helped interview people for various articles as well as turning notes into sentences. It was fun to discover real talents in both of them—Kirsty turned out to be really good at asking appropriate and most interesting questions.



Kirsty interviewing Matthew and Jackie on ASDAN

Jamie, who had helped with the newsletter before, enjoyed the new challenge of turning interview notes into articles on the computer.



Our work



Chris and Faye working on the computer (Faye checks the orders on our website)



Beth and Sue selling quizzes at Sainsburys Ripon



Daniel and Chris clamping panels for the planters



Jonathan teaching Caroline, head teacher from a local primary school



Jamie working on the Australia jigsaw for the Fostering & Adoption Agency



Oliver putting the purchase invoices & delivery notes together



Rebekah and Oliver working on a jigsaw for the Fostering and Adoption agency



Kirsty painting the fine details on the teapot clock.



Rachael using the cordless electrical screwdriver to put the screws into the planter



Matthew checking the orders on our website



Rebekah and Sam painting the side panels for a toybox



Beth, Ryan and Chris working on the angel stands for the school leavers service 2009



Ryan being filmed by Calendar TV

Our work

Our Farm animals now have an entire Farmyard

In our Spring 09 newsletter we reported that we had started producing a new range - farm animals. The Toy library in Ripon showed a particular interest in this range and asked us for a base for the animals to go on. This encouraged our creativity and we invented from scratch an entire farm yard with walls, trees, gates, a tractor and a farm building. It was Jonathan who has really taken on this job. He did all the fine work and enjoyed it very much. He learned new painting techniques: shading and sponging where a small amount of paint is applied with a sponge in order to make the item look more three-dimensional. Jonathan showed a great deal of skill and talent. Although he has never used those techniques before, he has taken on this new idea immediately and worked at it with excellence.

One farm yard has already been sold to the toy library and is now available for families to borrow from there. We are currently working on another farm yard to display on our sales stall.



Buttons for the Holocaust art installation at Ripon Cathedral

The Diocese Education Team asked us to make 4 button offering plates for the Holocaust art installation which was displayed at Ripon Cathedral from 13 Jan to 20 Feb.

One group from Jennyruth visited following an invitation to the opening ceremony. Another group visited later and delivered buttons which our volunteers, workers and staff had collected.



The installation commemorates the industrial scale of the Holocaust and more recent genocides and is created by Kirklees Museums & Galleries working in partnership with artist Antonia Stowe. Schools, colleges and the public have donated over 6 millions buttons to this powerful installation. Denise said *"this event was very moving"*

Design of a Noah's Ark at Jennyruth

The couple who inspired us last year to create our ever increasing range of chunky farm animals came back to us with an order for a Noah's Ark, complete with appropriate animals.

After some research, we experimented with different ideas and designs for the ark. Oliver designed the final body shape of the ark and cut out the plywood frame and the agreed selection of animals. Rebekah did most of the detail painting on the animals and the ark. Sponging and shading as new techniques were used here as well.

We keep 'bumping' into that very supportive couple at various shows and sales events. *"So, what's next?"* we wonder?



Jamie the new 100 Club Administrator

Hello, I am Jamie and I am now the 100 club administrator. After the numbers are drawn I look up the winners and write the winners on a poster and put the names on this website and write a letter to each winner.



ASDAN Workright Award at Jennyruth



Emma making the drinks



Rachael cleaning the toilets



Faye doing work experience at Newby Hall Farmshop

We have received a community grant from the Learning and Skills Council and the European Social Fund to run the ASDAN Workright scheme. We applied to the North Yorkshire Learning Consortium for the grant who are supporting us by administering the grant.

ASDAN Workright reinforces our current work schemes and our teaching of working skills. Jennyruth workers will benefit by gaining a recognised award in transferable employability skills which will help increase opportunities for participation and employment in the community.

They will also gain from increased social skills and confidence in their abilities.

14 workers have been taking part in this scheme since January and, depending on ability, are working through 2 or 4 units—'health and safety', 'you at work', 'being responsible in the workplace' and 'working with others'. The moderation meeting will be in June. We hope to get a follow up grant at a later date to help all our workers to complete all 4 units.



Matthew tidying things away in the paint shop



Daniel desinfecting his hands



Ryan pointing out First Aid at work



Marc pointing out health and safety signs



Ryan, Beth and Matthew putting together evidence for their ASDAN folder

Presentation and Public Speaking Course at Jennyruth

Jennyruth workers have recently finished a 10 week presentation and public speaking course. The purpose was to look at ways to represent Jennyruth Workshops when we are out and about at sales or giving talks and presentations.

To start with every worker gave a short presentation on an item or an interest of their choice. They learned how to dress appropriately and how to use their voice and body language effectively. At one time they went to the theatre at Lightwater Valley where they could practice projecting their voice to a certain place by speaking into the direction where Karen, the tutor, pointed the light of a torch in the darkened theatre.

Chris, "I enjoyed describing something"

Jamie, "I liked going to Lightwater Valley theatre to practice giving a presentation"

Emma, " I liked being on stage at Lightwater Valley"

Beth, "We learned how to give talks and how to use PowerPoint"

Kirsty, " I enjoyed most hearing what people have to say"

Ryan, " I liked best to speak without words but with body language"

Daniel, "I liked trying and using props, which Karen brought to help us know what to wear when we represent Jennyruth Workshops"

Rebekah, " The highlight for me was when we played games together, for example Mr and Mrs Game" (it made everyone listen to a question and answer it appropriately while keeping to the point.) "I also liked using the computer to show pictures"

Fundraising and Sales Events

Fundraising Report by Rebekah

On 22 March we had a fundraising committee meeting. We learned about new events and talked about organising them.

I was chairing the meeting while Barrie was away. I enjoyed it. It was a very good morning. Volunteers, Edith and I met around the table.

I like the barn dance and the golf day and also Karaoke which was excellent last year!

I like being a member of the fundraising committee at Jennyruth Workshop.

All our events are listed here.



Event dates 2010

We always get more events throughout the year, so keep checking this space, our website or contact the office on 01765 606620

Sat 22 May

Concert of Light Music by The Daytones Barbershop Singers, Collingham Ladies Singing Group and Scottish Country Dance Music

Thurs 3 June

Open Day at Jennyruth Workshops, 10am—1pm

Sat 5 June

Sale at 'Discover Boroughbridge' event, Back Lane Car Park, Boroughbridge, 10am-3pm

Sat 26 June

BBQ and Ceilidh, Grange Farm, Bridge Hewick, 7.30pm

Sun 27 June

Craft Stall, Country Fair, Lower Dunsforth, 2pm—4.30pm

Thurs 8 July

Golf Day, Ripon Golf Course

Sun 18 July

Craft Stall at Aldborough & Boroughbridge Show, Skelton Road, Langthorpe, 10am—4pm

Sun 8 August

Craft Stall at MG Car Club Rally, Pateley Bridge, all day

Sat 11 September

Jonathan's walk (Cateran Trail) begins

Sat 2 October

Karaoke, BBQ & Disco, Grange Farm, Bridge Hewick, 7.30pm

Sat 16 October

Coffee Morning, Great Ouseburn Village Hall, 10—12pm

Sat 6 November

Coffee Morning, Marton c. Grafton Village Hall, 10-12pm

Sat 20 November

Craft stall at Christmas Gift & Food Festival, Ripon Cathedral, 10—4pm

Thurs 16 December

Christmas Open Afternoon at Jennyruth, 1.30pm—4pm

Wed 22 December

Accordions play Christmas music on behalf of Jennyruth at Boroughbridge Morrison's

Sales at Sainsburys Ripon: 6 May, 10 June, 15 July (more dates to follow)

Sales at RCL Coffee Morning, Ripon Town Hall, 10am –12pm: 29 April, 27 May, 24 June (more dates to come)

Sale of our quizzes at various supermarkets in Ripon, Harrogate and Wetherby in May and October (check our website for details)

Meet and Greet

Hi, I am **Darcy** and I have been working at Jennyruth since last October. I enjoy coming here, it is quiet, you can work at your own pace and there are lots of girls to be friendly with.

I heard about Jennyruth when 'Interact', a drama group that I am involved in, held a fundraising event at St. John's Fisher School. Jennyruth Workshops were there to sell their items - everybody was nice and there were lots of girls.

I like working with textiles and fabric making. I enjoyed working on our rag wreaths and designing background paper for greeting cards together with Hilary and Jackie in a special paperwork workshop.

I also work at Henshaws Art and Crafts Centre.

I am American and go back to the States with my family in September.



Hello, my name is **Mary**. I started volunteering here in January. I had known about Jennyruth through sales events, so I went to their website to find out more. I came here after I took early retirement from teaching in a mainstream secondary school after 33 years. I wanted to stay involved working with people. I have never been in a teaching situation with adults so this is a new and very exciting experience for me. Every week I look forward to coming to Jennyruth on a Wednesday morning. It is good to belong to a team that works together so well and where there is mutual respect. I have been helping paint stars, hearts, rainbow crosses and helped with ASDAN where I worked a lot with Ryan. I learned to use a machine that seals the bags while working with Kirsty in the packing room.

Hello, my name is **Sue** and I have been volunteering at Jennyruth since the end of January. I am a professional artist, I paint in pastels. I often do art projects working with pupils at primary schools. I learned about Jennyruth Workshops through an art exhibition in West Tanfield when the takings were given to Jennyruth being a local charity; when I then saw them selling their items at Sainsburys it became clear that I wanted to get involved in the work of Jennyruth. So far I have been working with various people on elephants for planters and made valentines cards. Kirsty asked me if I am learning anything here at Jennyruth and I can promptly say, 'I certainly do'. I love coming to Jennyruth as I like the fact that everyone is so happy here, I always leave with a smile on my face. My experience here brightens my week!



Sue working with Emma on Dormouse Door Wedges

Colleen, one of our volunteers, recently visited Jennyruth with her granddaughter **Mina** who is 8 1/2 yrs old. Mina was very quiet when she was here but Colleen told us later that Mina couldn't stop talking about Jennyruth after she left us:

"I enjoyed visiting Jennyruth. I thought the workers here were very clever in making so many lovely things and I enjoyed talking to Beth and I hope to visit again."

Our newsletter can be viewed on our website.

If you know someone else who you think might benefit from reading our newsletter we are happy to send a copy to this person.

Please let us know should you not want to receive our newsletter anymore

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