

# The Wren

**Issue 53**

**April 2025**



**Together Everyone Achieves More**



@JennyruthW



@jennyruthworkshops



@JennyruthWorkshop



[www.jennyruth.co.uk](http://www.jennyruth.co.uk)



[jennyruth-workshop](https://www.linkedin.com/company/jennyruth-workshop)



# Contents

Hello and welcome to another bumper edition of The Wren.

Earlier this month we took part in the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race in Ripon for the first time. Everyone had a lot of fun; we are looking forward to entering teams again next year.

Hasn't the recent sunshine been wonderful now that the clocks have changed, we'll hopefully have longer and warmer days heading our way, just in time for all the shows we will be attending.

Do take a look at our events list and pop by and see us.

Until next time  
Take care

*Nicky*

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Rachael

**A little game from Robin.....can you find all 8 Easter Bunnies that are hopping around the magazine?**



# Meet the team



**Editor** Anna Smith and Shelley Atkinson

**Deputy Editor** Jessica Lewis

**Head of Photography** Rachael Addison

**Art Director** Ryan Hearfield

**Senior Journalist** Daniel Allen

**Head Reporter** Tom Hodgson

**Creative Director** Robin Wilson





# Our Amazing WOWs

Every week we celebrate the incredible achievements of one of our workers. Last month Andrew, Julie, Rebekah received Worker of the Week (WOW).



Andrew Wilford

Worker of the Week  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2025



- For amazing card making, being proud and sharing his work
- For brilliant sanding and painting skills
- For good listening

Nicky

CEO



Julie Wright

Worker of the Week  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2025



- For being superb, engaged and involved in publicity
- For amazing writing and also interviewing Andrew for Worker Wednesday – writing down everything that was said.
- For typing up the Green Fair article and editing it

Nicky

CEO



Rebekah Evason

Worker of the Week  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2025



- Working independently labelling cards in packaging
- For being the best dancer with the biggest smile

Nicky

CEO



Emma Laycock

Worker of the Week  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2025



- For being so thoughtful and caring
- For doing a fantastic job decorating the Easter Baskets

Nicky

CEO











# Visits and Events

## Sights and Sounds of Ripon

On Saturday we went to help on the stall at 'Sights and Sounds' at Ripon Cathedral. I went with Anna, Phoebe and Daniel. Anna and Phoebe picked me up in the minibus and Daniel met us there. When we got there we pulled the trolleys in and set up our stall. We had a different space to last year which was much bigger. We had lots of visitors including Carole and Martyn, Janet, Harry and his family and his mum. We sold lots! My mum bought a bird box! Wrapping paper was very popular, it was our top selling product. Me and Daniel took turns using the Zettle chatting to customers and helping them choose products to buy. I had an apple juice and a chocolate fudge cake from the walled garden cafe, I really enjoyed helping and looking at the other stalls. I'd like to do it again next year!



## Visit from the Chair of North Yorkshire Council

It was lovely to welcome Roberta Swiers, the Chair of North Yorkshire Council, to Jennyruth Workshops on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Jamie A led her on a tour of the workshops where she saw workers painting, creating wrapping paper and also in woodwork. She was very impressed with the quality of the work that was being created and was surprised at the size of our workplace. She felt that we provide a variety of groups that enable the workers to learn a wealth of new skills. We hope that she visits again soon.





# Thornton Watlass WI Talk

On Thursday 13th March, I went to Thornton Watlass WI with Avril, Emily and Hannah to do a talk. We were going to show a presentation on all the brilliant work we do in the Workshop.

I was responsible for all the technology and the presentation. Hannah did an awesome job of speaking and I clicked through the slide show.

We all did a fabulous job on the stall selling the products. Hannah, Avril, Emily and I were sharing the Zettle between us scanning all the products. But we had a bit of an issue with the Zettle because there was no signal, so Avril came up with a solution of writing what we sold on paper to give to the customers. After the problems with Zettle, the customers bought some of our hand crafted products with.

We all sat down and had a lovely warm cuppa tea and a piece of cake. Then after we all helped together as a team to put all the technology and the products in the minibus.

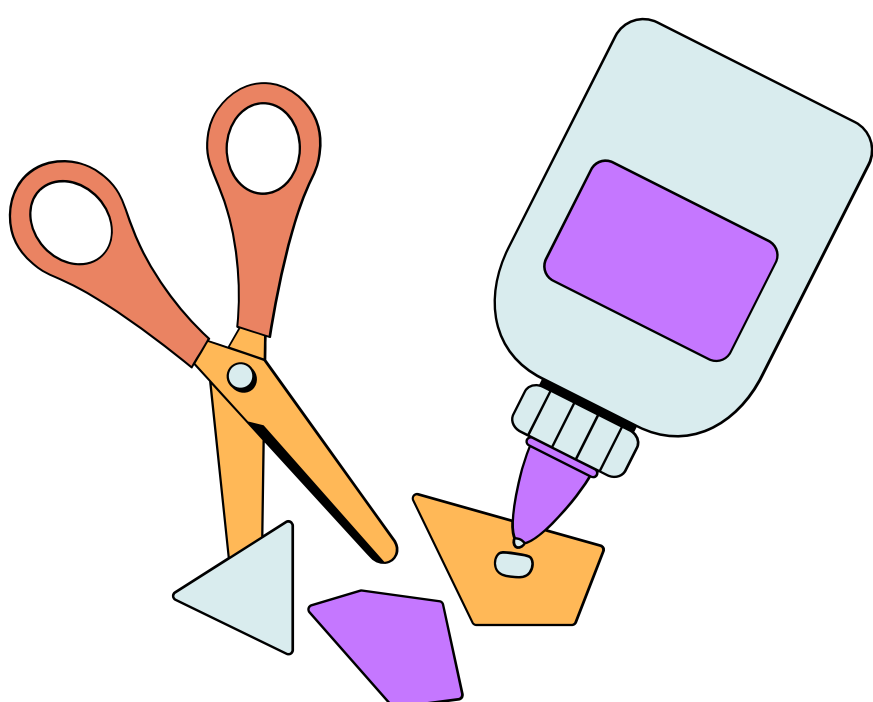
**by Jessica**

## Cone Exchange

On the morning of the 25th March I went to a place called the Cone Exchange, which is next to Betty's Factory in Harrogate. The general public and companies can donate their unwanted craft items here. The idea is to reuse and not throw away.

If arts and crafts are your thing than I recommend that you give this place a try, you never know what you may find.

**By Vee**

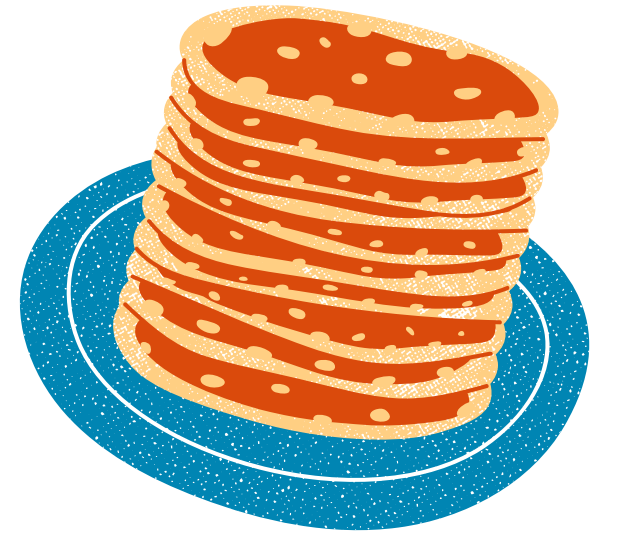




# Pancake Race

We went to Ripon to take part in the annual pancake race. It was a lovely day. We had a drink in Cathedral View Cafe and watched the other races from the window. When it was our turn we lined up with our pancakes and frying pans. When the horn sounded we started running. We ran all the way along Kirkgate to the finish line. I didn't drop my pancake even though it was my first time. I really enjoyed doing it with everyone else.

**By Christopher**



I really thoroughly enjoyed it. I managed to run quite fast. It was my first time doing it. It was really good. I want to do it again next year and be faster!

– Jonathan



I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed running and tossing the pancake

– Dawn



I ran the pancake race with Harry. I enjoyed being out and about and eating the pancake  
- Matthew



I ran really fast  
- Ben



# Route 16+ Dales School



Jamie, Anna and I went to the Dales School for their Route 16+ event. We went in Anna's car and listened to musicals on the way there. When we arrived we set up our table. I had a cup of tea and a yummy brownie while we waited for people to arrive. I handed out leaflets to the children and their parents. I told them about Jennyruth Workshops and what I like to do there. I told them to come and have a tour and a cup of tea with us. I loved it! It was lovely chatting to everyone. I really enjoyed it.

**By Daniel**



# Ripon Grammar Careers Fair

It was great seeing all the different types of students coming to talk to us about volunteering. We saw Anastasia, one of our previous work experience students, who told us that she had got into Cambridge. Very exciting!

**By Harry**





# News from the Workshops

## Did you know that April is National Pet Month?

Julie has been very busy interviewing members of the workshop about their pets. Her interview with William about his Guinea Pigs, Enid and Hannah, is below. Check out on Social Media throughout April for more...

### **What are the benefits to you of being a pet owner?**

Responsibility, shopping for their food, cuddling them makes me happy and I love filming them.

### **What impact do you have on your pet?**

David Attenborough would be proud of me and how I look after them. I spend as much time as possible with them and love them!

### **How did you learn how to look after your pet?**

I did lots of homework – I read books/looked at the RSPCA/learnt about their welfare.

### **Any fun facts about your pet?**

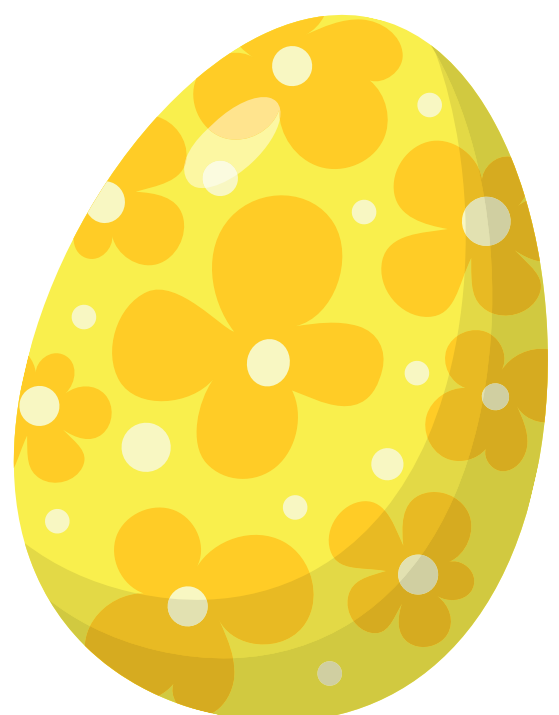
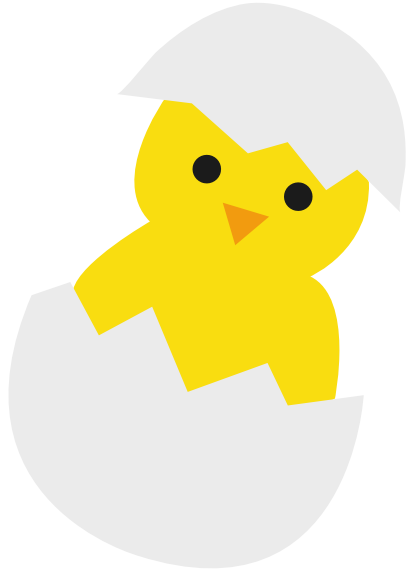
I put them out on the grass in a play pen and join them for lunch. It saves on mowing the lawn!





# Easter Gifts

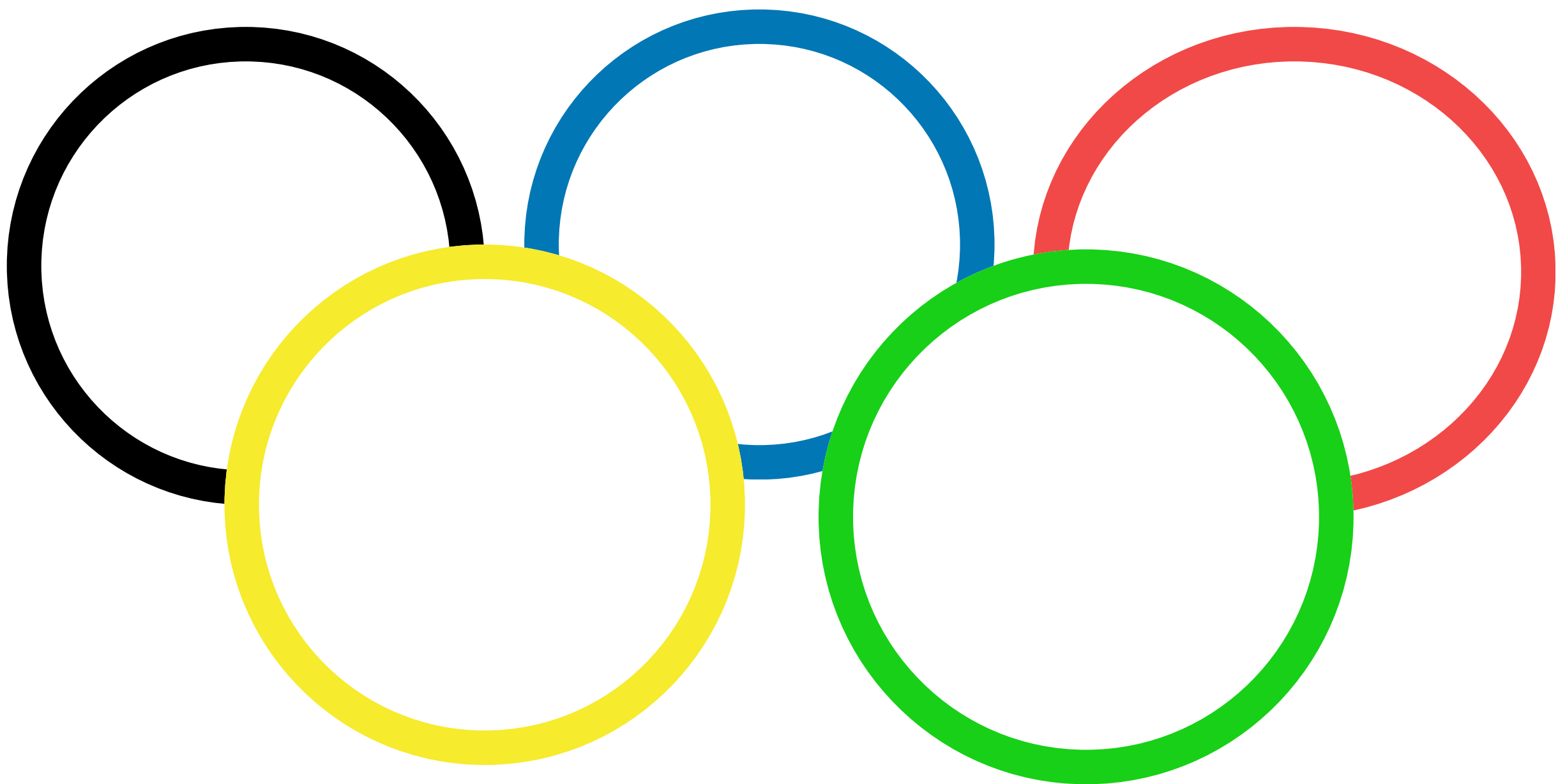
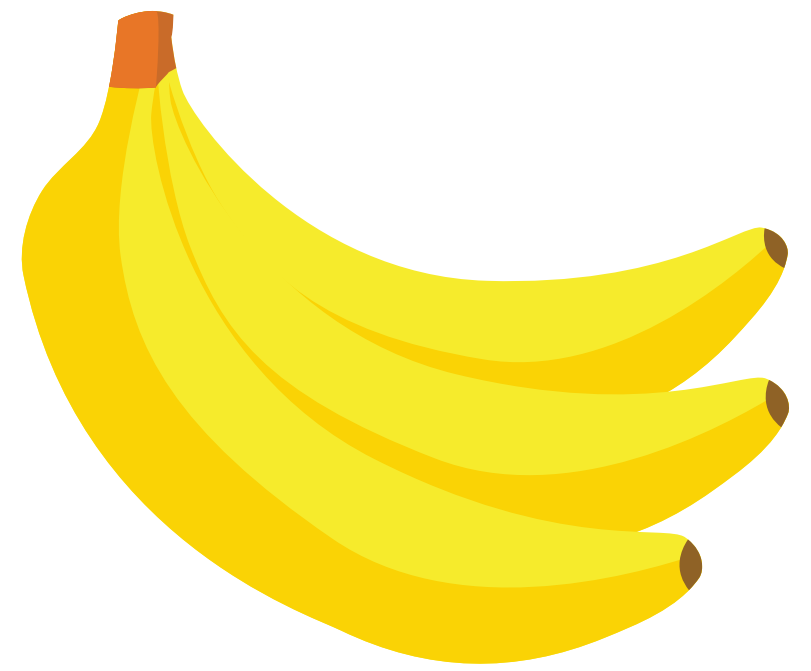
Make your Easter extra special with a Jennyruth Workshops Trug or Paint Your Own Easter. All available to purchase on our website [www.jennyruth.co.uk](http://www.jennyruth.co.uk) or at upcoming events!





# Robin's Fun and Interesting Facts.

1. April also only had 29 days but a 30th day was added when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar.
2. Back in the time of the Ancient Romans April was sacred to the goddess Venus.
3. After a 1500 year break the first Olympic Games of the modern era took place on April 6 1896 in Athens.
4. The first bananas went on sale in a London shop on 12 April 1633.
5. The Union Flag becomes the official flag of Britain. 





# Bird Box Building Experience

**Looking for an original gift idea?  
How about a Bird Box Building Experience at  
Jennyruth Workshops?**



Choose which style of bird box you want to make ...

**Tit Box**



**Robin Box**



**Blackbird Box**



... and decorate it  
using a range of  
stencils in colours of  
your choice.



**We'll provide component parts, materials, tools and tuition - along with a sandwich lunch. Your unique bird box will be finished and ready to take home by 4pm**

The day will include a tour of our workshop, as well as assembling and decorating your own bird box to take home.

Arriving at 10am, your experience will start with a hot drink and safety briefing. This will be followed by a tour of our workshop where you'll meet our 'workers', one of whom will show you around and guide you through the process of creating your own bird box.

Then it's off to the woodwork area where you'll sand the wooden components of your bird box, drill and screw the box together, assemble and fit the roof. You'll add finishing touches: roofing felt, a hanging hook, and one of our trademark wrens.

After lunch you'll move on to the paint shop where you'll be able to stencil on decorations to make your bird box truly unique.

This experience is suitable for adults aged 18+.

The cost of £99 per person includes all you'll need to make your bird box and will help support our workshop. Experiences are available Monday to Friday 10am-4pm. All materials, tools and safety boots will be supplied for the day.

The experience is for one person to attend. It is possible to book 2 experiences so that 2 people (max.) can attend together, each making their own box. Please contact us to enquire about similar experiences for larger groups.

Our workshop is near Ripon HG4 5AY. Parking on site.

Additional personalisation options (e.g. name plaque, bespoke cut outs or stencils, ...) can be pre-booked at an additional cost.

**For more information, to book or request a gift voucher for our Bird Box Building experience, please email us: [info@jennyruth.co.uk](mailto:info@jennyruth.co.uk) or phone 01756 606620 (Mon-Fri, 8.30am - 4.30pm).**




# Rachael's Photos





**THURSDAY**  
**MORNINGS**  
**ARE**

**TOY**  
**LIBRARY**



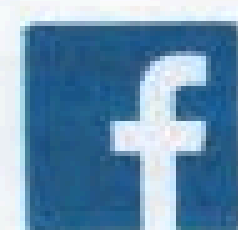
**MORNINGS**

**Stay & Play Have Fun**

**Borrow toys**

**Community House, Allhallowgate**  
**from 10 - Noon**

[ripontoylibrary@outlook.com](mailto:ripontoylibrary@outlook.com)



Find us on  
**Facebook**











# Wonderful Workers

**A section dedicated to our fabulously fantastic workers!**

**Each month we will be putting different workers in the spotlight by interviewing them about their life!**

**This month it's all about Julie.**

**How long have you been coming to Jennyruth?**

2023. A year and a half. I liked it that there were lots of jobs to do.

**What do you like to watch on T.V?**

Countryfile, but I prefer listening to music.

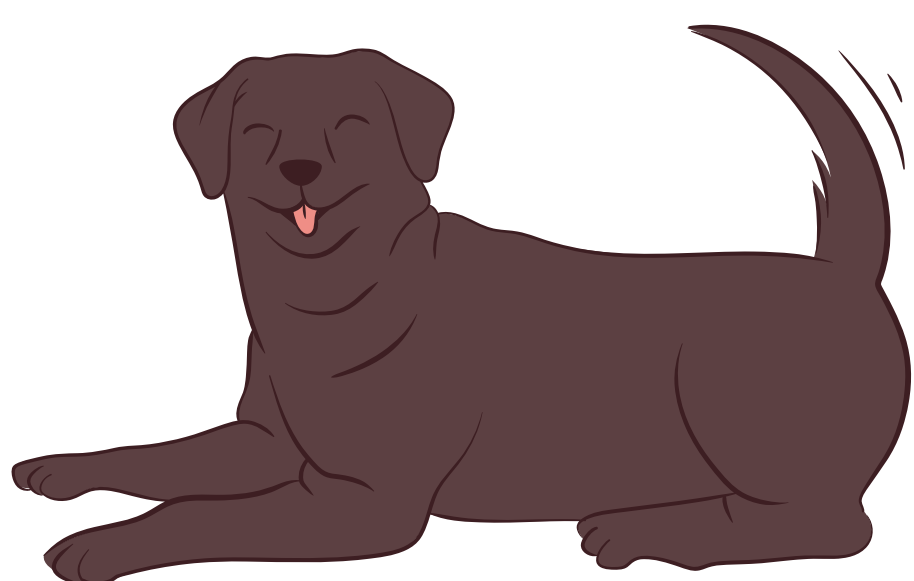
**What is your favourite and least favourite animal?**

My favourite is a Labrador dog, I had a black Labrador called Poppy. My least favourite animals are pigeons.

**Do you have any hobbies?**

Playing piano, listening to music (one of my favourite CDs is called 'Power and Passion'.

Telling jokes.





**What's your favourite thing to do with your sister Dawn?**

Shopping, especially Christmas shopping.

**What is your favourite thing to do at Jennyruth?**

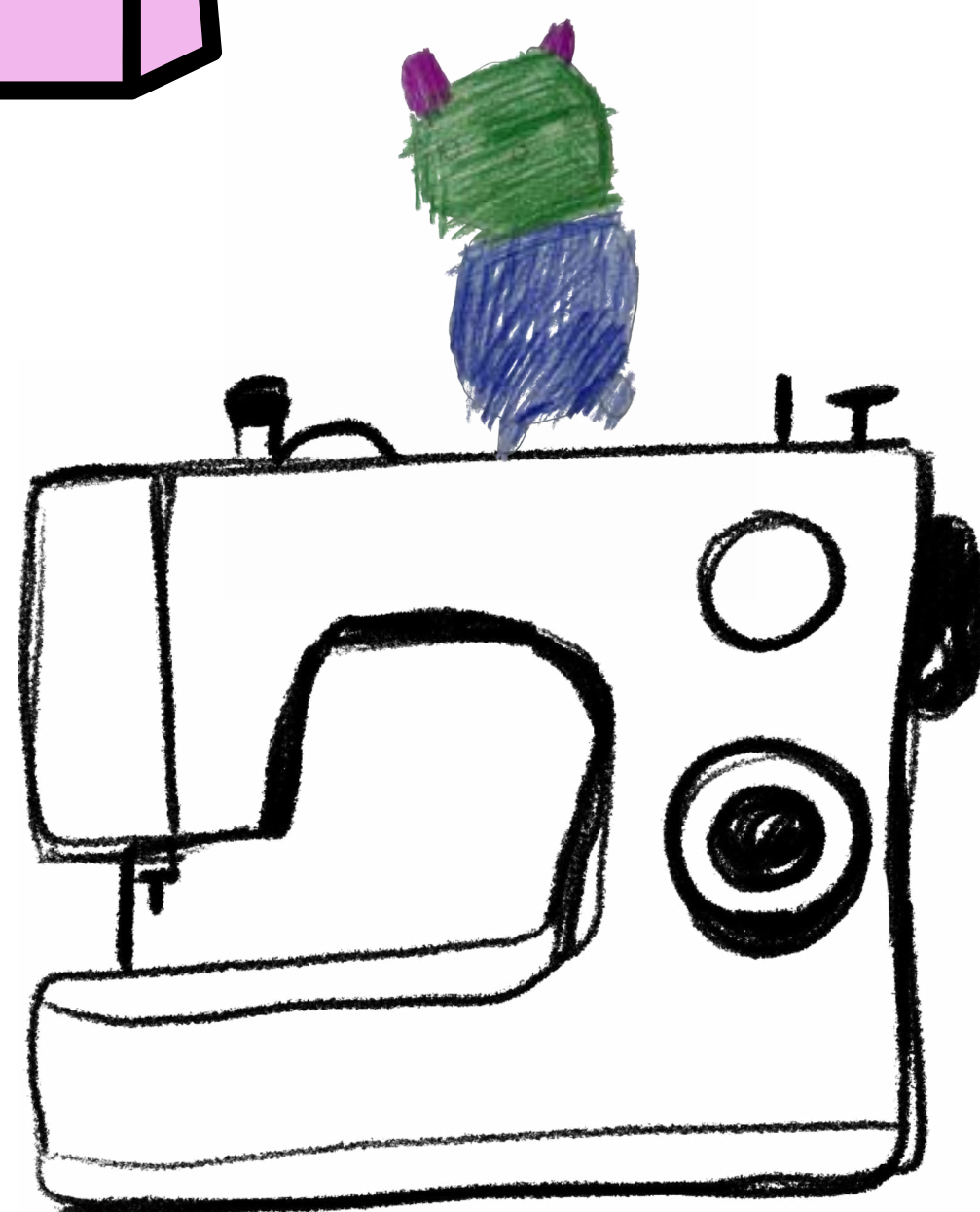
Painting at the moment. I am painting gnomes which I used to do with my mum.

**What is your favourite product to make at Jennyruth?**

Bags in sewing.

**Do you have a favourite person to work with?**

Sandra!











# Cooks Corner

## Individual Mini Egg cheesecakes (Jane's Patisserie)

Individual mini Egg Cheesecakes with a buttery biscuit base, no bake vanilla cheesecake mini egg stuffed filling, whipped cream and more!

### Ingredients

#### Biscuit Base

200g digestives

100g unsalted butter (melted)

#### Cheesecake Filling

300g full - fat soft cream cheese

50g icing sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

150ml double cream

150g Mini Eggs (crushed)

#### Decoration

125 ml double cream

1 tbsp icing sugar

grated chocolate

150g Mini Eggs





## Method

### Instructions

#### For the Biscuit Bases

Blitz the biscuits in a food processor and with the melted butter.  
If you want to line the mini cake tin, do this now. Portion the biscuit mixture between the 12 mini cake moulds and then press down firmly with a spoon.

#### For the cheesecake Filling

In a large bowl, whisk together the full fat soft cream cheese, icing sugar and vanilla extract until smooth.

Whip the double cream separately in another bowl to stiff peaks and fold through the mixture, or pour the double cream into the cheesecake mixture and whip it all together until thick.

Fold through the crushed mini eggs!

Pour/ spoon the mixture between the 12 cheesecakes and smooth over.  
Set the cheesecakes in the fridge for at least 3-4 hours or the freezer for 2-3 hours.

#### For the Decoration

Carefully remove the cheesecakes from the tin.

Whip up the double cream and icing sugar until thick. Pipe onto your cheesecakes.

Sprinkle over some grated chocolate and some mini eggs!

### Notes

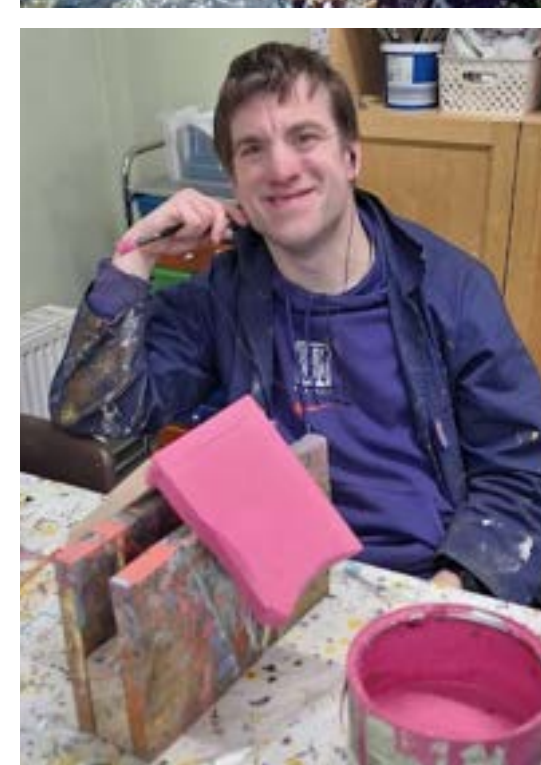
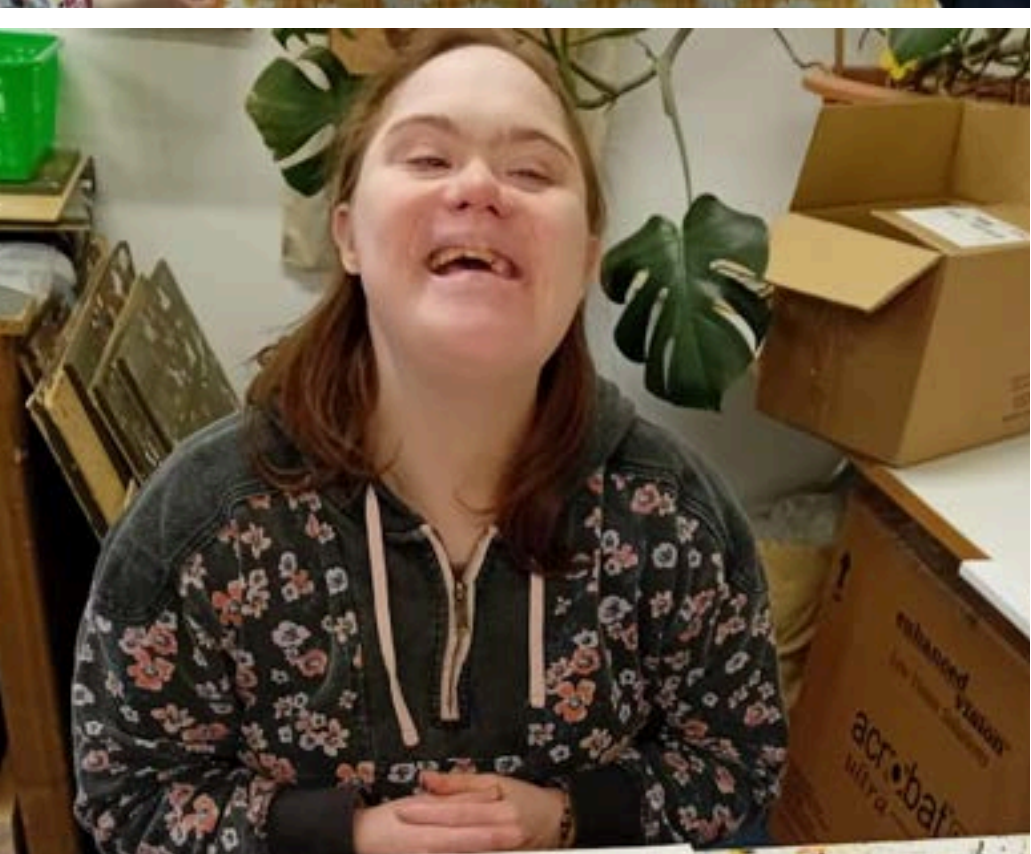
These will last in the fridge for 3 days once made.

You can serve the cheesecakes into small ramekins, or glasses instead of a mini cake mould.

You can use cupcake cases, but they can be hard to get the cheesecakes out of.

You can use ANY Easter chocolates you want in the cheesecakes!







# Volunteering



**Would you like to be a part of a vibrant social enterprise?  
Here you'll work with wonderful, friendly people and make a  
difference!**

We offer a range of volunteering opportunities where you will be enabling and supporting our workers in:

- Sewing, baking, cooking and educational courses in The Mess Room
- Painting wooden products in the Paintshop
- Cutting out wooden items and assembling products in Woodwork
- Packaging and promoting products in The Other Room
- Stenciling, designing, gardening, Blue Peter Badge Group and so much more in The Training Room
- Work experience and volunteering in the community
- Stalls at crafts fairs and shows, talks and fundraising events

We are also a popular choice for **'Employer Supported Volunteering'**.



**Please check the events list and if  
you would like to help out at any of  
these please email Emily at  
[volunteers@jennyruth.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@jennyruth.co.uk)**



## **Emily is our Volunteer Co-Ordinator**

As Volunteer Co-Ordinator at Jennyruth Workshops, I have the privilege of connecting dedicated volunteers with opportunities to support our talented team of workers.

Our volunteers play a vital role in creating high quality handmade products in a positive, inclusive, and fun environment.

My role is to ensure every volunteer feels welcomed, valued, and empowered to make a difference here at Jennyruth Workshops.

If you're interested in joining us, I'd love to hear from you!



## **We asked our volunteers what does volunteering mean to you?**

It means being part of the Jennyruth Family which is important because there are so many lovely people. It's great to have an opportunity to be creative. Being valued is really important when you're a retired person and I get that here. It's great fun, lot of laughs and good times.

**Karen R**



Meeting lovely people and brightening up my day.

**Peter B**



I love coming to Jennyruth and I hope that I'm helpful. I've learnt many new skills. William's taught me how to use the scroll saw. I feel much more confident using power tools. Richard's been very patient with me. I've made lots of new friends.

**Mel**



It's an important day in my week. I meet some lovely people.  
No two days are the same and everyone is really happy and  
helpful.

**Judith**



It means spending time with lovely people.

**Sally**



Being happy, working with all the workers. Learning new  
skills with them. Me helping them and they helping me.

**Martyn**



# Fundraising

**There are numerous ways that you can support Jennyruth Workshops.**

Fancy starting your own fundraiser? Click the link to create a Just Giving page and start raising money for Jennyruth Workshops!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising-page/creation/?cid=3261823>



You can donate via our website:



Click the link to make a regular or one off donation!

Easy Fundraising gives people an easy and free way to raise donations for Jennyruth Workshops through online shopping

You can also add the Donation Reminder button to your browser so whenever you're shopping online – the Donation Reminder automatically lets you know when you're on any site that offers donations with #easyfundraising.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/donation-reminder/>

It's now been made even easier....just scan the QR Code to sign up or visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> to find out more.







# Charity Golf Day

Thursday 24th July 2025



Teams of 4 playing Stableford Competition  $\frac{3}{4}$

Handicap Jennyruth Workshops Golf Classic  
played at the picturesque **Ripon City Golf Club**  
with Tee Times from **10.00 am until 2.00 pm.**

A fabulous day is assured with prizes galore

- 1st three teams
- Nearest the Pin
- Longest Drive
- Coloured Ball Competition
- plus the inevitable "Wooden Spoon"

**£250** for each team of 4 players (includes two-course meal).

If you can't make it, you can still help this wonderful charity  
with great sponsorship opportunities.

**Contact our Golf Day Organiser: Don Grundy**

**Email: [don.sadiegrundy@gmail.com](mailto:don.sadiegrundy@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 07579969261**





# KNARESBOROUGH KNIGHTMARES CHARITY GHOST WALKS

**18 June 13 Aug**

**29 Oct 17 Dec**

[ticketsource.co.uk/knaresborough-knightmares](https://ticketsource.co.uk/knaresborough-knightmares)



The 2025 Knaresborough Knightmares ghost walks are now open for booking, with all ticket money donated to local good causes including Jennyruth Workshops.

Knaresborough has a rich store of folklore, including tales of hauntings and witchcraft. The tours bring many of these stories to life (or death), offering a fiendishly fun evening.

Ticket prices are £6.00 for adults and £3.00 for under-16s.

Tours are on 18 June, 13 August, 29 October and 17

December. You can book tickets at

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/knaresborough-knightmares](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/knaresborough-knightmares).

We also offer private tours for groups like Guides and Scouts. Email [knaresborough.knightmares@gmail.com](mailto:knaresborough.knightmares@gmail.com) for more details.











# Happy Birthday

Janet Slater  
Helen Holland  
Ruth Wade  
Tom Hodgson  
Therese Thompson  
Steve Carrigan  
Sue Fischbach  
Alex Arnall





# Dates for the Diary

## A note for volunteers

If you would like to help out at any of our events then please get in touch by emailing Avril at [events@jennyruth.co.uk](mailto:events@jennyruth.co.uk).

## April

Little Bird Artisan Market in Knaresborough  
Saturday 5th April, 10am – 3pm



Stall at Knaresborough Library  
Wednesday 9th April

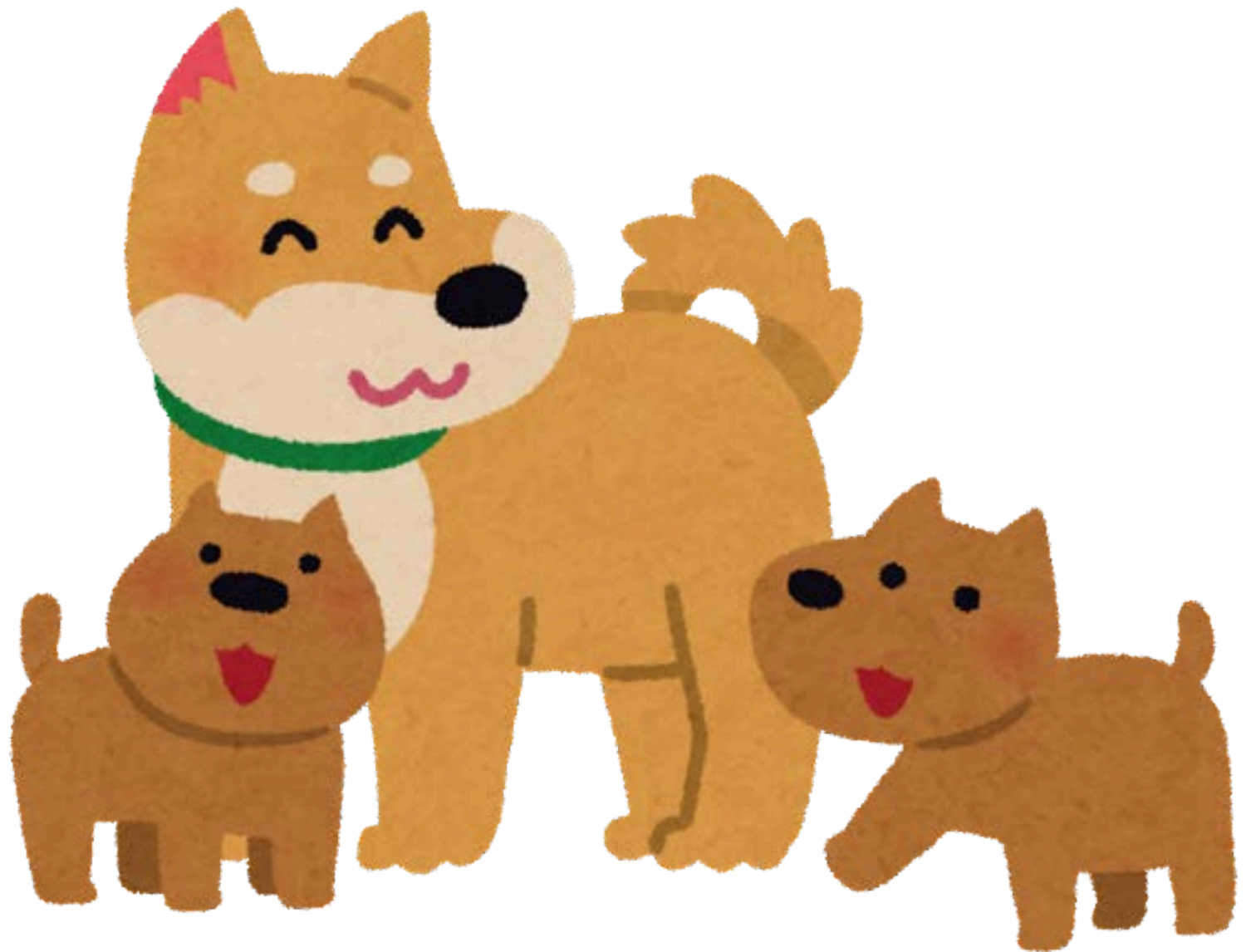
Harrogate Spring Flower Show at the Yorkshire Showground  
Thursday 24th – Sunday 27th April





# May

Saving Yorkshire Dogs at Bedale Park  
Sunday 11th May



Boroughbridge Lions Gala Fete  
Monday 26th May



Boroughbridge Lions Club

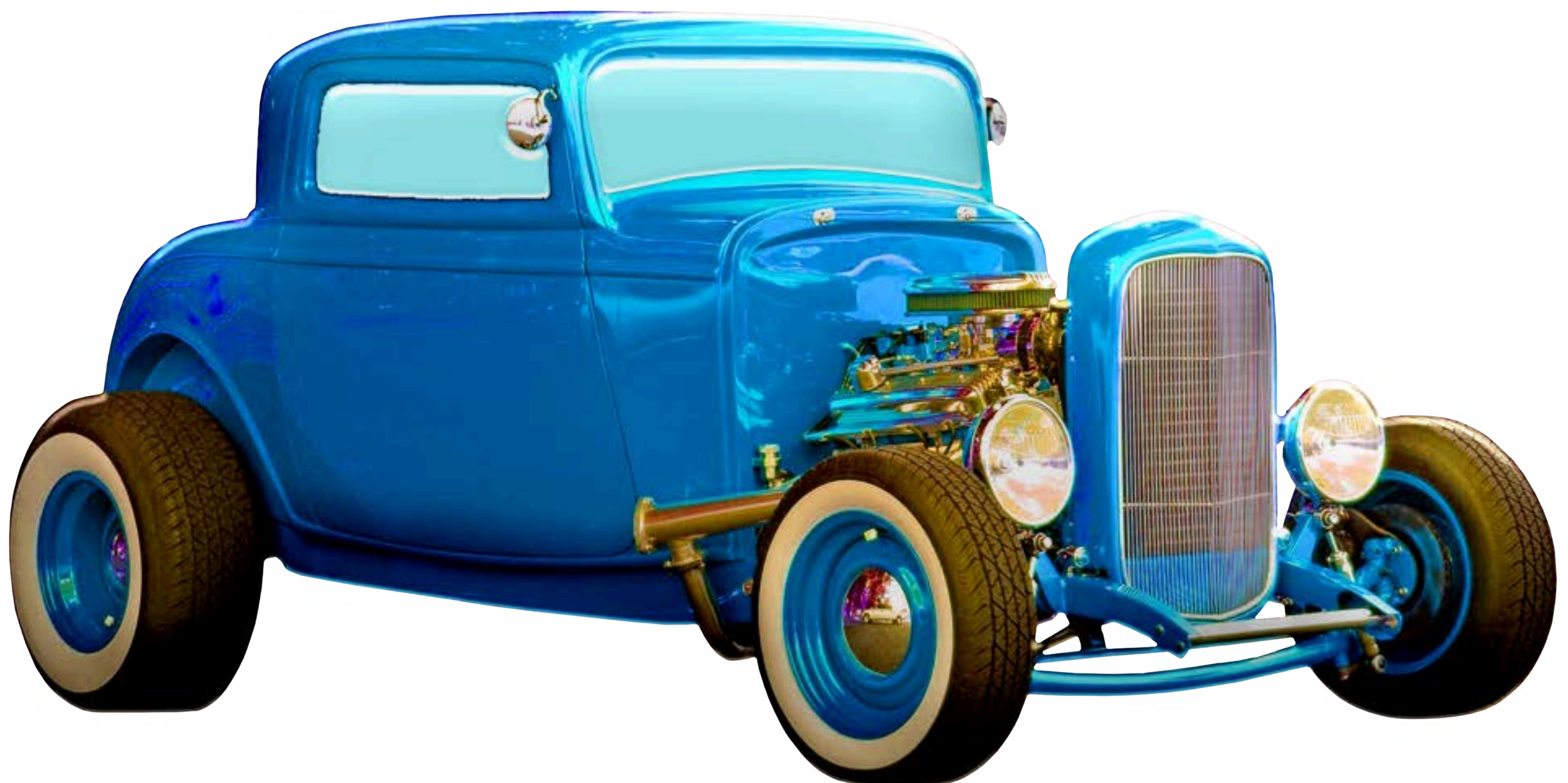


# July

The Great Yorkshire Show  
Tuesday 8th July – Friday 11th July



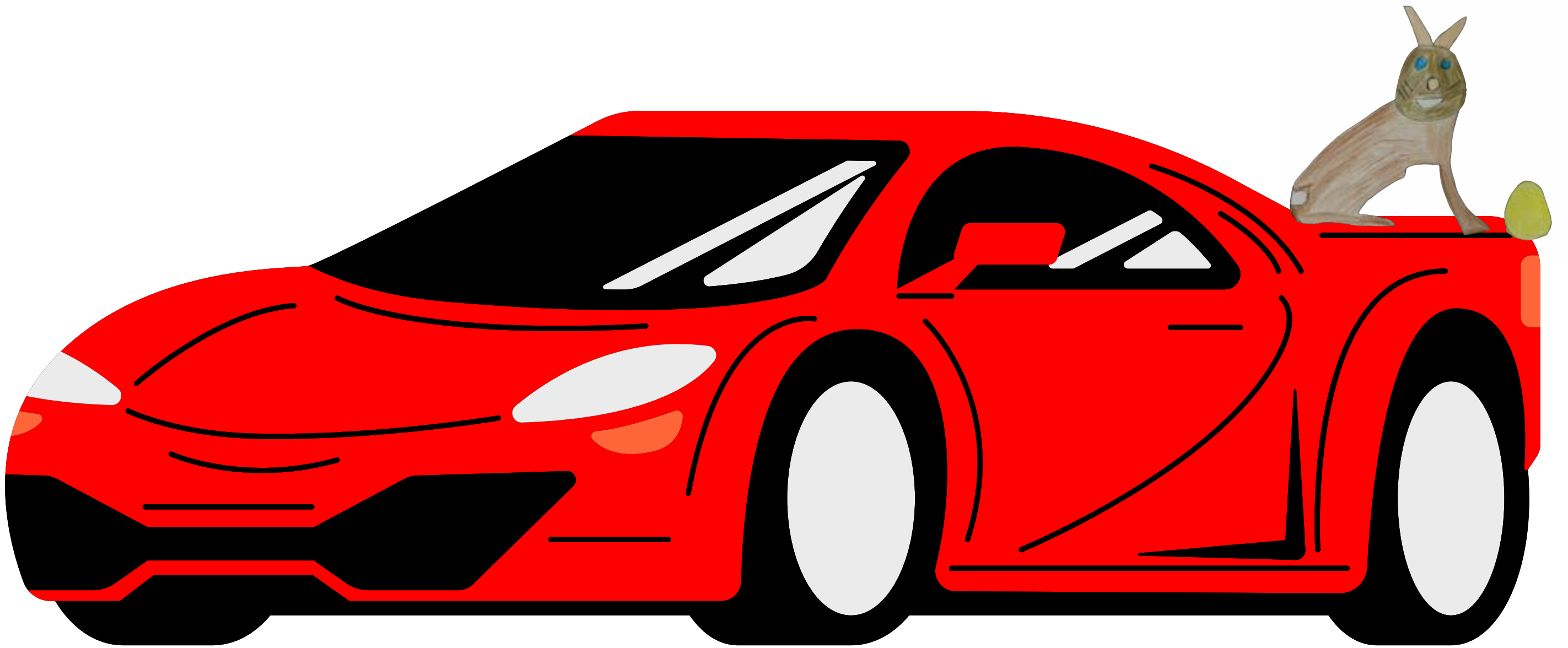
Ripon Old Car Classic Gathering at Ripon Race Course  
Sunday 27th July





# August

Harrogate MG Rally at Bewerley Park, Pateley Bridge  
Sunday 3rd August, 9:30am – 3:30pm



Superhero Family Day at Thirsk Racecourse  
Friday 8th August





# October

Saving Yorkshire Dogs Show at Bedale Park  
Sunday 12th October



Cumbria Life Home & Gift Fair at The Pencil  
Factory, Keswick  
25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October



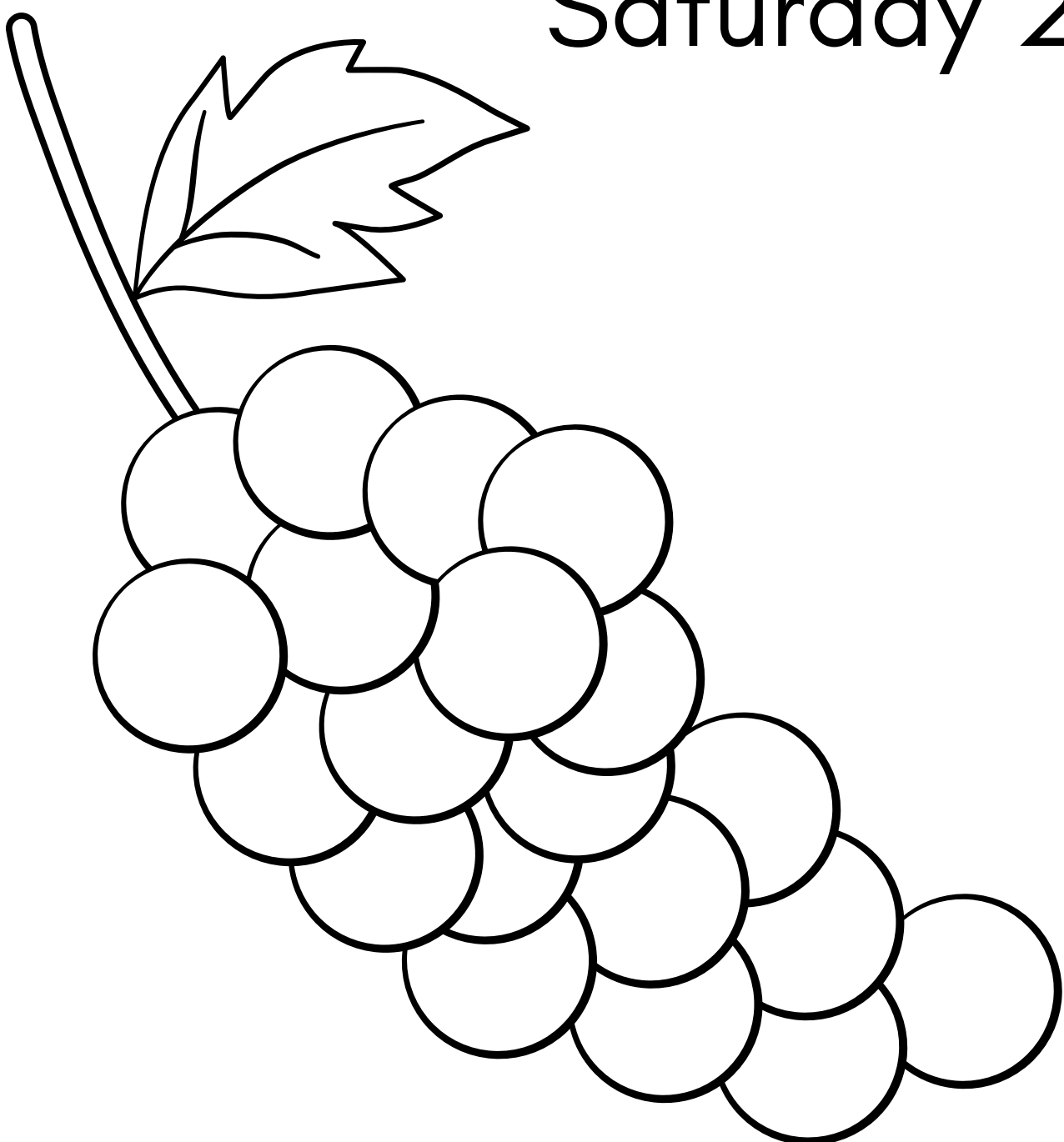


# November

Christmas Fair at Ripon Cathedral  
Friday 21st – Saturday 22nd November



Dunesforde Vineyard Christmas Fair  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November





# December

Coffee Morning at Marton cum Grafton  
Saturday 6th December 10am – 12pm



Dunesforde Vineyard Christmas Fair  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December









# A Message from



**Jennyruth Workshops  
Unit 5, Red House Farm,  
Bridge Hewick  
Ripon  
North Yorkshire  
HG4 5AY**

**01765 606620**



**Jennyruth  
Workshops**  
*Established 2003*



**SCAN ME**