

# The Wren

Issue 60

November 2025



Together Everyone Achieves More



@JennyruthW



@jennyruthworkshops



@JennyruthWorkshop



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



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## Letter from the Deputy Editors

Hello, I am Tom and I have been coming to Jennyruth Workshops for two and a half years and I am Jessica and I have been coming for seven years.

I love going to stalls to help out. Doing a variety of paintings such as my own bunting which is very detailed, bird boxes, trugs and bug homes.

I enjoy all admin and woodwork and enjoy coming to the workshops with Jerry.

My highlights are making everyone happy and bringing smiles to the workshop.

See you soon!  
by Jessica and Tom O



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Jessica

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## Message from the CEO

Hello and welcome to another packed edition of The Wren. As the autumn leaves fall and the days grow shorter, things at Jennyruth Workshops have been anything but quiet!

From willow weaving to pumpkin decorating, our annual competition brought out the creativity and laughter in full force—thank you to everyone who joined in.

This month, we've had the joy of celebrating Denise's incredible 20-year milestone as a member of staff. Her dedication, warmth, and humour have shaped so much of what makes Jennyruth special, and it's been wonderful to honour her with stories, smiles, and a few surprises.

With Christmas just around the corner, we're already gearing up for festive events, handmade gifts, and plenty of sparkle. If you haven't had the chance to pop by recently, do take a look at our upcoming events—there's lots to choose from, and we'd love to welcome you.

Until next time

Take care

Nicky



# Meet the team



**Editor** Anna Smith and Shelley Atkinson  
**Deputy Editor** Tom Oates and Jessica Lewis  
**Head Reporter** Sam Manning  
**Senior Journalist** Martin Grainger  
**Content Editor** Daniel Allen  
**Creative Director** Ryan Rhodes  
**Art Director** KB





# Our Amazing WOWs

Every week we celebrate the incredible achievements of one of our workers. Last month Dawn, Tom, Vee and Sam received Worker of the Week (WOW).



Dawn Wright  
Worker of the Week  
13th October 2025



- For being good at stencilling and producing some lovely things
- For being consistent in the paintshop
- For always working really hard, being chatty and friendly.

Nicky  
CEO



Tom Oates  
Worker of the Week  
14th October 2025



- His hard work in the Paintshop
- The amazing job staining the plant markers
- Being the top salesperson at the Harrogate Flower Show at Newby Hall and for engaging with customers so professionally and enthusiastically

Nicky  
CEO



Vee Leigh  
Worker of the Week  
7th October 2025



- For fitting into the paintshop so well
- For working with Kacey and making her feel welcome in packaging group
- For doing a good job making the stamps for lunch club on the laser
- For being amazing in wrapping group; completing the work carefully
- For always paying attention to detail in sewing group

Nicky  
CEO



Sam Manning  
Worker of the Week  
3rd October 2025



- For being helpful unpacking the minibus stock
- For offering to make drinks for everyone
- For his positive attitude towards magazine group
- For amazing work typing up recipes in the magazine group

Nicky  
CEO



# Visits and Events



## Bedale Dog Show

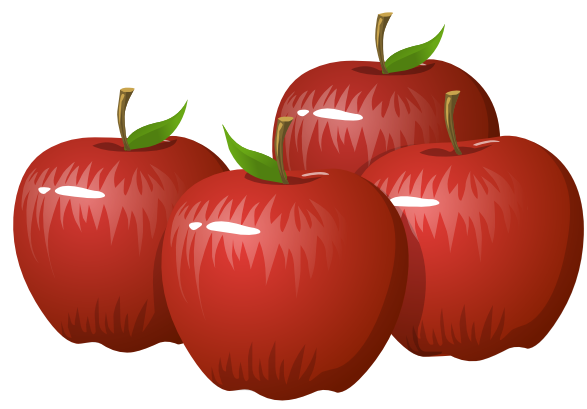


The weather stayed fine and dry. I had a look at the other stalls there for a browse. I saw lots of different breeds of dogs, it was a dog lover's paradise with all things dog related, like therapy dogs which you could have your picture taken with them.

I really enjoyed my day at the dog fest. It was my slice of dogs heaven saying hello to the different dog breeds and owners, there. I would definitely go again as it was a fantastic day.

**By Victoria**



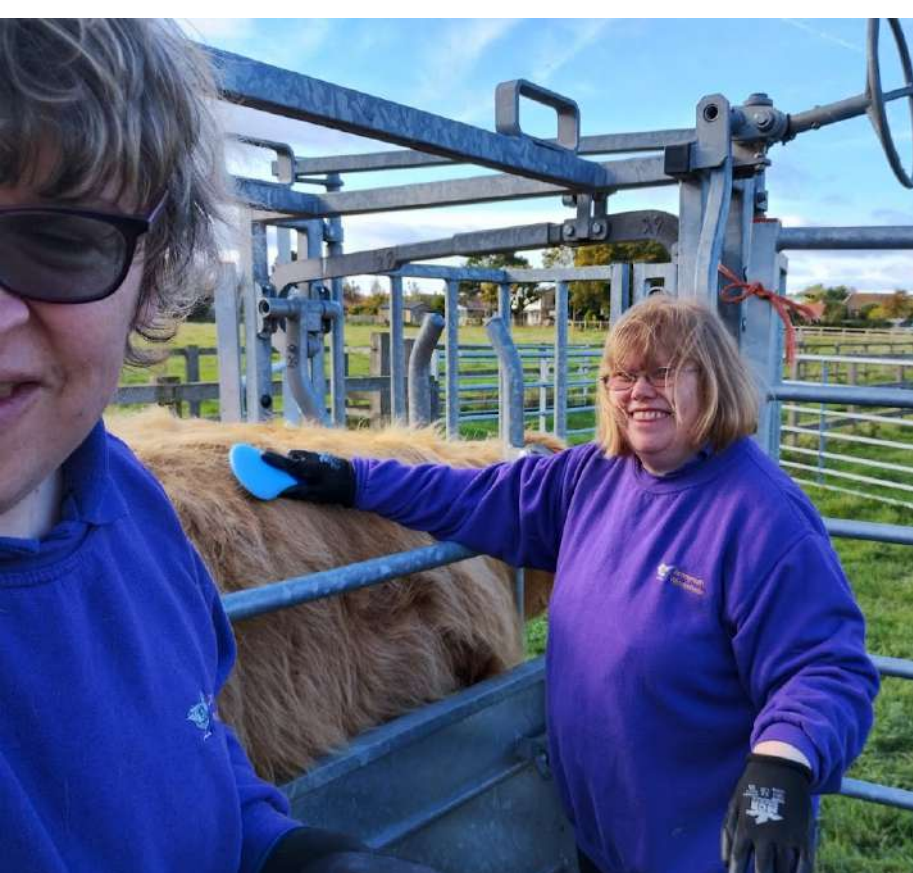


# Trip to Doo Dales Farm

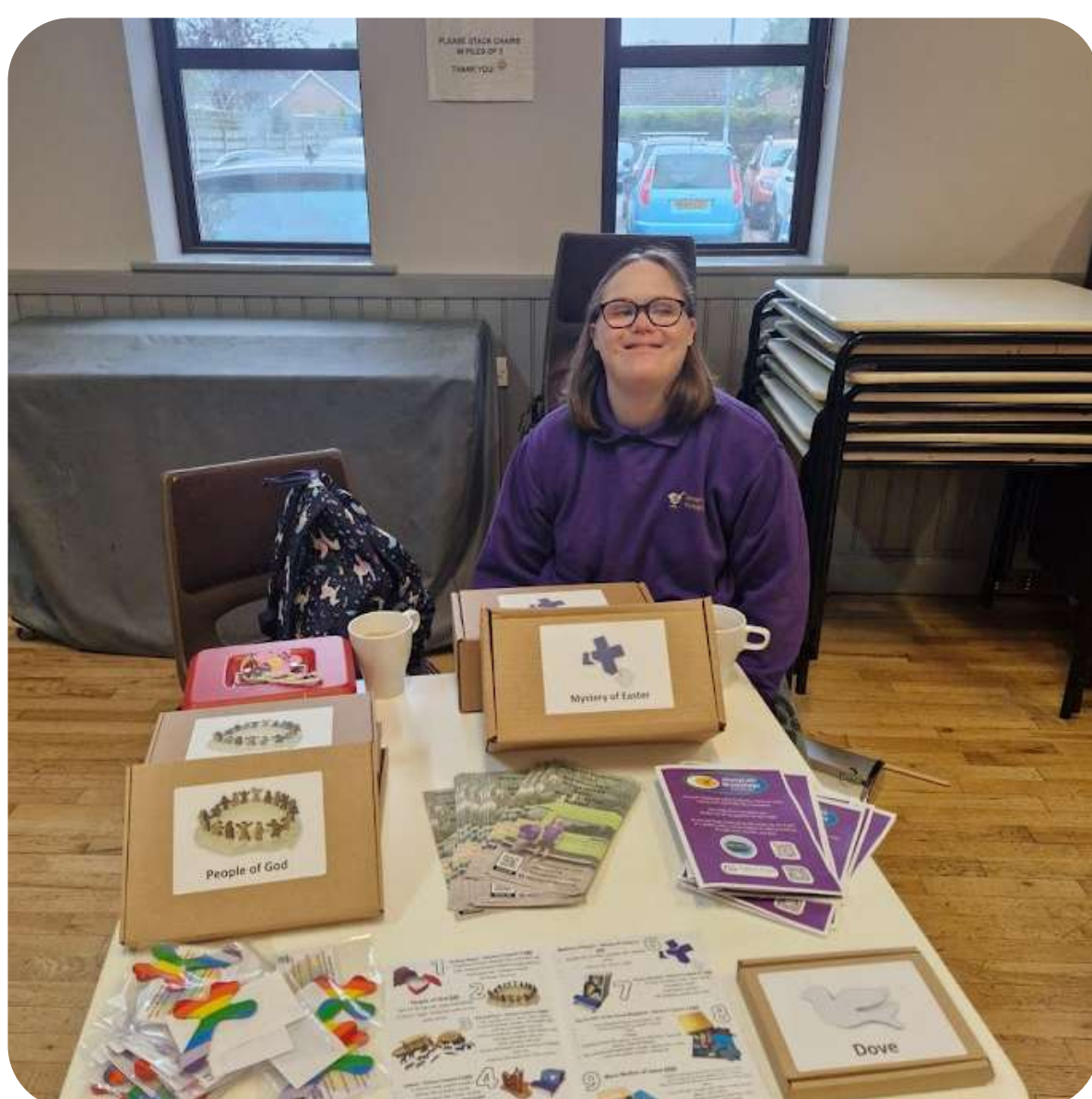


I went with Avril, Emma ,Victoria and Martin.  
I went in the green Minibus and the weather was sunny and cloudy. After lunch we looked at the highland cows. I liked seeing all the animals and having a walk, I picked some apples to take back.

**By Rachael**



## Joined Up Conference



On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, Lucy and Nicky went to the Joined Up Conference in Haxby. They met lots of people who were very pleased to find that we are now making and supplying Godly Play Resources. They sold some of our products and took some orders as well. We're looking forward to going back again next year.

# Great Ouseburn with Woodwork



I went to Great Ouseburn for the grand opening of the nature reserve. We walked around the whole acre, the weather was very cold and windy. They cut the ribbon to mark the opening. The man in charge did all the thank yous and was very pleased with the charity.

**by Jamie Allen**



We got to Great Ouseburn at about 2pm. Richard, Steve, Jamie and I went. Someone made a speech about how the money was raised to buy the land. They also thanked everyone including Jennyruth Workshops who had helped to make the nature reserve possible. A lady cut the ribbon to open the nature reserve after another small speech. We then had a walk around the field and into the woods, this was by the Ouseburn stream which is the edge of the nature reserve.

**by Emma S**

# Wonky Willow

Nellie from Wonky Willow came into our craft group to show us how to make willow fish.

First, they stripped the willow and then had a demonstration from Nellie. Emma, Beth, Victoria and Ryan really enjoyed the session, they managed to make them without much support at all.

They did amazing and we now have some fab fish to display in the garden.



# The Tap on the Tutt and the Claro Lounge

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October I went to the Tap on the Tutt and the Claro Lounge in Ripon with Chris C, Emma S, Kacey, Janet and Kelly.

Chris C, Emma S, and Kacey were helping Kelly to carry heavy bags with some books to the pub while Janet was supporting, by linking up with me while I was walking around the pub and even grounds.

We went into the pub, to take some interesting books that we had handcrafted ourselves, but it was beautifully wrapped with wrapping paper in our book wrapping group.

Chris C, Emma S, Kacey and I were restocking up the shelves with some books and then we all had a group photo in front of the bookshelf with the books on.

Then we all went to the Claro Lounge for a cosy or Baltic drink and then we also had some cake which was “yummy in my tummy”.

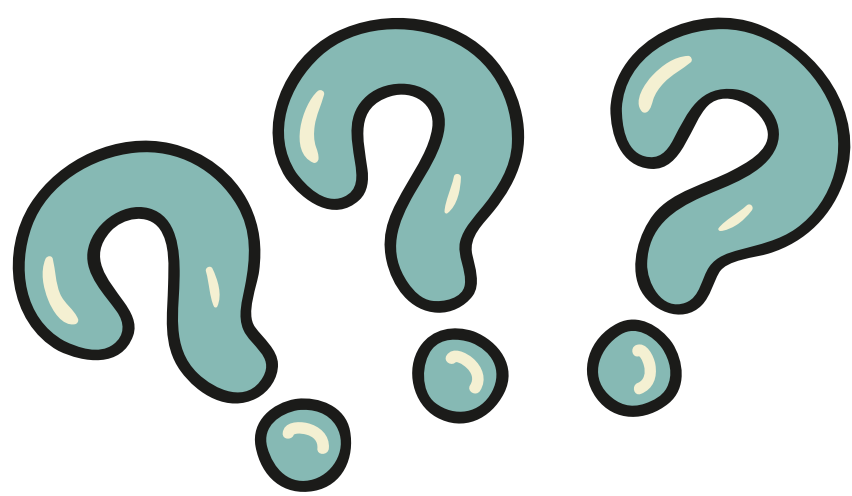
We also went to restock the shelf with some extra books; we all took turns restocking the shelves.

And we all had another photo while we were there.

I really enjoyed my day because I couldn't stop talking about it all week and I was very excited because I was going out with the book wrapping group.

The weather was a bit overcast, cold and sunny.

After a lovely afternoon out, we all went back to the workshop.



Typed up by Jessica Lewis



# Cumbria Life

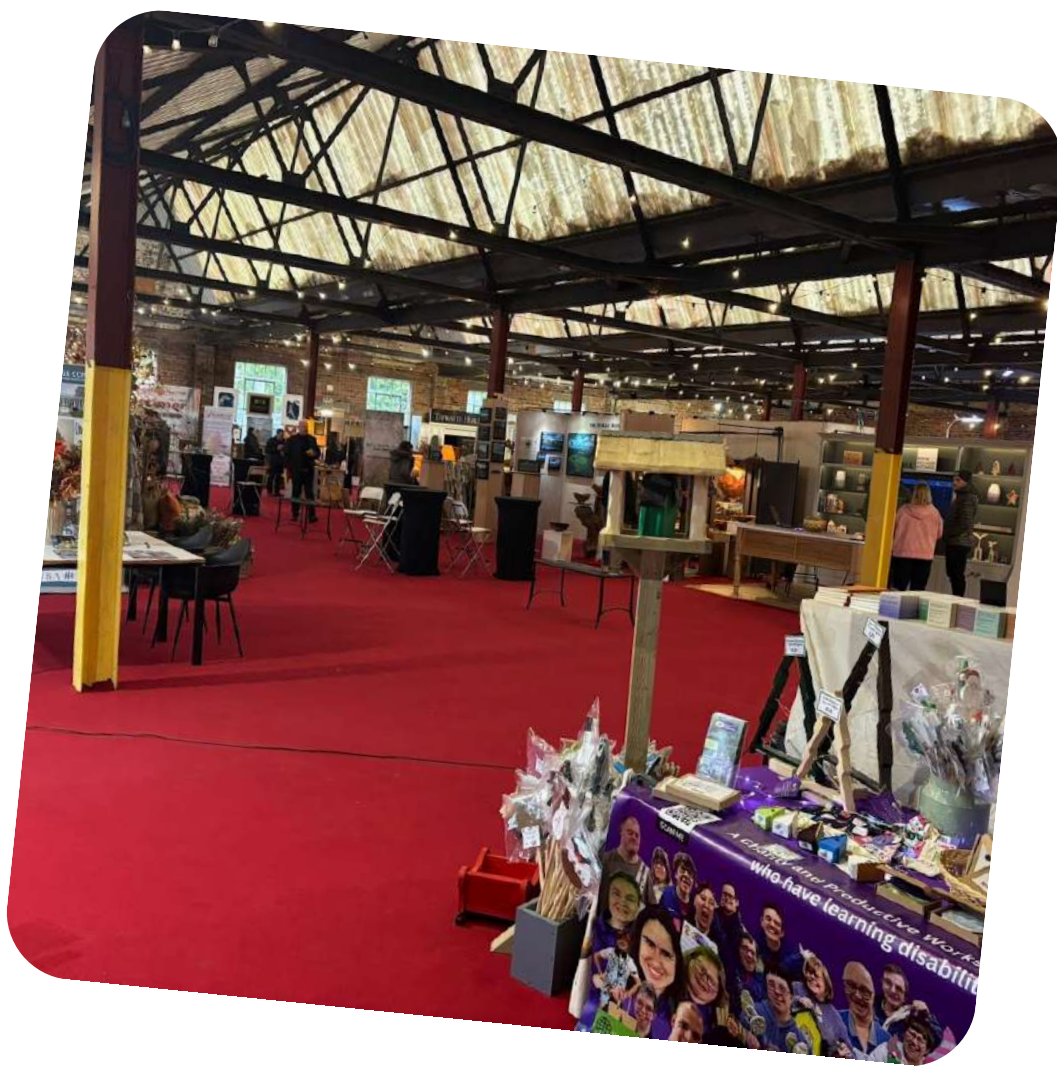
Avril and I spent our weekend at the Cumbria Life Home & Gift Fair in Keswick. We arrived on the Friday, luckily in lovely weather, and swiftly got to work unloading the van and setting up our stall! The fair was inside the Pencil Factory which they had lit up with festoon lights so it looked very festive. We were in the home interiors section which made us feel very fancy! The Cumbria Life team were brilliant and made sure we had everything we needed, including a Hoover as leaves were starting to take over the stall!



## Day 1

After a hearty breakfast we headed to the fair. A final tweaking of the stall and we were ready to welcome our customers. As soon as they opened the doors, we were met with a flood of customers. Our stall was choc - a - bloc to the point where I briefly got stuck in the corner when trying to get a large gnome for a lady! We quickly sold out of reindeer and had people fighting over the display items. Avril and I took it in turns to clamber behind the stall to restock. Avril went to do a paint your own demo at 2.30 and left me manning the fort but luckily it had calmed down a tad so there was no chance of me getting trampled in her absence. At 4 o'clock and with an hour to go it was finally quiet enough for a hot chocolate and a little look around the stalls. We checked our total and WOW....we'd made an incredible £1804, we couldn't quite believe it ourselves! What an amazing day but we were very ready for food and a rest before tomorrow!

**By Anna**



## Day 2

We doubled up on the hash browns and bacon at breakfast so we were rearing to go. The weather had turned bleak over night so we were in foggy rain and it was very cold! We had to do a big restock following the stall looking rather ransacked after yesterday. We braced ourselves as the doors opened and we were soon surrounded by customers. By 12 we were down to the last few sheets of wrapping paper, had sold out of the sewing group's storage boxes, sets of 3 angels, Christmas trees and Christmas sheep. We'd given up on restocking the tree decorations and just left the box out for people to rummage. We were lucky as there was a small lull, so a brief window for Avril and I to wolf down a pizza for lunch! It was steady away throughout the last few hours although I did have to guard the last large reindeer for a family before someone else bought it. Another amazing total of £1624 so we were over the moon! Sold out of lots more items including trugs and wrapping paper. We packed up the remaining stock, said our thank yous and headed back to North Yorkshire after an incredible weekend of selling!

**By Anna**

# News from the Workshops



*Christmas mince pies*



## Christmas Fair

*Christmas refreshments*

Thursday 11th December

1.30-5pm at Jennyruth Workshops, Unit 5, Red House Farm, Bridge Hewick, Ripon, HG4 5AY

*And have lots of fun*



*Christmassy workshop*



*Christmas raffle*



# Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Denise

Denise is such an important part of our Jennyruth Workshops family, having been a member of staff for 20 years!

Of course we couldn't let such a momentous occasion pass without a big celebration.



# Pumpkin Competition

The workers took part in a paint your own wooden pumpkin competition!



# 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 Hannah!**

**Do you have a favourite football team?**

I don't support any football team but if I did it would be Harrogate Town.

**What your favourite holiday that you been on?**

Majorca because it is very hot and I like a sangria!

**What your favourite hobby?**

I enjoy going to Danceability and Re4m .

I enjoy singing, dancing and acting. I enjoy doing activities and socialising with other people.

**What your favourite dance move?**

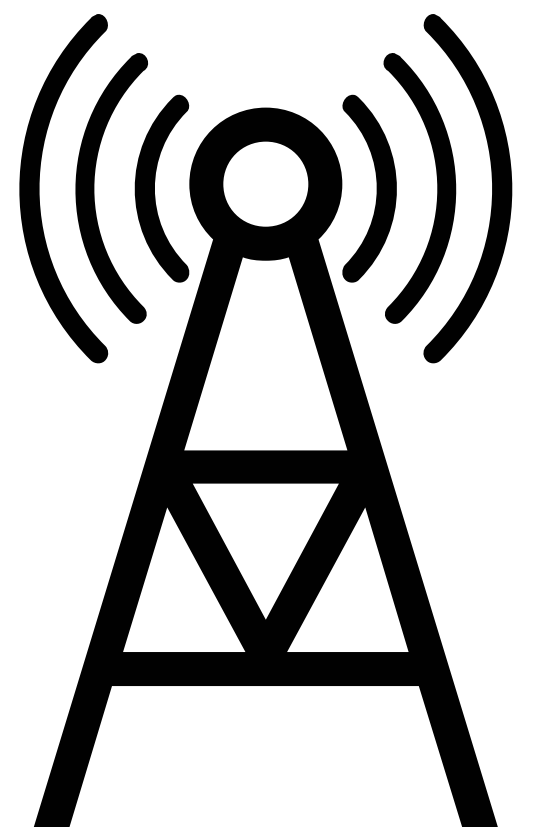
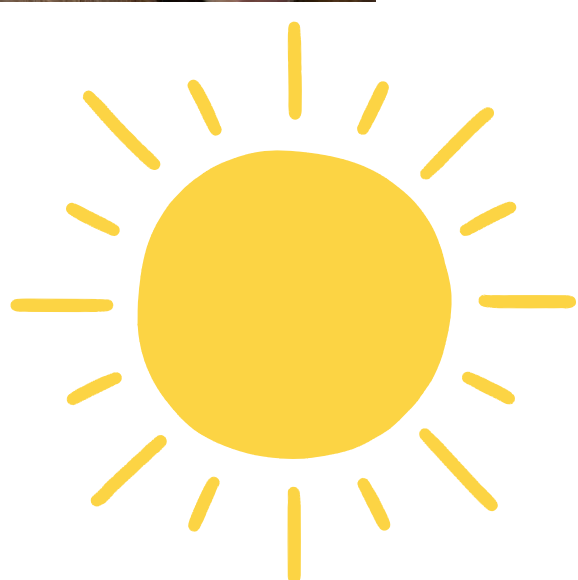
I like wiggling my arms around!

**What your favourite room at Jennyruth Workshops ?**

The other room, woodwork and paint shop.

**What your favourite music to listen to?**

80s music, Capital FM and YO1 radio stations.



**What is your favourite product to do at Jennyruth Workshops?**

Birds boxes because they help the birds.

**What is your favourite film?**

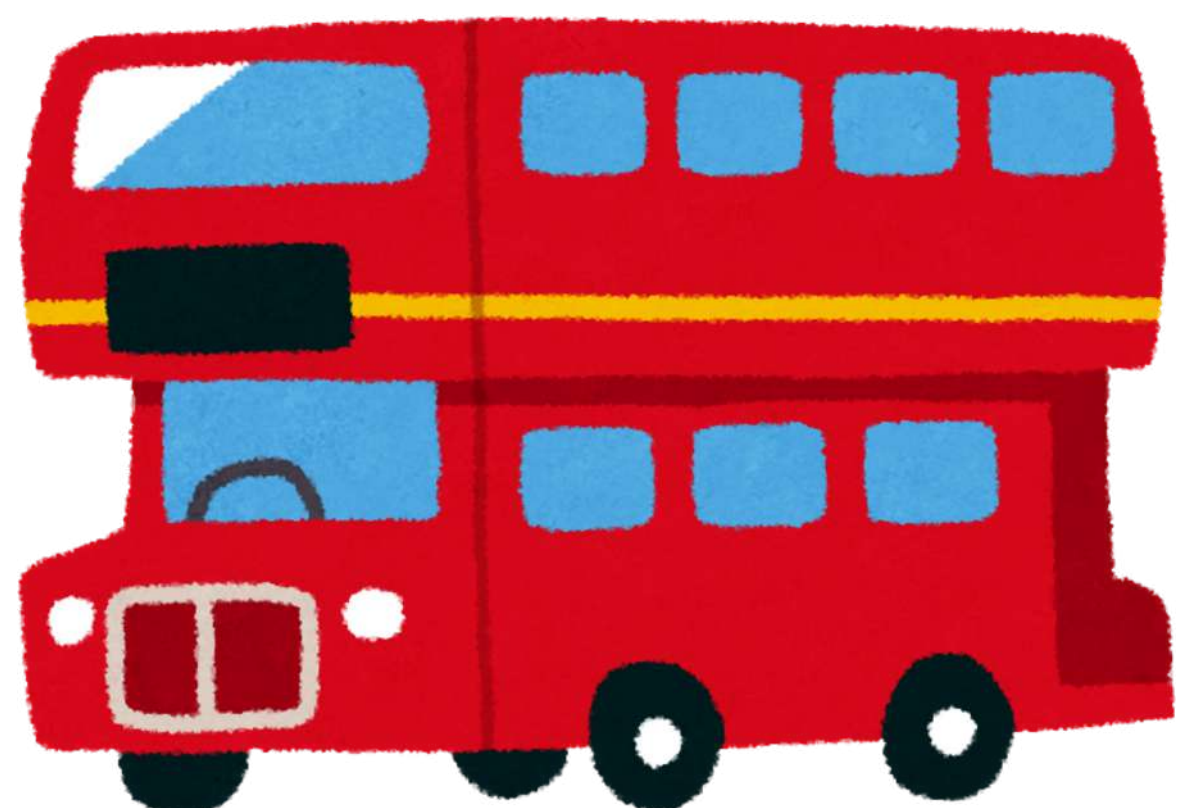
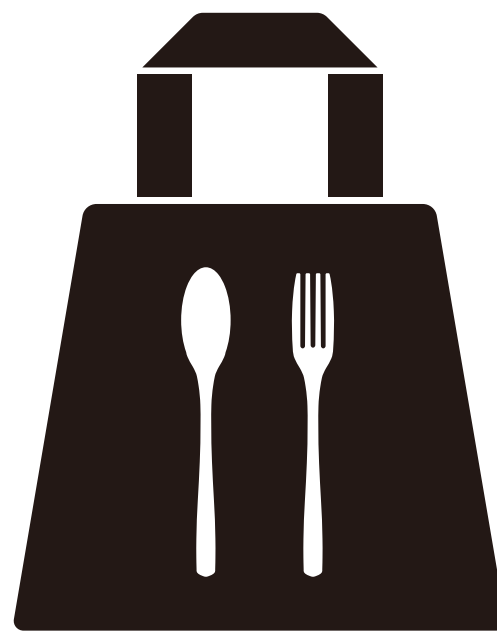
Disney films, especially the Lion King.

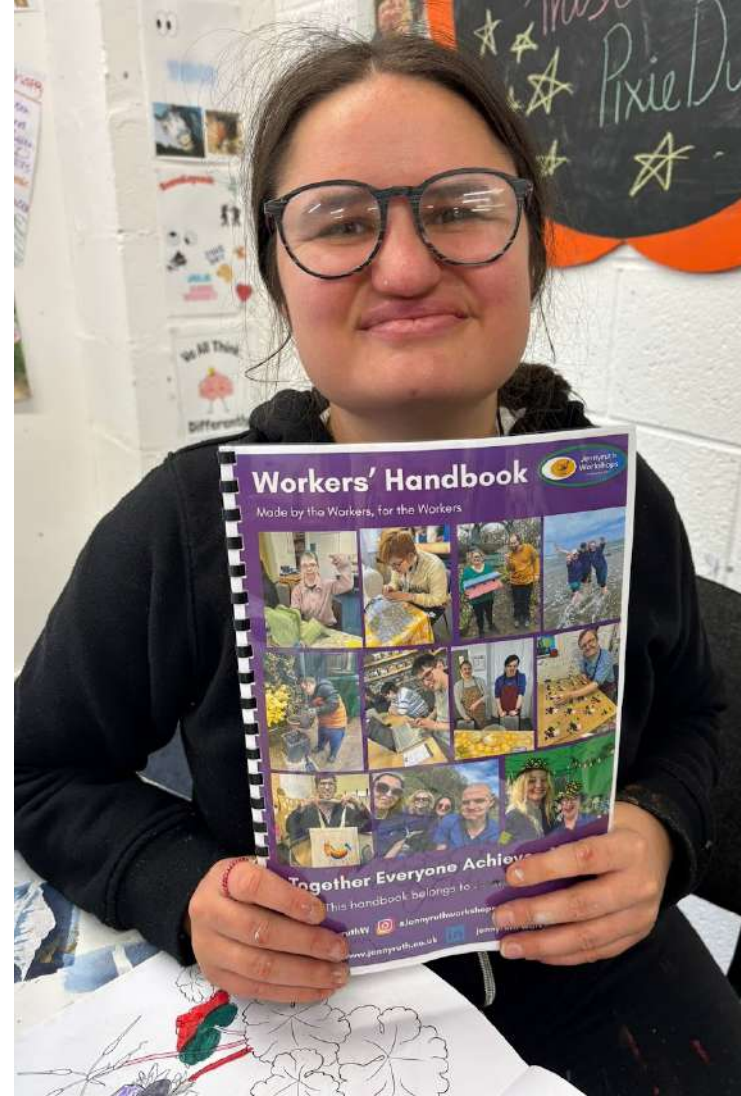
**What is your favourite food?**

Takeaway fish and chips.

**What's your favourite thing to do on a weekend?**

I go to Leeds on the bus and enjoy looking around the shops.





# Cooks Corner

**This months recipe is a Roast Dinner. Sam has taken inspiration the BBC Good Food website for his recipes.**



Sam asked some of the workers and staff what their favourite roast dinner was and what they like with it.

Sam – Pork, roast potatoes, Yorkshire puddings

Anna – Lamb shank, roast potatoes, mint sauce

Avril – A mix of gammon and turkey, dauphinoise potatoes, red cabbage

Phoebe – Beef, gravy, all vegetables

Phe (v) – Just vegetables. no gravy

William – I don't really like it

## **Yorkshire Pudding Recipe**

The secret to getting glorious puffed-up Yorkshire puddings is to get the fat sizzling hot and don't open the oven door.

### **Ingredients**

140g plain flour

4 eggs

200ml milk

Sun flower for cooking

## Method

### Step 1

Heat oven to 230C/fan 210C/gas 8.

### Step 2

Drizzle a little sunflower oil into two 4-hole Yorkshire pudding trays or two 12 - hole non-stick muffin tins and place in the oven to heat through.

### Step 3

To make the batter, tip 140g plain flour into a bowl and beat in 4 eggs until smooth.

### Step 4

Gradually add 200ml milk and carry on beating until the mix is completely lump free. Season with salt and pepper.

### Step 5

Pour the batter into a jug, then remove the hot tins from the oven. Carefully and evenly pour the batter into the holes.

### Step 6

Place the tins back in the oven and leave undisturbed for 20-25 mins until the puddings have puffed up and browned.

### Step 7

Serve immediately.

You can now cool them and freeze for up to 1 month.



## ROAST POTATOES

Make sure your oil is hot before putting the potatoes in the oven.

### Ingredients

1kg Maris piper potatoes

100g duck or goose fat

2 tsp flour

Sea salt flakes

### METHOD

#### Step 1

Put a roasting tin in the oven (one big enough to take the potatoes in a single layer) and heat oven to 200/ fan 180C/gas 6

#### Step 2

Peel 1kg potatoes and cut each into 4 even -sized pieces if they are medium size, 2-3 if smaller (5cm pieces).

#### Step 3

Drop the potatoes into a large pan and pour in enough water to barely cover them.

#### Step 4

Add salt, then wait for the water to boil. As soon as the water reaches a full rolling boil, lower the heat, put your timer on and simmer the potatoes uncovered, reasonably vigorously, for 2 mins.

#### Step 5

Meanwhile, put 100g duck or goose fat or 100ml olive oil into the hot roasting tin and heat it in the oven for a few minutes, so it's really hot.

#### Step 6

Drain the potatoes in a colander, then shake the colander back and forth a few times to fluff up the outsides.

#### Step 7

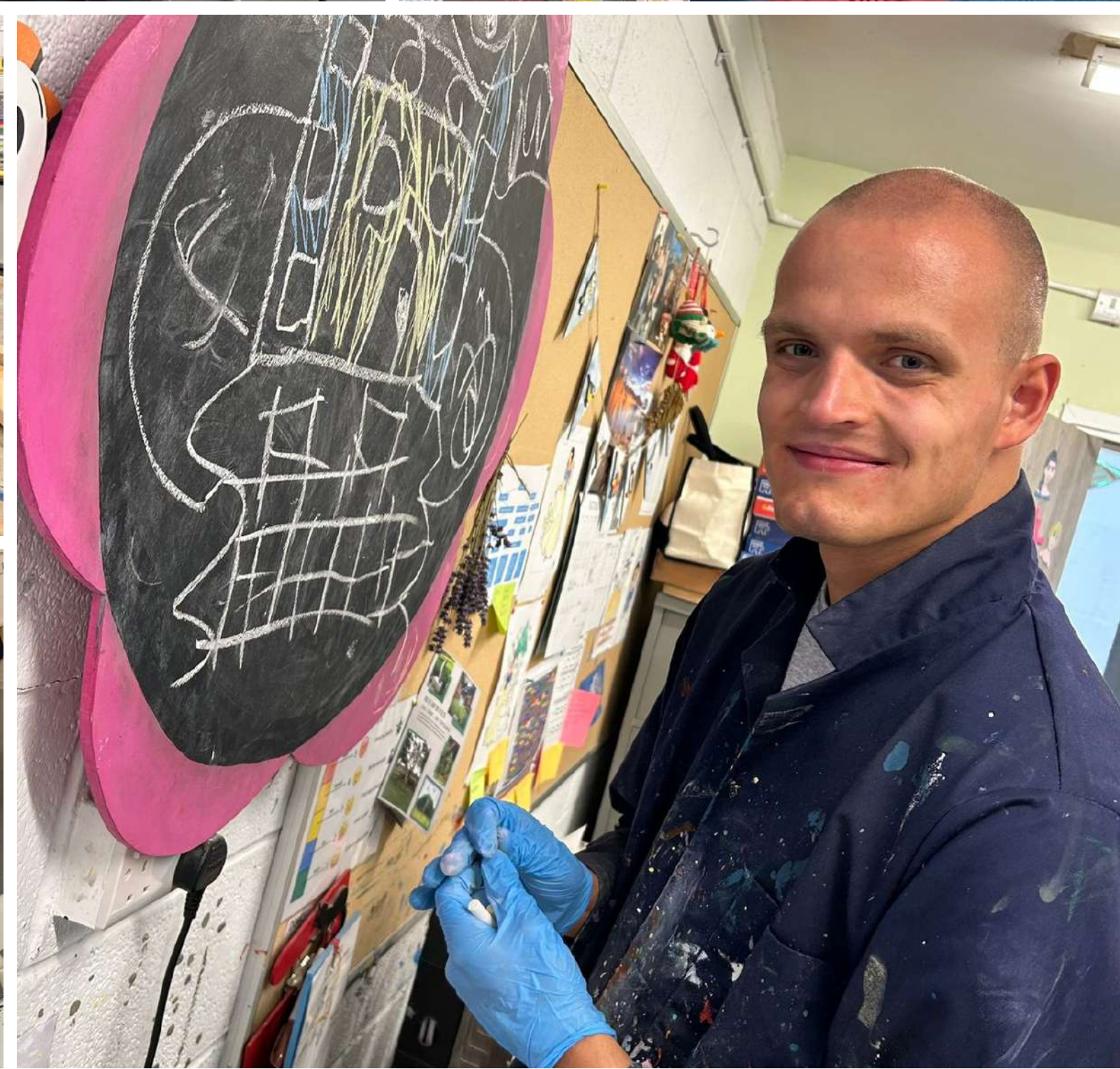
Sprinkle with 2 tsp of flour and give another shake or two so they are evenly coated.

#### Step 8

Carefully put the potatoes into the hot fat, they will sizzle as you put them in. Then turn the potatoes so they are coated all over.

#### Step 9

Spread them in a single layer making sure they have plenty of room.



# 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)**







# 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:



**Donate**

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.



# Support Jennyruth Workshops Ltd

## You donation helps us do more, every day!

Whether it's a one-off gift or a regular contribution, donations form a vital part of our revenue to enable us to keep doing what we do best.

## Ways to Donate

- **Online via Our Website**



Tap the **Donate** button – it's quick and secure.

Scan the QR code or visit: **[www.jennyruth.co.uk/donate](http://www.jennyruth.co.uk/donate)**

You can make **one-off or regular donations** directly through this page and enable Gift Aided donation(s).

Please email – **[finance@jennyruth.co.uk](mailto:finance@jennyruth.co.uk)** for forms

- **Set Up a Direct Debit or Standing Order**

Prefer to arrange it through your bank? Just ask for a form.

Once completed, **send it directly to your bank** – not back to us.

- **Gift Aid It**

If you're a UK taxpayer, your donation could be worth 25% more at no extra cost.

Fill in a quick **Gift Aid Form** and we'll do the rest.

**Every penny makes a difference.**

Thank you for supporting Jennyruth Workshops Ltd.

**Registered Charity No. 1093957**

# KNARESBOROUGH KNIGHTMARES CHARITY GHOST WALKS

**18 June 13 Aug**

**29 Oct 17 Dec**

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



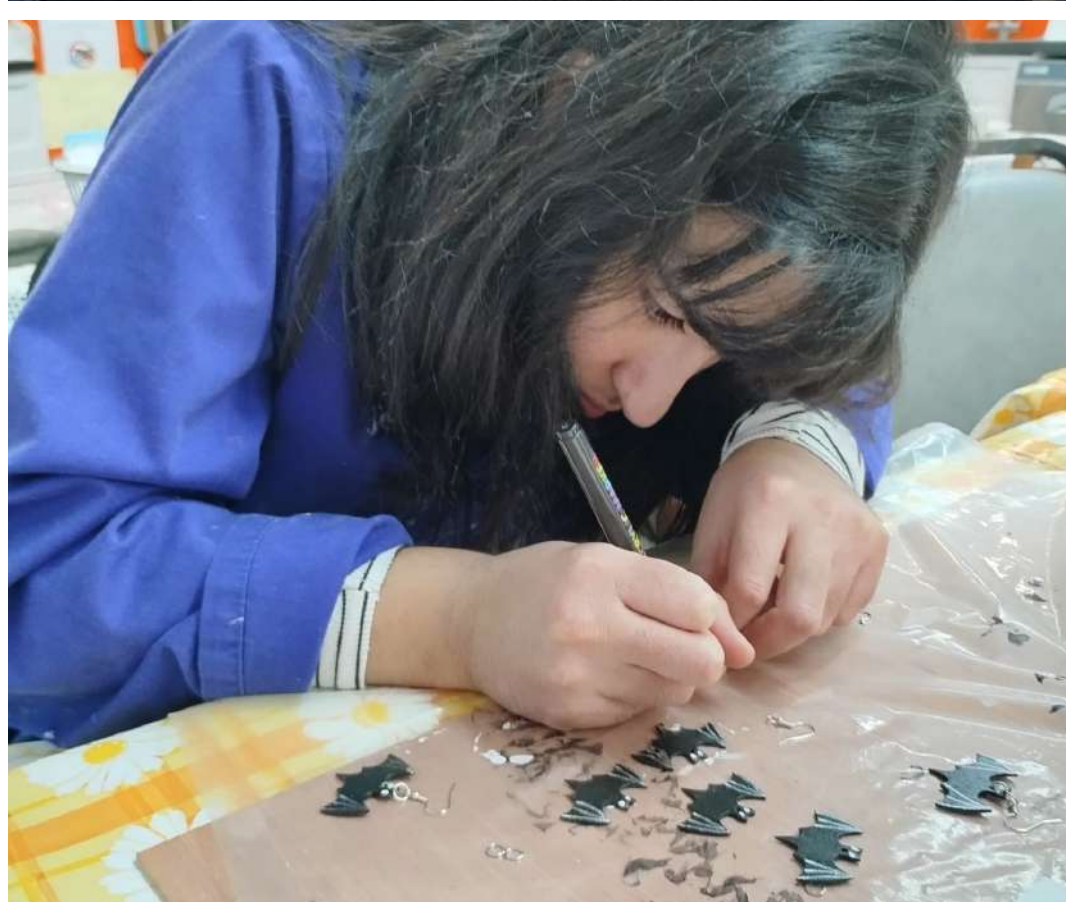
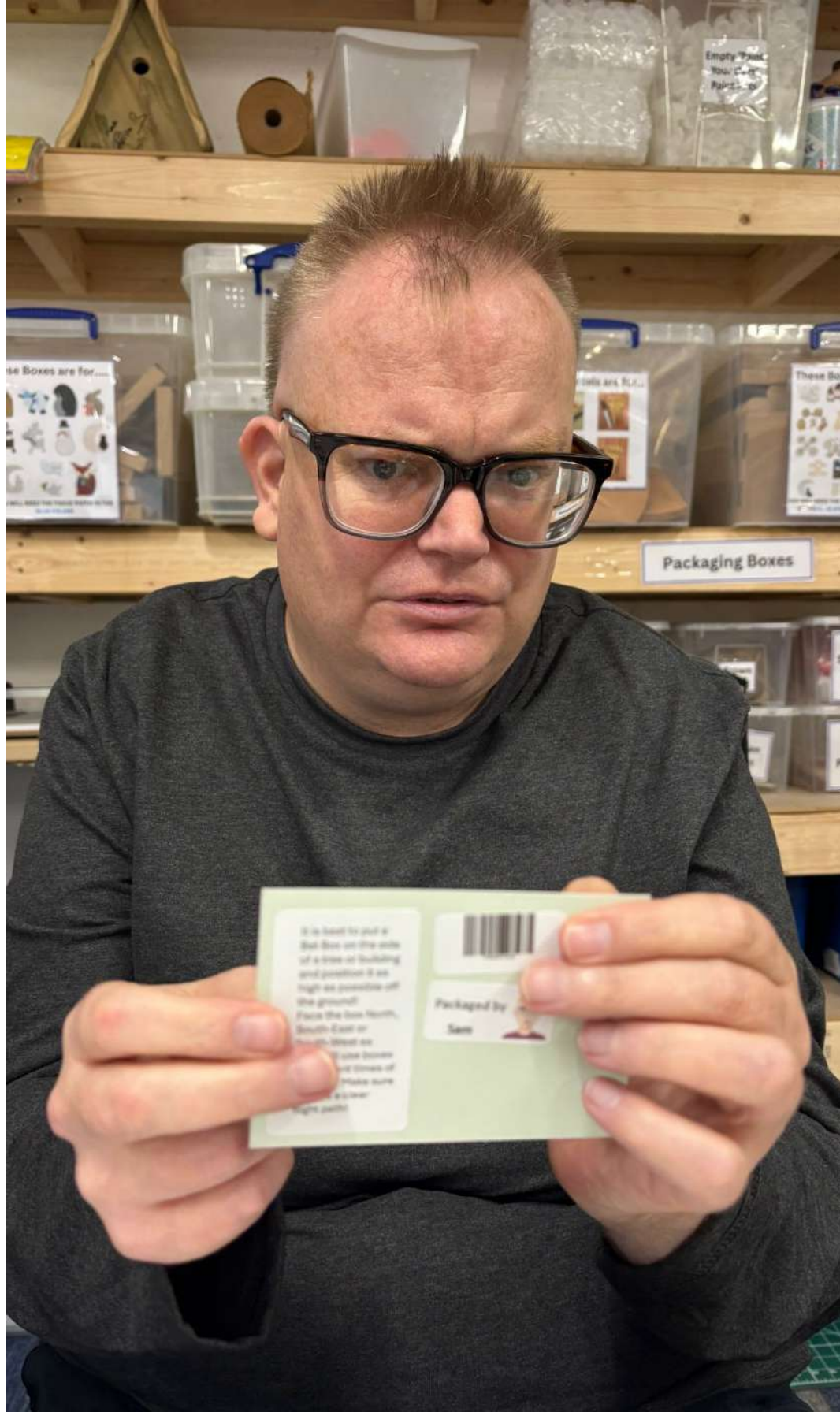
The 2025 Knaresborough Knightmares ghost walks are now open for booking, with all ticket money donated to local good causes including Jenny Ruth Workshops.

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 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

**November**

Dawn Wright

Robin Wilson

Rachel Kidd

Jane Dawber

Shaun Dean

Grace Liddle

Peter Darton



# 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 [info@jennyruth.co.uk](mailto:info@jennyruth.co.uk).

## November

Little Bird Market at Harewood House  
8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November



Yarm School Christmas Fete  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 4pm

Little Bird Market on Ripon Market Square  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November



Christmas Fair at Ripon Cathedral  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Bishop Monkton School Christmas Fair  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November  
10am – 2pm





Thirsk Lodge Barns Christmas Market  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November  
6pm – 9pm

Little Bird Market Easingwold  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
3pm – 8pm

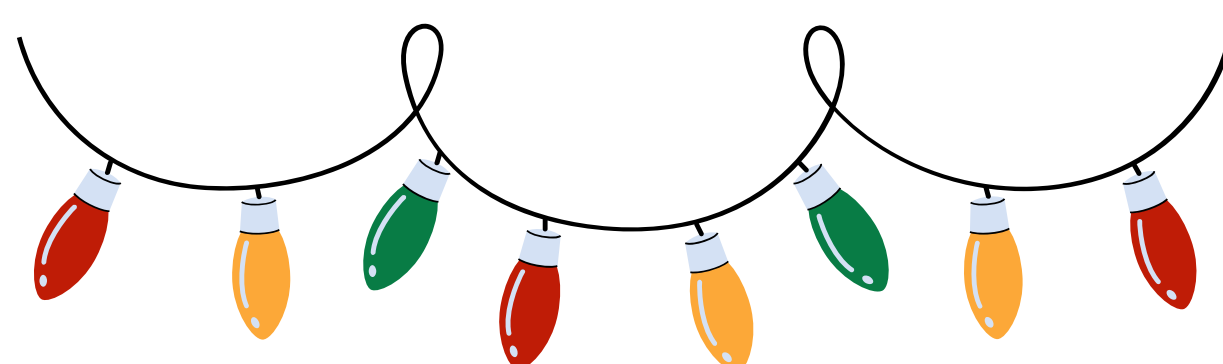


Kirkby Fleetham Christmas Fayre  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November

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



Cundall Manor School Christmas Fair  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November

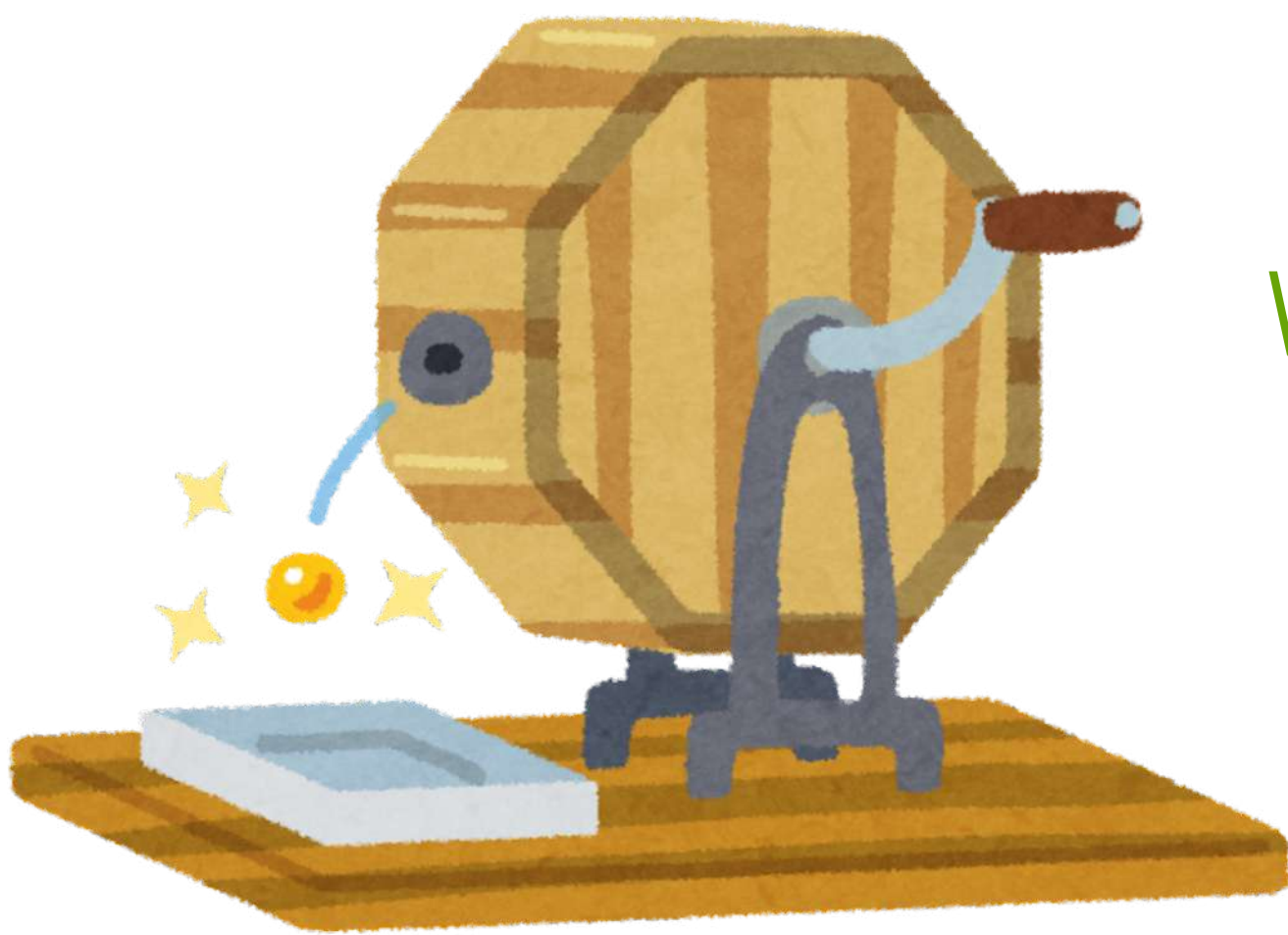


# December

Osmotherley Community Church Coffee Morning

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

10am - 12pm



Tap on the Tutt Tombola  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
From 5pm

Copt Hewick Village Hall Christmas Fair

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December

11am - 3pm



Coffee Morning at Marton cum Grafton

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 10am - 12pm



Jennyruth Workshops Christmas Fair & Open Day  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
1:30pm – 5pm



Wetherby Dickensian Market  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
10am – 3pm







# A Message from



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

**01765 606620**

