

The Wren

Issue 28

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Together Everyone Achieves More



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Contents

Hello everyone

Welcome to a bumper edition of The Wren. 48 pages crammed full of news from the Workshops. We have been just a little bit busy 😊

I'd like to say a special thanks to Avril, Hannah and Helen for making the talk to Roecliffe WI such a lovely evening.

We have had another volunteer quiz night at Copt Hewick Village Hall. Over 30 people attended; a lovely opportunity for staff and volunteers to chat and get competitive. Well done to Steve's team for coming first again. Our next quiz night will be on Friday 21st April 2023.

We are gearing up for the first sales event of 2023 and look forward to a busy time meeting customers old and new. If you would like to help at any of these events, please contact Avril on info@jennyruth.co.uk.

Until next month

Take care

Nicky

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Meet the team



Editor Anna Smith

Deputy Editor Ryan Hearfield

Chief Reporter Bethany Evason

Reporter Tom Oates

Photographer Daniel Allen

Assistant Photographer Hannah Rollings



Our Amazing WOWs

Every week we celebrate the incredible achievements of one of our workers. Last month Beth, Jessica and Ben received Worker of the Week (WOW).



Bethany Evason
Worker of the Week
6th February 2023

- For being so reliable.
- For helping out in a wide range of activities.
- For being resilient in courses and trying new things out.
- Always consistent in producing high quality work, especially with her stencilling.

Nicky
CEO



Jessica Lewis
Worker of the Week
14th February 2023

- For fabulous detail on the Easter bunnies.
- For thinking outside of the box on how to touch up her work and correct going out of the lines.
- For lovely smooth painting and not using too much paint.
- For being a cheerful person around the workshop.

Nicky
CEO



Ben Evason
Worker of the Week
21st February 2023



- Because he has learnt how to clean his paintbrush properly.
- For working really well with Joan.
- For showing great pride in his work.

Nicky
CEO





Visits and Events

WI Talk

Hannah, her mum and Avril, went to do a talk to the Roecliffe Women's Institute at Roecliffe School. Hannah set up the stall before giving a talk about her experience of working at Jennyruth Workshops. She then helped to sell some of the products that they brought along with them.

Afterwards, Hannah, her mum and Avril enjoyed wine and biscuits. Hannah was pleased with her talk and everybody clapped and cheered, Hannah took a bow at the end.

By Tom Oates and Hannah Rollings



Visit to Monk Park Farm

Rachael and I went to Monk Park Farm with Simon, Adam and Jerry, my guide dog. We took some guinea pig houses made by Jennyruth Workshops to Jackie, Jack and Hayley. We also had a short walk around the site before getting the minibus back to Jennyruth Workshops. I enjoyed meeting the staff and talking to them about how the business has changed since Covid and the fact that the Yorkshire Vet visits Monk Park Farm. They also chatted to us about what animals they have and also they let the guinea pigs out into their new house. Monk Park Farm was impressed with me and Jerry and were very friendly with the Guide Dog. They only allow dogs in their office, so it was very special for them to allow a guide dog at Monk Park Farm. We looked at the animals from a distance before having a picture near the lake. Monk Park Farm is a good company for Jennyruth Workshops to work with and I would like to visit them again. Jerry was really well-behaved.

By Tom Oates



FILM NEGATIVE



FILM NEGATIVE

FILM NEGATIVE



Makaton Workshop

Our Office Skills group thoroughly enjoyed teaching a group of staff and volunteers, from the education department of Ripon Cathedral, Jonah and the Whale and The Lords Prayer in Makaton.

“I enjoyed teaching them new signs and talking to everyone. My favourite part was teaching them the alphabet,” said Tom.

“I loved teaching them signing! It was really good fun and hilarious especially when we showed them the sign for whale,” said Beth.

“I enjoyed it. I liked showing the people the signs. Learning ‘storm’ was very funny!” said Ryan.

“We showed them a video of The Lord's Prayer being signed in Makaton. We then showed them how to sign it. I made everyone laugh. I enjoyed talking to everyone,” said Ellen.

“My favourite part was tea and biscuits. I liked signing Jonah and the whale. It was awesome!” Said Daniel.



"Thank you for organising such an interesting and enjoyable session for us. It was great fun and could be very useful for us in the future."

"It was such fun! All the work that Jennyruth had put into the presentation beforehand, and the joy and enthusiasm with which they communicated it to us was inspiring."

"A big thank you to Jennyruth staff and workers. I really enjoyed the session, it was inspirational."

"Thank you and your whole team at Jennyruth for teaching us how to use Makaton to bring the story of Jonah to life in a new way and also deepen the meaning of the Lord's Prayer; we loved every minute and are inspired to use these signs to help us communicate with all ages and abilities. It was brilliantly led and beautifully presented. We hope you will be able to help us again share Bible stories using Makaton in the future."



Visit to Hanson Plywood

We are proud to name Hanson Plywood Ltd as our plywood supplier and one of our sponsors! After two of their sales team popped over to visit us we thought it was only right that we paid them a visit.

Martin said, "It was good. We had a guided tour to see what the guys do there. It was Ryan, Anna, Christopher, Alex, Avril and I. My favourite part was seeing what they do there. It was interesting to see the forklifts. We had a very nice lunch of sandwiches and cake, it was really nice. I was very well looked after."

Alex said, "It was really good. I loved looking at all the wood in the warehouses and meeting everyone."

Ryan said, "I enjoyed going with Christopher, Martin, Alex, Avril and Anna to look at the wood. I loved looking at the wood and getting a drink bottle. I loved the sandwiches, especially the carrot cake. I enjoyed meeting the staff and I would like to go again."

Christopher said, "It was good. I really enjoyed it going out and about and getting a nice cup of tea. I looked at different types of wood. The people I met were really nice and helpful."



After being given a grand tour of the warehouses and offices, we sat down to enjoy a delicious lunch. After the Hanson Plywood employees did a spot of shopping we got down to business and interviewed Gary, Rebecca, Tracey and Dominic about the work they do.

Christopher: "What is your role at Hanson Plywood?"

Gary: "I'm the managing director and I own the business. So, I make most of the big decisions at the company and try to look after the staff as well."

Rebecca: "I'm the Marketing Manager so pretty much the same as Anna. I do all our social media, ordering of gifts, exhibition prep, design work and many more tasks."

Dominic: "I work as part of the Sales Team, where we take all the incoming calls and make outgoing calls to customers in the industries that we serve."

Tracey: "I work in sales as well, but I tend to go out visiting customers like when I came to see you the other week. I actually brought Dominic with me for a day out."

Gary: "Tracey also organises our exhibitions and shows and does work presenting to architects and specifiers to explain what our products do and how they work in the industry. She spends a lot of her time organising the stands, making sure they're built to our specifications and working with Rebecca to make sure the advertising and the presentation is all as it needs to be for Hanson Plywood."



Ryan: "How many members of staff do you have?"

Gary "There's around about 80 members of staff now. We have a lot of people that work in our transport and warehouse department. We have delivery vehicles; our own drivers and we also have people working in the warehouse that are handling stock. They're picking orders, getting orders organised, receiving materials that come in and sending materials back out. Half of our staff work in the warehousing and delivery department and then the other half of the staff we have work in general management, but we have different departments. The biggest department we have, aside from transport and warehouse, is sales because we must sell all these different products that you've seen in the warehouses. Our shipping department deals with importing materials from around the world so have staff that are able to handle the transport from those factories into the UK. The materials either go directly to our customers or to us to store ready for us to redeliver at a later date. Then we have accounts, general administration, which is very important to the business. We also have Rebecca who does all the marketing and promotion of the organisation. We have quite a significant department which is called our HEAT team and that's Hanson Environmental, Ethical and Technical team. The team is made up of a group of people that are checking all our suppliers to make sure that we're comfortable that they're supplying legal and sustainable materials into the business. We're one of the biggest importers in the UK of wood-based panel products and it's very important that everything we handle is legal and sustainable."

Alex: "What does your day-to-day consist of?"

Gary: "My day as a Managing Director is making sure that the company is working properly. I check on the different departments, making sure everything is running smoothly and if there's anything that needs changing or altering. If anybody needs me, we'll have little meetings to make sure that everything's working properly throughout the company so that's mainly my job. I used to spend a lot of time selling because I was a full-time salesperson but not so much these days as it's mainly looking after everybody else in the company. The job changes as the business changes. So, there's a lot of work just making sure the departments are functioning properly."

Avril: "Did you start the company off?"

Gary: "Sort of but not quite. It was a colleague I used to work with at another company who started the company up originally then I joined him after a short period of time. He's since retired from the company and sadly passed away a couple of years ago."

Rebecca: "Day to day, I will design brochures, stickers and other promotional items. I also update our four websites to make sure the information is the most recent. I organise the exhibitions with Tracey too. It's getting to exhibition season now and we have to start the prep. We do three exhibitions a year, one of them is a large show in Birmingham, one in London, and one in Harrogate. I also order things like Chilly bottles and our Christmas gifts. I do a bit of everything really and I work with Gary mostly, we're like a well-oiled machine. I'm also involved in the HEAT team as well. I enjoy the environmental/sustainability side of the company and love working with the HEAT Team."

Dominic: "My day consists of receiving incoming calls from customers in different industries. We also make phone calls out to customers to discuss suitable materials for uses within their Company, like when I called Jennyruth. I help them to find a material suitable that you can use within your organisation, like the poplar plywood for the wrens you laser out."

Tracey: "Similar to Dominic but I'm out visiting customers. I also go to try and find new customers for the company as well as do other bits. So also getting involved in the HEAT team but that's because environment issues are part of my own personal crusade."





Martin: "How many different styles of plywood do you sell?"

Gary: "That's a really difficult question as I haven't added them up recently. There are certainly 100s and probably 1000s of different items that we sell but we have what we call main product groups. The main product headers are MDF, Plywood, Chipboard and OSB (Orientated Strand Board) and then underneath those headers, there are all sorts of individual products. Some of them are coated like OSB, so you'll have a raw OSB board which might be used in building and construction that doesn't have any coating on it. Then there is a product that has a coating on that allows you to use it as a site hoarding so it puts a finish on the product. We like to think we're the UK specialist in plywood as we carry a greater range of plywood products than anyone else in the UK. We try and stock lots of different options and then a lot of those different options nobody else will have so we need to distribute them all over the UK right up to the North of Scotland and down to the South East and the South West. So lots of different alternatives and different sizes for all of these different industries that we supply. You'd be surprised where some of these products are used."

Christopher: "What is the most exciting use for plywood?"

Tracey: "We try and know what most customers are going to make. We have a saddle frame from a customer. You wouldn't suspect that plywood is used to make saddles for horse riding."

Gary: "If you go horse riding the architecture frame for the saddle will be upholstered and have leather sewn over it. Another interesting use of our products is we have one company, fairly local to us, who are the leaders in producing staging for outdoor events so all the major touring artists will be performing on our plywood. We have a big mock-up studio near Wakefield where they rehearse and one of our drivers was delivering there and saw Hugh Jackman during his rehearsals. These are the demountable stages that go on tour around the world. So, if somebody's going on tour then this company does all the staging and lighting systems."



Ryan: "What is the thickest plywood you make?"

Gary: "The thickest is probably about 50mm as a standard thickness. When you get above 25mm usually people are getting on to more structural members in solid timber or hardwood."



Alex: "What is the most exciting part of your job?"

Gary: "An exciting part is making a profit as it helps us know that we're successful. But the most exciting part is meeting people like yourselves and finding out what you're doing in your organisation. It's great looking at the products that you're making so it's really exciting to meet you and all of the other industries that we also supply. We're very lucky to supply so many different industries and work with so many exciting organisations."

Rebecca: "Exactly what Gary said. I also like going to exhibitions because they're challenging but exciting to organise. I like prepping for them because I work better under pressure. When we get to an exhibition everything gets very full on and the shows are one after another so there is quick turn around."

Dominic: "I love learning about what customers are using our materials for and understanding the different businesses we serve."

Tracey: "I love going to manufacturing customers and wandering around their factories and seeing what they actually make with our products and other products. I enjoy trying to help them find a better product to do a job whether it'll be cheaper for them, cause less wastage or be more useful to them. I love doing the exhibition work because it's a break from the norm and meeting different people."

Christopher: "What is the largest piece of plywood you sell?"

Gary: "The largest size of plywood we sell would be 10ft by 5ft. That's plywood but MDF and chipboard will go bigger because they've got bigger presses and they don't have to peel from logs. The chipping or defibrating of the log reconstitutes it so they can go up to much bigger sizes. In plywood, it's limited by the quality of the log and the machinery to peel the logs and sand the veneers. Most people are cutting panels down rather than using them as full sheets."

Alex: "How did you get into the plywood industry?"

Gary: "I started with a local timber company looking for trainees to start in the timber industry, specifically wood-based panel products. I was 17 years old; went for an interview, and they offered me a job. I did my training and enjoyed it. As a product, I found timber an interesting material to work with so that was my start."

Tracey: "I've probably been in this industry 30 years but I've done all sorts of jobs. I used to work in electronics and car spares. I was a buyer for a furniture manufacturer which is what got me interested in wood. I enjoy the different things you can do with wood; the different trees, the look, and different qualities."

Rebecca: "I've been here about 6 years. I was finishing my masters in forensics so very different. I started just working part time and loved it so didn't want to leave. I do a lot of the design work in house now. We also work with a company called Prime Creative who are fantastic in what they do, and I work very well with them."

Dominic: "I've only worked with Hanson Plywood for six months, so a very short time in comparison to everyone else. I fancied working in a different industry as I worked in the Retail Industry with Curry's for a long time, and this is a brilliant company to work for."





Ryan: "How do you make plywood?"

Gary: "You'll be familiar with chipboard, which is made by taking a log, chipping it down, mixing it with water and then compressing. MDF is similar but you reduce the timber down to a fibre rather than a chip then you mix that with glue and resin. When you make it 18mm thick you start with a thick matt, and it'll be compressed right down under heat and pressure. Plywood is produced by taking a log, putting it on a lathe and rotary peeling the veneer. These are then bonded together so it's not reduced down to a fibre or a chip. OSB is layered slithers which are placed together under heat and pressure, but you orientate the strands in order to achieve plywood strength."

Ryan: "How many hours do you work?"

Gary: "Well the business runs 24 hours, so we have different shifts. Our administration department, accounts and main sales will generally work between the hours of 7 o'clock in the morning and 5 o'clock in the afternoon and there'll be staff that are staggered over those hours. Our warehousing team work through the night to prepare orders to put on the vehicles so that the drivers can be away very early in the morning. Sometimes the drivers are coming in with vehicles at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning when the roads are quieter to get to where they need to go. We work Monday to Friday."

Alex: "What different companies buy plywood from you?"

Gary: "We've got building and construction, furniture manufacturers, vehicle bodybuilders, caravans, motorhomes, portable buildings, portacabins, toys, models and crafts."

Tracy: "Cars, dashboards in cars use plywood, light aircrafts and horse boxes."

Gary: "Sometimes in the car boot they have a flap that you pick up and there's sometimes hardboard on that."

Tracey: "Ships and boats."

Dominic: "Even Tanks."





News from the Workshops

Vote for our video!

We are finalists!

We are so very excited and proud to announce that we are finalists in the Charity Film Awards 2023.

A huge thank you to all our lovely supporters but the best is yet to come.....we now have our sights set on the coveted 'People's Choice Award'. A special award for a special charity!

Click here to vote:

<https://smileycharityfilmawards.com/videos/jennyruth-workshops-small-but-mighty>

We need all the votes we can get so please share far and wide!

Deadline 19th March.



Bespoke Projects



We loved working on this bespoke project for Copt Hewick Village Hall. This lovely piece of craftsmanship replaced the original gate which was rotten and beyond repair. The original iron was able to be restored and incorporated into the creation you see before you.



Allhallowgate Methodist Church asked us to create a new noticeboard for outside of the church. This was a great project to work on and very eye catching!

Daniel's Photo Snaps

Daniel was our Head Photographer for this edition of the magazine! He was trying to get more natural photos but several of our workers, volunteers and staff can't help but strike a pose.







Community Matters

Harrogate BSAC Diving for All



We're pleased to share with you that Harrogate BSAC is keen to offer supported diving experiences and training for people with and without disabilities under the national BSAC Diving for All (DfA) programme.

We have been running fortnightly DfA sessions on a Thurs evening (8-9pm) at Harrogate Ladies College since Nov 22.

I am pleased to announce that we will be running our first Ripon DfA session on Sat, 4th Feb (5-6pm) – hopefully this will be the first of regular future sessions at the new Ripon pool.

There are physical limitations to the Harrogate Ladies College pool. That means that we can support a limited number of individuals there who are also able to use a standard ladder to access and exit the pool.

The new Ripon pool is fully accessible and that means we can support those with a wider range of needs in a more social environment.

BSAC is a not-for-profit enterprise and so a small charge of £10 per session is made to cover the cost of pool hire – all equipment and support is provided free of charge by volunteers at the Club.

If you would be interested in learning more then please do not hesitate to contact us directly (details as below).

Pam & Dave
Harrogate BSAC DfA Co-Ordinators
E: HarrogateBSACDfA@outlook.com



Interview with Nicola Bailey

Jenny Ruth Workshops is very lucky to be partnered with some incredible organisations from Ripon and the surrounding areas. One of those is Ripon Cathedral with whom we have worked on many fantastic projects and having stalls at their numerous events over the years. Our magazine team interviewed Nicola Bailey, Ripon Cathedrals Fundraising and Events Officer, about her role and the importance of community.



What does your role as Fundraising and Events Officer entail?

I organise three main fundraising events a year for the cathedral which provide vital funds to help enable us to carry out our mission. The cathedral receives no regular government funding and music alone costs £300,000 a year. The money we raise helps fund our education programme, supports rural initiatives, and of course helps meet the cost of the care of this ancient cathedral, which attracts visitors from all across the world. So, the events which I organise are – the Spring Food, Home and Garden Fair which you are exhibiting at on 15th April, The St Wilfrid's Banquet which takes place in October and also the Christmas Food and Gift fair at the end of November which you also take a stand at. The cathedral also organises an annual Beer Festival which is planned for 8th May this year, but this is organised by a colleague as I cannot fit this event in as well as the 3 other events I run whilst working part time.

How long have you been working at Ripon Cathedral?

I started in September 2021 which is almost 18 months.

What did you do before your current role?

Well, predominantly I was a stay at home mummy. I have 2 boys but when I say stay at home mummy, I mean I did lots of things in addition but not full time roles. I was a volunteer on the Macmillan Carol Concert committee for 5 years, which organises an annual carol concert at Ripon Cathedral. I was very significantly involved in that which was almost like a full-time job. At the same time as doing that I have an Airbnb business at my own home where I rent a cottage in my garden out to guests and I'm also a part time PA to a Barrister in the Turks and Caicos Islands which involves doing his personal admin in the UK. These are part time roles that I've done for years but prior to that, when I was working full time, I worked for a publishing company in the events department. We organised exhibitions for the maritime, shipping and cruise industry all around the world. This would involve flying into the countries and being responsible for the setting up and running of events in big exhibition centres. I saw very little of the countries I worked in as it was long hours in the exhibition halls getting everything ready and dealing with all the exhibitors.

Prior to that I was employed by a privately owned historic house called Kentwell Hall in Suffolk. I was their Events and Marketing Manager. That again was organising anything from corporate events to educational tours to open air concerts. Basically, raising money to fund the running costs of the house.

When I left university, I qualified as a chartered surveyor, and I worked for Savills, the property consultants for several years but then completely changed direction and went into Event Management, which has been my main focus.

We're very excited to be exhibiting at the Spring Food, Home and Garden Fair on the 15th April. What goes into planning such a big event?

A huge amount of work and planning. I start the process by basically booking out stand space to stall holders such as Jennyruth Workshops. I then book all the equipment that we need to hire for the cathedral such as tables, catering, and hot cupboards. I organise the cathedral fundraising stalls so at Christmas time that's the cake stall that we tend to do and this year at the spring fair it's the chocolate tombola. I have to source the raffle prizes because that's a big fundraiser for us. This involves contacting all local businesses to get them to support us with prizes. I organise children's activities, which are important to us because they encourage family visitors to the event. We've got Rigmoor Reindeer, the mobile petting farm, booked to be on the forecourt again. I also organise the live music as we tend to have a whole timetable of musicians or choristers singing which again attracts visitors.

In addition, I do all the marketing for the event, which involves having the flyer designed and printed and circulating it electronically to our database. I also co-ordinate the distribution of many of the flyers using our lovely volunteers who help distribute them around the city, local villages and schools. Then, I organise the promotion of the events on social media.

A big part of my role involves organising the volunteer rotas. Our events are run basically by volunteers. We are completely reliant on them and they are amazing but it's a big job co-ordinating about 100ish volunteers I have on a database. I ask them if they could help us, what roles they'd like and what hours they can do. Then I juggle all the information and fit the volunteers into the roles they would like and what we've got available. Finally, I email the event rotas out to them.

I also deal with local businesses as several of the local restaurants help us. Rick Jones, from Valentinos, is brilliant in terms of running the beer festival. The Royal Oak cook the pork for the beer festival. At Christmas time it's Rick Jones again who cooks the hot turkey for us. At the spring fair, we use the Storehouse Kitchen to cook the pork for our hot pork sandwiches that we serve in our pop up café, as the cathedral just does not have the catering facilities needed to provide such a service at these events.



Just prior to the event, there's the actual onsite operation logistics of clearing and setting up the cathedral where I have to work with the Verger team to make sure we co-ordinate that in terms of timings of services. When the stall holders come in, I deal with any queries and brief the volunteer staff who are on the door. Then hopefully everything runs smoothly on the day. When the fair closes, the work doesn't end there because there's the pack down, there's all the thank you letters and emails that I have to write to all the donors, the counting up of the funds raised and the press release. Then I start work on the next fair for the following year!



How do you prepare for the St Wilfrid's Banquet and how do you prepare for all the events leading up to St Wilfrid's Day?

That banquet preparation is huge, and this is my remit! Last year it was a sell-out, we sold 300 tickets, the cathedral was completely full. It's a black-tie event where guests are treated to a 4-course dinner by the Yorkshire Party Company. It's a huge amount of work because we need sponsors to help us cover the costs. I approach local businesses to try and get them to sponsor the event, the flowers, the disco and more. Once we've marketed the event and people buy tickets the hard bit is juggling the seating plan to ensure everyone is happy where they are allocated to sit. Again, we look to local business and the community for raffle prizes and auction prizes. We organise an angel tree which is another fundraiser for us, and we ask people to give us vouchers or prizes between £25 and £50 then guests pick a number off the tree and they will receive a prize every time. The banquet is a big fundraiser, there's an awful lot involved but I work well ahead of the event to make sure it runs smoothly.

How long does it take to organise an event?

I'd say generally we work a year ahead but it's juggling all 3 events at the same time. Once I've finished one I do my thank yous then I also try and ask people at the same time if they would be interested in supporting us the following year to try and reduce some of the admin later on.

At what events do you ring the cathedral bells?

We ring the bells as a call to worship so you'll hear them ring out across the city on Sundays and there's a single bell that rings before each of the three services that happen every day of the year and of course on Wednesday evenings when the bell ringers practice. They will ring out in celebration at weddings and the bells toll on more sombre occasions such as the death of a monarch. They rang fully muffled to mark the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and then in celebration at the proclamation of the new monarch King Charles III and they will ring out again for the King's coronation in May. Our bell ringers are extremely skilled and are always on the lookout for new recruits so that our bells can continue to ring out in future years.

What's the most exciting event that you've organised for Ripon Cathedral?

I like all three events that I am involved with, but I think maybe the banquet is my favourite because it's a black tie glamorous event and the cathedral looks absolutely stunning when it's decorated, and the tables are set out. It's a lovely event to work on because we've got a really loyal group of suppliers that we work with. The Yorkshire Party Company do the catering and they've done it for years. It's a demanding event to organise so it's great to have them on board as they know what will and won't work and can advise and support us. We work also with YES, our furniture supplier and they know exactly how it all works in the cathedral and where the furniture goes. It's a stressful event and I was terrified on the night that I might have missed a booking or someone might turn up and there wasn't a seat for them, especially when we were at full capacity and I couldn't have actually squeezed any more in. However, everyone sat down without any hiccups and it ended up being a really stunning evening which raised in excess of £25,000 for the cathedral.

Ripon Cathedral plays a key role in lots of events around Ripon. How important is it to be connected to your community?

Very important! The cathedral is here for the city, for the diocese (of Leeds) and for the region. We rely on over 100 volunteers who help to run our events, we rely on local businesses that support us with raffle prizes and sponsorships, and they also help us promote our events by displaying our leaflets and flyers in their windows and around Ripon. Our events couldn't happen without the support of the local community and all our volunteers. From our events visitors go off into the city centre, they visit other attractions like the workhouse museum and cafes and restaurants in the city. A lot of the volunteers have volunteered for years, they know exactly what they're doing, and they get a lot of fulfilment and enjoyment out of it but equally we value their support tremendously.

Volunteering

Volunteer Spotlight - Sue

Sue started volunteering at Jennyruth Workshops 12 years ago and has been helping out in the paintshop, courses and anything else that gets thrown her way.



The magazine team interviewed Sue in February to find out more about her life and why she wanted to become a volunteer at Jennyruth Workshops.

Tell us a little bit about your childhood.

Blimey, that was a long time ago! I was a tomboy! My mum was so pleased when I was a girl but she seemed disappointed when I wasn't into frills or girly things. I would've much rather played football and played outside. We used to spend all summer holidays building dams and going under bridges.

Now here's a funny story! I was asked to be a bridesmaid and was given a dress full of frills. My mum went to take a photo of me and I had a face like thunder, I was so cross.

What is your favourite cake to bake?

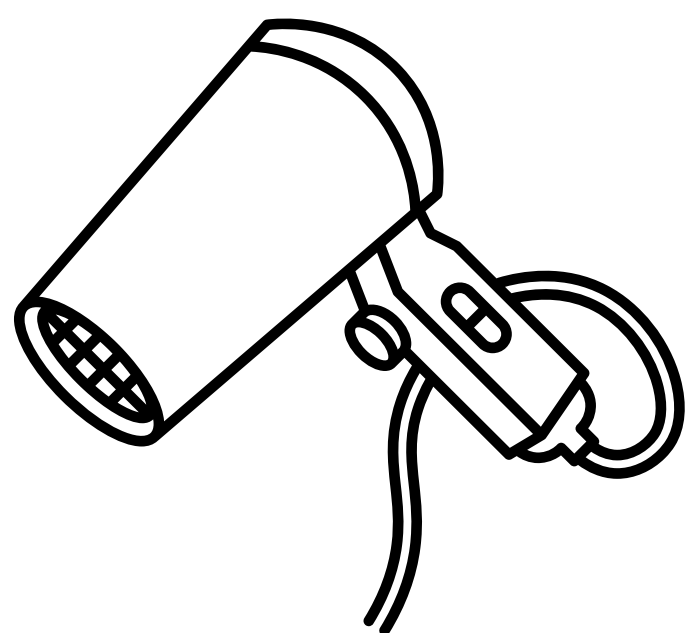
I don't think I have one favourite but I have a few that I turn out on a regular basis because they're crowd pleasers. Lemon drizzle's one of my favourites and for a treat day, I make brownies with Terry's chocolate orange.

What job did you have before volunteering at Jennyruth Workshops?

My very 1st grown up job was a part time job as a Saturday girl in a hairdressers. I started learning on the job and left school at 16 to train as a hairdresser. By 23 I was managing the salon! My job before volunteering at Jennyruth Workshops was as a support worker.

Have you got any bad habits?

I've got far more bad habits than good ones. I talk far too much but I'm far less opinionated than I used to be.



How did you hear about Jennyruth Workshops?

When I was a support worker at Time Together I supported a lady whom I used to bring to Jennyruth. Then I changed jobs and supported another person who attended Jennyruth Workshops. I then retired and came back as a volunteer at the workshops.

How long have you been volunteering at Jennyruth Workshops?

I think it's 12 years this year.

Why is Jennyruth Workshops so special to you?

It fills my heart with happiness and gets me through the week. I would be bereft without you. You give far more to me than I can ever repay, I bless the day you came into my life.

Where was the last place you went on holiday?

I went to Spain. It's not an area that's very well known but it's called Costa del Calida. Our house is on a tiny bit of land surrounded by the Mediterranean sea.

What school did you go to?

My primary school was in the village where I grew up and there were about 10 pupils in my class. My secondary school was the girls' grammar. I won the school prize for Domestic Science at O-Levels and won a certificate and a cookery book.

When did you get married?

Go on then Ellen, when did I get married?

Ellen - "March 5th 1977"

I asked Ellen because last year she told me that the next day was my anniversary and I had forgotten so she 'saved my bacon'!

Question from Ryan. Did you wear a wedding dress and did your husband wear a suit?

The fashion, when we got married, was for boys to wear flares and stacked heels on their shoes with long hair. I made my wedding dress and my bridesmaid dresses out of Broderie Anglaise material because I couldn't find any I liked.

How long have you lived in your house? Have you lived anywhere else?

I have lived in lots of houses. I now live in Boroughbridge but before then I lived in Knaresborough, Harrogate and West Yorkshire. My first house was 4 floors and needed everything doing to it! It had a horrible brownish yellow colour scheme!

How many goes did it take you to pass your driving test?

2 but we only had the practical back then! When my youngest son learnt to drive, 16 years ago, they had introduced the theory test. I bought my son the practice version and thought I'd have a go myself. I did it 5 times and failed every single time!

And a final question from Daniel....when are you going to take me to Tates?

Oooh when shall we go? I'll take you to Tates anytime you want :)



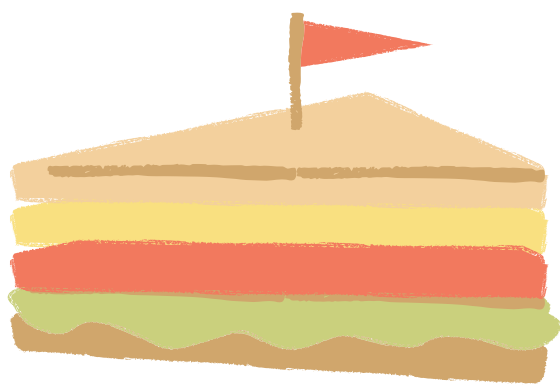
Volunteer Social

The next social of 2023 will be on 21st April 2023.

7pm - 10pm at Copt Hewick Village Hall.

Quiz, food and good company.

Partners welcome.



"Thank you, we loved the last one!"

**"The first event was much appreciated,
thank you."**



**"I haven't got round to thanking you all for a lovely evening,
I really enjoyed it -
Count me in the next one please, thanks again."**



**Please check the events list and if
you would like to help out at any of
these please email Avril at
info@jennyruth.co.uk**

We have a fantastic team of volunteers.

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands - one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." - Audrey Hepburn



Sally

"Jennyruth Workshops is a lovely vibrant place to volunteer. The staff are helpful and everyone has a sense of achievement at end of the day. I love the relaxed atmosphere and the variety - no day is the same"

Louise

"Jennyruth Workshops is such a happy place. I love volunteering here, the staff and volunteers and workers are always so welcoming and appreciative of any help. I am indeed at my most relaxed here and go home a better person!! Thanks for having me as part of your team."



The next edition will have more quotes from our lovely volunteers.

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:
<https://cafdonate.ca/online.org/16026#!/DonationDetails>

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/>



Thank You Steve

The amazing Steve Dixon, one of our fantastic volunteers, is taking part in the Sue Ryder Mascot Gold Cup 2023 and is generously raising money for us in the process. The race is one furlong (220 yards) and includes 5 small fences with an 'open ditch' and 'water jump'. Made more difficult by completing the event in a dog suit.

Click to donate <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jennyruth-workshops>

A message from Steve: "As a volunteer - I am relatively new to seeing the magic of what Jennyruth Workshop offers to its workers, volunteers & staff - It's an amazing place and everyone involved there deserves all the support they can get!"

It's a few years since I last 'ran' a competitive event in the Dog Suit - so why not do something memorable and help put the Fun into Fundraising - I will also be using the race as part of my 65th Birthday celebrations. (That happens earlier in April) - Lots of friends & all my close family have been calling me a bonkers old dog for years - so - dig deep and make a crazy old dog & a brilliant charity happy!"

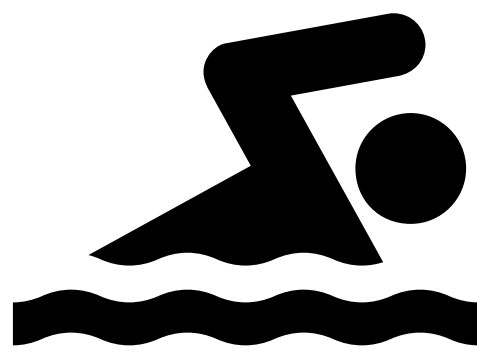
Thank you Steve, you're awesome!



Do you love a coffee morning?



Have you always wanted to swim the length of the channel?

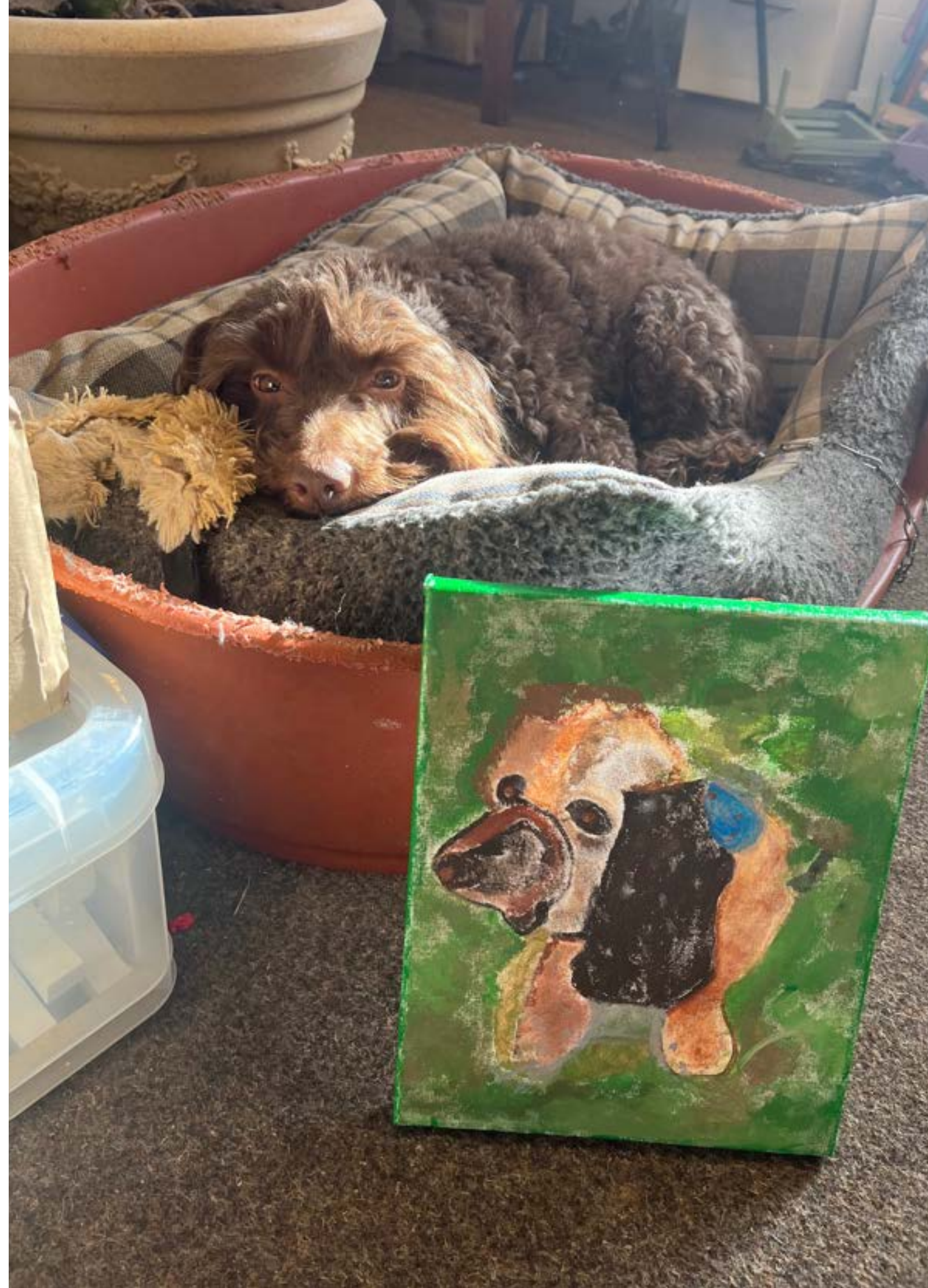


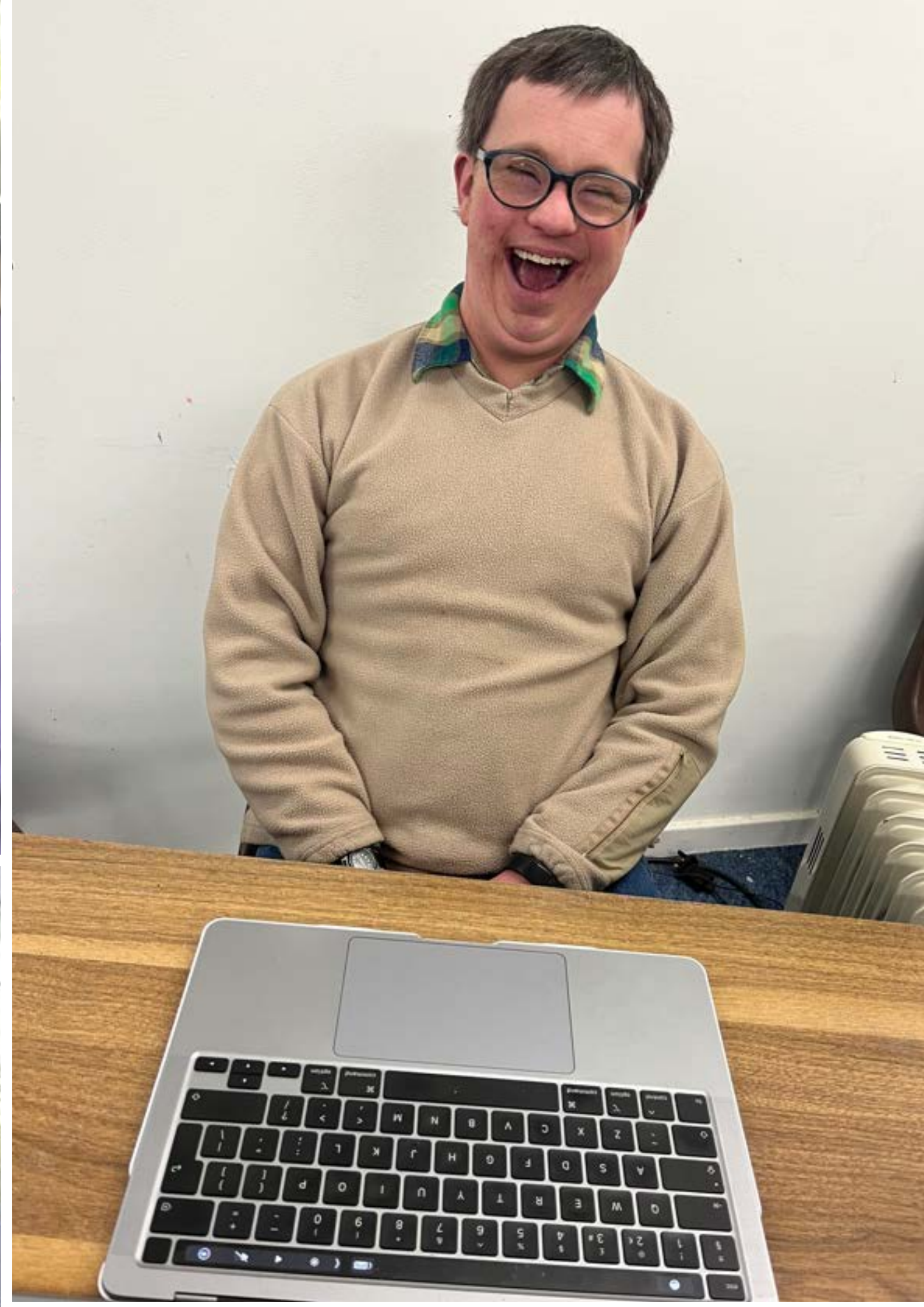
Is your dream to have a 24hour Danceathon?



Whatever your interest, you can add an extra feel-good factor by supporting Jennyruth Workshops at the same time.











Happy Birthday

March

Helen Reason
Tom Oates
Mel Milnes
Avril Crack
Sue Evason
Tim Newell
Phil Newton
Jackie Grant



An extra special congratulations to Lauren and Adam on the birth of their baby boy Elijah.

March 100 Club Winners

Thanks again to Jamie for announcing the winners.



1st prize – No 22

2nd prize – No 72

3rd prize – No 76

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.

March

Sights and Sounds of Ripon Ripon Cathedral

Saturday 18th March 11am - 2pm

A great day out to explore the city, get involved in crafts, games, choirs and dancing and an opportunity to meet some fab local charities and community groups.



**SIGHTS and SOUNDS of
RIPON 2023**

Free event with activities around the city
for all the family to enjoy

- Ripon Cathedral
- Ripon Library
- Ripon Museums

SATURDAY 18 MARCH 11am - 2pm

For more details email engagement@harrogate.gov.uk
or visit Ripon Cathedral or Ripon Library for more information

A partnership initiative by:


April

Little Bird Artisan Market Harrogate

Sunday 2nd April 10am - 3pm

An artisan market showcasing beautiful handmade goods.



Spring Food, Home and Garden Fair Ripon Cathedral

Saturday 15th April 10am - 4pm

A spot of spring time shopping.

Little Bird Artisan Market Ripon

Sunday 23rd April 10am - 3pm

An artisan market showcasing beautiful handmade goods.



Sharow Village Coffee Morning Sharow Village Hall

Saturday 29th April 10am - 12pm

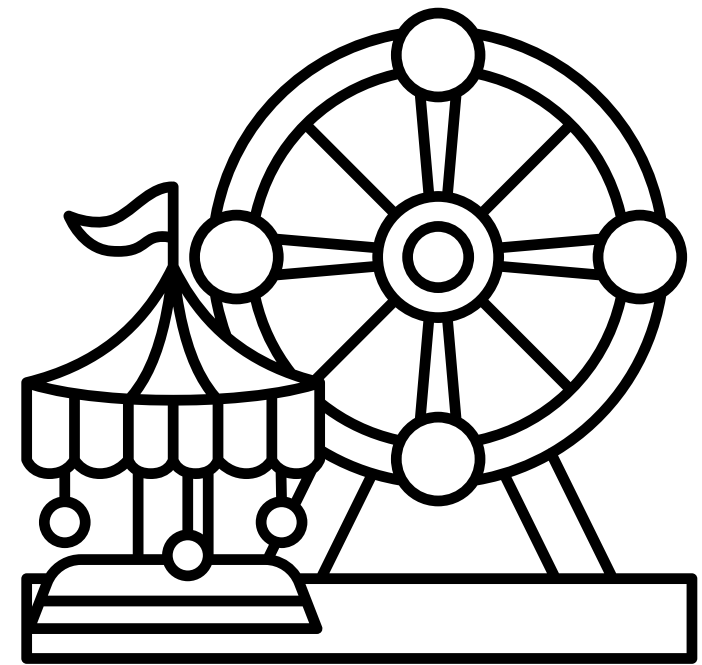
Time for a coffee and a catch up.

May and July

Duncombe Park Country Fair Duncombe Park, Helmsley

Monday 1st May 9am

A great day out for the whole family



Coronation Event Jennyruth Workshops

Friday 5th May

A very royal afternoon tea.

Rotary Club Bike Ride

Saturday 13th May 8am - 2pm ish

We will be marshalling the charity bike ride at Tollerton. Feel free to volunteer to help keep the cyclists hydrated at the water station. Last year we also gave out delicious fudge.



Charity Golf Day

Monday 10th July

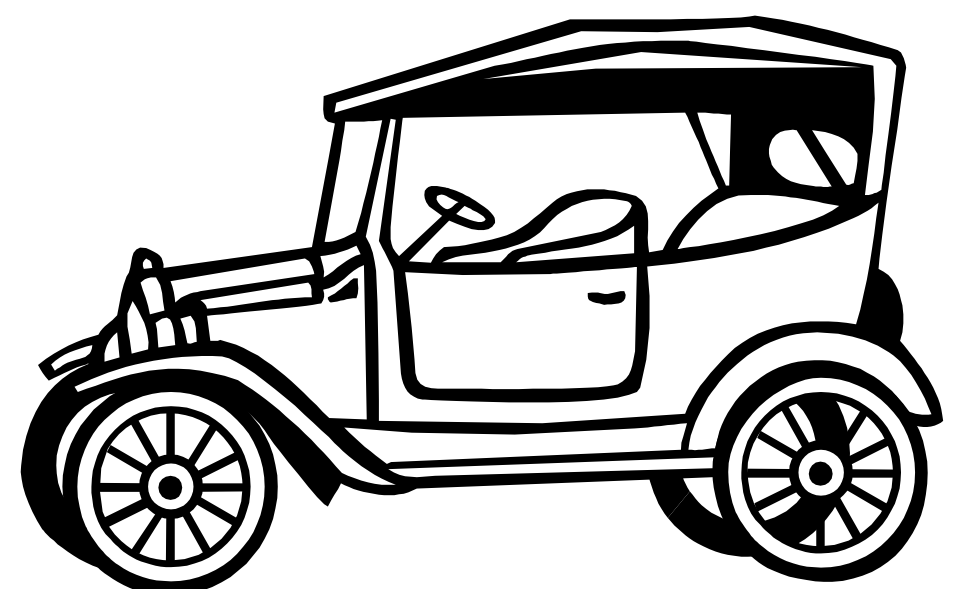
A great opportunity to support a wonderful charity and have a grand day. If you're not able to make it then don't worry because there are lots of sponsorship opportunities as well.

Email don.grundy@jennyruth.co.uk to book your spot or find out more!

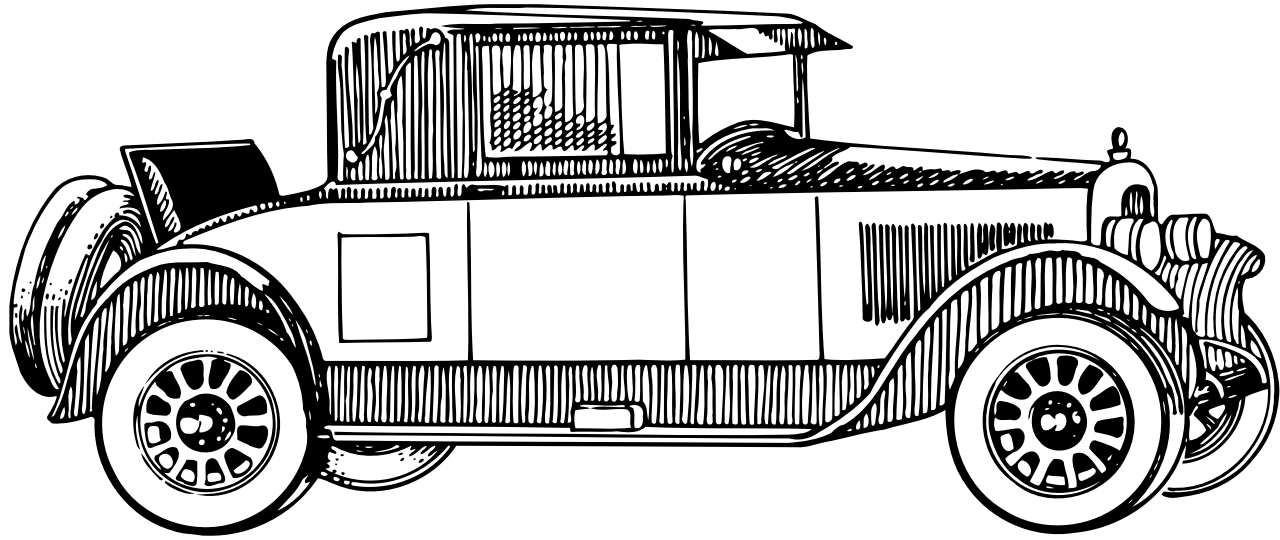
Ripon Old Car Classic Gathering Ripon Race Course

Sunday 30th July

A marvellous opportunity to see some old vintage cars. We also hold a stall to sell some of our products and showcase what Jennyruth Workshops is all about.



August and September



Harrogate MG Rally Pateley Bridge

Sunday 6th Aug 9:30am - 3:30pm

A marvellous opportunity to see some old vintage cars. We also hold a stall to sell some of our products and showcase what Jennyruth Workshops is all about.

Mini Music Fest St Wilfrid's Church, Ripon

Sunday 6th Aug 12 - 5pm

An afternoon of shopping while enjoying some fab music.



Circus Family Day Thirsk Racecourse

Friday 11th Aug 11am

A visit from the National Festival Circus keeps the whole family entertained. They will also have bouncy castles, inflatables, balloon modelling, face painting and a range of traditional fairground stalls.



Autumn Flower Show Newby Hall

Friday 15th - Sunday 17th Sept 8:30am - 5:30pm

Beautiful show gardens, amazing shopping, live entertainment and a Jennyruth Workshops stall....what more could you want!



November and December

Christmas Gift and Food Fair Ripon Cathedral

Friday 24th - Saturday 25th Nov 9:30am - 4:30pm

Join us again at the hugely popular annual Christmas Gift and Food Fair with stalls of seasonal gifts and food in the nave of Ripon Cathedral. The fair offers the perfect unique shopping experience and live music.



Coffee Morning Marton cum Grafton

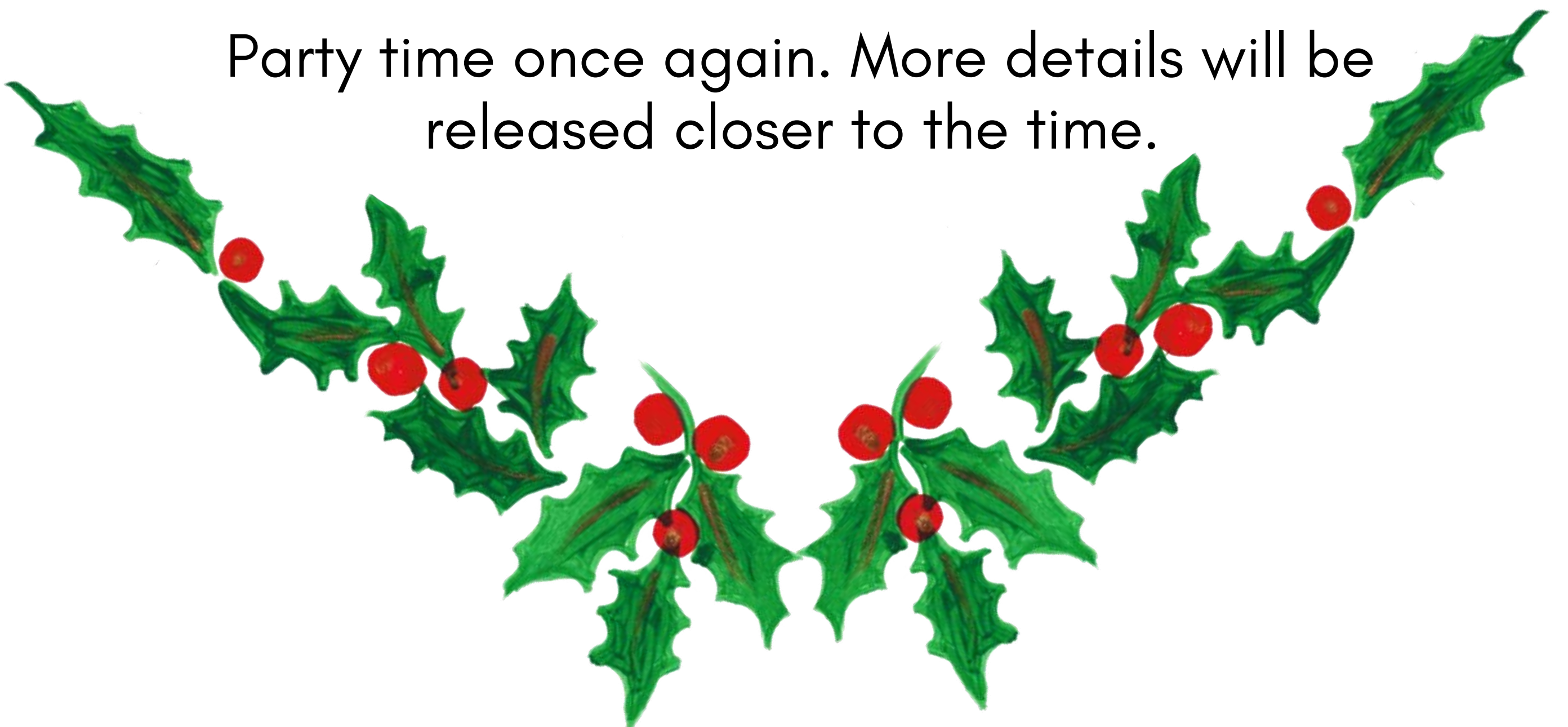
Saturday 2nd December 10am - 12pm

A cup of coffee and a catch up.

Christmas Party

**Friday 8th December 2023 7pm - 10pm
Bowling Club Ripon**

Party time once again. More details will be released closer to the time.







A Message from



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

01765 606620

