

# Jennyruth Workshops



# Impact Report 2023



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



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Jennyruth Workshops  
Golf Classic 2023

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### At Jennyruth Workshops:

We welcome everyone.  
 We are professional.  
 We believe that kindness counts, and harsh words hurt.  
 We respect one other.  
 We know that Together Everyone Achieves More.  
 We support each other.  
 We treat everyone as equal.  
 We take pride in our hard work and achievements.  
 We look after our workshop.

**As ambassadors, we always do our best to uphold the wonderful reputation of Jennyruth Workshops.**

### Our Vision

Our vision is for a community where adults who have learning disabilities are equally valued, visible, included and empowered to thrive and participate fully in society and where they find meaning, dignity and pride in productive work.

Involve our workers in as many aspects of Jennyruth Workshops business as possible; focusing on abilities not disabilities, thereby further embedding the work ethic and collective ways of working.

Run productive workshops providing work experience for adults who have learning disabilities, making high quality, bespoke products for sale and commissions.



### Our Mission

Work in partnership with public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations, schools, families and carers to integrate our people with learning disabilities into the wider community, raise awareness, advocate and promote our organisation.

Offer a range of varied training courses and workshops to workers who have learning disabilities to gain new skills and experiences with recognised qualifications and accreditation.

# Letter from our CEO

Hello and welcome to our 2023 Impact Report. Here you will see we have had another very busy year at the Workshop.

The beginning of the year saw a big change for us with the last of the COVID-19 restrictions being lifted giving us the opportunity to really start getting back to normal.

With building work on the extension having started in 2022, this was finally ready for us to move into the space in September. We are delighted about the additional space this provides us and after only a few weeks we couldn't imagine how we fitted everything in before.

We have welcomed new workers, volunteers and staff throughout the year; each and every one a valuable member of the team and wider Jennyruth Workshops family.

The year saw us attend a record number of events and shows where we met customers old and new; made new connections and thoroughly enjoyed every moment. Visit our events page, on the website, if you would like to know where we will be in 2024.

It would be impossible to give everyone and everything a mention but I hope that by the time you have finished reading, you will have a very good idea of who we are, what we do and how we are shaping the future for the workshop. I can't wait to see what 2024 brings with it

Please enjoy the journey and if you would like to visit or get involved in any way, do get in touch with me either by email [ceo@jennyruth.co.uk](mailto:ceo@jennyruth.co.uk) or by phone 01765606620.

Best wishes



**Nicky Newell**  
CEO



# A Message from our Chair of Trustees

In the Impact Report for 2023, I wrote of our wonderful enterprise emerging from the rigours of the Covid Pandemic. Our team performed brilliantly as they coped with all the traumas handed down to us during those dark days.

The Pandemic came in the middle of our expansion plans. The success of Jennyruth Workshops had outgrown our current building, and presented us with the problems of waiting lists to join our team. A planned extension to our present building began early in 2020. The difficulty in obtaining equipment and materials resulted in delays in progress, and therefore it was only late in 2023 that work was finally completed.

Again, our wonderful team rose to all the challenges. They put up with a multitude of problems from all the building delays that were suffered as we, as a nation, recovered some form of normality.

Skillfully managed by our CEO Nicky, the team have, all worked to ensure the original ideals of Barrie & Sue Evason, 'to provide a working environment', has not only been maintained but improved upon.

Our Workers were wonderfully managed to ensure disruption to their working days was kept to a minimum. Ensuring we continued to provide a safe and secure working environment, so important to many of our Workers. It would be remiss if I did not record my personal thanks and admiration for the resilience of our Workers over the past twelve months.

Over the years we have built up a most impressive team of willing Volunteers who again provide marvellous support for everyone within our operation.

So important are our volunteers, we have over the past 12 months begun a regular 'Thank-you' evening where we can enjoy a social gathering for all our volunteers who attend the workshops on differing days. A great way to ensure team building, and a tiny reward for their magnificent efforts; as we try to repay the vital support our volunteers give to our operation.

Income is vital to our operation, and tight reins on finances are imperative if we are to retain our unenviable reputation. Again our team have risen to the challenge. We now attend numerous markets and fairs to provide a wonderful range of opportunities for our Workers to meet the public. Not simply to raise funds but to demonstrate the skills they utilise at the workshops, explain their roles and build their confidence. Thereby ensuring they play that important role in our community.

Our future looks bright, even in these trying economic times, as we have built resilience into the operation, with the help of our team of Trustees, who give great advice and support to the operation.

It is heartwarming to be part of the continued commitment to the original ethos ensuring a secure environment for our wonderful Workers and to the continued success that is Jennyruth Workshops.

It is with great pride that I can formally thank not only Nicky, but the entire staff, our wonderful Workers, our brilliant volunteers and our Trustee Board. All of whom work together to ensure the name of Jennyruth Workshops is synonymous with fun, learning, happiness, community and efficiency.

We confidently look forward to another successful year in the life of Jennyruth Workshops.

*Don*

**D T GRUNDY  
CHAIRMAN  
JENNYRUTH WORKSHOPS**



# Projects and Events

Our team were very busy at the beginning of the year painting 40 Easter eggs for Ripon BID.



"The aim of the Ripon BID Easter Window Competition was to encourage visitor movement around BID businesses and we have been working in partnership with the fantastic team at Jennyruth Workshops, who have created 40 decorated Easter eggs for businesses to display and build their themed windows around. It has been wonderful to partner with Jennyruth on this project. Their workers did a brilliant job and I loved my tour of the workshop and then the opportunity to meet some of the workers again in Ripon when they presented the eggs to Specsavers and Yorkshire Building Society."



**Lilla Bathurst, Manager Ripon BID**



Having a stall for the first time at the Great Yorkshire Show brought huge excitement to the workshop.

"I enjoyed it! I saw lots of animals but it was raining the whole time. I liked chatting to customers and showing them our products like our butterfly homes and bear hugs. I had a cup of tea and an ice-cream."  
- Ryan H



"I really enjoyed the Great Yorkshire Show even though it was really busy. We sold lots of our products especially the bird houses and trugs. The exciting new products- dragonflies and butterfly bunting- also sold well."  
- Tom H



"On Thursday 13th July, I went to the Great Yorkshire Show. I helped out on our stall but was also able to look around other stalls. I enjoyed looking at the animals. I was handing out leaflets to customers on our stall. I enjoyed looking at the highland cows."  
- Victoria



"I went to the Great Yorkshire Show in the minibus. I liked talking to customers and looking around the stalls."  
- Dawn

"It was lovely at the show. I saw loads of people. I looked at the sheep, cows, goats, pigs and horses. On the stall I talked to customers and sold some of our products."  
- Alex

"We sold lots of products. I had a cup of tea and a hot chocolate! I enjoyed it!"  
- Daniel

Incredibly we did over 30 stalls in 2023 of all different shapes and sizes including the ITV Studios Christmas Fair, Harrogate Flower Show at Newby Hall and the Christmas Fair at Ripon Cathedral.



**Our Christmas Fair/Open Day was particularly special because it was the first one since before Covid.**

It was exciting to have the workshop full of so many people. "Everyone worked together as a fantastic team" said Jessica. A big thank you to all who came out to support us.



**We were proud to name Hanson Plywood Ltd as our plywood supplier and one of our sponsors!** 2 of their sales team popped over to visit us and invited us to visit them for a tour. Thank you so much for inviting us and a special thanks to Gary, John, Rebecca, Dom and Tracey for giving us the grand tour and spoiling us rotten.



**Our continued partnership with Grantley Hall has been very exciting.**

They sponsored our new baseball caps to wear at shows.

They fund-raised for us by taking part in Tough Mudder.



We made decorations for them to present to their guests as Christmas gifts. Each decoration was carefully threaded and packaged by our workers.

Their generosity has also extended to providing us with raffle prizes for our events.

Our continued partnership with Monk Park farm has led to several visits throughout the year which are always full of fun and excitement!



# Our Extension

The long awaited extension was finally completed! Providing us with more space that includes:

## A brand new woodwork workshop



"The new woodwork is so organised. The labels on the doors help us identify what's in the cupboards. The whole building now has more space which puts a big smile on my face"  
- Jessica

'The Other Room' where packaging, publicity and magazine take place along with a quiet painting space.

"I love 'The Other Room' because it's wider, I have more space to work and Jerry's able to roam safely around the room" - Tom O



A staff room where volunteers and staff can have their lunch and confidential meetings can take place.



The extension also creates a longer corridor so the workers have more space to get ready at their lockers in the morning.







A huge thank you to Lee Town from Town Plastering for plastering the entirety of the extension!



A huge thank you to George and Jason from GRG Projects, our excellent electricians, for brightening up our workshop with daylight strip lights, sockets and fire exits.

We would like to thank Tim and David Newell, the Newell Brothers, for all their work on the internal building work and fitting out of the extension.

We would also like to thank:

JSL for the steel work

MKM and Yesss Electricals for supplying materials

David Elsy for supplying various system upgrades

Danny Burgess for digging out the foundations

Calverts Carpets

Howdens for fire doors

The Screwfix Foundation

The Wolfson Foundation

SESF UnLtd

The Local Fund

Henry and Dora Needler Memorial Trust

Bernard Sunley Foundation

And everyone else who has been involved in making this happen.

# Our Workers

We have 38 workers who attend both full and part-time. The age range is from 19-59. Daily attendance averages 21 at present and we do have a waiting list.



When we opened in 2004 we had 5 workers



In 2023 we have 38 workers and workers are doing more days.

Alongside hands-on workshop experience, we offer a wide range of training courses to enable our workers to gain independence, new skills, confidence and experience.

Workers get involved with as many aspects of the business as is practically possible; from working in the office alongside our business support team to helping design, make and paint our products with the paintshop and woodwork staff.

They meet customers at stalls and talks, and attend community events as ambassadors of the Workshops regularly.



**Our workers are at the centre of everything we do here at the Workshop. They are involved in as many aspects of the business as is possible and are at the forefront of every decision that is made.**

**Accredited Courses available:**

Food Hygiene Level 1 (NYALS)

**Internal groups/courses:**

- Publicity
- Design
- Stencilling
- Gardening
- Fine painting techniques
- Office Skills
- Card Crafting
- Magazine
- Sewing
- Baking

Sam helps Shelley to check the emergency lighting.

Jamie runs the 100 Club Draws.

“We have a jobs board in the paintshop. We take it in turns to do the dishwasher, tidy the Cuprinol shelves, clean the sanding table and take photos.”  
- Rachael

“I help to quality check the products before we package them.” - Tom H

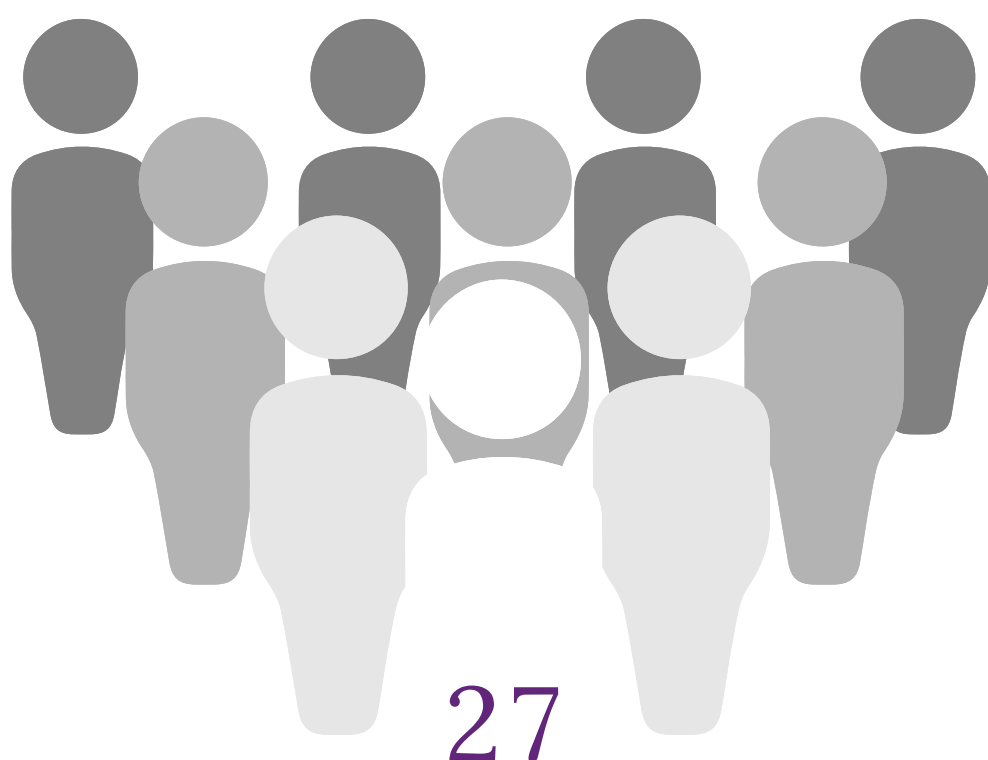
“I help to make sure all the tools go back in the right location in woodwork when they're not being used. I also double check to make sure no screws or nails have been dropped on the floor.” - Jessica

Beth helps Avril with the Health and Safety Checks



# Our Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of the Workshop; supporting our workers on site and out in the wider community. Also a big welcome to all our new volunteers.



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Volunteers



We have run several very successful Volunteer Social evenings in Copt Hewick Village Hall which has been a fantastic opportunity for volunteers to get together or even meet for the first time.

These evenings run on a quarterly basis and involve refreshments and a quiz.

## We asked some of our volunteers what Jennyruth Workshops means to them and how it makes them feel.



"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"

"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."



We have been putting our volunteers in the spotlight by interviewing them about their lives. These feature in the monthly magazine 'The Wren' and are a fun way of getting to know more about our volunteers.

The workers have been involved with coming up with the questions and sitting down with the volunteers to ask them.



## We are very grateful to the volunteers who came to assist with building renovations.

A team from Wolseley took time out of their busy schedules to volunteer at the workshops. They helped to paint several rooms in the new extension.



Sara and Sarah from Capita joined us last year to volunteer in our garden but this time they put their hand to painting. Thank you for taking the time to help us!

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”  
– Sherry Anderson



# Our Staff Team

The staff have been fantastic and coped with all the challenges we have faced over the last year, going above and beyond to ensure we offer as much support as possible to everyone.

This year has seen us welcome Angie Shield to the team as a part-time Paintshop Supervisor.



# TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

## **Our current staff are:**

Shelley Atkinson - Volunteer Co-ordinator

Denise Carrigan - Course Supervisor

Steve Carrigan - Woodwork Supervisor

Avril Crack - Administrator

Phoebe Dawber - Paintshop Supervisor

Linda Fergus - Woodwork Supervisor

Adam Fryer - Woodwork Supervisor

Jackie Grant - Paintshop Supervisor

Simon Headley - Woodwork Supervisor

Phe Morris- Paintshop Supervisor

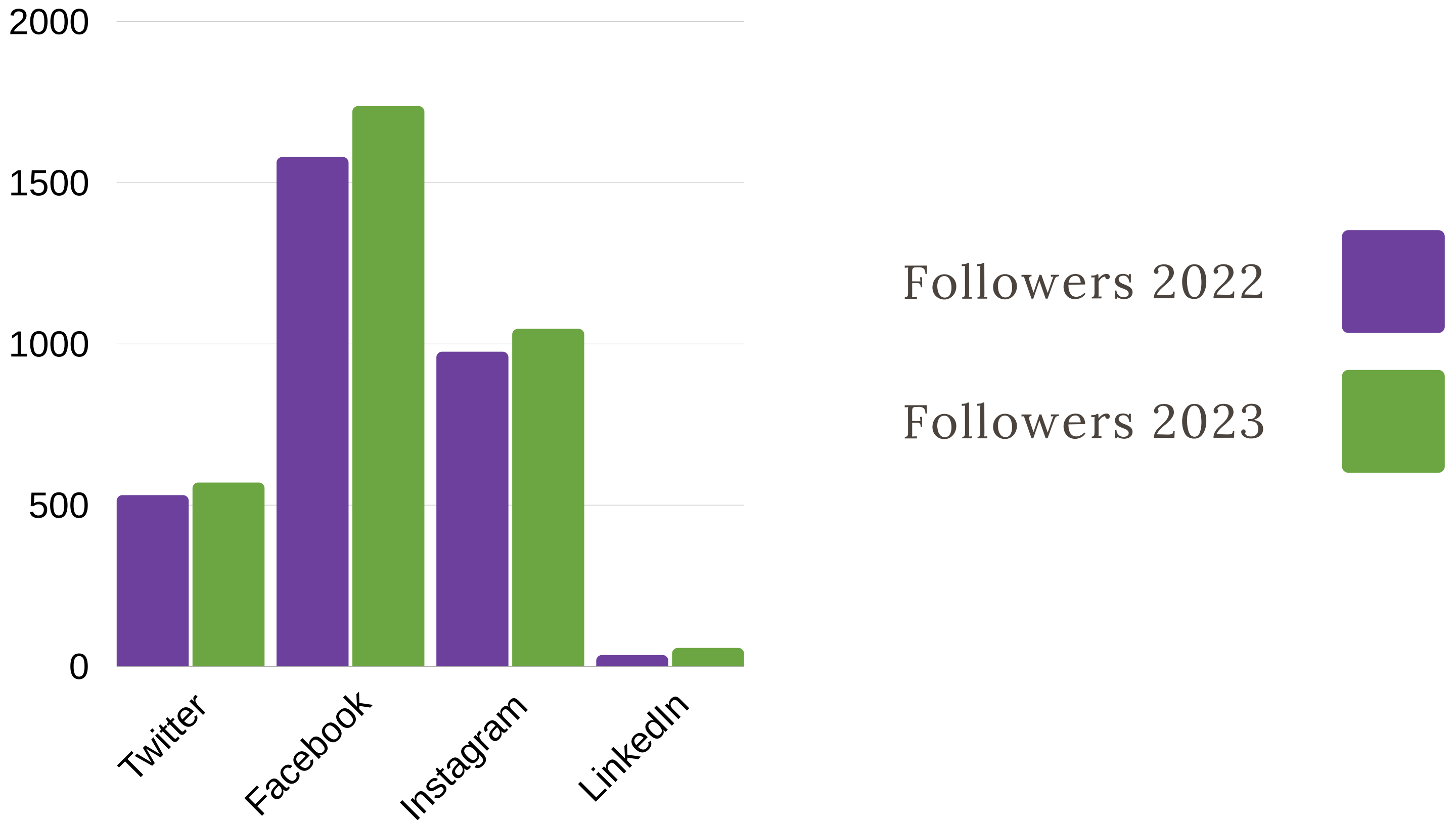
Richard Naish - Woodwork Supervisor

Nicky Newell - CEO

Angie Shield - Paintshop Supervisor

Anna Smith - Publicity and Media

# Publicity and Media



## Website Subscribers



We are mentioned or have our Social Media posts shared and retweeted regularly by local and national organisations including HADCA, Grantley Hall, Monk Park Farm and local outlets that stock our products.

One of our favourite things to see on Social Media is when our customers share photos of the gifts and products we've made them.



We've had a variety of press coverage this year, featuring in popular magazines and newspapers. We've also been interviewed by Your Harrogate and BBC Radio York and have monthly articles in Review Ripon, Roundabout Magazine and Handpicked Harrogate's E-blog.

We've had so many fantastic opportunities to tell more and more people about the amazing work we do here at Jennyruth Workshops over the past year.

**Our magazine team interviewed Actress and Oscar Winner Rachel Shenton about her work on All Creatures Great and Small and her Oscar Winning Short Film.** She was gifted a little red dog (made by us) on set. Being big animal lovers, and huge fans of the show, we were chuffed when she got in touch to thank us and even more thrilled when she agreed to be interviewed for our magazine.



We were over the moon to find out that we were one of Yorkshire Life's '15 fab things they clocked at the Great Yorkshire Show'



**Our film 'Small but Mighty' being nominated at the Smiley Charity Film Awards.** Avril and Anna were lucky enough to attend the awards show down in London where they mixed with celebrities and even got us a big shout-out during the ceremony.



The workers have been a key part of the marketing process by being interviewed on the radio and writing articles for magazines. The workers help give talks and run workshops for the local community groups and businesses.

They have also been taking on more responsibility in making and editing the magazine.



# Sales



How people hear about us.



We sell our products through a range of channels.

- The online shop was built in April 2020. Since then we've had 553 orders.
- We have stalls at Flower Shows, Artisan Markets and Seasonal Fairs throughout the year.
- We take a small selection of gifts and products to talks that we do to the local community.
- A few local businesses sell our products including Tates Garden Centre, Sharon's Barbers and Marton cum Grafton Village Shop.



## Testimonials from Customers

"Brilliant! I love that you can customise your order"

- Emma

"Thank you so much I love them! So worth the wait. I think I may need another bird feeder if the birds are happy with it."

- Amanda

"Just about to place my third order for trugs, these are so beautifully made and painted in the most beautiful colours, they make the perfect gift either on their own or filled with treats, I'm so glad to have discovered such a wonderful business :-)"

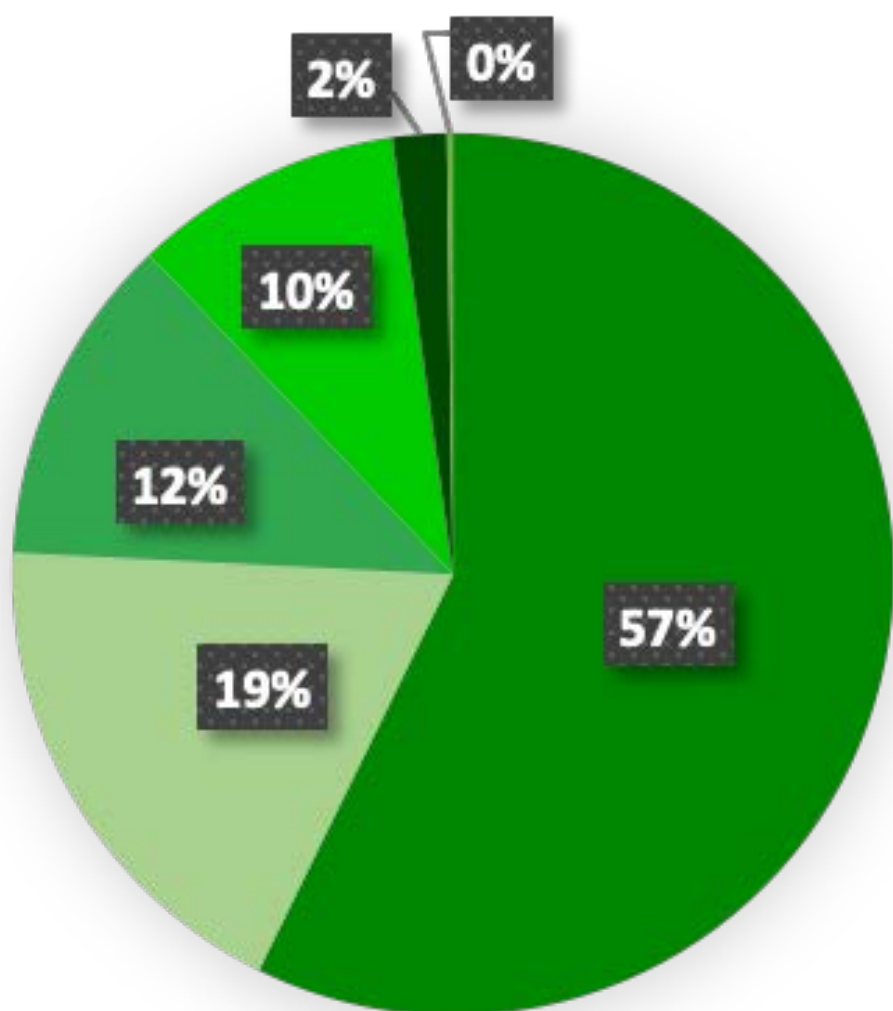
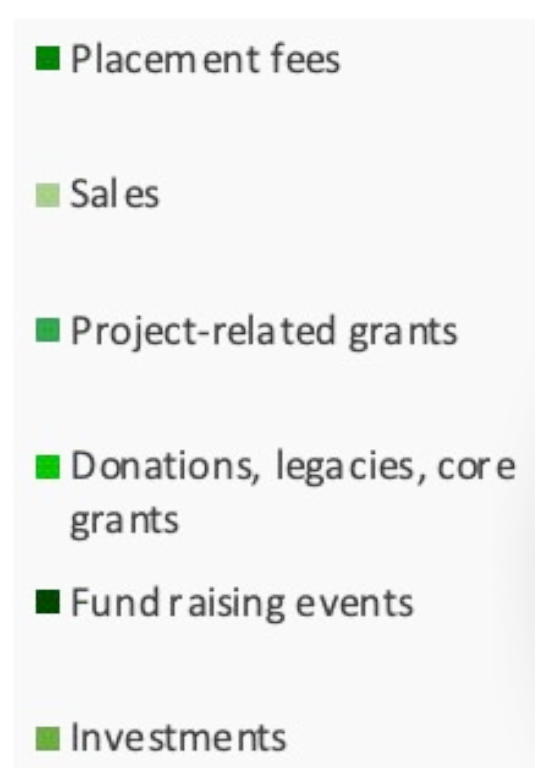


# Financials

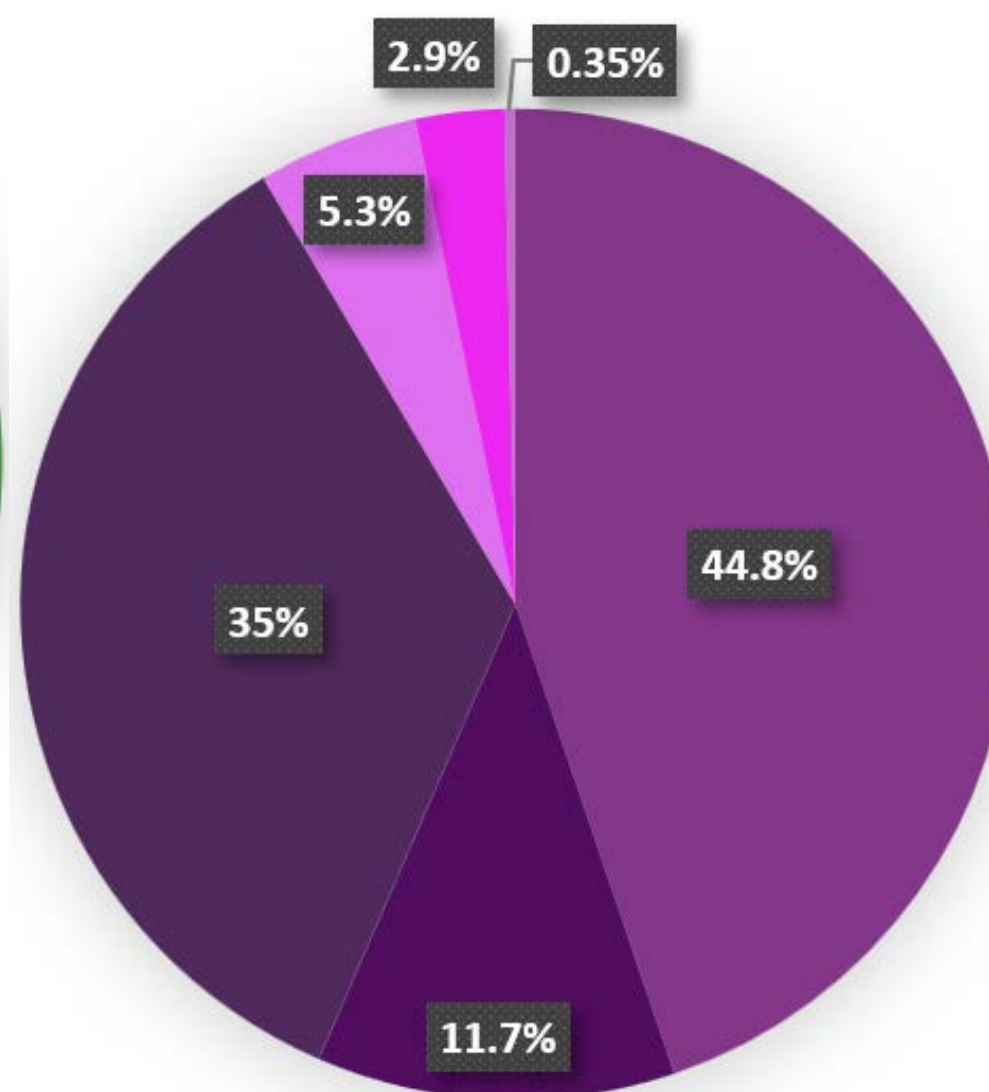
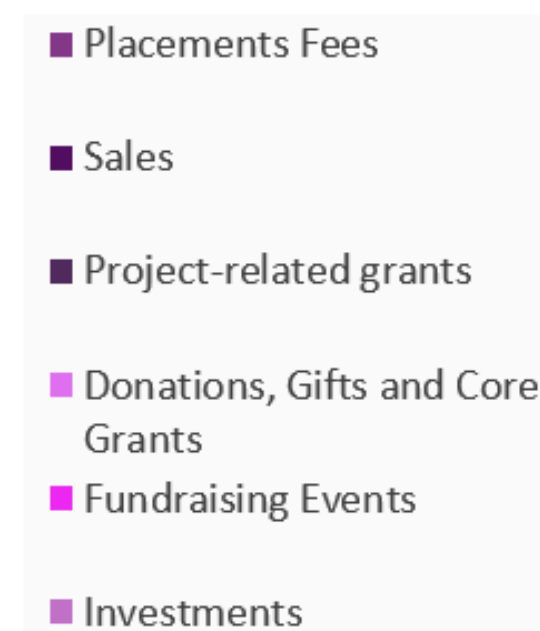
This is a very brief summary of the accounts for 2022-2023. The full accounts and Trustees Annual Report are available on request.

We finished the year with a surplus of £10872.

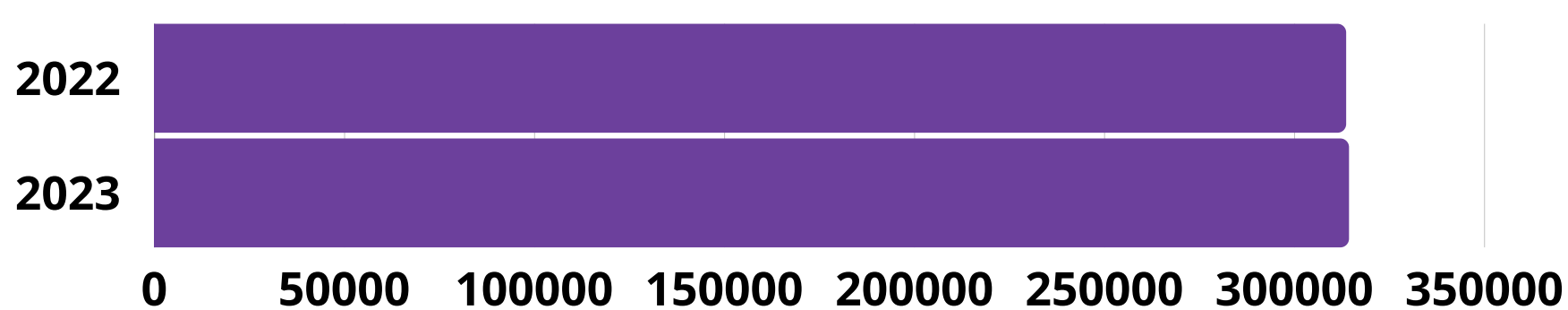
## Income 2022



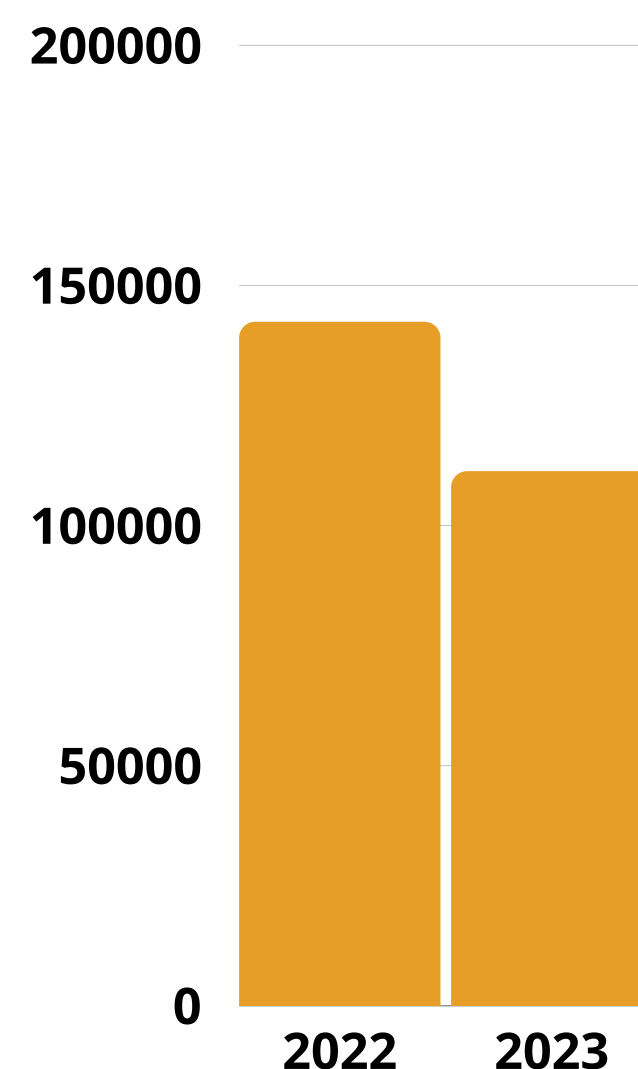
## Income 2023



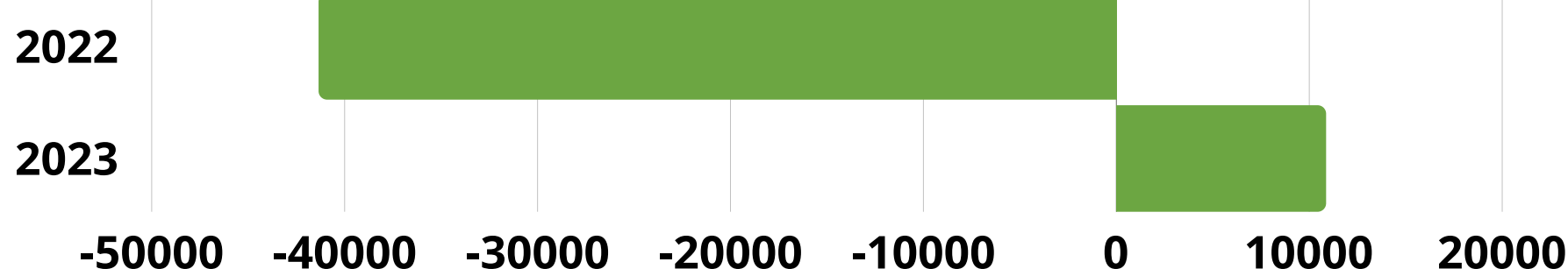
## Expenditure



## Fund Balance



## Surplus



Thank you to the following for their financial support:

The Local Fund  
Henry and Dora Needler Trust  
Good Things Foundation  
Arnold Clarke  
Bernard Sunley  
Harrogate MG Club  
Betty's and Taylors of Harrogate  
Holy Trinity Church, Ripon  
Ripon Small Grants Scheme  
Wolfson Foundation  
SEFS Lottery Fund  
Screwfix Foundation  
Shears Foundation  
The Opportunity Holiday Trust  
The Two Ridings Community Foundation  
The Clothworkers Foundation

and many more that are too numerous to mention but we really appreciate their support.

# Future Plans

2024 will see us really settling into our newly extended space and celebrating our 21st birthday in style.



We will be continuing our efforts to secure land for Jennyruth Workshops 2 - Our vision is a purpose built eco-friendly site that will allow us to realise our full potential alongside securing the future of the workshop for many generations to come.

We will be holding regular open days for prospective workers and volunteers. We aim to increase our worker numbers gradually to a maximum of 30 now that all the building work is complete.

We will be growing our staff team with the addition of a workshop manager and an additional paintshop supervisor thanks to funding from The National Lottery Community Fund.

Adding to our product portfolio with some new designs and increasing bespoke designs for customers.

We are looking forward to continuing working with local community groups and companies alike on a variety of projects and meeting people at the many events we will be attending throughout the year.

Keep an eye on our events list online at [www.jennyruth.co.uk/events](http://www.jennyruth.co.uk/events) if you would like to see us out and about or contact the workshop on [info@jennyruth.co.uk](mailto:info@jennyruth.co.uk) or 01765606620 if you would like to visit or get involved in any way.



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