

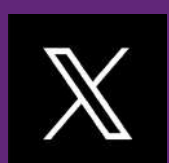
The Wren

Issue 61

December 2025



Together Everyone Achieves More



@JennyruthW



@jennyruthworkshops



@JennyruthWorkshop



www.jennyruth.co.uk



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

Contents

Christmas Letter from the Workers

Our workers wanted to send all our lovely readers some festive messages!

Happy Christmas from Jennyruth Workshops
- **Jonathan**

Have the best Christmas ever
- **SG**

I've loved packaging the Christmas products and setting up the stall at Ripon Cathedral
- **Therese**

Our workers wanted to send all Best wishes at Christmas
- **Kacey**

Happy Christmas
- **Rachael**

Happy New Year
- **Daniel**

Ho Ho Ho
- **Ben**

Hope all your Christmas dreams and wishes come true
- **Jessica**

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Ho ho ho ho Merry Christmas
- **Ryan**

I wish you peace, joy and many happy returns
- **Jamie A**

Meet the team



Editor Anna Smith and Shelley Atkinson

Deputy Editor Daniel Allen

Head Reporter Sam Manning

Senior Journalist Martin Grainger

Content Editor Jessica Lewis

Head of Design Tom Oates

Creative Director Ryan Rhodes

Art Director KB



Visits and Events

Vision Support

Myself, Anna, Daniel, Jessica, Tom and Jerry went to talk to Vision Support at Allhallowgate Methodist Church. When we arrived we were greeted by the volunteers and we all had a cup of tea and biscuits around the table. Daniel, Jessica and Tom introduced themselves to everyone and told the group a little bit about what they do at the workshops. They all used the microphones so they could hear them clearly. The room was quite big and there was a lot of people. Tom then spoke to the group about how he is helped and assisted around the workshops, and he described how the orange stickers help him find doors and tables easier, and how other workers staff and volunteers support him around the workshops. We then had chance to answer any questions the group had. Towards the end Daniel helped to put some stock on the tables and the group were able to feel the products, a bonus was that we sold a lot of products! We then said our goodbyes, packed away and set off back to the workshop in time for lunch; we all had a lovely morning and we have already chatted about meeting with the group again!

By Shelley



Stall at Yarm School

On Saturday 15th November we arrived at Yarm school about 8.15am and some lovely students helped us to unload the minibus which was a great help.

We were situated in the auditorium with lots of other stall holders selling goods ranging from chocolates, gin, clothes and candles to hot pulled pork sandwiches. There were over 70 stalls including Santa's Grotto around the school to look at. After setting up, we managed to have a good look around before the rush began. It looked and sounded very Christmassy with all the decorations and Christmas songs. It was a slow start but as people came to the stall and learnt about Jennyruth Workshops they began to buy our lovely products. Martyn was at the front of the stall getting people interested and I took the money. Everyone loved the story of Jennyruth and how talented all our Workers are. They were amazed at the variety and colours of our products. The bird boxes, bee and bug homes sold well for Christmas presents and the Christmas cards and decorations were also popular. The day passed quickly and we sold lots of items.

At the end of the day we were able to pack away quickly as we had sold so much, unfortunately there was no sight or sound of those helpful students from the morning!!

Carole and Martyn (Volunteers)



Thirsk Lodge Barns

On Monday 24th November my dad drove me to Thirsk Lodge to meet up with Phoebe and Emily.

To start off with it was very quiet while waiting for the customers and then it got really busy with lots of people. I was a bit distracted because I wanted to see my Sister Erica the whole time I was there.

I was really upset because I did not see Erica but it did not spoil my night doing the stall.

I was on the Zettle selling some of the Christmas products, I went for a walk around with Phoebe to have a look at all the other stalls and then I was back on the Zettle.

Then I went for another look around the stalls with Emily, I brought four painting mugs for my cousins and a coke.

Then I was on the Zettle again!

Later, I helped to pack away some of the products and then Jayne came to collect me up from Thirsk Lodge.

By Jessica Lewis





Little Bird Christmas Market at Harewood House



Rachael did a brilliant job helping Avril and Anna set up our stall for the Little Birds Artisan Market at Harewood House.



Hannah was a superstar on Day



I got picked up at 8.45am to get to our stall at Harewood house. I went with Avril, Phoebe and Sue. I sold our handcrafted products I was so busy and amazing at the stall. The weather was warm and cold, a lot of customers came to our stall. At lunch I got a Nachos meal and I got a galaxy big cookie cake it was so big. It was so nice to eat. We made a lot of money I did amazing. Then at 4.00pm we zipped the gazebo down for the next day then I went home. Well done me I need to be wow for hard work.

By Hannah

Ben was a selling whizz on Day



I met Anna and Ben at Harewood House at 9am on the Sunday morning. We took some extra stock down to the stall. We were lucky because the weather was sunny which really helped us feel ready for the day ahead!

Ben was a great help because he started by tagging the extra stock we bought. He was fantastic and cheery with the customers and gave the customers leaflets all day! We were really busy for the whole day but we also had chance to look around the other stalls and get some lovely food for lunch.

We had a brilliant day meeting customers and selling products but most of all we were so proud of Ben for working a full day and being so enthusiastic!

By Shelley



Tom, Christopher and Emma were amazing on Day



Jonathan and KB did brilliantly on Day



On Tuesday Shelley, Rachel, Anna, Jonathan and I went to Harewood House to sell our amazing products to the customers. Jonathan, Rachel and I had a look at the different stalls at the little market at Harewood House. The weather was not nice it rained all morning and in the afternoon the wind was cold. I enjoyed telling the customers about Jennyruth Workshops and the products that the workers had made.

Some of the customers bought some of our amazing products for presents for families.

We were good at selling the products to the customers. Later that day Avril came in the van. We used the gazebo side as a parachute it was great fun for us all. We helped as a team to pack up the van while Avril sorted the mini bus out. The journey on the way back to the workshop was fun in the van. Avril dropped Jonathan off at his house.

by KB



Talk to Fearby and Healey WI

Daniel and I did a talk to with Anna and Emily. I helped to set up the stall but accidentally broke a gnomes foot!

We introduced ourselves then I started the talk while Daniel was in charge of the tech. I got to use a microphone I felt very proud doing the talk.

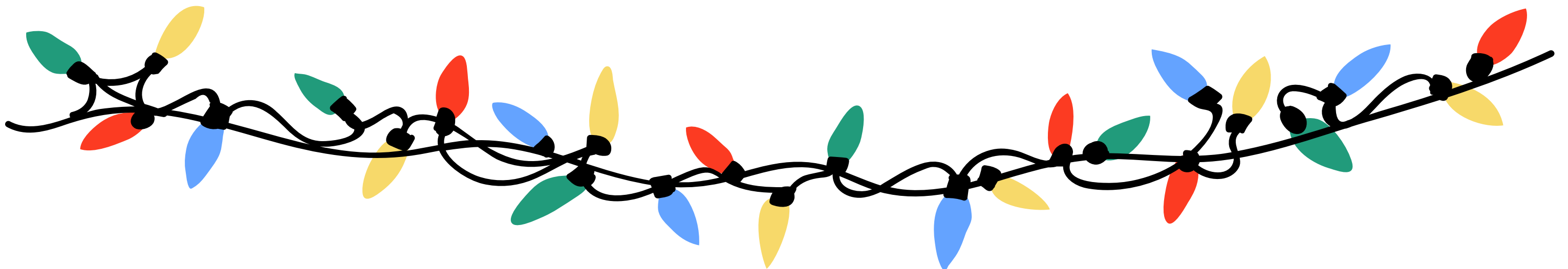
Daniel and I got to judge a teddy bear competition we gave first prize to a handmade hare and 2nd prize to a lion. We sold lots of products, the biggest seller was mini bug homes.

They treated us to tea, cake and sandwiches at the end.

By Tom H



Ripon Christmas Light Switch On 2025



I went to the Ripon Switch on, I went with my staff from IntegraCare.

I switched the lights on with Santa at 5pm. I saw Santa which was really exciting! I was switching the lights on and everyone was so proud of me.

I did amazing! I would like to do it again next year in 2026!

By Hannah



Easingwold Little Bird Market

On Thursday 27th November, Kelly and Emily had a stall at Easingworld market place. They had a festive stall with lots of lights they also had a hot chocolate and sold a lot things. They did this because it was the Christmas lights switch on and there were lots of people there.



Dunesforde Vineyard Christmas Fair

On Friday 28th November, Rachael Alex and I drove in the minibus to Dunesforde Vineyard to set up for the stall. Fortunately, it had stopped raining when we arrived and we managed to get the stock in before it poured down again.

On Saturday, I picked up Rachael at 9am and we drove back to Dunesforde Vineyard ready for the Christmas Fair. The setting is beautiful because we were upstairs and you have a fantastic view over the vineyard. It was really busy in the morning and Rachael was brilliant talking to the customers and using the Zettle. We were really lucky because we were next to the kitchen and we both bought brie with caramelised onion chutney paninis for our lunch. We met lots of customers who came last year who were eager to see what was new on our stall. It was a long day, but Rachael was a superstar and helped pack up the stall at the end. It was extremely wet and rainy. All in all it was a very successful day!

By Avril



Cundall Manor School Christmas Fair

Despite the wet weather, Kacey , Richard and I had a great time at the Cundall Manor Christmas fair! Kacey was a superstar on the Zettle and also handing out leaflets to customers. Richard's jaw hit the floor when we got a very exciting order for lots of owl boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog homes ... luckily he doesn't need them before Christmas. We introduced lots of new customers to Jennyruth Workshops and also made sure to spread the word about our upcoming Christmas Fair!

By Anna



Ripon Cathedral

On Friday 21st November, I went to the Ripon Cathedral with Richard, Helen, Pippa, Ryan H and I saw Anna and Emily, it was really busy. I was inside the church, I sold a lot of our handmade products to lovely customers. I won a lot of prizes and Anna was shocked that I won a lot of stuff and Anna won a non alcoholic drink. It was quite quiet but I was very busy selling all our lovely products that we have made. I bought a chocolate orange and orange juice. I would like to say thanks to Ripon Cathedral. I would like to be Worker of the week for my hard work.

By Hannah



On Saturday 22nd of November, my Dad drove Jayne, Anne and I to Ripon Cathedral where my dad dropped me off at the stall to meet up and drop my things off with Carole, Martyn, Richard, Jonathan and Kelly. Then my Dad had to go and get Anne and Jane so, I could have a walk around to have a look at the brilliant variety of over stalls, have a sit down to have a hot drink and a piece of cake “mmm yummy in my tummy”.

My Dad bought me four of five cheeses for the family from me, a brand new Christmas tree decoration to go on to my new Christmas tree because I forgot my money and then my Dad gave me some money to buy things. Then I was working on our stall using the Zettle to have some help by Kelly, Carole and Richard if something had gone wrong with it. I went for a walk with Kelly to get a sandwich which had Turkey and Cranberry Sauce it was lovely, smelt gorgeous and it was tasty too! Anna came to take a photograph of Jonathan and I but I was stuffing my face with my sandwich! I went back onto the stall to do the zettle, then Kelly took me for another walk around to buy some things for her, then I was deciding on whether to get another piece of cake. So, Kelly and I did another lap to find the cake stall which was right in front of us. So, then we bought ourselves individuals Chocolate Brownies each, but I got a Chocolate Orange one and I cannot remember what Kelly got. The brownies were amazing, but I have never ever had a brownie with Chocolate Orange in before. Later, I was doing the zettle until my dad came and picked me up from the Cathedral to go to the Little Bird Market where I met up with Anna and Avril. She gave me a great big hug, then I was on their stall using the zettle.

My favourite part was going around all the stalls especially the cheese one, being at the Cathedral at Christmas time, doing the stall with some of the staff from the workshop and using the zettle which is my new best friend.

By Jessica Lewis



Ripon BID and Little Bird Christmas Market

We had a fantastic 2 day event on Ripon Market Square!

Rachael, Avril and I were feeling festive on the Jennyruth Workshops stall in the Ripon Market Square on the Saturday.

We were lucky enough to have our little hut near the big Christmas Tree, what a fabulously festive view! We were reasonably busy with customers, it was great that so many people had already heard of us. Rachael did a great job using the Zettle to take payments and handing out leaflets.

It started to get a tad chilly so Rachael went for a little look around the market with her mum before heading home. We were then briefly joined by Jessica after her stint on our stall in Ripon Cathedral.

The market closed at 8pm then we quickly packed up and headed home to warm up!

By Anna



Copt Hewick Christmas Fair

The Copt Hewick Christmas Fair was a lovely, local, friendly event. Lots of people knew us but were still keen to see our new products. We hope lots of the lovely villagers will visit us soon, maybe at our Christmas Fair.

By Steve and Denise



Bishop Monkton Stall



We had a lovely festive day at the village hall for the Christmas fair. Lots of people came to chat about the workshops and our products. Astrid learnt how to use the zettle. She really enjoyed scanning and taking payments. At 12 o'clock the school choir took to the stage to fill the hall with Christmas songs. It was a wonderful family event to get us in the holiday spirit.

Holy Trinity Church Ripon

We are really lucky to be one of Holy Trinity Church's special charities. They invited us to attend the institution and induction of their new vicar, Reverend Phil Carman. On Wednesday 12th November I walked into the church at 6:45pm and was greeted by some superb music by the church band. The service was really welcoming and I enjoyed Rev Phil's use of the children and cake to get his message across. It was lovely that many of his congregation from Starbeck also attended. Afterwards, we had some delicious food downstairs in The Arches. We hope to see more of Rev Phil.

By Avril



News from the Workshops



Christmas mince pies



Christmas Fair

Christmas refreshments

Thursday 11th December

And have lots of fun

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



Christmassy workshop



Christmas raffle





Pendragon

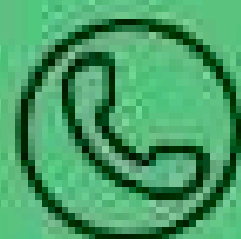
COMMUNITY TRUST

At our centre based in Northalleton, North Yorkshire. We offer sensory sessions for adults and children with additional needs.

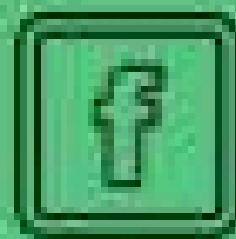
The centre is fully padded and includes a giant soft slide, interactive walls, ball pool, waterbed, bubble tubes and much more for you to explore!

We are fully hoisted and changing facilities located on site as well as a small café serving hot drinks and refreshments.

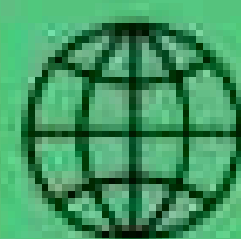
If you would like to speak to our friendly team, Please don't hesitate to contact them on the following.



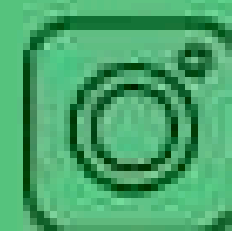
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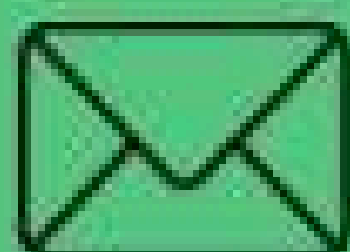
Pendragon Community Trust



www.pendragon-ct.org



Pendragonsensory



Julia.Downes@pendragon-ct.org

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 Ryan R!

What your favourite room at Jennyruth
Workshops?



Packaging

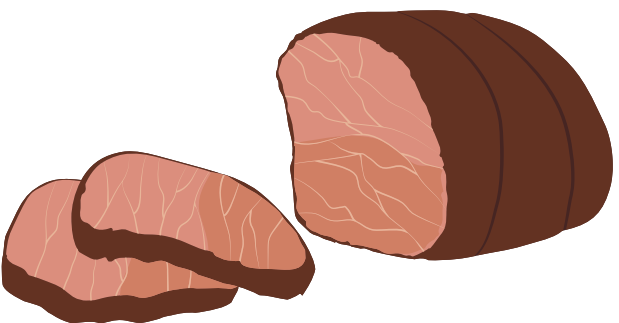
What your favourite music?



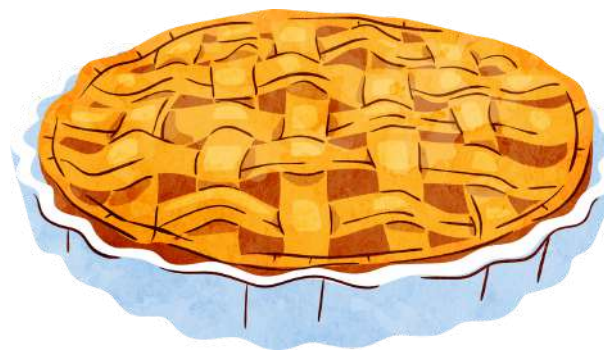
All sorts. My favourite group is Little Mix

What is your favourite food?

Roast dinner with most of the trimmings! – beef,
roast potatoes, apple pie for pudding!



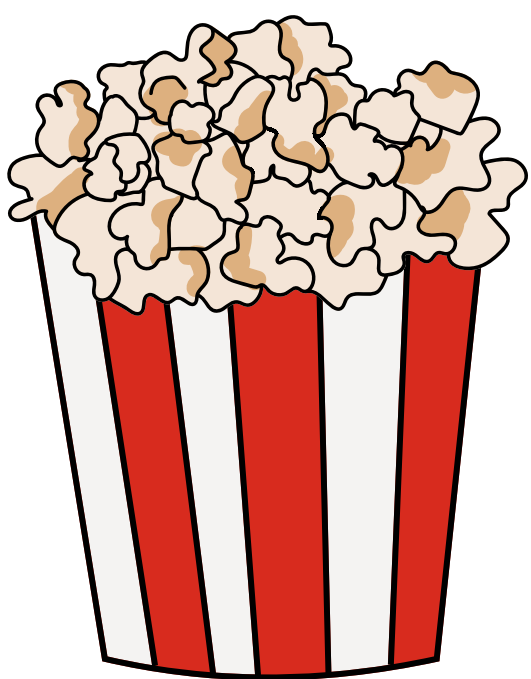
What is your favourite movie?



Like Mike

What your favourite sport?

Playing basketball





Where is your favourite place to go on holiday?

Turkey, I like to get a tan and I love going on the slides.

What do you like to do at the weekend?

Relaxing watching TV, gardening, I help with the weeding.





Cooks Corner

This months recipe is a festive Honey Glazed Ham. Sam has taken inspiration from the BBC Good Food website for his recipe.

Ingredients

2 ½ kg boneless unsmoked gammon joint tied
1 sprig thyme, 2 bay leaves, 1 sprig rosemary tied together
1 onion halved 2 carrots roughly chopped
1 celery stick roughly chopped
1 tbsp black peppercorns
1 tsp cloves

For the glaze

1 ½ tbsp English mustard
70g clear honey
2 soft brown sugar



Method

Step 1

Put the gammon in a large, deep saucepan. Add the tied herbs, onion, carrots, celery, peppercorns and cloves. Pour over enough cold water to cover the meat, then bring to the boil, cover with a lid, and lower to a gentle simmer for 1hr 15mins. Turn off the heat and leave the ham to sit in the liquid for 30 mins.

Step 2

Remove from the liquid (this makes a delicious stock) and leave to cool until cold enough to handle. Peel off the thick layer of skin on the gammon to reveal a layer of fat. Discard the skin and score the fat in a criss-cross-cross pattern with a sharp knife.

Step 3

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Put the ham in a roasting tray lined with foil. Mix together the mustard, honey and sugar in a bowl, then generously brush half over the ham. Roast in the oven for a further 20-30 mins.

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!**

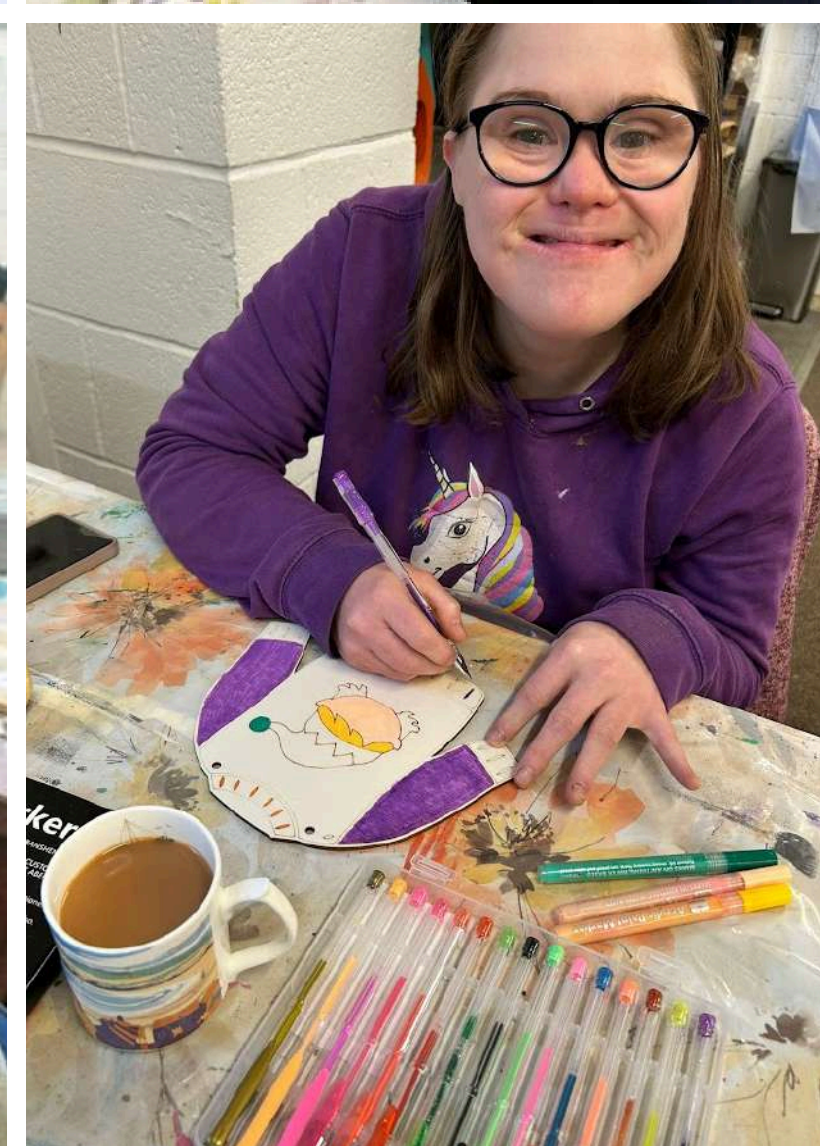
We offer a range of volunteering opportunities where you will be enabling and supporting our workers in:

- 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**



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.





Please nominate us

We could receive a £1,000 donation with your help through the Movement for Good 12 Days of Christmas Draw.

Please nominate us:

movementforgood.com

Nominations open until December 15th 2025



**BENEFACT
GROUP**

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**



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

Please email – **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



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.

We also offer private tours for groups like Guides and Scouts. Email knaresborough.knightmares@gmail.com for more details.

Happy Birthday

December

Laura Newell

Peter Hills

Emma Schofield

Adam Fryer

Harry Simpkin







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.

December

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



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



Wetherby Dickensian Market
Sunday 14th December
10am – 3pm



In Memory of Iris Alderson (nee Leatham)

Iris was born in 1939 and went to school in Ripon. She became a teacher after completing a teaching degree in London and returned to Ripon to teach in several local primary schools. She always played an active role in the local community and loved to be involved in various committees. As a teacher, she helped and influenced many young children, some of whom stayed in contact with her into her old age. Iris loved all children and would regularly welcome them into her home and offer them treats. She was also passionate about gardening, always having a beautiful garden and regularly attending local gardening events. During her last year, Iris was cared for at The Moors Care Centre, Ripon, and this is why her family chose to support Jennyruth, being both a charity linked to the Moors, but also one which helps people in the local community.

**Her family kindly
asked for
donations to
Jennyruth
Workshops instead
of flowers.**



A Message from



Jennyruth Workshops
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Bridge Hewick
Ripon
North Yorkshire
HG4 5AY

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