

# The Wren

Issue 63

February 2026



Together Everyone Achieves More



@JennyruthW



@jennyruthworkshops



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# Contents

## Letter from the Deputy Editor

Hello fellow readers, this is Vee writing on behalf of our marvelous magazine group.

The workers have been getting creative with our famous bird boxes ready for National nesting month (14<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> February).

This year as usual is very busy, as we go full steam ahead preparing for our upcoming events.

The most recent upcoming events are:

- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March - Sights and Sounds of Ripon 10 - 1.30pm
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April - Spring Food, Home and Garden Fair - Ripon Cathedral 10-1.30pm

Please read page 30 for more information on events.

I am excited for what adventures this year may bring .

See you all soon

Vee

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# Meet the team



**Editors** Anna Smith & Shelley Atkinson

**Deputy Editor** Vee Leigh

**Art Director** Jamie Allen

**Head Reporter** Hannah Rollings

**Creative Director** Ryan Rhodes

**Graphic Designer** Sam Manning

**Digital Editor** Ryan Hearfield

**Senior Journalist** Therese Thompson



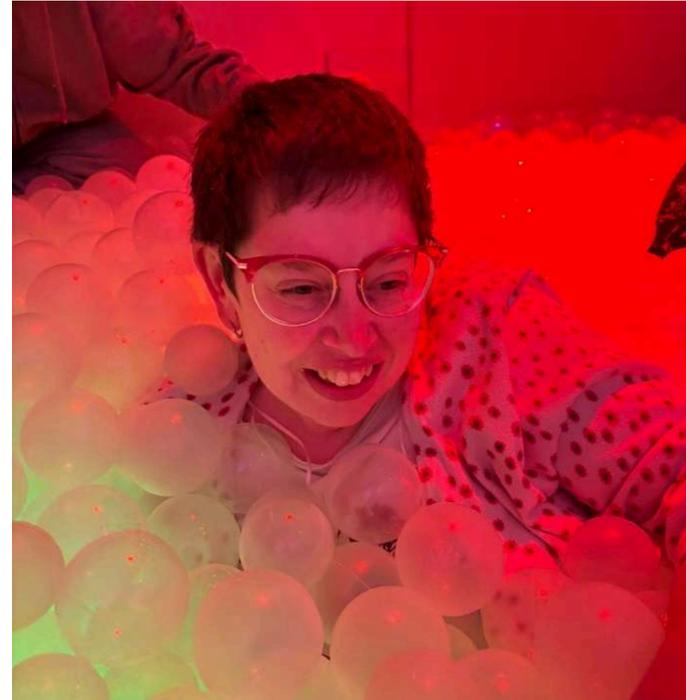
# Visits and Events

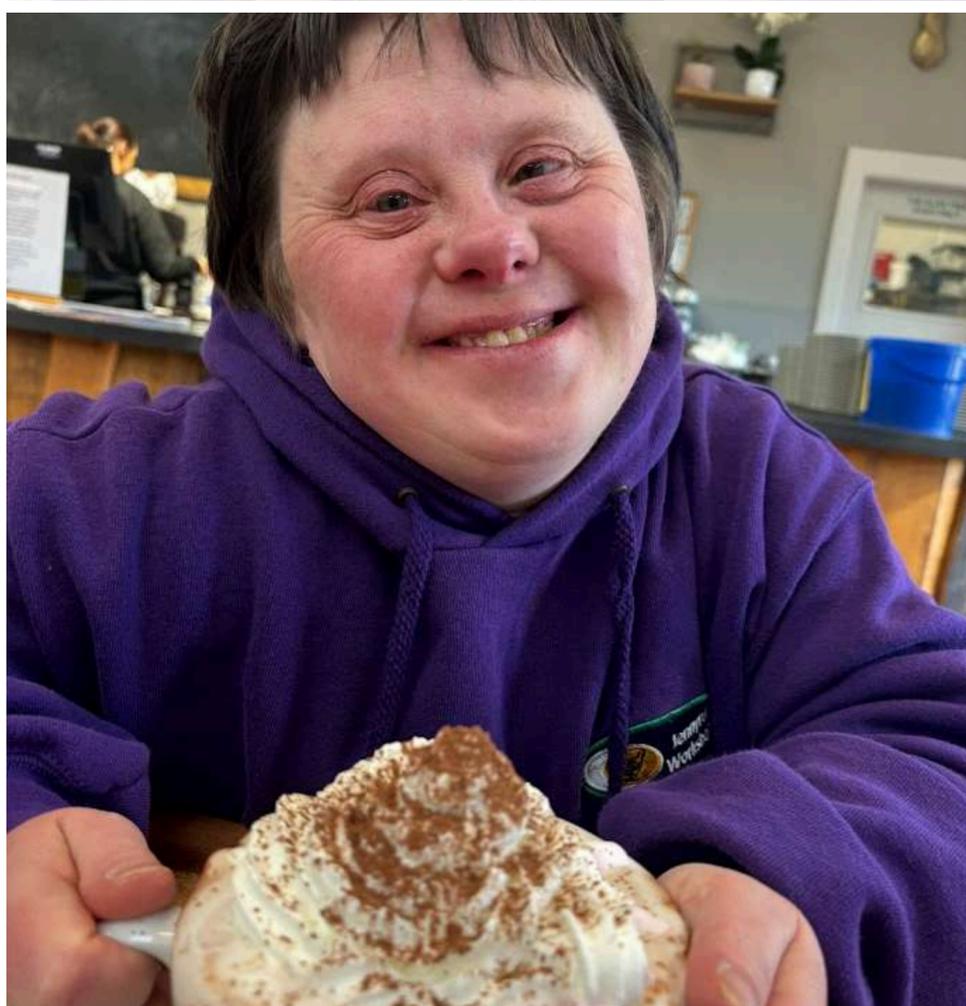
## Pendragon Visit

Rachael said "I enjoyed it! The ball pit was really fun. I was a bit nervous but enjoyed it when I went in."

Kacey's favourite part was going on the big slide and the cuddly toys. Rachael said "I found it relaxing and I loved going on the big padded slide."

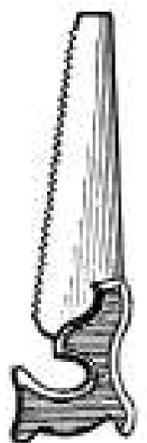
Ryan's favourite part was the lights, they were all different colours of the rainbow. Ryan said, "There were many yellow fish, a ball pit and a slide going into it." Ryan had to take his shoes off for the ball pit and slide, he said he had a very good day!





# Happy Retirement Steve

Happy Retirement Steve, you will be missed - Kelly I enjoyed doing woodwork with you for 14 years since I started in September 2011 - William I hope you enjoy your time off - Beth I hope you enjoy being a grandad to your new 1<sup>st</sup> grandchild and I loved working along side you in woodwork - Emma Have a relaxing time! - Ryan I enjoyed working with you on the shed outside in woodwork - Victoria I hope you have a good retirement - Alex Happy Retirement Steve - Anna I have enjoyed working with you for many years, sorry you're leaving and I will miss you - Martin Thanks for helping teach me how to use the drill - Tom H Enjoy the peace and quite - Jessica Thank you for everything! - Kimberley Enjoy your retirement Steve, I'm sure Denise will find you plenty of jobs to keep you busy - Jane Happy retirement Steve! I would say time to relax but I'm sure there will be plenty of dad jobs! - Phoebe All the best Steve, enjoy all your spare time ... not ... I'm sure you will be keeping busy - Sandra I have enjoyed working with you and making and painting shed! Enjoy your retirement - all miss you! - Ben I will see us soon - Hannah please come working with you - Sam Happy Retirement - have a good retirement - Dawn Hope you I have enjoyed painting and working on the shed, screws on the door - Andrew working with you - Shaun I enjoyed cutting the wood - Ryan R Thank you and good luck - Adam C Enjoy your retirement and I hope Denise doesn't give you too many jobs at home - Janet S Relax and put the fire on - Daniel He's been very helpful, polite and kind. He's a lovely member of staff to work with - Tom O I have liked working in woodwork and painting sticks for the garden shed - Ellen Thank you so much for your hard work - Vee Thank you the man who makes ideas a reality - Carol G I will miss you around the mess room, your fantastic woodwork skills, hopefully see you around - Avril Happy retirement Steve, thank you for the skills you taught me these last 2 years - Harry You're a wise man with lots of skills. Thank you for sharing them with me over the years - Phe You were the best one in woodwork, I have enjoyed working on the shed - Jonathan In December 2019, Steve asked me to work for a day a week at Jennyruth Workshops. That was my introduction to a job that I love! Thanks Steve, for all the times working with you and we'll miss your beautiful work - Richard Steve, thank you for your help over the last 11 months, your patience with a complete novice and your invaluable gardening tips. You will be missed - Janet L I'm going to miss you when you retire - Rachael I'll miss our chats and all of your wisdom. It has been great working with you all these years! I'll call when I need to borrow a map! - Shelley You will be missed - Emily





# Ripon Community Poppy Project

We are very excited to once again be partnering with the Ripon Community Poppy Project as part of Ripon in Bloom!

This project has given us a great opportunity to showcase the workers skill set, in particular their detail painting!

Without giving too much away.....here are a few photos of the workers working on the project.



# The Other Room

## Packaging

It's been very busy in Packaging as we've been packing a lot of Godly Play products! **Vee says,** "With the Godly Play products we're having to learn a new way of packaging. There are lots of steps so it's quite complex."

## Magazine

Our Magazine team have done a brilliant job working as a team on this edition of the magazine!



## Publicity

Publicity group have been creating some exciting social media posts.



In honour of World Wetlands Day, we went on a trip to Ripon Wetlands on Thursday 29th January with a group from Jennyruth workshops. Anna drove Shelley, Chris, Ben, Kacey and I in the mini bus. We walked around the wetlands which were a bit boggy as the weather was a bit cold and wet. Sam took Lots of pictures of the group and the wetlands. I helped Shelley as the ground was a bit slippery in places. I enjoyed taking lots of pictures and enjoyed the trip. On the way home the group stopped at the Forge to have some hot drinks and warm up.

**By Sam**

## Skills

Our Skills group have loved getting competitive with their Speed Typing Game while also working on improving their threading and bow tie skills which are a key part of packaging bunting.



# Paintshop

Ellen says, "I've been painting bird boxes and wrens."



## The Paintshop have been busy running Painting Workshops

We went to Riverside Court Care in Boroughbridge. Justine, Therese, Phe, Phoebe and I helped the residents to paint Valentines Bunting. They enjoyed our company, conversation and painting.

**By Kimberley**



We went to Lister House for a painting workshop I was teaching them how to paint Burns Night bunting. In the end it was awesome, I had an idea for my order for one. My job was looking after the paint brushes for the workers and chatting with them. We had a guided tour around Lister House including the church. I had a hot drink and biscuits while I was watching them paint.

**By Jamie A**



# The Mess Room

Lunch Club - see Cooks Corner

## Mosaics



**Kimberley says,** "It is interesting to learn how they lay a mosaic. I like seeing the finished product. it is a new skill for me."

**Justine says,** "It is therapeutic."

## Jewellery

"We are making jewellery using beads that have kindly been donated to us. I made a bracelet. I like sorting out the beads," **says Hannah**



## Sewing



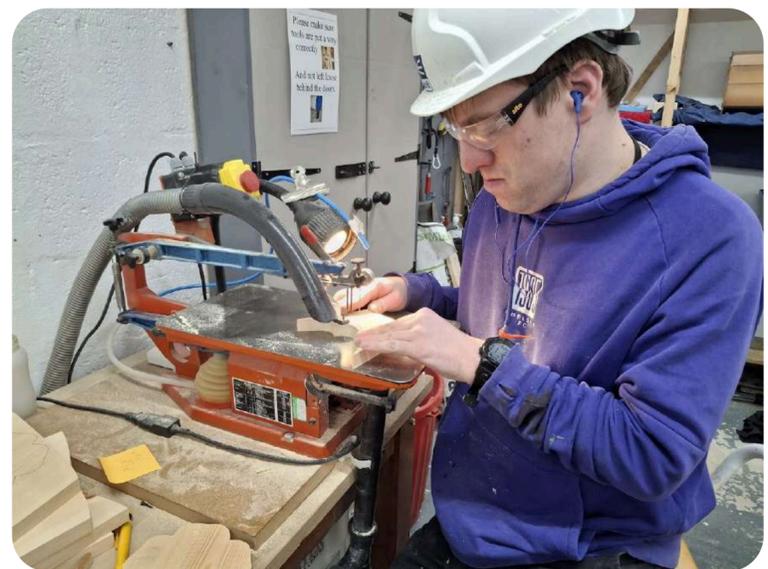
"I enjoy the technical side of making of the product and using the pedal on the sewing machine" **says Tom O**

# Woodwork



We've been building bird boxes. A lot of work goes into it, we use a hot glue gun to attach the felt. I've been helping to build big massive shelf so we can store more component parts. It's very busy!

**by Jack**



We're making plans for our gazebo storage shed. We've been working out how much wood we'll need and how big it needs to be. I like that the staff have involved me in the planning. It's also going to be an outdoor workspace. We still need to work out how much cladding it'll need. Cladding makes the shed water tight and will protect what's inside from the wind.

**By Christopher**



# Training Room

## Wrapping



What a talented bunch! The workers have worked so hard to produce beautiful designs in Wrapping!

## Book Wrapping

The books seem to be very popular and they are keeping us busy at the workshop; we are still collecting books, wrapping, stamping and coming up with new, fresh ideas of how to present them. **Visit p to find out more!**



## Card Making



"We are making Christmas Cards. I like doing a bit of everything; the background and the stencilling on the cards. I like being part of the whole process from making to packaging," **says Christopher**

## Stencilling

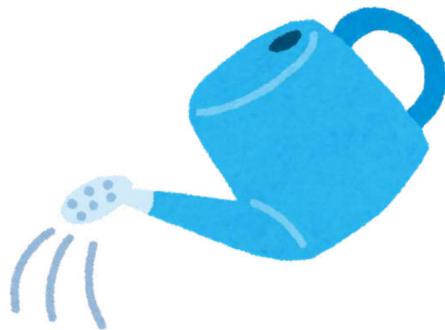
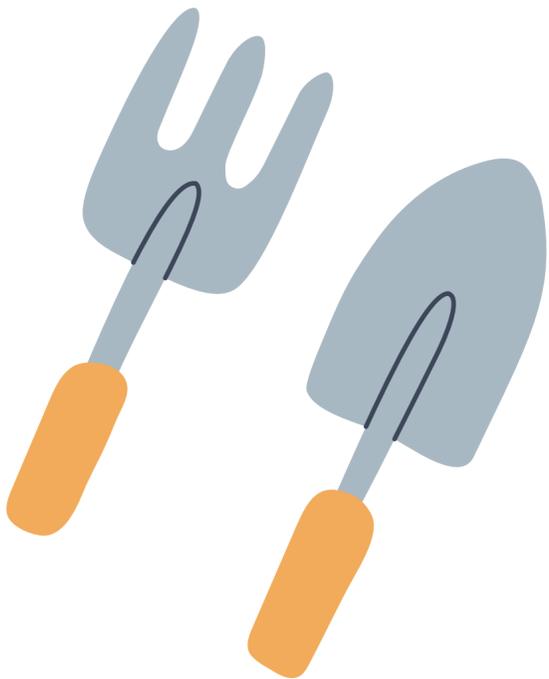
**Vee says,** "On a Thursday afternoon I go into stencilling. I have been working on bird boxes and coasters. It has been tricky because all the paints are different thicknesses, but I'm getting better at it."



# Gardening



Gardening group have been clearing a path round the back of the workshop to make the woodland walk bigger. They've been sorting out the compost, moving into their new shed and planting seeds to add lots of colour to the garden.



# Seasonal Crafts



I got to make a wooden bunny rabbit. I like going on trips out for inspiration, especially when tea and cake is involved.

**By Dawn**

# Creation

## Card Making

Kacey has been putting her creative flare on some new card designs.

Don't they look fab!



## Creative Design

I have been making a frame with a picture of my Labrador Poppy. I like making things and being creative.

**By Dawn**



## Story Book Creation



## Godly Play

I have been working on Godly Play. The group is very calm and chilled!

**Therese**





# Pendragon

COMMUNITY TRUST

**At our centre based in Northalton, 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.**



01609 760330



Pendragon Community Trust



[www.pendragon-ct.org](http://www.pendragon-ct.org)



Pendragonsensory



[Julia.Downes@pendragon-ct.org](mailto: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 Justine!**

## **Have you ever been abroad?**

Yes, I went to Menorca and Ibiza and Tenerife. I loved Tenerife, it was my favourite holiday because it was quiet and you get Gluten Free McDonalds & Burger King.

## **Do you have any pets?**

I have a Shih tzu. I did have a budgie but it dropped dead. He was really funny, he used to dive bomb my dog.

## **What's is your favourite music**

I love Taylor Swift. I also love JLS, I saw them live. My sister ran after them to try and get an autograph but they had to go. I've been a big fan of JLS since I was little.

## **What is your favourite thing to do that you have done at Jennyruth?**

I like packaging. I like being in Anna, Shelley and Carole's room. I like the environment, it's a bouncy room.

## **Do you have any favourite hobbies?**

Yes, I do photography and I collect old coins. I'm really obsessed with it. I've got a Winston Churchill coin and the full set of Beatrix Potter ones. I love collecting them because it reminds me of my dad.

## **Do you have any secret talent**

I used to do gymnastics when I was little. I won bronze, silver and gold. My favourite thing was the balance beam although I used to fall off a lot. I also used to do horse riding. I went to Follifoot.



# Cooks' Corner



## Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp Olive Oil
- 1 medium onion - sliced
- 1 carrot grated
- 1 celery stick - finely diced
- 2 Garlic cloves crushed
- 1 beef stock cube
- 500g Beef mince
- 1 400g tinned chopped tomatoes
- 1 Carton passata
- 1 Tsp each of - Oregano, Basil, Thyme and Paprika
- 2 Bay leaves
- 1 Tsp tomato puree
- 1 Tsp Sugar
- Lasagne sheets
- White Sauce for top, 125g Butter, 125g flour, 1 litre warm milk.
- 250g Grated cheese



♡  
CIAO

ITALY

## Method

- . Heat the olive oil in a large pan and sauté the diced onion and finely diced celery.
- . Brown the minced beef and the grated carrot and all the dried herbs, seasoning and sugar.
  - . Add the tinned tomatoes ,passata and tomato puree.
  - . Allow to simmer.
- . Make the sauces for the top. Melt butter, stir in the flour and gradually add in the warm milk until sauce thickens add half the grated cheese keeping the rest for the top.
- . Layer bolognese, pasta sheets, bolognese, pasta sheets and top with sauce, grated cheese and basil . Place in the oven 180c for 40- 45mins until pasta is cooked through.
- . **With every dish they will be making a bread then there will be a competition over if Thursday or Friday Lunch Club made it better.**
- . **Every week there will be a special guest joining them for lunch.**





# Spanish Week

**Ingredients (serves 8)**

**600g Macaroni or Rigatoni**

**1x 225g Spanish chorizo sausage, finely diced or chopped in food processor**

**6tbsp Salted butter**

**6tbsp Plain Flour**

**1l Warm Milk**

**400g Grated Manchego cheese**

**Salt & Pepper**

## For the Salad

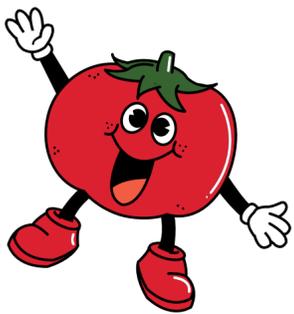
**2 little gem lettuce**

**100g pea pods (mangetout or sugar snaps)**

**1 green pepper**

## Method

1. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Choose a pan large enough to hold your pasta, this will double in size when it's cooked. You should also add a glug of oil to the water at the beginning. When the water is boiling add your pasta and turn the heat down so that the pasta is simmering gently. Follow the timing instructions on the packet, this will vary depending on the type of pasta you choose. When cooked, chill it thoroughly to prevent it from overcooking. Use lots of cold running water to do this, set aside.
2. Using the butter and flour make a roux. A roux is the base for lots of sauces and is basically equal amounts of flour and melted butter with a warm liquid added in stages to prevent lumps forming. Use a pan with a pouring spout, if you have one, and only have the heat on medium, the milk will cause the sauce to stick if you have the heat too high. You need to stir in between adding the liquid. When we have made a nice smooth sauce we can add our grated cheese.
3. Mix the sauce and pasta into a baking dish, sprinkle the diced chorizo on top then cook for 30-40mins at 180 degrees.



# Welsh Week



## Welsh Cakes

### Ingredients

Makes 10-12 cakes prep 10 minutes cook 4 to 5 minutes each

2oz/55g caster sugar

4oz/110g margarine or butter

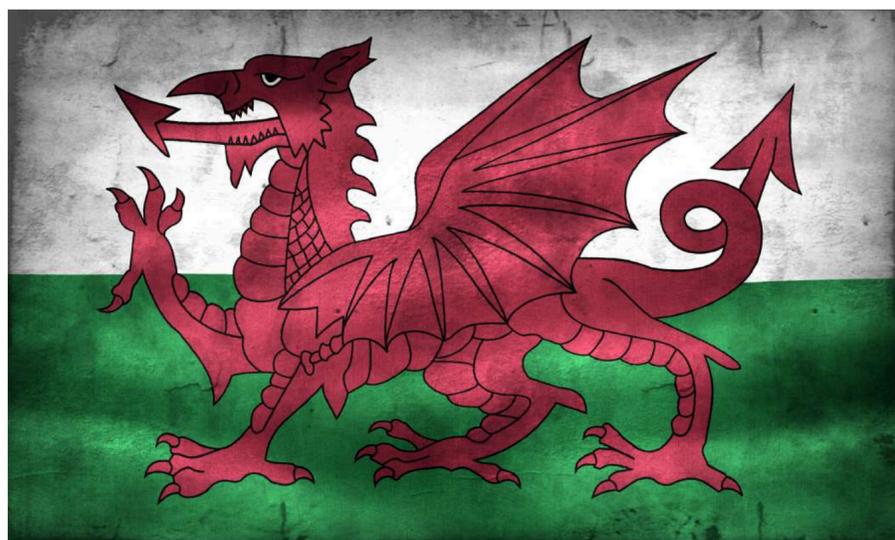
1 or 2 handfuls of sultanas

1 or 2 free-range eggs depending on mixture



### Method

1. Sieve flour into bowl, then add margarine or butter, rub in finely together.
2. Add sugar and sultanas and mix.
3. Add 1 egg and mix. The consistency needs to be bound together, so if too dry add another egg.
4. Roll out on a floured board, to about a quarter inch thick.
5. Cut using a 2 inch (5cm approx) cutter, then cook on a greased pan, or bake stone, on a medium heat for about 4 to 5 minutes each side.



I was invited to lunch club and sent a beautiful invitation by Jonathan.

On the day he came to collect me from the office the table was set with cutlery, napkins and drinks and then I was served with delicious leek and potato soup with cottage rolls.

I was pleasantly surprised by the Welsh Cakes as well, they were very tasty.

I loved sitting down with the workers, enjoying the food they had served me, what a lovely treat!

**By Avril**



# India Week

## Chicken Korma, Naan and Veg

### Ingredients

Small knob fresh ginger, peeled and finely sliced

1 garlic clove

1 onion  
sliced

1 tbsp vegetable oil

4 skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite-size  
pieces

1 tsp garam masala

100ml chicken stock

3 tbsp low-fat fromage frais

2 tbsp ground almonds

handful toasted, sliced almonds  
to serve

coriander leaves, plain rice

naan bread or chapatis, to serve

My feedback from lunch club-

"I loved making the chicken korma, I made the naan, it was amazing I would love to do it again soon."

By **Hannah**



"I have fully enjoyed the chicken korma with naan bread. I was very pleased and honoured to be a guest for lunch. The lunch club group made chicken korma with naan bread to perfection."

By **Jamie A**

# Volunteering



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

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

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

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



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

# Thank You

We said goodbye and a huge thank you to 2 of our incredible volunteers!

Thank you Sue for being such a vital part of the creation of Jennyruth Workshops!

She was very good working one to one with Ben. She looked after us and I'll miss her on a Tuesday!

**By Jonathan**



Liz helped us with mosaics. She interpreted for Mario the tutor because he is Italian and Liz can speak fluent Italian. She was lovely inside and out and very bubbly!

**By Justine**

I always used to remind Liz to put her bins out. She was such a good volunteer!

**By Jonathan**

She's a nice lady, a great volunteer!

**By Andrew**



# Fundraising

There are numerous ways that you can support Jennyruth Workshops.

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

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



You can donate via our website:



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

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

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

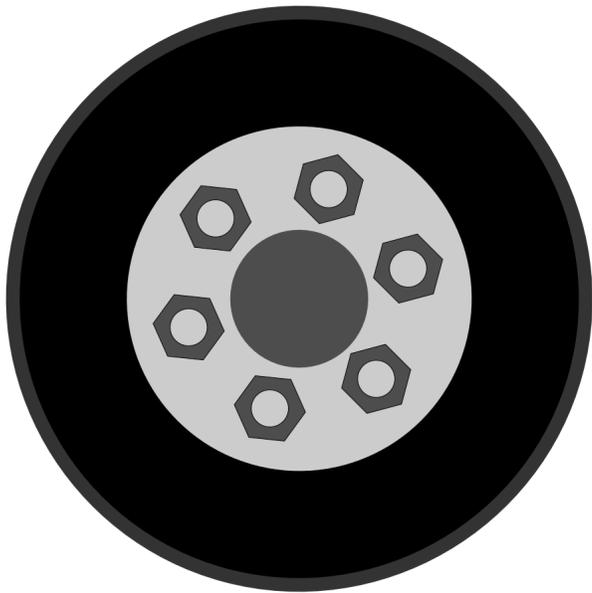
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/donation-reminder/>

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



# MG Show

A huge thank you to the Harrogate MG Club for their generous donation!  
We're looking forward to having a stall at their car show later on in the year.



# Book Wrapping Group

We now have our donation book stands in The Claro lounge in Ripon, The Ontano lounge in Northallerton and The Tap on the Tutt in Boroughbridge.

They seem to be very popular and they are keeping us busy at the workshop, we are still collecting books, wrapping, stamping and coming up with new fresh ideas of how to present them.

From the start of this enterprise idea we have raised over £400 just in donations, which I think you will agree is really great. It is also a really fab job for the workers to be involved with, they seem to really enjoy it.

Thank you to everyone that has donated books and been involved in the process.



# Support Jennyruth Workshops Ltd

## Your 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](mailto:finance@jennyruth.co.uk) for forms

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

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

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

- **Gift Aid It**

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

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

**Every penny makes a difference.**

Thank you for supporting Jennyruth Workshops Ltd.

**Registered Charity No. 1093957**



# Happy Birthday



## February

Daniel Allen

Sue Turner

Carole Dean

Janet Lawson

Ben Evason

Denise Carrigan

Vee Leigh

Matthew Evason



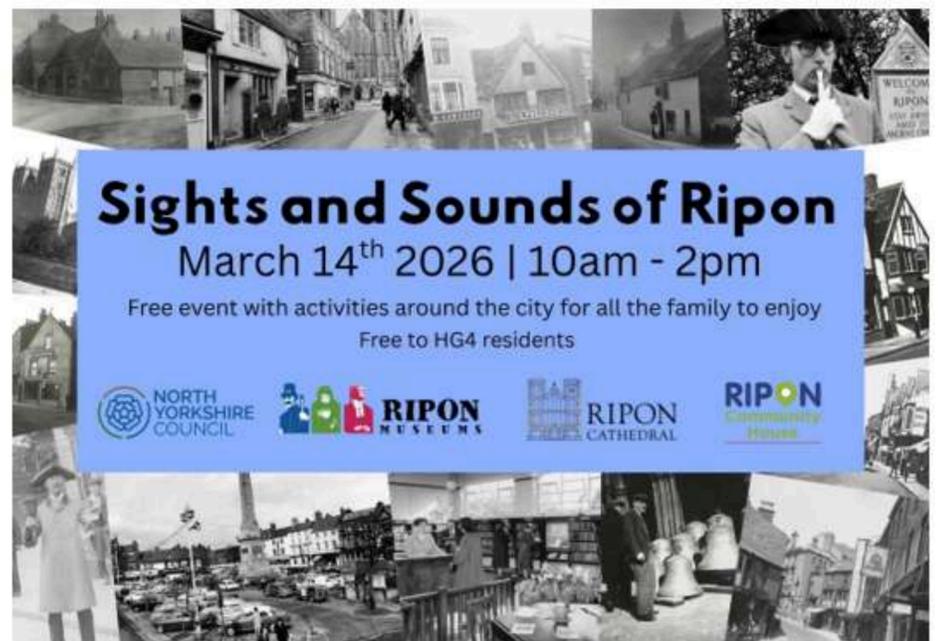
# Dates for the Diary

## A note for volunteers

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

# March

Sights & Sounds of Ripon  
Ripon Cathedral  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
**10am - 1:30pm**



Spring Artisan Market  
Harewood House  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**



# April

Spring Food, Home & Gift Fair  
Ripon Cathedral  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10am - 4pm**



Harrogate Spring Flower Show  
Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate  
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
**9am - 6pm**





# May

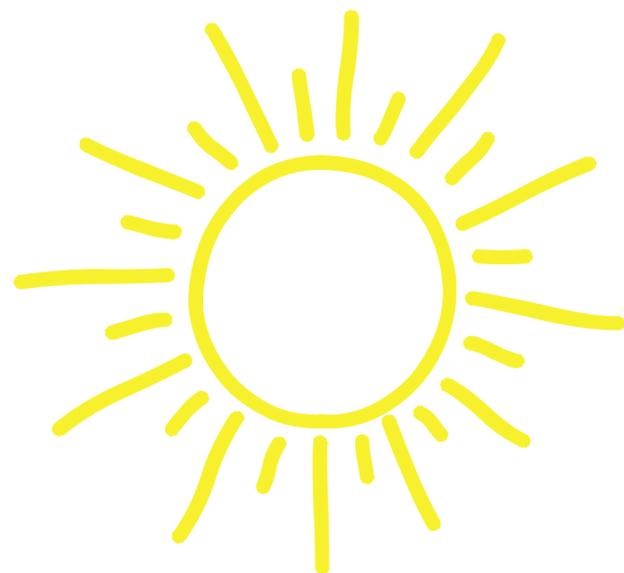
Harlow Carr Gardens  
Harrogate

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**  
**9am - 6pm**

# June

Harlow Carr Gardens  
Harrogate

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**  
**9am - 6pm**



# July

Great Yorkshire Show  
Harrogate Showground  
**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July**  
**8am - 6pm**



# September

Autumn Flower Show  
Newby Hall

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**  
**8:30am - 5:30pm**



Derbyshire Life Home & Gift Fair  
The County Ground, Nottingham Road, Derby, DE21 6DA  
**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**



# November

Christmas Fair  
Ripon Cathedral  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November**  
**9:30am - 4:30pm**

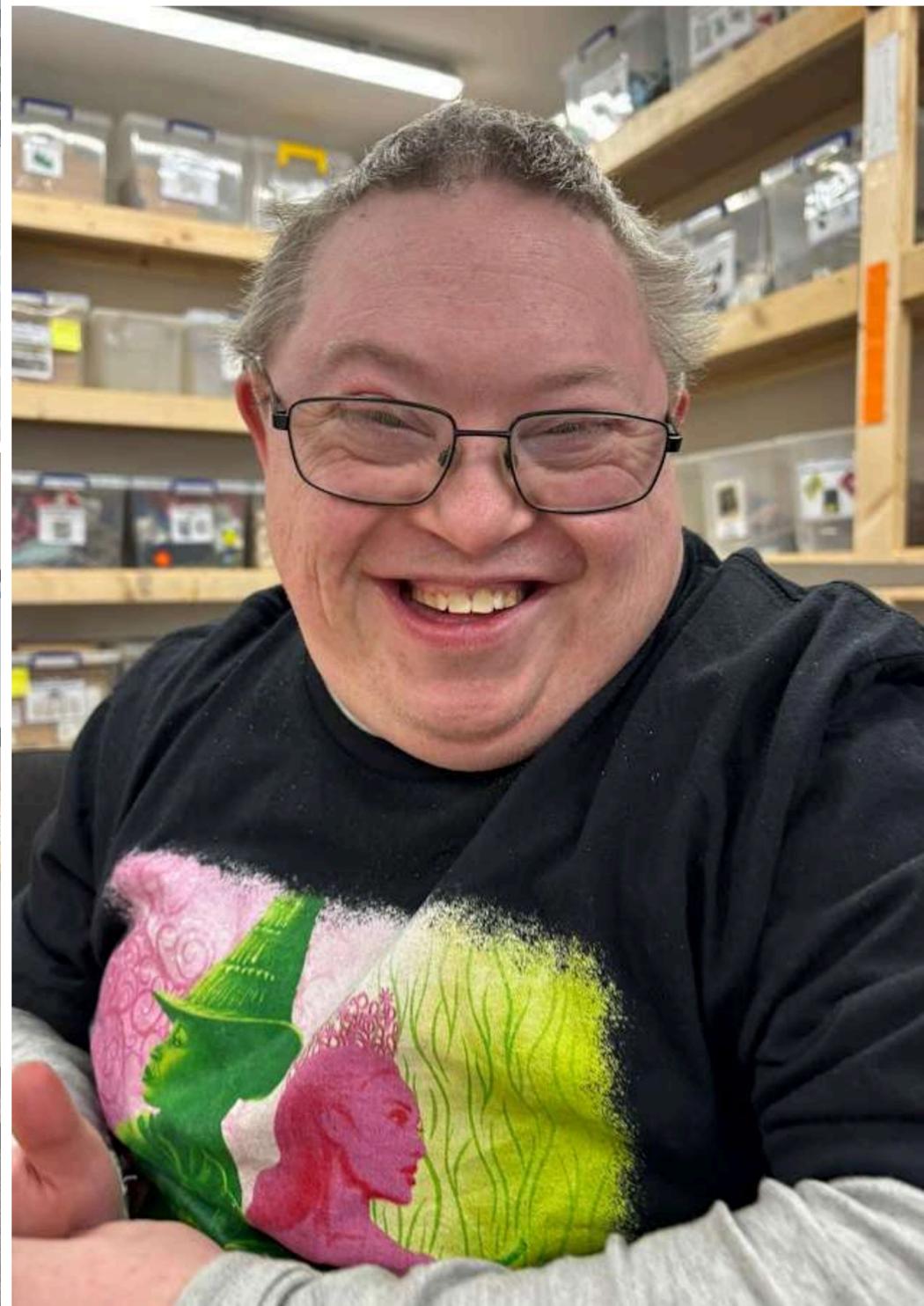


The Great Yorkshire Christmas Fair  
Great Yorkshire Pavillions  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

# December

Coffee Morning  
Marton Cum Grafton Village Hall  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10am - 12pm**





# A Message from



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

**01765 606620**

