

Jennyruth Workshops



Impact Report 2019 - 2020

www.jennyruth.co.uk



@JennyruthW



@jennyruthworkshops

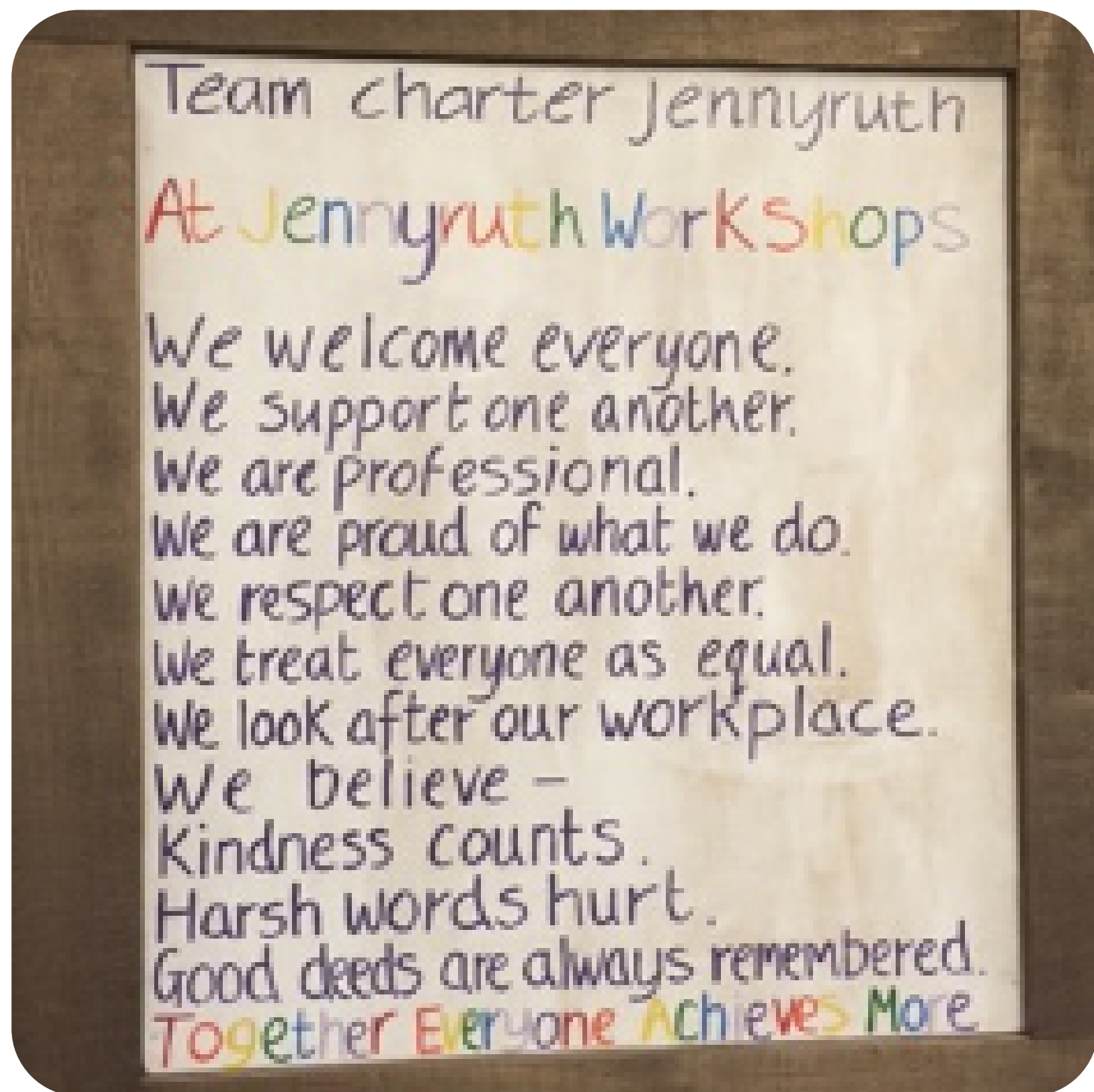


@JennyruthWorkshop



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Our Vision

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

Involve our workers in all aspects of Jennyruth Workshops business, 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 commission.



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 with learning disabilities to gain new skills and experiences with recognised qualifications and accreditation.

LETTER FROM OUR CHIEF OFFICER

Hello and welcome to our Impact Report for 2019-2020. It has been a strange and difficult year for all of us in many ways as we have adapted to the restrictions Covid-19 has placed on us all, but it has also been a very rewarding and positive year; bringing out the best in everyone.

It was with great sadness that we said our final farewells to Barrie Evason in February. Jennyruth Workshops is the place we see today due to all his hard work and determination over many years.

I first met Barrie and Jonathan at a village fete 23 years ago when Lucy was still only a baby. Back then, they were selling products made at home and the Workshops as we know it was just an idea. We now have 28 workers attending and a waiting list.

As many of you will already know, I took over in my current role on 1st October 2019 having been the finance administrator since 2016. I feel a great sense of responsibility to do Barrie proud and often over the last few months particularly, I have found myself wondering what he would think of the altered world we have found ourselves in.

Recently we featured in an article in the Yorkshire Post...Barrie's daughter, Bryony, said...'Dad would have been enormously proud 😊 But not just of the wonderful workers but of how the staff and volunteers have adapted to the new climate, enabling the workers to continue to grow and blossom. You are all truly amazing!'

I could not be prouder of how my team of staff and volunteers have pulled together both at the workshops and at home and found so many creative ways to support the workers remotely since March whilst learning to embrace the virtual world of zoom.

We were due to welcome the workers back after 7 months of home working but this has been delayed due to the latest Government restrictions. When it is safe for them to return, it will bring with it a period of adjustment for everyone which I know we will get through together just as we have the separation.

The next few pages are full of what we have been doing and what we will be doing going forward taking us into to 2021. If you would like to get involved with the Workshop as a worker/volunteer/supporter/sponsor I would love to hear from you.

Best wishes



Nicky Newell
Chief Officer



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

This last year has seen great changes at Jennyruth Workshops. The saddest note of my tenure as Chair of Trustees, the loss of Barrie Evason, our founder, early in 2020 was a shock to us all, but Barrie's demise has driven us all to re-double our efforts to carry forward his remarkable vision.

We will not lose sight of that focus to ensure all people with learning disabilities are able to develop self-awareness, pride, dignity and self-confidence.

We are proud to ensure our Workers develop their full potential and play a vital role within the Community.

The appointment of a new Chief Officer, Nicky Newell in October of 2019, allowed us to build on the wonderful ethic of the Workshops developed from Barrie Evason's initial vision. Nicky's enthusiasm for the job has reaped many rewards from building a strong team spirit amongst our staff and allowed us to face the onslaught of 2020, which Covid-19 brought upon us all.

The disruption faced Nationally was compounded with the problems which beset many of our wonderful Workers. Nicky and her team rallied to the cause and although we had to close the Workshops; they immediately set about arranging the most varied and wide ranging activities to ensure all our Workers had some form of continuity and could maintain communication with each other.

Zoom meetings, a 'Pick-up' and 'Drop-off' point enabling workers to continue to complete products, were set up, along with some wonderfully unique ideas to occupy workers who could be cut off from social interaction. The whole team, Staff, Workers and Volunteers have worked tirelessly building a weekly timetable of events. 600miles walk, Poetry, Stories, amazing craft ideas, ensured we could offer to fill the days of our team of Workers. The loan of lap-tops ensured all Workers had access to some form of input from the Workshops.

The future is now being planned, with a speedy re-arrangement of accommodation, and some very exciting plans to extend the Workshops, all very necessary if we are to tackle the long term effects the Pandemic has set before us. With the support of our Landlords at Newby Hall Estates, we can look forward to the uncertain times ahead, with an assured confidence that we will be ahead of any regulations. Safety and security of our whole team is our 'watch-word'. With clear financial planning ensuring we have a strong 'reserve funding' we can move forward with our long term plans in the knowledge that we have a financially secure future and will maintain the excellence upon which Barrie's vision for Jennyruth Workshops was based.

It is custom at this point that the Chairman thank everyone for their efforts over the past year!

However, I must record the most exceptional thank you to everyone connected with Jennyruth Workshops! Staff, Workers, Volunteers, Customers and Trustees, all too numerous to mention. Everyone has gone over and above to ensure we have been able to maintain the outstanding service to our Workers, and for that I give a 'Heart-felt' "THANK-YOU"!

Don

D T GRUNDY
CHAIRMAN
JENNYRUTH WORKSHOPS



PROJECTS AND EVENTS



The Community Action Group have started a project called 'Life in Lockdown'. This will be a book containing stories, poems and pictures about how the Covid pandemic and lockdown has affected people in Ripon and surrounding areas.

The book, once completed, will go on display in the Ripon library and will become an archive for future generations.

Send your stories to info@jennyruth.co.uk

We made Rangoli paintings for Ripon YMCA as part of our Community Action Group run by NYCC Adult Learning. The pictures were framed and decorated the bedrooms at the YMCA.



Most of our sales have now moved online with the website shop and the annual Ripon Cathedral Christmas Fair. Since then we have been selling online. Once restrictions ease we will be resuming the fair.





The 'About Ripon' Community Jigsaw project was made possible thanks to a grant from the Ripon City Council. The project involved 40 different organisations and establishments that make up the wonderful City of Ripon.

The vibrant and unique jigsaw style display is currently being showcased around various venues in the city and 'paints a picture' of our community and all the diverse ways that we work together, live alongside each other, help and support each other and forge links together, through good times and bad.

The launch of our new minibus took place in October 2019.

A big thank you to Caroline and Stewart from the Henry and Dora Needler Trust who started our appeal in December 2017 and completed our fundraising appeal the following year.



We had a workshop with Jack Palmer from the Skell Valley project looking at questions like, 'What are your ideas for making the Skell Valley a better place for everyone?'.

and click and collect. Before the current pandemic we had a stall at n able to hold 3 stalls over the summer which were very successful. ese both at the Workshop and at local venues.



OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

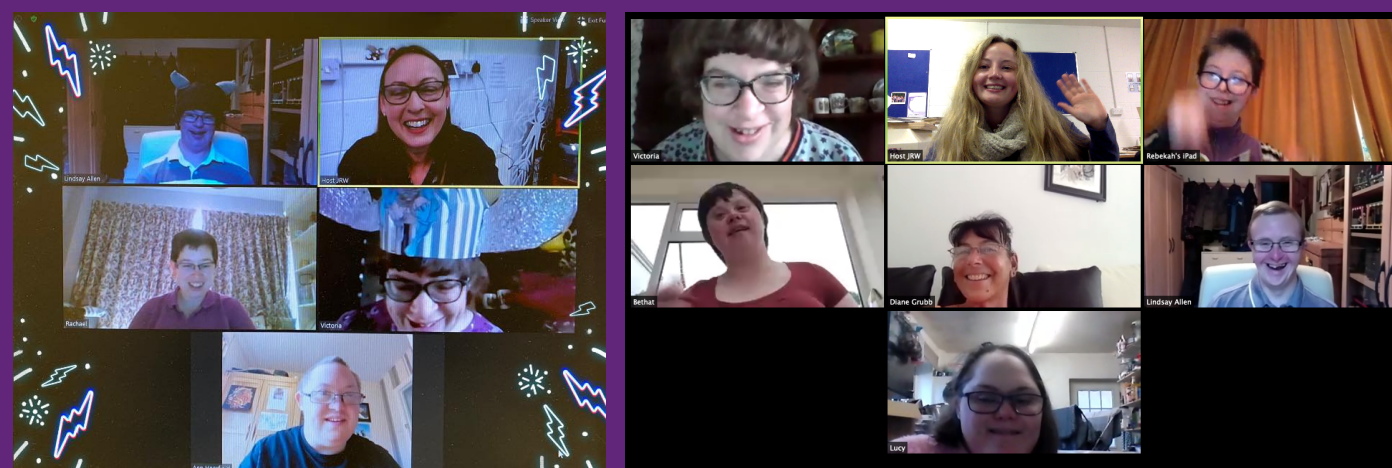
Due to COVID-19 the workshop has moved to the end of March with the workers staying in the workshop remotely by video.



We adapted very quickly to our new mode of operating; moving everything online and creating a full timetable of zoom groups/meetings to give our wonderful workers some sense of normality in what can only be described as very strange times.



A big thank you to Jonathan Elliott for his ongoing support and in orchestrating the technical side of our move online.



Many of the workers have held their own cake/plant sales to raise money for the workshops.

With special recognition for Victoria and Emma whose combined efforts have raised over £1,000.



We've seen the Rainbow Miles Fundraiser launched. This has had a two-fold benefit; it has raised money for the Workshop and helped with the positive mental and physical health and wellbeing of all those involved.



1,575 miles



COVID-19

been a very different place since the
ng safe at home and being supported
y the staff.

As time has gone on, we have adapted and developed what we offer remotely to include a Workers Zone on the website full of resources they can access in a safe environment.



Work has continued at the Workshop creating painting packs for the workers to complete at home. We have expanded these to include some basic woodwork too.



The inventiveness and imagination of the staff must be applauded as they have consistently come up with new ideas for activities and groups to engage the workers in our virtual world.



We have chosen to see the positives in all of this and are working hard to complete renovations to the building. The new kitchen is finally finished and looks fabulous. The office has been resited allowing all office staff to be at work rather than a rota system. Planning is in to upgrade the toilets, put in a staircase to the loft for storage and for a large extension to enable us to meet regulations in the post COVID world.



OUR WORKERS

We have 28 workers who attend both full and part-time. The age range is from 19-73. Daily attendance averages 18 at present and we do have a waiting list.



When we opened
in 2004 we had 5
workers



In 2020 we have
28 workers.



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

Workers get involved with every aspect of the business; 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 and attend community events as ambassadors of the Workshops whenever possible.



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:

Literacy (NYALS)
Numeracy (NYALS)
Textiles (NYALS)
Food hygiene level 1 (NYALS)

Internal groups/courses:

Community Action
Mosaics
Stencilling
Fine painting techniques
Internet Safety
IT
Card Crafting

Jamie runs the 100 Club Draws.

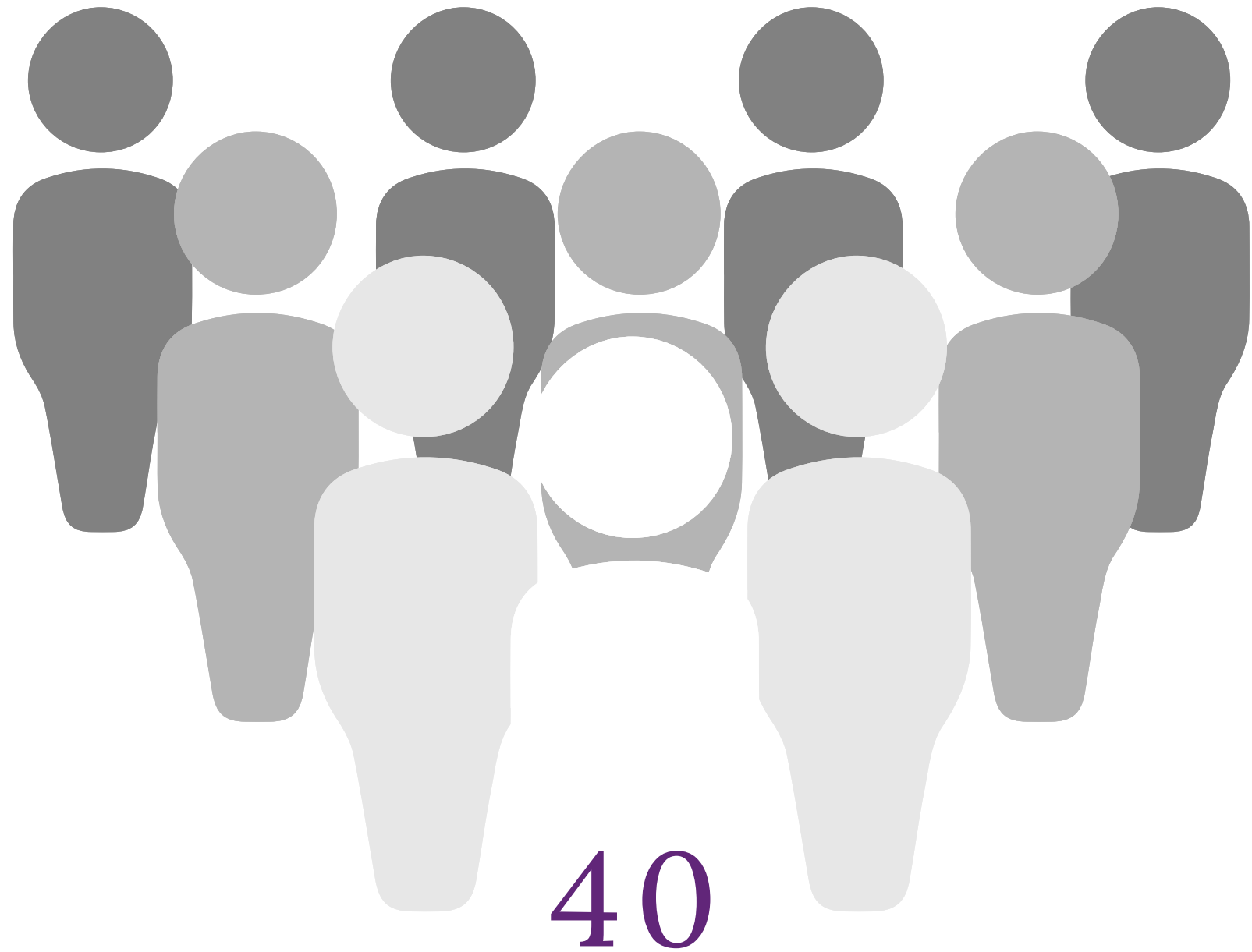
Rebecca does birthday cards for everyone and never forgets a single one

Beth helps Karen do all the weekly safety checks

Victoria counts the petty cash weekly



OUR VOLUNTEERS



40

Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of the Workshop; supporting our workers on site and out in the wider community.





We welcomed 10 new regular volunteers following 2 successful volunteer open days which were held in January.

Since March 2020, volunteers have continued to support both staff and workers by joining in the many zoom groups/meetings we have. This has been beneficial to everyone's positive mental health.

Covid hasn't stopped our amazing volunteers

Before the 2nd lockdown, when COVID-19 restrictions were eased in the area, many volunteers came into the Workshops weekly to help staff make and prepare products for online sales and events.

Peter and Trish for painting the training room a lovely calming shade of green.

Anna Smith for all her hard work setting up our online shop and taking our media and publicity to new heights.

We have had seasonal volunteers this year to assist with building renovations during lockdown. **Special thanks for this go to:**

Tim Newell for his many hours plumbing, plastering, woodwork and any other job we have added to his list.

Chris Carr and his team from 21 Regiment, stationed in Ripon for digging the pond, boarding the loft and moving lots of heavy machinery.

We have had to make the difficult decision to ask all our volunteers to support us from home again due to the latest nationwide lockdown. Many have taken painting packs to work on they will continue to join us on Zoom to support the Workers.

We are looking forward to welcoming all our volunteers back in person once circumstances allow.



OUR STAFF TEAM

In October 2019 there was an internal restructure with Denise Carrigan stepping down as Operations Manager to become our Course Supervisor and Nicky Newell taking on the new role of Chief Officer with the responsibility for strategic planning for the future among other things.

January saw Victoria join us as temporary cover whilst Shelley was on maternity leave. Victoria proved invaluable when we found ourselves in the strange world of COVID-19 and was instrumental in setting up the online support we continue to offer the workers.

Richard Naish joined us as a casual part-time member of staff in January to help during a busy period and he loved it so much he became permanent in March. He is a supervisor in woodwork. He keeps the paintshop supplied with our stock habitat range and has even found the time to add a few new products to the line.

Davy Outlaw left us at the end of April to follow other career options. We have not sought to replace him as yet due to COVID-19 and are managing the workload with the laser cutter with volunteer Peter Hills and help from Tim Newell.

Anna Smith rejoined our team in April to assist with setting up our online shop and grow our online presence through social media and other publicity. Anna continues to adapt this on a daily basis and also runs makaton and community action groups on zoom with the workers.

The staff have pulled together, going above and beyond to ensure we offer as much support as possible to everyone during what can only be described as unprecedented times.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE



Our current staff are :

Shelley Atkinson - Administrator (Job Share)

Denise Carrigan - Course Supervisor

Steve Carrigan - Woodwork Supervisor

Linda Fergus - Finance Administrator

Jackie Grant - Paintshop Supervisor

Phe Morris- Paintshop Supervisor

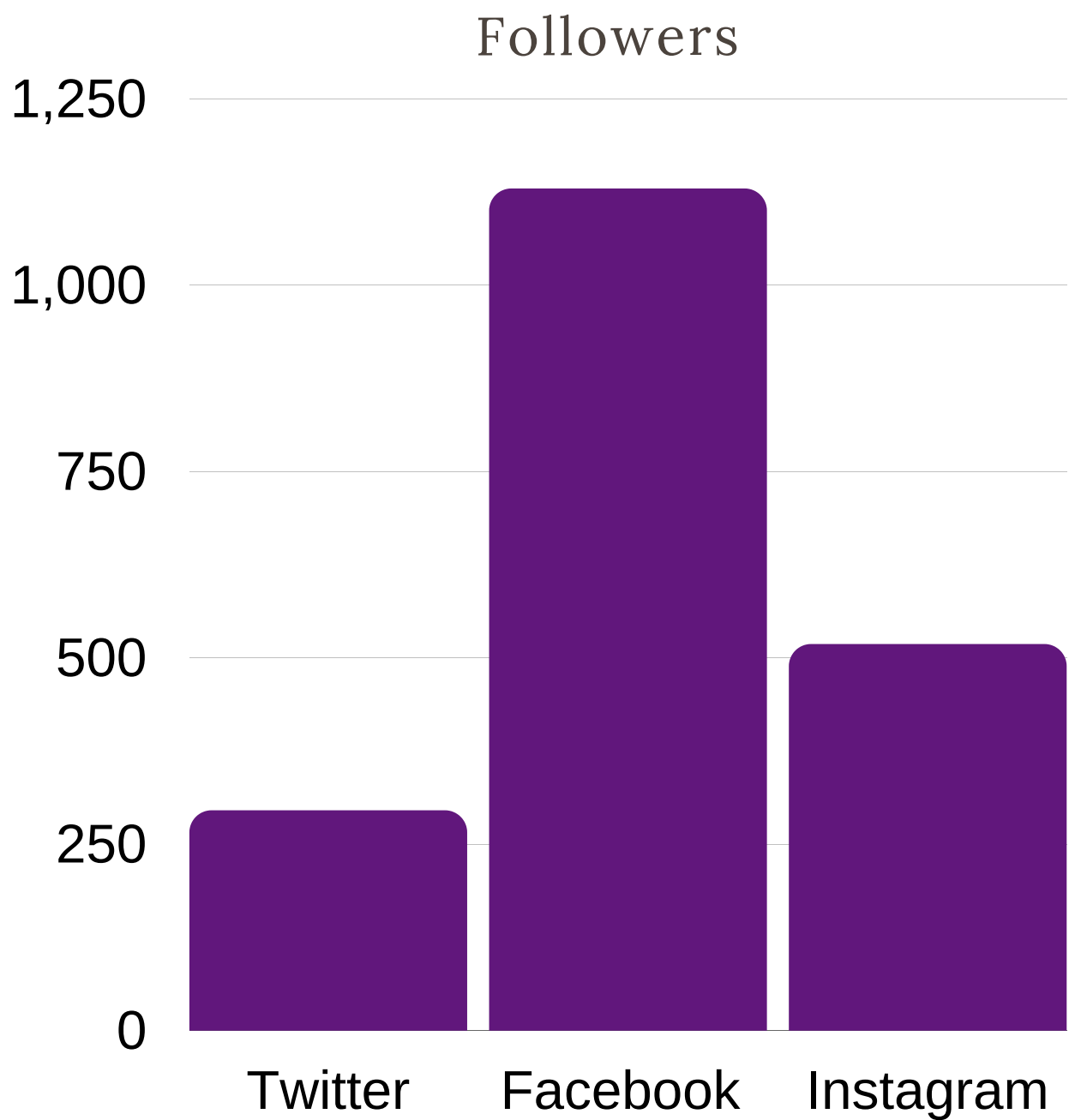
Richard Naish - Woodwork Supervisor

Nicky Newell - Chief Officer

Mark Scott - Woodwork Supervisor

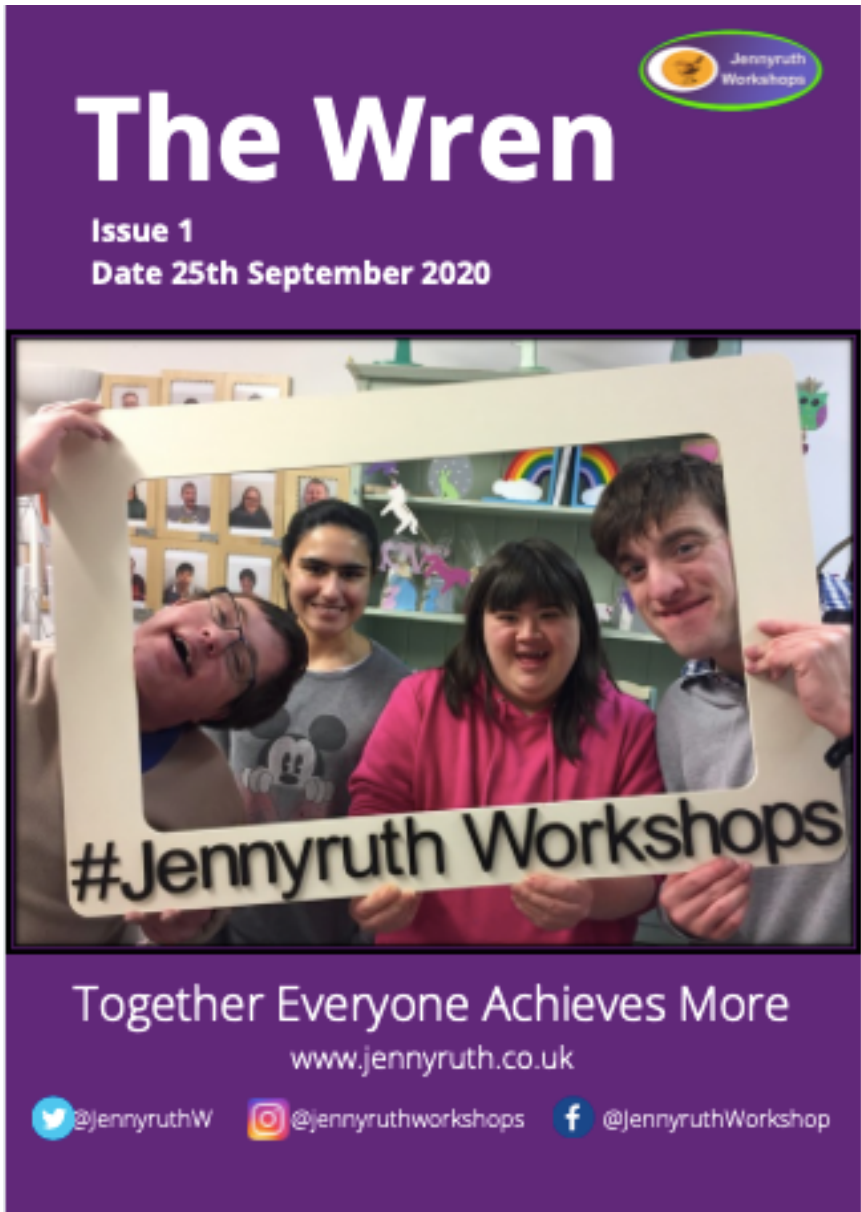
Karen Taylor - Administrator (Job share)

PUBLICITY AND MEDIA



We started our brand new twitter account in May 2020 and have gained several notable followers including Gyles Brandreth, Will Bayley MBE and Amanda Owen (The Yorkshire Shepherdess), as well as many BBC Radio Presenters and Journalists.

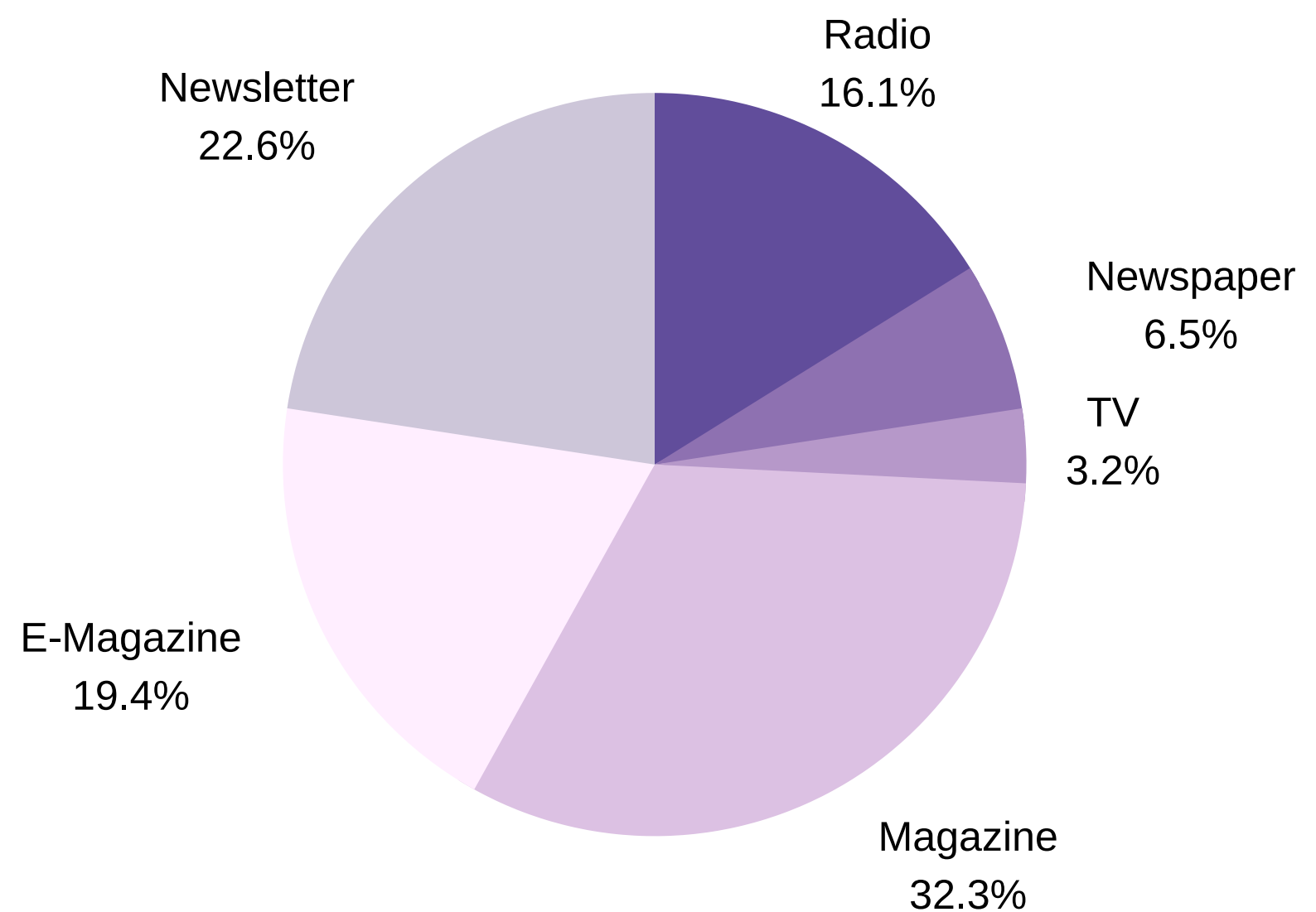
We are mentioned or have our Social Media posts shared and retweeted on a daily basis by local and national organisations and people including HADCA, The National Trust, Gyles Brandreth and local outlets that stock our products.



In September 2020 we introduced our brand new monthly magazine 'The Wren'.

Publicity

We've had press coverage over 25 times this year, featuring in popular magazines and newspapers including Yorkshire Life, SEN Magazine, The Dalesman and The Yorkshire Post as well as being interviewed several times by BBC Radio York and appearing on BBC Look North.






The workers have been a key part of the marketing process by recording videos advertising their favourite products, being interviewed on the radio and tv, and writing articles for newsletters.





SALES





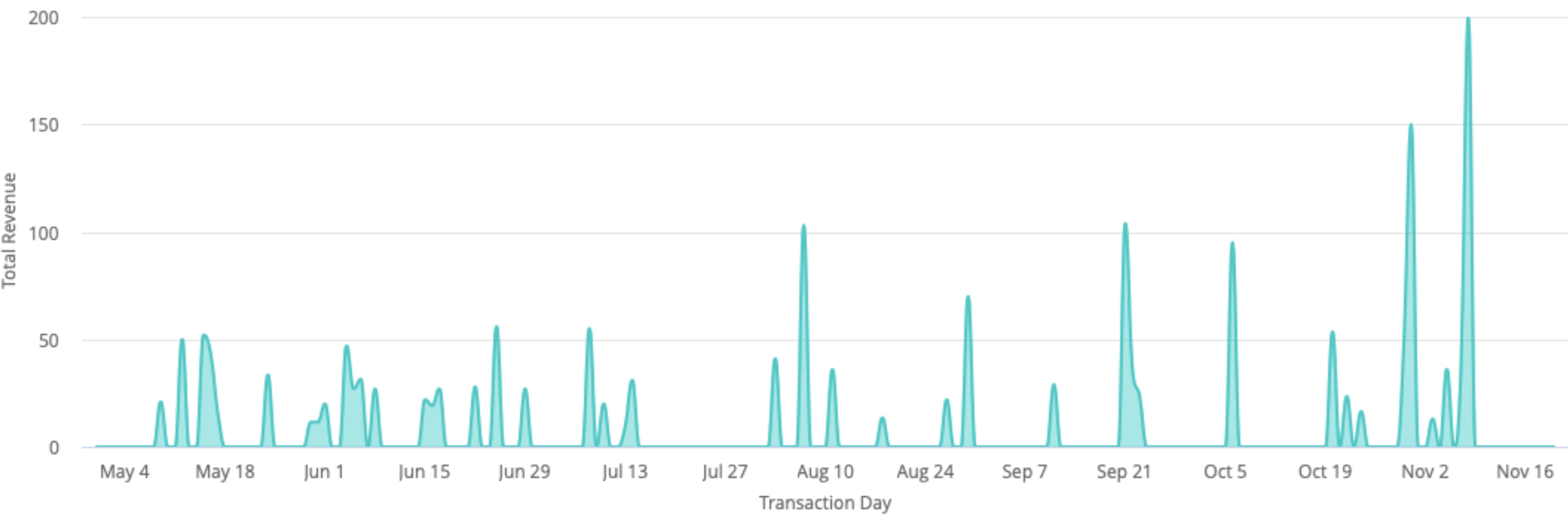


How people hear about us.





The online shop was built in April 2020. Since then we've had 58 orders. Our revenue through online sales.



Over the past year we have changed how we are selling products. Not only have we built the online shop but we have tripled the number of sales outlets. These now include: F Tate and Sons Nurseries, Marton cum Grafton Village Shop, Burton Leonard Village Shop, The Milk Churn in Topcliffe, Sharon's Barber Shop and Langthorpe Farm Shop. We are currently in discussion with several other outlets where we will be stocking our products in the new year.



Testimonials from Customers

"I've been a customer of Jennyruth for years. Both personally and professionally for my work in early years. They make the most gorgeous, gifts, resources and fun things. The service is amazing! I can not recommend them enough."

- Lucy Turner

"I have received my bird box and the rainbow ready for painting. I just wanted to contact you to say they are absolutely wonderful - we love them. The bird box already has prime position in the garden ready for the next nesting season. A huge thank you to you all for the wonderful items and excellent service. I will definitely be purchasing Christmas gifts from you. I also have to say my son has Down Syndrome and I would love to bring him to visit when we are allowed to! Stay safe everyone and carry on the amazing work you do."

- Sally W

FINANCIALS



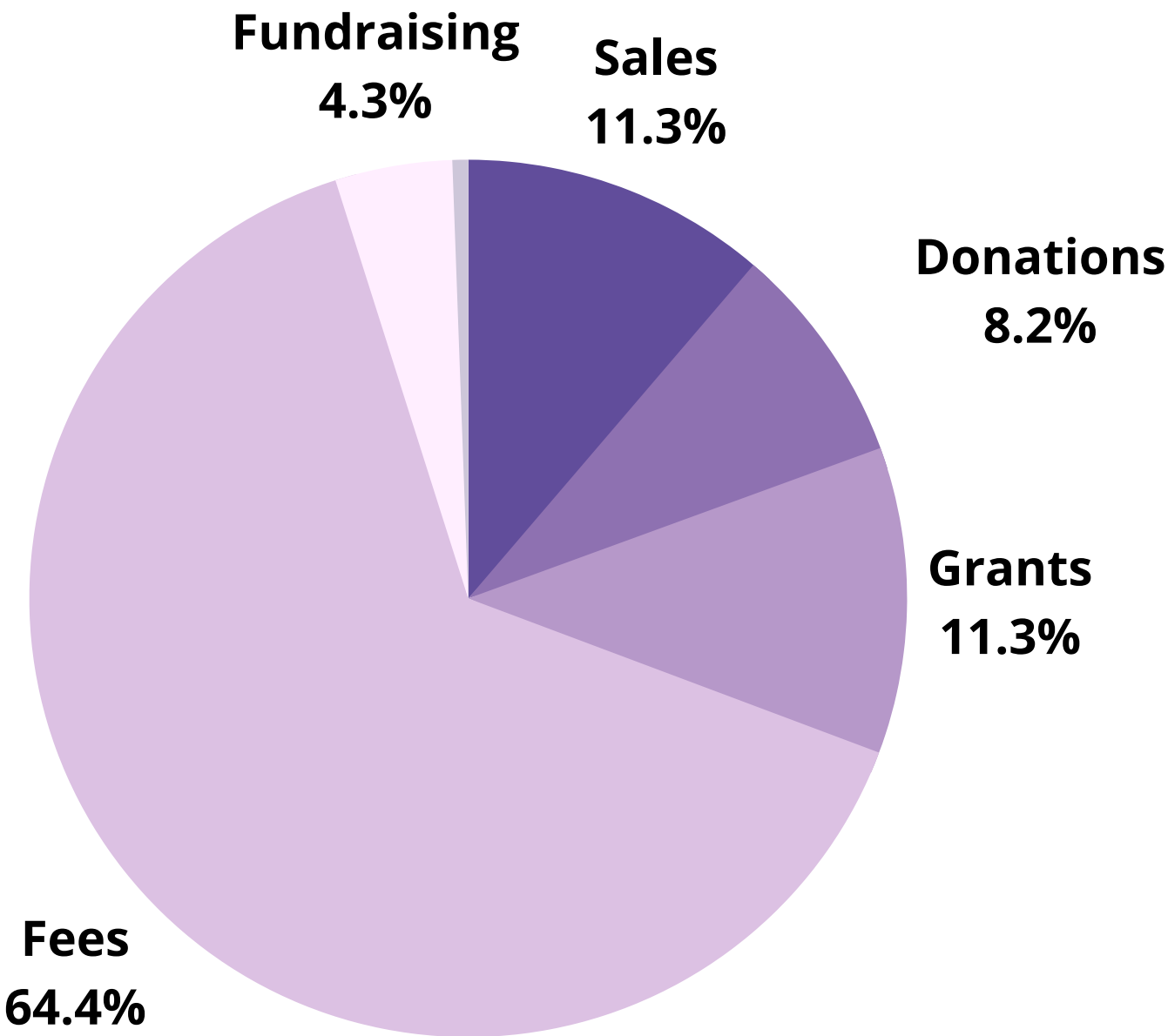
This is a very brief summary of the accounts for 2019-2020. The full accounts and Trustees Annual Report are available on request.

We finished the year with a very small deficit of -£2058. This is mainly due to increased staffing costs following the internal restructure in October 2019 and the impact of COVID-19 on sales and fundraising events.

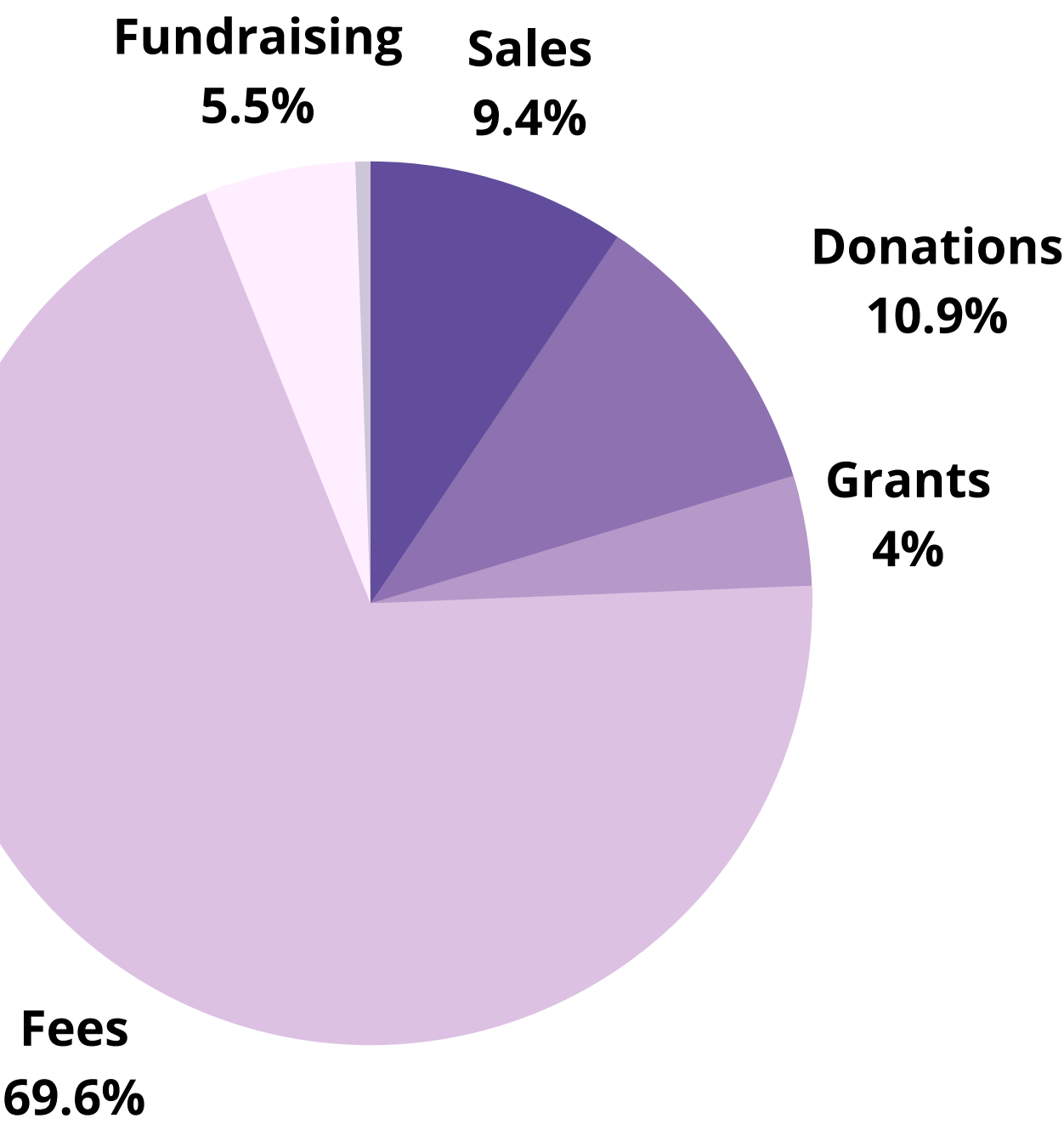


Income

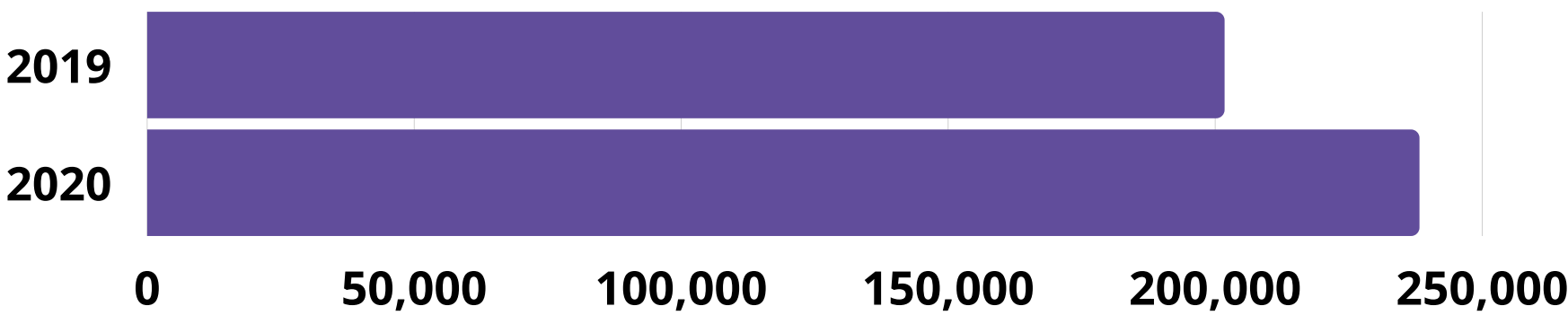
2019



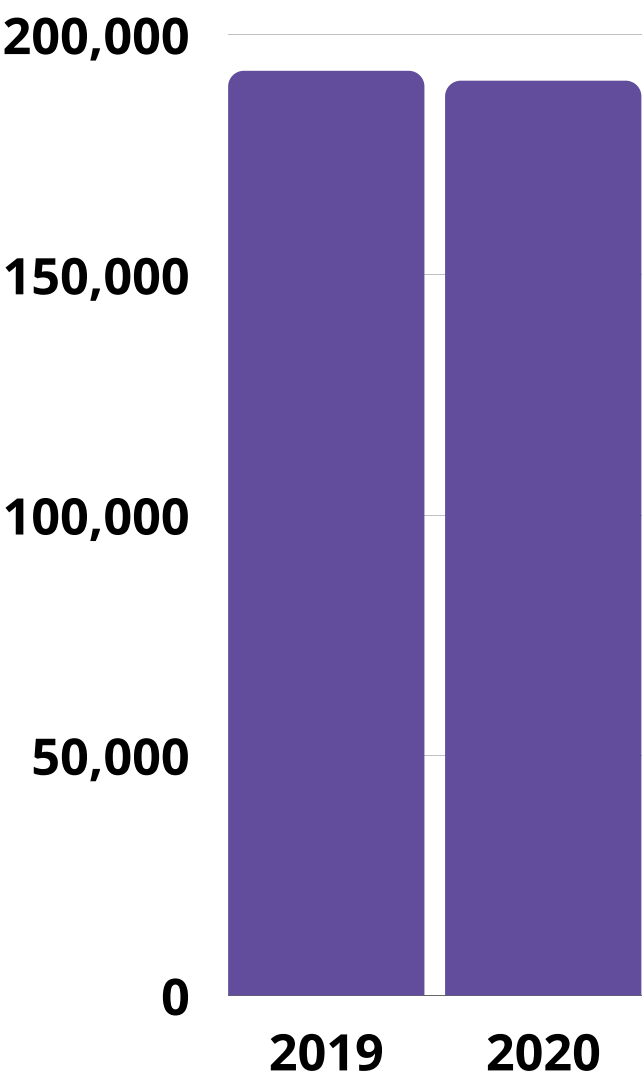
Income 2020



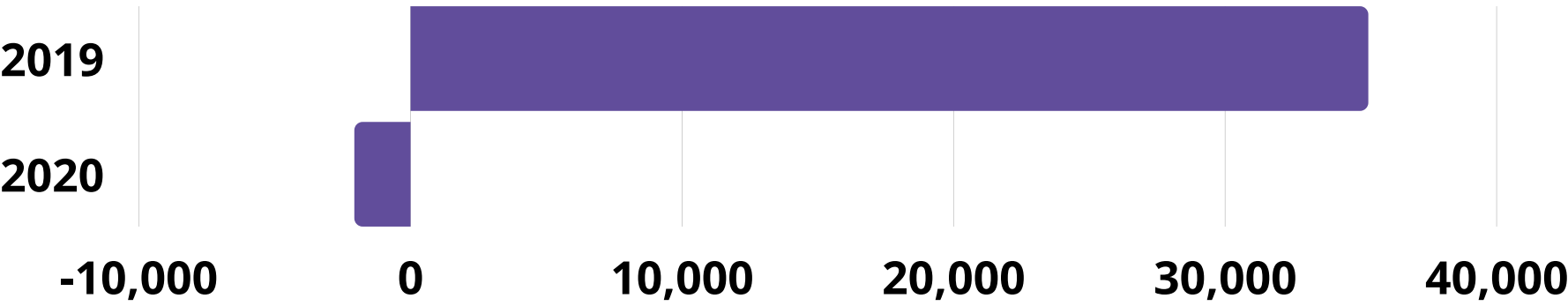
Expenditure



Fund Balance



Surplus





Thank you to the following for their financial support:

Henry and Dora Needler Trust

Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust

Morrisons Foundation

Screwfix Foundation

National Lottery

Ripon Rotary

Ripon City Council

Harrogate MG Club

Betty's and Taylors of Harrogate

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

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FUTURE PLANS



2020-21 will hopefully see us returning to a more normal way of operating and being able to welcome the workers back after a prolonged time of remote working for all of us.

We will continue to build our online presence and extend the range of products we make to reach and appeal to a wider audience.

Build our links with local businesses and social enterprises.

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 once all the building work is complete.

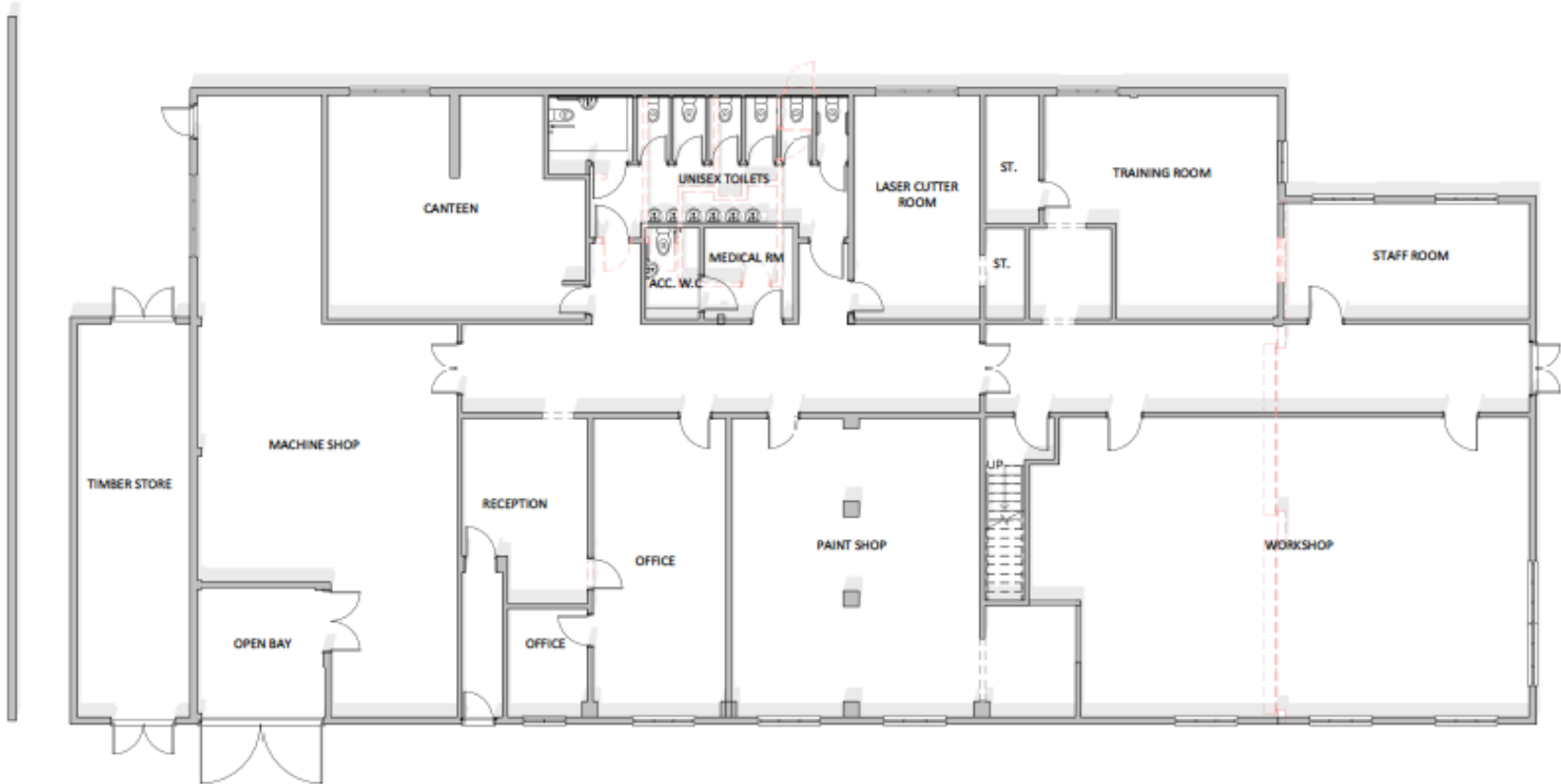
2020 has brought challenges with it of unexpected



ought many
t along with lots
opportunities.



Building work will see the workshop
extended to create a new toilet block
and a large open plan space to enable
the workers to return post-COVID.



If the workers are able to return
before work is complete, we will be
using Copt Hewick Village Hall as an
alternative site temporarily. This site
has been risk assessed and deemed
COVID-19 safe.



A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDER BARRIE EVASON

Jennyruth Workshops founder, Barrie Evason died aged 81 on the 29th February this year shortly before we were hit by the global pandemic.

A few weeks later, as the full implications of the effect of the pandemic on Jennyruth Workshops became apparent, staff, workers and volunteers adapted to a whole new way of working.

Our CO Nicky Newell said, “I think Barrie would be saying well done to everyone for how they are pulling together and going above and beyond.”

Barrie and his wife Sue’s fundamental belief that adults with learning disabilities can lead productive, fulfilled lives is still evident today as the workshops continue to innovate and adapt to the present circumstances with many of the workers continuing to produce beautiful and useful products in their own homes with guidance from staff on Zoom and other means of communication.

Despite a variety of restrictions brought about by the virus we still fulfil Barrie’s wish that these quality products are sold at craft fairs, local shops and garden centres. In addition Jennyruth Workshops maintains the tradition of producing quality bespoke products for a wide range of clients.

When Barrie was awarded the MBE for his service to people with learning disabilities at Jennyruth Workshops he said to the Harrogate Informer:

I was just the one who had the idea.

Many people, some with professional skills, some very good DIY-ers, and many who were just prepared to come along and give us their support in any number of ways, are responsible for that initial idea coming to fruition.

I’m only sorry I can’t cut up the award and give them all a piece, but whenever any of them see the letters MBE after my name I hope they will take it as their reward, too.

I did what I wanted to do, and my reward is seeing the wonderful place we have, where people who have learning disabilities can come to gain skills, use those skills, and live a rewarding life.

Barrie took a lot of convincing that he deserved the MBE and was only pacified when he was told that Sue would receive the same award in the following months.

Barrie and Sue were tenacious in their commitment to their adopted family and their own children. They spent many years tackling authorities and others who did not understand that it was possible to create an organisation like Jennyruth Workshops that would demonstrate the potential abilities and aptitudes of children and adults who had a variety of learning disabilities and were able to make a significant contribution to their local communities and the world in general.

Barrie and the Jennyruth staff proved beyond doubt that the workers could produce beautifully decorated and useful products to a very high standard and were able to both sell these products to customers and give talks to a variety of groups about the work they carried out at the Workshops. The present staff, volunteers and trustees are proud that these expectations and high standards continue to this day.

Despite the current troubled times Jennyruth Workshops still lives up to Barrie and Sue’s vision, and the staff and trustees are currently working tirelessly to make significant developments to the building to enable workers to return to a building that will be able to accommodate everyone safely in a way that will meet the requirements of life in the global pandemic.





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SCAN ME