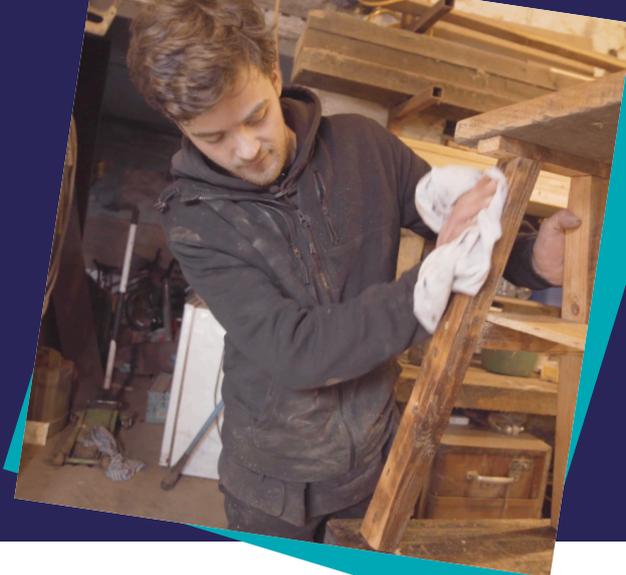


Billy's Story

Joiner and carpenter.

Featured on Channel 4's Good With Wood.

Orders from all around the world -
Australia, New Zealand, Israel.



My name is Billy Walden. I am a joiner, carpenter but I take on a variety of different projects. I've made steel frames, a canal boat, barn conversions. As long as it's hands on work I'll give anything a go really.

Describe a favourite recent project

My favourite recent project was Good with Wood. It was a Channel 4 series that I filmed. We had to go away for eight weeks in total, onto this massive Estate and stop in these pods so it was like a massive camping trip. Doing the TV series was proper enjoyable.

What are the challenges of running a small business in the Yorkshire Dales?

The challenges of working in the Lakes and Dales, are that there are not so many timber suppliers around. You're travelling a much greater distance to get your bits and bats, rather than just popping round the corner.

What are the rewards of running a business in the Yorkshire Dales?

The rewards are on the customer service side. it's always better to feel like a person not a product. That's a bonus to being in a rural area. You don't get that if you are in a city. You might never see your customers again. But if I make a garden shed for Maureen down the street, then I'll see her at the shop so I can ask, 'How's your garden shed?'. I think there's a lot more community in it.

Who is your typical customer?

There's a huge variety of customers. I've been in mansions, big businesses, little tiny cottages. Customers can be anybody. There's not a set customer and there's not a set type of customer and there's not any set place. I've got orders from all over the world. There have been orders from Australia, New Zealand, Jerusalem. People all over the world have seen me cutting a piece of wood. It's weird.

What's the best piece of advice you've been given?

It was my granddad that said to me: 'You've got to get a job where you don't know what day it is!' You don't want a job where you think, I can't wait until Friday when it's Monday morning. There's no point in doing a job if you don't enjoy it.

I don't know what day it is because at the end of the day I'm enjoying it.

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