

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE07552 GREENWOOD WOODWORKING – A FOUR-LEGGED STOOL

Tutor: MERVYN MEWIS

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 12 JANUARY – SUNDAY 14 JANUARY

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Learn a range of traditional woodworking skills as you make your own traditional four-legged stool using locally sourced hardwoods to take home. The course programme has been designed to give everyone the opportunity to complete the project without the need for drying and seasoning time and you will experience the complete set of skills – from the log as the raw material through to the preparation and assembly of all the parts – in the weekend time frame.

The course will begin on Friday evening with a discussion on the style and layout of the project, how the jointing patterns work and the sequence of assembly. There will also be discussion on how and where the timber comes from and the methodology used in the production, maximising the various qualities of timber and looking towards design, the very starting point of making serviceable wooden furniture.

On Saturday while assembling pre-prepared component parts, you gain experience in mortise and tenon jointwork and how these work together to create a very solid and attractive piece of furniture. Legs and stretchers will be fitted into the solid wood seat which will be levelled, trimmed and finished.

Once the project is drying, the group will go on to explore how all of the parts are made, as you get hands-on experience in cleaving then shaping with drawknife and draw horse to begin to feel the attraction of these ancient working practices, as well as the knowledge to make further woodwork projects.

Sunday will be an opportunity to further refine the work, to feel the qualities of the timber as it dries and to arrive at the point where you have experienced a full sequence of woodwork activities.

All techniques will be demonstrated and guidance given constantly and continually as needed so that each of you can learn and enjoy the making processes. You will also gain an understanding of looking at trees, how they grow, how they can be managed to provide a wide range of differing timber for historic woodworking.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

No previous woodwork experience needed, this course is designed for anyone with an interest in trees, woodlands, design or making for themselves. A reasonable level of fitness and hand-eye coordination an advantage.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Mervyn Mewis studied countryside management at Merrist Wood (Guildford, Surrey) and at Birkbeck University (London) and has made a study and career from traditional and historical methods of utilising locally sourced timber from woodland conservation projects.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 12 January

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. After introductions, the tutor will discuss making the project and talk about timber.

Other days: Saturday 13 January

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Sunday 14 January

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

The course fee includes the cost of timber supplied by the tutor for the course. This comprises all component parts prepared for each student. These will be in locally sourced hardwoods as available. Suitable and adequate adhesives are also provided in the costs. Green (recently harvested) hardwood billets will also be provided for each student to use as part of the experience so that all can replicate and produce every stage of the woodwork.

Available from the Shop:

Nothing specific required from the Shop, students may want to purchase some sandpaper sheets (320, 400 grit).

Available from the tutor:

Green hardwood billets can be ordered if required for future student work.

Please bring any of the above, if you have them.

Please **do not** bring green wood, all required will be provided.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor will instruct students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Please note that tutor supervision is required at all times when students work in this workshop. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.