

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S3D08147 WILLOW BASKETMAKING – PRESERVING BRITISH TECHNIQUES

Tutor: MARY BUTCHER

Dates: 3 DAYS TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER – FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

Our unique British willow techniques are being mixed with those of France, Spain and other European countries as teachers and basket makers travel to exchange knowledge. This is enriching but we have forms and structures in the British tradition which are not found elsewhere, which need to be transmitted for their preservation and to add to European knowledge.

Everyone will start with our method of making an English oval base for the first basket. Work will continue and you can choose to make further oval baskets, or other forms after discussion with the tutor.

During the course you will gain a good knowledge of basket structure, using a variety of weaves for base, sides and borders, and an ability to construct a handle and also some knowledge of basket history, willow growing, harvesting, preparation and use.

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills, and for more experienced practitioners who want to expand skills. The focus is on working towards independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Mary Butcher MBE is a basketmaker, exhibition curator, writer and teacher. She held a prestigious crafts residency at the V&A's Sackler Centre in 2009. She received an MBE for services to basketmaking in 2012 and one of two Crafts Skills Champions Awards in 2013. Recent exhibitions include 'Basketry Making Human Nature' at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich 2012, Re-Making the Past from the Devon Guild of Craftsmen and tour, 2014 (a study in Bronze Age Creativity), and 'Dimensions' in Denmark from May 2016.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Tuesday 18 September

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.

Other days: Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 September

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: Friday 21 September

(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 cost of willow supplied. (An additional charge may be made for especially large items, size or quantity.)

Please bring as many of the following as you have available (but no need to purchase anything especially before you come):

Tape measure
Ruler – at least 1 ft long
Old bath towel/piece of old blanket at least 5 ft long (essential)
Notebook and pencil
2–3 spring clothes pegs
Small hammer or rapping iron
Pair of sharp secateurs (preferably 'parrot-beak' shape)
A good pen knife
Side or wire cutters
Basketmaker's bodkin (at least 5")* – can be borrowed from the tutor
Masking tape*
A spray bottle for water

It is also useful to have an apron (not supplied) and essential to wear sturdy covered footwear in the workshop

PLEASE NOTE: Tools may be borrowed from the tutor during the course. If you are in doubt as to the requirements for the course, please contact the tutor for advice. Email: marybutcherbaskets@gmail.com or phone 01227 766427

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.