

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S4D08550: LETTERCUTTING IN STONE AND SLATE

Tutor: TOM PERKINS

Dates: 4 DAYS MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 1 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course aims to teach the technique of 'V' incising letters in stone and slate with a mallet and a chisel. For beginners, it offers an introduction to the skills, while those with some previous experience of letter carving can refine and improve their letter carving quality and spend time on drawing letters, depending on their interests.

Beginners will practice letter strokes and carve some letters – aiming either towards a short finished piece of work or just letter carving practice – this will depend on your aptitude and experience. Others may work on a project with a brief text set by the tutor, or one of their own guided by the tutor, depending on experience. The tutor will give group demonstrations and individual tuition.

Guidance on drawing letters for carving and the design of inscriptions can also be given.

You will leave the course with confidence on how to approach carving short texts or letters from scratch, and an understanding on what makes good letter carving and layout, and carving techniques for achieving this.

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 experience is required and students of all levels are welcome.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Tom Perkins is a designer-craftsman making inscriptions in stone and slate. Recent commissions include plaques for The Queen's Gallery and the Crafts Study Centre in Farnham. He is also author of *The Art of Letter Carving in Stone*.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Monday 25 February

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
5.30pm	Workshops available for dropping off equipment and materials
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: The tutor will give a slide talk on contemporary lettercutting.

Other days: Tuesday 26 to Thursday 28 February

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

Other days continued: Tuesday 26 to Thursday 28 February

From 6.30pm Dinner
8.00pm Evening working: you may work on in the workshop during the evening, if you wish, providing it is agreed with the tutor and adhering to good practice covered by the tutor.

Departure day: Friday 1 March

(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, please vacate workshop by 3.30pm
3.30pm Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

You may bring a choice of letters to carve; these may range from a couple of words, to a house-name or perhaps a logo or initials, depending on experience.

You may also bring your own stone (but not granite) or slate if you wish although it is not necessary. Portland or York stone, or Welsh slate are suitable.

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.

Available from the Shop:

A3 layout pad
HB, 3H pencils
Pencil sharpener
Eraser
Ruler
Set square*
Compasses*
White water-soluble crayon
Tracedown (carbon paper)

*For those wishing to do drawn lettering

Slate and stone will be available at the College for students to purchase. Approximate sample costs are as follows:

- Slate 35cm (14") x 20cm (8") x 2cm (1¾"), £32
- Portland stone 20cm (14") x 40 cm (16") x 2cm (1¾"), £33
- Portland stone 35cm (14") x 35cm (14") x 2cm (1¾"), £38.

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

Mallets and chisels are provided for students to use in the workshop, but if you have your own carving tools and would prefer to bring them, please do so, but make sure that they are clearly marked with your name.

Stout shoes with covered toes suitable to wear in the workshop – essential.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.