

## COURSE DETAILS – 3 DAYS 3D0202

TITLE: WILLOW BASKETMAKING; CHAIR SEATING IN CANE AND RUSH

TUTOR: MARY BUTCHER

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

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### GENERAL CONTENT OF COURSE:

You may choose whether to make baskets or seat chairs or try both on this course.

#### **CHAIR SEATING:**

Seating with either cane or rush will be taught. It is preferable that you bring your own chairs, but if this is not possible stools for rushing and small practice frames for caning will be available for sale at West Dean, provided you inform the tutor a week in advance. Cane and rushes are provided for the course. Chairs may also be seated with Danish Cord, Seagrass or willow provided you also inform the tutor of this one week in advance.

Beginners may complete one rush dining chair or make good progress towards completion of a caned bedroom chair or reach a stage where they can easily finish at home.

If you are bringing your own chairs, please note: if necessary, the chair frame should be repaired, polished or painted before coming to the course, as this cannot be done easily after the cane or rush is woven in.

**For caning:** The old cane should be cleared from the frames by cutting the cane strands underneath, and knocking out the pegs from the underside. If it is found that some pegs have been glued in, they should be drilled out with a small hand drill, taking great care not to damage the show wood. The old caning should be preserved entire as far as possible and brought to the course.

The six-way standard method of caning will be taught unless you prefer to learn another pattern, for the purpose of matching with a set etc.. As time permits, other patterns can be practised on sample frames, if desired.

**For rush seats:** The old seat should be cut off carefully and brought to the class, in case it is an unusual pattern which is to be replaced. This should be done by cutting down inside the seat frame and easing the seat downwards. This may reveal necessary repairs to the frame.

**BASKETMAKING:** There should be time on the course for beginners to make at least two simple baskets. Those with experience may choose the articles they wish to make, provided that the tutor is contacted beforehand.

To ensure the smooth running of the course, please contact the tutor as soon as possible, so that materials can be ordered and the course planned for the maximum benefit to all:

Mary Butcher, 6 Downs Road, Canterbury, Kent. CT2 7AY Tel: 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.

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MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE: see overleaf

**MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:** (\*on sale at the College Shop)

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ON PRACTICAL COURSES YOU MAY WELL NEED TO PURCHASE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE TO COMPLETE PROJECTS**

Included in the non-residential fee for this course is the cost of willow rods, and cane and rush for one seat. However, an extra charge may be made for large or multiple items, this should be paid to the college shop as requested at the end of the course.

**Tools may be borrowed from the tutor but please bring as many of the following as you have available (but do not buy anything especially before you come):**

#### **Cane chair seating**

Chair for caning (prepared as described above)

Stanley/similar sharp craft knife with a narrow blade, or a good pen knife

Mallet or small hammer

Small bowl/similar container for moistening sponge

Sponge/small piece of towelling

Notebook and pencil

Pair of scissors for cutting cane

A clearer\* (if possible), i.e. punch with diameter smaller than the holes drilled in the chair (can be made by sawing off the end of a screwdriver or 3" nail)

Small stool (optional) for student's comfort whilst working and a cushion

Spectacles (if worn)

#### **Rush seating**

Chair for re-seating

An old flannelette blanket/old bedspread/piece of sacking of a similar size, for wrapping up damp rushes

Scissors for cutting rush

J-cloth/piece of rag

Small stool (optional) for student's comfort whilst working and a cushion

Small ball of soft string

1 or 2 spring clothes pegs

Stuffing stick or wooden spoon

#### **Willow basketmaking**

Tape measure

Old bath towel/piece of old blanket at least 5 ft long (essential)

Notebook and pencil

2-3 spring clothes pegs

Pair of sharp secateurs (preferably 'parrot-beak' shape)

Small hammer or rapping iron

Basketmakers bodkin (at least 5")\* – can be borrowed from the tutor

Ruler – at least 1 ft long

A good pen knife

Masking tape\*

Side or wire cutters

A spray bottle for water

NOTE: If you are in doubt as to the requirements for the course, please contact the tutor for advice (address given above).

**COURSE TIMETABLE** (unless otherwise stated above or agreed with the tutor during the course)

Course timetable for 2–9 day courses – each course starts with a welcome session on the first evening of the start date of the course and is followed by 2–9 days depending on the length of the course.

<b>Arrival Day</b>	From 4.00pm    Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner. 7.00                Dinner. 8.15–9.15        First teaching session.
<b>Daily Timetable</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>Morning classes.</b> 10.30                Coffee. 12.45pm            Lunch. <b>2.00pm</b> <b>Afternoon classes.</b> 3.30                 Tea. 5.00                 Classes finish. 7.00                 Dinner. 8.15                 Evening working – students may have evening access to certain workshops in the absence of their tutor, but only with their tutor's permission and provided it is safe to do so.
<b>Departure – last day</b>	10.00am            Residential students are asked to vacate rooms. 3.00pm             Classes finish. 3.30                 Tea then departure.