

COURSE DETAILS – LONG WEEKEND LW0299

TITLE: WOVEN WILLOW AND BARK CONTAINERS

TUTOR: MARY BUTCHER

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

AIMS OF COURSE:

This course is for all those interested in working with willow in new ways, incorporating the bark in whole willow baskets, which can be peeled easily in the spring. Small containers can be made after simple techniques of willow weaving have been practised and those of bark peeling have been explored. Bark has special properties of flexibility when wet, stiff when dry, allowing it to be used in ways not possible with whole willow. The colours are rich and depend on willow variety and many have a strong fragrance.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE:

Two or three small baskets using a number of techniques will be completed. Methods of bark peeling from fresh material will be learnt. Further mastery of willow technique will be accomplished. Preparation of willow and bark will be discussed, as will the origins of this non-traditional work.

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES COVERED:

You will start by learning bark peeling and preparation, using a good penknife (not a Stanley knife). The basics of a small willow basket will be covered by all, with bark incorporated into the side. This will involve the weaving of a base, staking up, making a border, and addition of a handle if required. The second project will be to a design arrived at after discussion with the tutor and will depend on your level of basketmaking experience and quantity of bark available. Techniques of assembly rather than weaving may be used here.

TEACHING METHOD:

The tutor will introduce several techniques, by group demonstrations and one to one tuition; she will also encourage students to experiment with the techniques. She will show slides of relevant work, both traditional and contemporary, for discussion.

EVENING SESSIONS:

First evening session – attendance is an essential part of the course: This will involve looking at the bark, and starting on the base for the first project, weaving with whole willow.

Other optional evening activities: Students may work on in the studio during the evenings if they wish.

GENERAL TIMETABLE: see overleaf

STUDENT PREPARATION FOR COURSE IF ANY:

Any fresh cut willow over 1" / 2.5 cm diameter may be brought, provided it has been standing in shallow water since cutting. This is for peeling. Lengths longer than 1m are useful.

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.

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MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE: see overleaf

MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

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 supplied by the College.

ADDITIONAL CHARGE:

The tutor will supply the willow bark. The cost of this is not anticipated to be more than £10 per student and should be paid to the **tutor** before the end of the course, by cash or cheque, and is in addition to the cost of the willow rods.

These items will be available for purchase in the College Shop:

Basketmaker's bodkin (at least 5")* – can be borrowed from the tutor
 Sharpening stones
 Side or wire cutters
 Masking tape
 Tape measure
 Ruler – at least 1 ft long
 Related books

Other materials will be available for purchase from the tutor.

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

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
 A good pen knife ESSENTIAL (i.e. not a Stanley knife)
 A spray bottle for water

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.

Arrival Day	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.
Daily Timetable	9.15am	Morning classes.
	10.30	Coffee.
	12.45pm	Lunch.
	2.00pm	Afternoon classes.
	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.
Departure – last day	10.00am	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms.
	3.00pm	Classes finish.
	3.30	Tea then departure.