

Course Information

Withie workshop

Saturday 16 September 2017, 10am - 4pm

Spend a day in our lovely wood enjoying some constructive relaxation and making a selection of small things using willow and a few other bits and pieces.

Mankind has been weaving with withies, or willow stems, for thousands of years; it must be one of the oldest crafts known. For our ancestors, crafting with willow was more of a serious undertaking than it is for most of us now, but we're sure they would have made these kinds of things sometimes – just for the pleasure of it. You will learn a little about willow then launch into a range of small projects – lantern, spider's web, Christmas tree, wreath, whorl bird feeder, mini-hurdle, flower, fish... ..as many as you like in the time available. This is for anyone who just likes the idea (it is great fun and most relaxing), but also for professionals and volunteers working with groups of people and looking for different ways to engage their interest and develop concentration, manual dexterity and a feeling of achievement.

Course venue:

The course will take place outside in Bottoms Corner Wood, part of the Wassledine farm in Upper Gravenhurst, Bedfordshire.

The wood is midway between the villages of Gravenhurst and Campton, near Shefford just within the parish of Gravenhurst. It's a hidden away location, further directions will be sent to you before the course date.

It's a beautiful setting but please be aware the facilities are quite basic. The toilet is outside (a composting tree bog) with camping style hand wash.

Accessibility:

There is off road parking along a surfaced but bumpy track. It's then a walk of about 300 metres along an uneven grass track, up a slope, to our base in the woods. Let us know if you have any mobility problems – we will discuss the best way to make the day accessible and enjoyable for you.

If you would like to come by public transport, please let us know so we can assist.

What to bring:

- Packed lunch (We'll provide tea, coffee, drinks, biscuits, fruit and homemade cake.)
- Suitable outdoor clothes, boots, waterproofs or sunhat (remember we will be outside all day)

Wet weather plan:

There is some shelter in the wood, so some rain is not a problem, but if the weather is extremely bad the course may have to be cancelled. Please provide us with the best number to contact you on in case we are very unlucky with the weather. If this happens a full refund will be provided. If you don't hear from us assume the course is going ahead.

Booking & Payment:

The cost of the course is £65 per person. Please complete the attached booking form.

Course tutor

Jane Lambourne of Wassledine will lead this day. For nearly twenty years, Jane has worked with groups of people, most often children, telling stories and using all manner of crafts, particularly in countryside and environmental settings. She has been collecting these willow projects since 2003 when we started growing willow ourselves.

If there's anything else you need to know just give us a call or send an email.