

TREE PLANTING

January 22nd
10am till 4pm

Planting trees for future generations. Learn the hows & whys of planting trees in a woodland situation. It's not as straight forward as many would imagine. Please note that this course will be held at Sparkes Gill Wood.

WILLOW CULTIVATION

February 5th
10am till 4pm

Learn how to plant out a new withy bed using 'setts' whilst also harvesting an existing crop. Taking cuttings, proper spacing, ground preparation, maintenance & different harvesting techniques will all be covered.

LIVING WILLOW CHAIRS

February 19th
10am till 4.30pm

Learn how to weave & grow your own living willow chair without using a single nail, screw or joint. Make sure you have a nice spot in the garden to plant it!!

HEDGELAYING

March 5th & 6th
10am till 4.30pm

A well managed hedge has always been far more effective than a fence, not to mention its benefits to wildlife. Now you can learn not only how, but why hedges should be managed with this traditional technique.



CORACLES

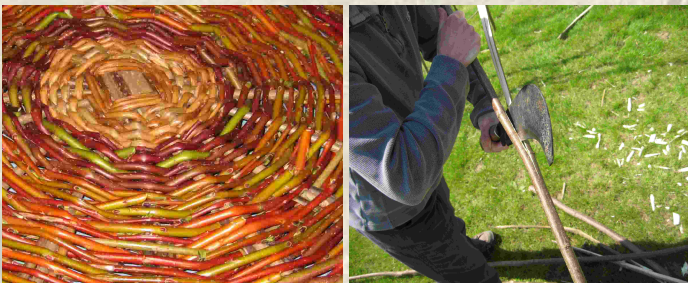
March 19th & 20th
10am till 5pm

These excellent one man boats are ideal for getting up or down stream, they are even light enough to carry on your back. Making your own is as much fun as paddling one! The focus will be on making an Irish Boyne style coracle with a Calico covering, complete with seat & paddle.

HEDGEROW BASKETRY

March 26th & 27th
10am till 4.30pm

See hedgerows in a completely new light. There's a fantastic array of colours & textures available from a wide range of hedgerow materials. Learn how to prepare & utilise them to weave your own contemporary style round basket.



WATTLE HURDLES

April 9th
10am till 4.30pm

Learn how to split hazel rods in preparation for weaving your hurdle. Strong, long lasting & pleasing to the eye, ideal for the farm, allotment or garden.

GARDEN PLANT SUPPORTS

April 10th
10am till 4.30pm

You can choose to make either a conical (wig wam) type plant support, trellis or a woven panel. All made to measure for your own garden using Willow &/or Hazel. Ideal for pea's, bean's & all sorts of climbers.

SHAVE HORSES

April 16th & 17th
10am till 5pm

From a hand full of round logs learn how to make a useful shaving horse device to take home. An ideal introduction into working with green or round wood. It involves many of the basic coppice craft skills such as cleaving, shaving & mortising.

FRAME BASKETRY

May 7th & 8th
10am till 4pm

Using a combination of Willow & Hazel, learn how to make a gypsy style frame basket. You can choose from several designs, with or without handles.



SPLITTING, CLEAVING & RIVING

May 14th
10am till 4.30pm

Quicker & much more efficient than sawing. The skill in splitting, cleaving & riving wood is not to be underestimated. Learn how to cleave wood in many different planes & from the smallest of stems to the biggest of logs. Also learn which native woods split well & why. Correct use of froes, brakes, wedges, cleaves, knives, bill hooks, axes & levers will all be demonstrated.

BENTWOOD HAZEL CHAIRS

June 4th & 5th
10am till 5pm

Create a beautiful bentwood hazel chair for your home or garden using simple hand tools. The techniques employed can also be used in your own projects to create tables, racks or shelving.

WILLOW SCULPTURE

June 18th
10am till 4pm

Various plaiting, weaving, tying, binding & free form techniques will all be used to create several different animal & geometric shapes. Then you can have a go at creating your own masterpiece using a wide variety of different willows.

WOODLAND ACTIVITY DAY

June 19th
10am till 4pm

Spend the morning learning about woodland management & conservation. Find out what different trees & plants can be utilised for, from food & medicine to rope & timber. Then spend the afternoon either carving yourself a spoon or weaving a platter to take home. Please note that this course will be held at Sparkes Gill Wood.

DRUID OAK CHAIRS

June 25th & 26th
10am till 5pm

Create a beautiful chair for the home or garden from local Kentish Oak using simple hand tools. The beauty of this ancient design lies in its simplicity.

WILLOW BASKETRY

July 9th & 10th or
September 10th & 11th
10am till 4.30pm

Using both traditional & contemporary techniques, learn to weave a round basket using the stake & strand method from a wide variety of willows. Preparation of materials & some basketry history will also be covered.



WILLOW BIRD FIGURES

July 16th
10am till 4.00pm

Learn to make a sculptural bird figure of your choice using 'random' weaving techniques out of willow & hazel. You can also enjoy a walk around the 'Sculpture in the Garden' event for more artistic inspiration.

RUSH MATTERS

July 30th
10am till 4.30pm

You can choose to make a small basket or place mat using English Bul Rush. Basic weaving & plaiting techniques will be covered along with correct preparation of materials.

CHARCOAL BURNING

July 31st
10am till 5pm

Take the mystery out of the alchemy of charcoal burning. The day will focus on small scale charcoal production techniques & other uses of 'waste' wood as a source of fuel.

GATE HURDLES

October 1st
10am till 4pm

Get to grips with cleaving, shaving, mortising & shaping tenons. Then brace & strop your mini sweet chestnut gate hurdle together. An ideal introduction into working with round wood.

BOWL CARVING

October 2nd
10am till 4.30pm

Carve a contemporary style bowl from a solid piece of wood. Correct use & care of axes, chisels & different types of knives will all be shown along with various different hollowing & carving techniques.

TRUG MAKING

October 8th & 9th
10am till 5pm

Make a traditional Trug from coppiced sweet chestnut & willow slats. Cleave & shave your handle & rim before steam bending them to shape. Then prepare your willow slats before nailing them home.



THREE LEGGED STOOL

October 15th
10am till 4.30pm

Make a three legged stool using locally coppiced wood. The main focus will be on creating tight fitting, pegged tenons. The stool itself makes milking both goats & cows so much more comfortable!!

OVAL BASKETRY

October 22nd & 23rd
10am till 4pm

This course is specifically designed for those individuals with some previous basketry experience, who wish to improve their skills & knowledge further. The focus will be on making an oval shopping basket with a bow handle using willow.



BESOM BROOMS

October 29th
10am till 1pm

An essential tool for the house & garden, learn how to make your own traditional besom broom. Optional witchcraft & flying lessons also available!!

COPPICING

November 12th
10am till 4pm

Coppicing native broad leaf trees in winter is a traditional form of woodland management which also benefits wildlife biodiversity. Learn the basic skills & felling techniques using simple hand tools whilst also learning what products can be created from the freshly cut wood.

YULE DECORATIONS

December 3rd
12am till 3pm

Using completely natural materials you'll make colourful wreaths, other decorative pieces & possibly a table centre piece to brighten up your home during Yule time.