



Cotswolds Rural Skills

Autumn and Winter Courses

Cotswolds Rural Skills is a one stop shop for training courses in a wide range of rural skills and crafts throughout the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Working with local instructors, organisations, community groups and landowners we ensure that these courses are not only informative and practical but also make a noticeable and lasting contribution to the Cotswold landscape. So whether you want to try your hand at blacksmithing, stone carving, rebuild a 200 year old dry stone wall, have a go at hedgelaying, scything, horse logging, coppicing or gain a LANTRA qualification in brushcutting or stonewalling we may have the course for you.

For more information about the courses listed in this booklet or to book visit

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Alternatively contact David Molloy, Rural Skills and Grants Officer

Tel 01451 862001 ~ Email info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Autumn and Winter Course Dates

Special offers and additional dates may be found on our website www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Hedgelaying – Beginners £109 (2 day course)

The traditional art of hedgelaying has been part of the Cotswolds landscape for centuries. Originally used for the purposes of stock control, the skill of laying a hedge was once common practice. However, due to the introduction of cheaper and less labour intensive methods of stock control, this traditional form of land management is now a much rarer skill. There are many styles of hedge-laying throughout the UK. Here in the Cotswolds the most commonly used are the Midlands style and the Somerset style and it is these that we teach on our courses. These courses are suitable for anybody with little or no experience of hedgelaying.

Somerset Style

5th - 6th November 2016 at Sopworth, Wiltshire

8th - 9th February 2017 at Sopworth, Wiltshire

Midlands Style

29th - 30th November 2016 at Fosse Cross, Gloucestershire

4th - 5th February 2017 at Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

25th - 26th February 2017 at Fosse Cross, Gloucestershire

11th - 12th March 2017 at Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

Woodland Coppicing £59 (1 day course)

Learn the skills of coppicing and tree felling, what tools are needed and how to use them, why coppicing can benefit wildlife, about some of the specialist wildlife that benefits from coppicing, a bit of the history of woodland coppicing, how to identify and extract a range of coppice products and the potential uses for harvested coppice. Suitable for anybody with little or no experience of coppicing.

30th October 2016 at Coberley, Gloucestershire

14th January 2017 at Coberley, Gloucestershire

18th February 2017 at Coberley, Gloucestershire

Introduction to Horse Logging £99 (1 day course)

Participants will learn about the history of horse logging and gain hands-on experience of working with these beautiful animals in one of our sustainably managed woodland sites, including how to prepare the horses for work and how to manoeuvre them through the woodland using rein and voice commands.

12th November 2016 at Coberley, Gloucestershire

Blacksmithing Taster Day £99 (1 day course)

Spend a day learning about the skill of blacksmithing through practising the use of the tools and techniques used by blacksmiths.

30th October 2016 at the Cotswold Discovery Centre, Northleach, Gloucestershire

20th November 2016 at Tetbury, Gloucestershire

Further dates will be announced soon on our website www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk.

Blacksmithing - Improvers £185 (2 day course)

A chance to build on the skills learnt during the taster day and develop some of the more advanced techniques of this age old craft.

24th – 25th October 2016 at the Cotswold Discovery Centre, Northleach, Gloucestershire

Stone Carving - Beginners £99 (2 day course)

From Gargoyles loitering on cathedral roofs to ornate garden sculptures, the art of stone carving have been around for a very long time. On this course you will experience the satisfaction of being creative and engaging in the creative process by interacting with the medium of stone. You will learn the basic techniques of stone carving, the tools required and how you use them. By the end of the two days you can expect to have completed a simple sculpture, whether it be a human face, your favourite animal, or something practical like a bowl.

12th – 13th November 2016 at the Cotswold Discovery Centre, Northleach, Gloucestershire

Dry Stone Walling – Beginners £99 (2 day course)

In the Cotswolds we pride ourselves on the fact that on our walling courses you will be making a dry stone wall built to last! Unlike some other courses in the UK, where trainees simply take down and rebuild the same piece of wall over and over again, on our courses you will be building a wall that will remain part of the Cotswolds landscape for the next 100-200 years!

Enrol on one of our courses and spend an enjoyable two days surrounded by a beautiful landscape. On the beginners course you can expect to learn about: dismantling walls, stone sorting, laying foundations, building up of the wall, adding through stones and copping stones, dressing the stone, different types of stone, the necessary tools and how to use them and much more!

No prior experience required. This course is ideal for those who have very limited knowledge of dry stone walling and want to learn more! Intermediate courses are also now available.

26th - 27th November 2016 at Sherborne, Gloucestershire

29th - 30th November 2016 at Chedworth, Gloucestershire

Introduction to Weaving £65 (1 day course)

The day will include:

- weave design ideas and techniques, using colour, proportion and texture
- making/winding a warp in a single yarn/colour and multiple yarns and colours
- threading and tensioning the warp on a rigid-heddle loom
- weaving technique including starting, ending, joining yarns and changing colours
- pattern weaving using two colours
- weave structures, going beyond plain weave including a demonstration on a 4-shaft table loom (confident students can have a go at some experimental weaving on this loom too)

Each topic will be introduced with a view to participation wherever possible at a level each individual student is comfortable with. The aim is to build on your skills throughout the day whatever level you start at.

18th November 2016 at the Cotswold Discovery Centre, Northleach, Gloucestershire

10th December 2016 at the Cotswold Discovery Centre, Northleach, Gloucestershire

More information on these and other courses we offer can be found on our website

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk