



USING JUNCUS with Clair Murphy

Saturday, 6 October 2018

10:00 – 16:30

St Nicholas Church Hall, Elsfield Road, Old Marston OX3 0PR



Juncus Effusus, also known as soft rush, grows widely across the UK, usually on poor, undrained land. It has rather fallen from use recently, but in the past was used in basketry and for centuries its pith was the essential wick in the eponymous rush light. Its somewhat invasive nature means that it is readily, and usually freely, available in many locations.

This course will introduce you to Juncus as a material, explain how it is harvested, dried, stored and how it can be processed to make a range of baskets using a variety of techniques. The slender quality of the Juncus rush lends

itself to very fine work, or it can be bunched to create attractive large plaits suitable for sewing and coiling. The rushes can even be split and flattened to make pleasing, delicate ribbons for plaiting.

On the course you will first make a brush to introduce you to Juncus as a material. You may then either make a small stake and strand mat or basket, or create larger plaits for sewing, or make Juncus ribbons to plait into a small, square basket or pocket.

All tools and materials will be provided. Students may wish to bring a notebook and pen, and an apron if you like to wear one. There will be no charge for materials.

Clair Murphy makes rush baskets in her studio in Presteigne in the Welsh Marches. She graduated from a four-year City and Guilds course in Creative Basketry at the City Lit in 2011 and has compiled and edited the forthcoming book to be published by the Basketmakers' Association entitled *Rush Basketry, Weaving with Eight Makers*. Clair became the chair of the Oxfordshire Basketmakers in March 2018.



**** This course is suitable for all levels ****

Workshop fee: £45 per student, including materials