

### Willow Basketmaking

Jordie Reay NEW TUTOR

1st Sep 2026  
Tuesday

Make a simple willow basket approximately 20cm wide and 12cm tall, ideal for keys, plants or small household items. This one day course includes lunch, tea, cake and plenty of friendly chatting. All materials, tools and safety equipment are provided, and no experience is needed. Please note that willow weaving requires manual dexterity, so the class may not suit people with limited hand mobility.

#### Course Location:

#### CIM Business Centre Cookham

Moor Hall  
Cookham  
Maidenhead  
Berkshire SL6 9QH

#### Description

You will also discover the fascinating history of basketmaking and learn why baskets were once an essential part of everyday life before plastic became widely available. During the course, you'll see how willow is prepared and soaked to make it flexible enough for weaving. Once you've mastered the basics, you can progress to an intermediate course where you'll explore more advanced techniques, including shape manipulation and handle making.

Day Courses	
9.45am	Students arrive
10am-1pm	Teaching session
1-2pm	Lunch for all
2-5pm	Last teaching session

#### Please bring with you

All materials, tools and safety equipment are provided. But please wear loose and comfortable clothes and bring an apron should you want. If the weather is fine, we may work outside in shade.

#### Available to purchase from the tutor

You will be able to buy extra soaked willow to continue practising at home, as well as purchase some of the baskets Jordie brings along for demonstration purposes.

#### Level

Beginner

#### About Jordie Reay NEW TUTOR

From a young age, I've been fascinated by social history, especially the lives of ordinary people in Tudor England. Five years ago, I joined the living history programme at Kentwell Hall where you live as a Tudor to help create an annual immersive living history event, where I discovered traditional English willow basketmaking.

I was immediately drawn to the craft's meditative yet challenging nature and its connection to generations of makers before us. As my skills grew, so did my appreciation for the sustainability, individuality and tactile beauty of handmade baskets. Sharing these traditional skills with others has become a real passion.

Alongside basketmaking, I create historical clothing using traditional hand-stitching techniques and self-drafted patterns. I studied costume making at Arts University Bournemouth and currently volunteer at Kentwell Hall, Athelhampton House and Highcliffe Castle. I also enjoy digital art and graphic design, combining traditional craftsmanship with modern creativity.