



Hello and welcome to the Arts Dream Selsey, *'The Winding Willow' Sculpture Project*. Here is everything you need to know about this exciting project happening this year.

What is it?

'The Winding Willow' is an outdoor willow weaving sculpture project for 40 local people, creating a Sculpture Trail sited within The Hidden Garden here in Selsey. There will be the construction of domes, arches, screens, tunnels and representational artworks to make a sculptural pathway in the garden.

Always wanted to make sculptures and learn willow weaving skills? Well, this is your chance!

The Hidden Garden Selsey.

Sited within the woodland walkway, the Hidden Garden Selsey is open to people of all ages and abilities in the Selsey community, organised by the Selsey Community Forum and looked after by a dedicated group of local volunteers.

Located next to the Academy Selsey School, they run events and workshops to teach organic horticulture, wildlife gardening and sustainability. Regular gardening activities for young people take place throughout the year and produce is shared with local residents who attend activities in the garden.

The Selsey community are encouraged to share and swap spare seeds, plants and gardening equipment throughout the year and there are a variety of perennial plants available for a donation to visitors. The Hidden Garden is open for the National Garden Scheme In 2024 and for the Selsey Garden Trail.



Project leaders:

The lead project coordinator is Chris Butler the Director of Arts Dream Selsey. She will be working with Karen Pirks of Selsey Community Forum and Paul Sadler also of Selsey Community Forum and coordinator of the Hidden Garden Selsey. We are working with the artists Mark Antony Haden Ford and Rebecca Ford of Two Circles Design.

This team will be accompanied by representatives from other organisations as the project develops.

The Artists:

Contemporary artists Mark Antony Haden Ford and Rebecca Ford of Two Circles Design work with natural materials. Working at their studio in Slindon, within the South Downs National Park, making for both public and private sectors.

Both have a strong interest in the archaeology, geography and wonders of the natural world, drawing on traditions and techniques of willow craft and woodland management. As international environmental artists, their installations and sculptures encompass a wide range of traditional skills and practices.

Mark and Rebecca's work reflects a renewed interest in returning to a slower pace of life, to the art of making something that takes time and effort. They actively engage with Schools, Universities and community groups to create new works.

They have represented the UK at several International Environmental Land Art events and have created works for South Downs National Park, Venice Biennale, Burberry, Glastonbury Festival, RHS, Grange Opera, Farley Farmhouse, University of Surrey, Slindon College, Kent Wildlife Trust, Arundel Wetlands, Chichester Cathedral, West Dean and Arundel Castle.

The works of Mark and Rebecca Ford reflects a renewed interest in returning to a slower pace of life, to the art of making something that takes time and effort. The final forms take time to evolve, the nature of the material dictating in part, the direction and shape. As the willow criss-crosses and interweaves, it creates fluid lines, drawings on a grand scale, a flowing story that stimulates and exhilarates the senses.

They have taught weaving skills to a variety of different age groups and come highly recommended to offer excellent tuition and are committed to create 'safe spaces where everyone can contribute and feel valued'.

For details of their work see:

Mark and Rebecca Ford
Two Circles Design

<https://www.twocirclesdesign.co.uk>.

WEBSITE

<https://www.facebook.com/twocirclesdesign/>

FACEBOOK

<https://www.pinterest.com/2CirclesDesign/>

PINTEREST

<http://www.instagram.com/twocirclesdesign/>

INSTAGRAM





Who are the participants?

- Young people (16 - 25 ages) not in education, employment or training.
- Young people 15 + keen to widen opportunities to take part in creative activities outside formal school frameworks and in nature.
- Garden volunteers and Men in Sheds members.
- Other interested members of the local community who are keen to develop skills in willow weaving.

The aim is to have an intergenerational group of 40 people who have different skills and abilities that can work and share ideas together.

The artists can also provide a certificate for young people to illustrate their attendance and achievements that can be used for a career portfolio or a college or university application.

THIS IS A FREE PROJECT FOR EVERYONE

Project dates: There are 3 project working weeks:

Week 1 - Monday June 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th & 21st

Week 2 - Monday July 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th & 19th

Week 3 - Monday July 22nd & 23rd

How does it work?

Participants attend on 2 days in either Week 1 or in Week 2 – so either on:

Week 1 - June 17th & 18th or 19th & 20th or Week 2 - July 15th & 16th or 17th & 18th

Participants will commit to those 2 days and work in small groups with the artists, learning the skills and techniques of willow weaving, including design, collaboration, willow preparation, construction and placement.

Depending on numbers applying and the take up of the project it may be possible for you to attend on more days.

In discussion with the team, you may also be able to visit the garden during opening hours to continue with the sculptural activity.

On *June 21st and July 19th* Mark and Rebecca will be in the garden constructing the artworks and you will be able to support them in that activity.

On *Week 3 Monday July 22nd, 23rd* Mark and Rebecca will take the lead and complete remaining artworks on the pathway. You can also help if you are around.

We hope to be as flexible as we can regarding time spent in the garden by you.

What can you expect:

- The day will be 10am - 4pm with a break for lunch.
- Introductory safety talk, identification of shapes, views, and vistas as you walk around the garden, drawings and designs workshops, learning the skills of willow weaving, constructing the sculptures with others, land construction as necessary (maybe a bit of digging!) and completion of the sculptures.
- A few garden picnics and a launch party.

What you need to bring with you:

We will be using the Youth Dream Bridge Centre as a base for the activity. Here there are toilet facilities and a refreshment station. Wear suitable clothing for outside activity and sturdy shoes. Bring lunch and water with you. All materials and tools for the project will be provided and you are welcome to bring protective thin or thick gloves and secateurs if you have them. A notebook will also be useful for jotting down ideas. Please note this project used the hands to manipulate and mould the willow to the required shapes.

How to apply:

This activity is free, but you need to apply to attend.

We will require you to complete a google form to register. This will be in accordance with the Arts Dream Data Protection Policy. We will send you the google form in due course once you have conveyed your interest in the project.

Communication:

- Follow The Winding Willow Facebook page to be included in the 'messenger' closed group for us to share information and details with you.
- There will also be a Winding Willow Instagram page.

We also encourage you to post and share your images and videos of the project on your own social media feeds. Tagging #thehiddengardenselsey

As part of the expectation of our funders, we will be undertaking a project evaluation and creating a short film about the project and celebrate your contribution!

To register your interest please contact:

Chris Butler - chrisbutlerselsey@hotmail.co.uk

Paul Sadler - paul@selseycommunityforum.uk

Karen Pirks - operations@selseycommunityforum.uk

All donations to this project will be gratefully received.

Arts Dream Selsey. 20/02/2024