



**NEWS**  
 FROM  
**THE**  
**WINDSOR**  
**WORKSHOP**

- *Courses*
- *Tools*
- *Chairs*

March 2005

Reading bench in Elm and Oak recently completed for a client

Courses

Chairmaking courses are proving very popular, and are now taking up more of my time than making chairs to commission. The first course was held in November 2004, seven have already been run, six more are booked, and the first available course is now in June (see below).

Course Availability 2005

June	13 - 17	20 - 24	27 - 1	
July	4 - 8	11 - 15	18 - 22	25 - 29
September	12 - 16	26 - 30		



Bow Back



Sack Back

Friends, brothers, and a father and son have come together, along with several individuals; and the first international student is already booked in from France! Each person has gone away delighted with their superb chair, and many are already talking about returning to make a more advanced chair, such as the Sack Back.

If you haven't yet come, but would like to, look at the website ([www.the-windsor-workshop.co.uk](http://www.the-windsor-workshop.co.uk)) or give me a call, and book up. There is an excellent B&B one mile away in a quiet country pub, and also a three star hotel in the village. If you wish to come en famille there are plenty of attractions in the area to keep non-woodworkers entertained.

New advanced courses (can only be taken after the initial Bow Back course) are currently under development. In addition to the Sack Back, there will be a Child's Armchair course, and a two day course to design your own unique chair, followed by a five-day course to make it! Watch the website, or give me a call if interested.

## Tools

The travishers, and the large and small spokeshaves have also been popular, particularly once they have been used on a course. I will shortly be able to supply a wonderful tiny Chinese spokeshave – a hit with all students; and I am discussing with a blacksmith the making of high quality drawknives and inshaves especially for use in Windsor chairmaking.



Travisher



Large



Small

The tools shown above are detailed on the website, and are available by mail order. New tools will be shown on the website as soon as they become available.

## [www.the-windsor-workshop.co.uk](http://www.the-windsor-workshop.co.uk)

After many teething problems the new website is up and running. It has full details of courses, specialist chairmaking tools, and chairs. I am very pleased with the way that it has turned out, and hope that you will find it useful and informative.

## Chairs

I am currently working on a dining set of eight chairs in Oak and Elm, in the style of 18th century English Windsors. The Reading Bench (shown overleaf) was an unusual commission as it has seating for 2 ½ adults (or 2 adults and 1 child). It was designed to fill an alcove, and the client requested very low arms. These one-off pieces are always great fun to design and make.

Other projects have included copying a most unusual 18th century chair all in Ash, and making a chair to accompany a series of articles on Windsor chairmaking for a well known woodworking magazine – details in due course.

## Shows & Demonstrations

I am giving a chairmaking demonstration at the **Victoria & Albert Museum** 14/15 May 2005, 1400 – 1700. See details at:

[www.vam.ac.uk/activ\\_events/events/demo\\_workshops/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/activ_events/events/demo_workshops/)

Also, I will be attending the following shows, and would be delighted to see you.

**South of England Show:** 9 - 12 June

**Crafts in Action - Michelham Priory:** 11 - 14 August

**Weald & Downland Wood Show:** 10 - 11 September

**Weald Wood Fair:** 23 - 25 September



James Mursell  
The Windsor Workshop  
Churchfield Farm, West Chiltington  
Pulborough, West Sussex. RH20 2JW

Phone: 01798 815 925  
Email: [j.mursell@the-windsor-](mailto:j.mursell@the-windsor-)