The Woodhouse Centre



Craft Activity Leader (volunteer)

About The Woodhouse Centre

The Woodhouse Centre is a workshop for people living in Oxted and surrounding areas, where men and women participate in a variety of handicraft and woodworking activities. The Centre's cheerful and busy environment inspires creativity, enables productivity, and encourages social companionship. Our members are often retirees or other adults who are not in full-time employment, so the Centre provides purposeful and rewarding work, in a social environment. Products and repaired items are offered for sale to the public, or are prepared in response to specific commissions, raising funds for the Centre.

What could you do?

The Centre's activities currently include sewing and needlework, knitting, upholstery and chair caning. We would like to expand the craft activities we can support, so would like to hear from men or women who could do any of the following:

- Use and share your experience of any craft or artistic skills (we're open to ideas, but some examples include: sewing, quilting, needlework, knitting, crochet, painting, basket weaving, paper-crafts, photography, ceramics, upcycling furniture...). You do not need to be 'expert'!
- Support our members learning a new craft or developing their skills
- Identify or design projects suited to our members, and which result in products that are attractive for sales to the public
- Deliver short courses, lessons, or one-on-one instruction to members and other volunteers
- Help source quality materials (e.g. fabrics, yarn, thread and notions)

What skills should you have?

In addition to your experience in art or crafts (you don't need to be an expert), you will

- Have a friendly, patient and approachable manner
- Demonstrate empathy with people, including those with views and experience different to your own
- Be a good communicator, able to give clear instructions and encouragement to others
- Be reliable and committed to your role as a volunteer

When / where / how?

The Centre is located in Oxted (next to the leisure centre, behind Morrisons), and is open four mornings each week: Mondays – Thursdays, 09.30 – 12.30. We'd like someone who could commit to a regular timeslot of at least 2-3 hours each week, but we're open to any days/times. In the future, there may be opportunities to lead one-off 'taster' sessions outside the Centre's normal opening times – so we'd like to hear from people with ideas about this.

What's in it for you?

- You'll improve your own craft skills, and may learn a new one or two...
- Help other people learn and appreciate crafts and arts, as you do, and to make products and items that they're proud of!
- Meet new people, with similar interests and of all ages and backgrounds
- Make products and craft items that the public appreciate and want to buy
- Contribute to raising funds, which enables the Woodhouse Centre to continue to prosper and offer services to members