



Upholsterer / Chair Caner (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 offers a re-upholstery and chair caning service to members of the public. We'd like to increase our pool of experienced upholsterers and caners, so would like to hear from men or women who could do any of the following:

- Has basic experience and knowledge of upholstery, chair caning, and other experience repairing and covering chairs and other small furniture items.
- Able to pick up techniques and learn quickly - you do not need to be 'expert'!
- Can work independently under your own initiative
- You may be able to deliver short lessons or one-on-one instruction to members and other volunteers, helping others to learn the skills and crafts
- Able to give advice to other volunteers and members of the public, guiding the commissions the Centre is able to take in

What skills should you have?

In addition to your experience in upholstery or chair caning (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 currently 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. Once established, you may be able to do some work at home or a location of your choice.

What's in it for you?

- You'll improve your own skills, and may learn a new one or two...
- Help other people appreciate (and maybe learn) chair upholstery and caning, as you do
- Meet new people, with similar interests and of all ages and backgrounds
- Repair and refresh well-loved chairs and small furnishings to a standard that is appreciated by members of the public
- Contribute to raising funds, which enables the Woodhouse Centre to continue to prosper and offer services to members