

# Courses in the Pyrenees



## Le Moulin de la Materette

60 miles South of Toulouse & Carcassonne

# Woodturning, Painting & Digital Photography

**A Six day holiday with 5 half days of expert tuition. Plenty of time to enjoy the superb facilities and spectacular surroundings of Le Moulin de la Materette. Comfortable accommodation, delicious food, convivial company. The perfect blend of creativity and relaxation.**

Why not consider a **Combination Course**, where couples can both enjoy a rewarding experience to suit both. One can woodturn whilst the other paints or perfects their photography and photoshop skills.

You will be amazed what you can achieve in a week, but be warned a holiday at the Moulin can be addictive, it's so much fun that 70% of our guests return 2, 3, 4, or even up to 10 times, and that's not because they are slow learners! The Moulin ambiance is irresistible.

Easy to get to us from several airports in the UK to Carcassonne or Toulouse. An easy 80 minute drive through exquisite countryside and a warm welcome at the Moulin guaranteed.

## The Courses

The courses include 5 half days of expert tuition. 3 mornings and 2 afternoons or vice versa. We try where possible to match standards of experience, but needless to say we keep partners or friends who have come together in the same group. Our students learn in a relaxed but professional environment.

## Woodturning

**Basic / Intermediate / Refresher / Advanced**



The courses can be structured to involve 5 projects that will hone all the skills necessary for you to confidently continue in your own workshop. Typically the projects can include, spindle-work (like a babies rattle or honey dipper), a box, a bowl, a platter and a hollow form. Alternatively we can tailor the course to suit the individual who may want to specialise in a particular area, such as hollow forms, wet wood turning, miniatures and other aspects of woodturning.



Our instructors are **Jamie Wallwin, Ken Allan, Chris Ashton, Mick Hanbury, Gary Rance and Reg Slack.**

All very experienced woodturners and teachers, who between them have taught in excess of 5,000 students of woodturning.

All tools, wood & equipment are provided including smocks. All we ask students to bring is a comfortable pair of working shoes.



## Painting -Tutor - Penny Milner

Penny has been a practising artist since leaving art school in 1982. She has lived in France for 18 years where she works as a full time artist. A very successful portrait painter who is also comfortable painting landscapes and still life. She has exhibited regularly in the UK & France and her paintings are in private collections Worldwide. She has won numerous awards.



Penny has exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Mall galleries and The Paris Salon. She has work in many private and public collections. Working in Water Colour, Oils, Acrylics and Pastels, Penny has had wide teaching experience seeing this as a valuable part of her work, she enjoys interacting with the students and finds the atmosphere at the Moulin particularly inspiring. The course at the Moulin is structured to guide you through a series of exercises adapted to beginners and those with previous experience. We will look at different techniques such as wet on wet, dry brush and scumbling, also painting foliage and flowers. Where it is useful Penny follows this up with demonstrations. "My aim as teacher is to help each student to develop their own potential and style. We work together in the studio, the garden and out in the landscape allowing us a wide variety of subject matter. Working in small groups is often inspiring; providing everyone with new ideas. The atmosphere relaxed and supportive but intense."



**We are pleased to introduce Peter Carmen to our team, another talented artist and experienced teacher who joins us at the Moulin in 2010.**



## Digital Photography - Julia Reid

Julia works as a freelance photographer in the Peak District. She is passionate about her profession and is enthusiastic about passing her knowledge of photography and teaching our guests to use photoshop to get the best out of their photographs and hobby. You can read more about Julia and see some of her work on [www.highpeakphotography.co.uk](http://www.highpeakphotography.co.uk)



### The Course at the Moulin will cover the following

Basic landscape composition techniques including rule of thirds, zoning, framing, perspective, creating depth in your photos, hyperfocal distance, use of filters, photographing water, selective focusing, reading histograms, file sizes, black & white techniques, exposure. Basic Photoshop techniques. Moving on from basic camera settings. We will provide you with a CD before you come on the course, with basic photoshop tips on how to get started and some guidance as to what will be tackled on the course.



You will get the opportunity to photograph various subjects. Flowers and other features within the Moulin grounds, Landscape subjects in the spectacular Pyrenees. Old town views in historic Foix, and traditional market scenes.

Each day will be structured, but not rigidly. It will start with a short presentation to demonstrate what is to be undertaken that day. It will include some private guidance, a lot of photography and end with a session in the studio to develop your photoshop skills and print out your favourite shots.



## The Attractions of the area

Located mid way between Foix & St Giron, the Moulin is conveniently placed close to some of the most spectacular views of the Pyrenees, and many of the Cathar castles, including Monsegur. On our door step are prehistoric grottoes & caves, Cave drawings at Niaux, Historic towns of Carcassonne, Toulouse and Mirepoix, all worth visiting. Nearby, there is an excellent Equestrian Centre, 27 hole golf course, recreational lake and Labouiche, the longest underground river trip in Europe.



In Foix you can visit the spectacular castle and an impressive working museum of Craftsmanship. St Giron is well worth visiting for the market and the Bishop's Palace in neighbouring ancient St Lizier.

Not to be missed are the Eagles of Lordat, where you become part of an interactive display of falconry with amazing displays of Eagles, Owls, various Falcons, and Vultures.



However the main attraction for us is being in the midst of arguably the most exquisite part of France, yet undiscovered by the masses. A paradise for lovers of nature who enjoy the beauty of the wooded slopes and snow capped peaks of the Pyrenees and the plentiful fauna and flora that frequent this lovely area. We think we found paradise, we hope you visit us and agree.



## Le Moulin de la Materette

A holiday at the Moulin is like being part of a large house party, with memorable dinner parties every evening, enjoying the hospitality and excellent cuisine of your hosts Nick & Fran Davidson. The rooms are all delightfully converted, comfortable, with their own private bathrooms.



The facilities within the grounds are all you could want for in a weeks holiday, including a large heated pool, croquet lawn, boules pitch, and several bikes. The tour de France passes nearby every year, but you don't have to tackle the hill climbs.



The Moulin is set in 10 acres of private grounds with 600 metres of river frontage, a haven of birdlife and wild flowers, it includes a tranquil island with sculptured wild flower beds, where you can absorb the sights and sounds of nature and unwind, listen to the



golden oris, watch the kingfishers, dippers and countless other species that frequent our garden. A patch of paradise we have found and would like to share with our guests.

### New Courses

Other courses we are considering for the future are Creative Writing and Textile Art. Please enquire for further details.

For more details of the Moulin and our courses go to our web site. [www.materette.com](http://www.materette.com) or email [RNickDavidson@aol.com](mailto:RNickDavidson@aol.com) phone UK: 01433 622 550, France: 0033 561 658 007