

# Le Moulin de la Materette

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## Courses in South West France - Woodturning, Painting, Digital Photography, Creative Writing, Textile Art

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. Expert tuition, comfortable accommodation, delicious food, convivial company. The perfect blend of creativity and relaxation. It's so much fun that 70% of our guests return 2, 3, 4, or even up to 10 times.

### Course Schedule at Le Moulin de la Materette 2010 Course Fees Availability

May 2nd - 8th	Turning & Photography	Reg Slack & Julia Reid	£265 / £245
May 16th - 22nd	Turning & Painting	Gary Rance & Penny Milner	£285 / £245
May 30th - June 5th	Turning & Painting	Chris Ashton & Penny Milner	£265 / £245
June 13th - 19th	Turning & Painting	Mick Hanbury & Peter Carmen	£265 / £245
June 27th - July 3rd	Painting & Photography	Peter Carmen & Julia Reid	£245 / £245
Aug 29th - Sept 4th	Turning & Painting	Chris Ashton & t.b.a	£265 / £245
Sept 12th - 18th	Turning & Painting	Mick Hanbury & Penny Milner	£265 / £245
Sept 26th - Oct 2nd	Turning & Photography	Ken Allen & Julia Reid	£265 / £245

### Latest News

Following the success of Julia Reid's first Digital Photography course this year, We are offering her course combined with woodturning with Chris Ashton, Reg Slack and Ken Allen for 2010.

**Details of the courses are given on page three & four of this pdf.**

**Two other extra features we will be offering at the Moulin in 2010 for the existing courses.**

**Yoga:** Our daughter Sarah is a qualified Yoga instructor who is now living permanently near us in France. She will be taking Yoga classes for groups of 4 or more at 10 Euros per 1½ hour session.

**Wild Life Trips into the Pyrenees:** A local French guide will be taking groups of 4 - 6 for 4 hour trips to observe and enjoy the local fauna and flora of the spectacular Pyrenees. The cost would be 30 Euros each.

### Accommodation:

All rooms are converted to the highest standard with their own private facilities Below are the prices of the rooms available in the Moulin & Grange. Please specify which room you would prefer and put 2nd and 3rd preferences in case your first choice is taken. The price includes full continental breakfast.

Room No	Type	Floor	Aspect	Occupancy	
				Single	Double
Moulin 1	Double, Shower, WC	1st	West Facing	n/a	£68.00 .....
Moulin 2	Double/ Twin, Bath, WC, Balcony	1st	East Facing	n/a	£68.00 .....
Moulin 3	Double, Shower, WC, Balcony	1st	East Facing	£45.00	£65.00 .....
Moulin 4	Double/ Twin, Bath, WC	1st	East Facing	n/a	£68.00 .....
Moulin 5	Double, Shower, WC, Patio	1st	West Facing	n/a	£72.00 .....
Moulin 6	Double/ Twin, Shower, WC	Ground	East Facing	£40.00	£55.00 .....
Moulin 7	Double / Twin, Bath, Bidet, WC	Ground	West Facing	n/a	£68.00 .....
Grange 1	Double, Bath, Bidet, WC	Ground	East Facing	n/a	£64.00 .....
Grange 2	Double/Twin, Shower, WC	Ground	Over Orchard	n/a	£64.00 .....
Grange 3	Double/Twin, Bath, Bidet, WC	1st	Over Orchard	n/a	£64.00 .....
Grange 4	Small Double, Bath, WC	1st	South facing	£40.00	£55.00 .....

## Evening Meals:

These will be taken in the Moulin. All will be of a high standard, and will feel like a large dinner party. However, we will require advanced notice of any special dietary needs. The cost of the 4 course meals including pre-dinner drink, wine and coffee is £23. If 6 meals prebooked, otherwise 28.00 Euros per meal.

Special Dietary Requirements: (e.g. Vegetarian, Vegan ) please specify: .....

## Buffet Lunch:

These can be provided each day between 1pm & 2pm. A sumptuous spread of various salads, quiche, cold meats, pate plus cheese, fruit. Cost 10 Euro.

## Travel:

**Air Travel:** We recommend you consult the internet for flight deals available. Ryan Air ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)) fly from Stansted, East Midlands, Liverpool, Glasgow & Dublin to Carcassone, Flybe ([www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)) fly from Birmingham, Bristol and Southampton to Toulouse. There are also others available. We can provide comprehensive directions from any port, please contact us when you know your travel arrangements. Taxis can be arranged from Toulouse or Carcassonne, but we recommend you to hire a car to be able to take advantage of seeing and visiting the attractions of the area. You can also take a train to Foix, a 20 minute pick up from the Moulin

**Ferries:** For those who wish to drive, we recommend you look at **LD Lines, Sea France or P & O Stenna** for cheap crossings. The driving time from Calais to Le Moulin is 9-10 hrs. by motorway with approx. 60 Euros tolls each way.

## Arrival and Departure:

The course commences 8.30 am on the Monday morning. We ask guests to arrive between 4pm & 6pm Sunday afternoon. The evening meal will be at 7.30 pm, with a complimentary Kir or Beer at 7.00pm. We anticipate guests will leave Saturday morning. However if you require accommodation on the preceding or following Saturday night, this may be available, if so please request, Prior ..... After.....

## Moulin Facilities:

The Moulin is set in 10 acres of private grounds that include, lawns, woods, orchards & flower-beds. It nestles beside 700 yds of the River Arize. A haven of birdlife and wild flowers, Kingfishers, Dippers, Treecreepers, Nuthatches, Golden Oriels are regular visitors along with a mixture of 4-legged friends. We have created a restful walk up to a cascade through sculpted natural flower beds. In front of the Moulin is a croquet lawn & boules pitch. Beside the large heated swimming pool are 8 sun loungers, a badminton court, table tennis table and a 10ft Chess Board. We also have 6 bikes with safety helmets available for our guests to emulate the tour de France that passes close by each year. Fortunately our valley is one of the flatter stretches. All rooms are appointed to a high standard, with their own private facilities. Hair dryers and pool towels are also provided.

## Attractions in the area:

Located mid way between Foix & St Girons, the Moulin is conveniently placed close to some of the most spectacular views of the Pyrenees & 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. In neighbouring Bastide de Serou there is an excellent Equestrian Centre, a 27 hole golf course, a recreational lake and Labouiche, the longest underground river trip in Europe. In Foix you can visit the spectacular castle and an equally impressive working museum of Craftsmanship. In St Girons it is worth visiting the market and the Bishop's Palace in neighbouring Ancient St Lizier, a former stop over resting place for the pilgrims on the way to Santiago di Compostella. 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 agree.

We hope to hear from you soon and welcome you to our Moulin.

Best Regards

*Nick & Fran Davidson*

Please visit [www.materette.com](http://www.materette.com) for more details and photographs.

# 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 friends who have come together in the same group. The morning session starts at 8.30 am till 12.30. Lunch is served at 13.00 and the afternoon session is from 14.00 to 18.00. The evening meal starts at 19.30 with complimentary pre-dinner drinks at 19.00

## Woodturning:

**Intermediate / Refresher and Advanced woodturning.** 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, Spindlework (like a baby's 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. Our instructors are **Jamie Wallwin, Ken Allan, Mick Hanbury 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.

## Friday Evening Exhibition:

At the end of each week we have an exhibition where all the work of both groups of turners and painters etc are put on show for everybody to see and marvel at what has been achieved in the week. It is amazing the different styles and designs that have been produced in 5 days. It provides an opportunity to swap ideas and inspire each other to continue when one gets home.

## Combination Courses:

The Combination courses have proved very popular, allowing one partner to Woodturn whilst the other learns to Paint, Photograph, Creative Write or do Textile Art. There is also a combination course in Painting and Creative Writing. After a stimulating morning the participants can then get together to enjoy the area or the excellent facilities of the Moulin.

## Painting: - Course 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 in Europe, USA, Canada and Australia. She has won numerous awards for her paintings.

Penny has exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Mall galleries and The Paris Salon. She has work in many private and public collections. She works in Water Colour, Oils, Acrylics and Pastels.

Penny has had wide teaching experience and sees 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, as well as 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."

### **Here are some comments from previous students:**

*"Penny manages to integrate basic methods alongside creative work. She delivers key messages subtly within the context of the course rather than with a sledgehammer. Consequently, I find that I learn a great deal by doing and being guided by Penny to think about why particular approaches work or don't work."*

*"As a very much hobbyist painter I am not always clear what my requirements are until I pick up a brush. However, Penny consistently manages to provide guidance and support without 'taking over'. This is why the course, in my experience, works so well."*

*"Penny is a sensitive and helpful tutor who allocates her time fairly amongst all her students."*

*"Penny uses her considerable talent as both artist and teacher to support her students and in doing so uses a generous dose of humour which makes for a very good all-round experience."*

## **Digital Photography with Julia Reid:**

Julia lives with her family in the Peak District, where she works as a freelance photographer. Photography has been her passion for as long as she can remember. She holds a BA (hons) degree in photography, is an Associate member of both the Royal Photographic Society, and the British Professional Photographers Association and is a Licentiate member of the British Institute of Professional Photographers. She has taken on various important commissions over the years including one for Eve magazine sponsored by Nikon Cameras, and a number of for Peak District National Park authority, but fortunately still finds some time to fit in a few courses which she enjoys doing. You can read more about Julia and see some of her work on [www.highpeakphotography.co.uk](http://www.highpeakphotography.co.uk) We are confident that she will be a great hit with our photography students.

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

- 1) Basic landscape composition techniques (rule of thirds, zoning, framing, perspective, creating depth in your photos, hyperfocal distance, use of filters).
- 2) Photographing water.
- 3) Selective focusing.
- 4) Reading histograms, file sizes, black and white techniques.
- 5) Basic Photoshop techniques.
- 6) Exposure.
- 7) 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. We will also provide a list of filters, what they do, their order of importance and cost, in case you may want to buy one or two before you come. However, Julia will have some you can try out, provided one of her array of adaptor rings suits your camera.

You will get the opportunity to photograph various subjects. Flowers and other features within the Moulin grounds, Landscape subjects in the spectacular Pyrénées. 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 photographing and end with a session in the studio to develop your photoshop skills and print out your favourite shots.

## **Creative Writing with Sharon Colback**

Sharon Colback has been in journalism and writing for the past 25 years and has worked on News papers in London, Hong Kong, India and South Africa, USA and elsewhere. Sharon continues to commute between South Africa, UK and rural France, where she works on newspaper articles, short stories and is currently polishing a book about the cooking and lives of the Great Mogul Emperors. She has been teaching Creative Writing successfully from her home in the Aveyron for the last 7 years (and continues to do so) but is excited about the prospect of also teaching at the Moulin, where writers partners can be equally enthralled by the other courses we offer, whilst enjoying the Moulin ambience. Anyone who wants to explore story telling will benefit from the course and will leave with a toolkit which will motivate them to continue writing with confidence.

Day 1 Rapid fire exercises to get you writing before you have a moment to wonder whether you can, you will be astonished what you will achieve. There is a structure, but a fluidity to each day's work and it begins on Day 1.

Day 2 How to bring a character alive, make them interesting. Draw from characters in our past, present, real or fictitious.

Day 3 How to create real sounding dialogue, what is its function and the difference between actual conversations and those we create for the page. You will learn various exercises that will make them more interesting.

Day 4 Establishing the difference between theme as opposed to plot or story and its importance. Throughout the week we shall have begun to gather material, characters, settings, story ideas for a piece of work to take away from the course.

Day 5) The day to produce a short finished piece of work, combining all the aspects of the previous days work

## **Textile Art with Sue Sercombe**

Sue Sercombe has taught Textile Art /Embroidery for 15 years in both colleges and privately. She teaches City & Guilds Creative Studies in Embroidery up to diploma Level, covering all aspects of the craft from basic design to dyeing, printing, batik, machine embroidery & hand stitching, textile jewellery and many more experimental techniques. Sue looks forward to passing on her skills in the inspirational atmosphere of the French Pyrenees. You will leave with a memorable piece from your Pyrenean experience.

Day 1 Establish the theme of your project, design, Choose a colour palette and prepare materials

Day 2 Prepare the background using sewing and embellishing machine, creating texture with the prepared fabrics etc

Day 3 Learn to whip stitch and cable stitch to create more texture. Add more layers to the project. Hand stitching and machine embroidery

Day 4. More stitch development of the wall hanging/panel etc. Discussion of finishing techniques and hanging mechanism.

Day 5 ) Complete all embellishing and stitching. Final show and tell for all students.

This five-session course will be suitable for all levels of ability. If your passion is for hand stitch only, then we can accommodate this. No previous experience of design and embroidery are required, as full instruction will be given. You will be allowed to work at your own pace. In the event that you don't finish the project, full instruction will be given for you to complete at leisure.