

UPHOLSTERY SKILLS CENTRE

WITH OVER A HUNDRED YEARS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Newsletter no. 7

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So many assessment pieces have been finished this month!

Here are just a few ...



NEWS ROUND UP

Another VIP coming to the Open Day

Have you got the Student Awards and Open Day on Saturday 21st July in your diaries? (10.30 to 1ish)

Family & friends, AMUSF certificate presentations, business sponsored prizes, the local MP ... and we are now delighted to announce that a livery member of The Furniture Makers' Company will also be attending!



Project with Warner Textile Archive

For past and present students—if you are interested in delving into the Archives and helping to reproduce a piece of furniture that was once on the Queen Mary Ocean Liner, please keep the morning of Tuesday 3rd July free.

More to follow!

Rent a Bench

There has been such a vibrant atmosphere next door with qualified and nearly qualified students benefiting so much, we would like to encourage more of you to join in! The idea is to create a cost effective workshop solution for you with the tutors around for extra reassurance and guidance.

You can rent a bench one day at a time (£20 + VAT), a week at a time (£85 + VAT) or in four week blocks (£55 per week).

SPECIALIST COURSES DIARY

June courses:

LEATHER REPAIR & RESTORATION Course

We're fitting in one more before the summer!

Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th June

Open to all

July courses:

ADVANCED MODERN UPHOLSTERY COURSE

Monday 9th — Friday 13th July (5 days)

Open to AMUSF students who have completed at least Stage 1 by July 2018.

Drawing on Paul's decades of upholstery experience, he builds on the AMUSF Qualification Courses to teach advanced skills and give you further insight into the commercial world of upholstery.

NEW SEWING COURSE on the horizon

Thank you to everyone who voted in our Facebook poll. As there is plenty of interest, we are now putting a course programme together.

Watch this space!

September courses:

TRADITIONAL FRENCH UPHOLSTERY COURSE

Did you see this article about Armand Verdier in the latest AMUSF magazine?

He will be running his 5 day course at the Skills Centre, week commencing Monday 17th September.

It is open to qualified and current AMUSF students who are on at least Stage 2 and will cost £345 + VAT.

You will learn how to traditionally upholster a 18th century French chair back.

Have a look at his Instagram where you can see photos of his course at British School of Upholstered Furniture www.instagram.com/armand_verdier/

This course is for 8 students only and will be booked on a first come first served basis.

Please contact Yvette if you would like to reserve a place.



**For further information on any of these initiatives or courses,
please email yvette@upholsteryskills.co.uk or phone us on 07721 909 838**

Spotlight on Past Students (& in this case, a tutor!)

This month we found out more about Charlie's trip to Austria.

Not only did Charlie (our Assistant Tutor at the Centre) win the Design Award at the Young Furniture Makers exhibition late last year but she also won Best in Show!

The prize for winning Best in Show was a two day trip to Dornbirn in Austria (close to the Swiss border) to visit the Blum factories and plants and enjoy a hair-raising toboggan run!

Last month she travelled to Austria with another competition winner, three members of the Young Furniture Makers and a number of employees from Blum who work in the UK.

Her first taste of Austria was goulash soup before starting their visits to some of the 8 plants scattered across the city. Each plant is huge like a Battersea Power station. Blum manufacture hinges and use millions of tonnes of steel —their soft



closing hinges comprise around 50 components.

Later that day they tobogganed down the mountain on traditional toboggans with no brakes, just feet. There were quite a few crashes and many bruises!

And then the next morning they visited more plants before flying home in the evening.

Charlie saw the automated production, testing facilities and manufacturing facilities. She also learnt about the intern programme that Blum run where they employ many local young people who are trained to be skilled engineers.

This experience also gave her a great opportunity to get to know members of the Young Furniture Makers charity and as a result of this, she has now been invited to join the YFM Committee who organise many activities, including a mentoring programme, young professional industry experience (a three week intensive programme where students visit various organisations within the industry) and the YFM exhibition at which she won the Best in Show.

By entering the competition a whole new network has been opened up, ranging from designers and makers on the day to the judges of the competition to learning more about the sponsors. And now, through the committee, she also has the opportunity to help shape the opportunities for young furniture makers.

Charlie's biggest tips to other students are—"Don't be afraid of asking questions, people want to help."

And "Say 'yes' to new opportunities, as you don't know where they might lead."

