

Building with Straw Bales Workshop at Fordhall Organic Farm 2018

We are offering straw bale experiences from August 6th until 31st August (and possibly the week after) for willing participants. Current available dates are:

Monday 6 August 2018: 4-day course

Monday 13 August 2018: 5-day course

Monday 20 August 2018: 4-day course

Tuesday 28 August: 4-day course

You will be taught and led by industry experts Huff and Puff Construction. You will get to learn all about straw wall construction including both load bearing and non-load bearing.

This construction includes:

- Round wood timber frame
- Car tyre foundations
- Shingle roof
- Straw bale load bearing walls (workshops)
- Straw bale non-load bearing walls (workshops)
- Clay render and plastering (September opportunities)
- Lime plastering

Cost:

The cost is £40 (incl £10 for food and drink) per day and we ideally need people to commit to full 4/5 days Monday-Friday. If you cannot make the full period, please contact us as there may be other spaces available, but these are likely to be towards the end of August.

If you have volunteered at Fordhall in the past, are under 21, a Fordhall shareholder or if you live locally and are in the receipt of benefits, we may be able to offer a fully subsidised place. Please get in touch with our office to check availability and eligibility.

What you need to bring:

- Steel toe capped boots or sturdy walking boots
- We will provide hard hats, but if you have one, please bring your own.
- Work clothes to keep you warm/cool and dry
- Hat and sun cream
- Work gloves (ideally they will protect you from the straw but still allow you to use your fingers)
- Water bottle
- Paper and pencil if you would like to make notes

Our team works 7.5hrs per day. This normally means 0830hrs for a 0900hrs start, with breaks at 1300-1330hrs for lunch, 1100-1115hrs and 1530-1545hrs for a tea break. We reserve the right to vary our presence and hours worked on any given day to best meet the needs of the project and the group.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided unless you have told us otherwise.

Length of volunteer involvement:

Four 4-day courses are available.

Due to the training required to learn to build well with the straw, we ideally need people who can do at least four days volunteering.

If people want to attend longer then so much the better. Any individual input less than four days will be directed towards the later straightening, compression, stuffing and trimming of the straw.

Age, ability and safety of volunteers:

Every participant will receive a full health and safety briefing before starting onsite.

This is an adult activity, best suited to people who are fit and able. We advocate a buddy system, so pairs (or threes) can help each other, learning and working together. In this way, for example, less able-bodied folk or young people, could work with assistance if they need it.

Example tasks:

Moving bales, selecting and preparing bales, splitting bales, sweeping and cleaning up, building bale walls, framing doors and windows, compressing straw, trimming straw.

Accommodation:

One porta cabin containing six bunkbeds will be available during the build, should you wish to stay on site. Camping facilities will also be made available. There is no charge for using either of these facilities but they do need to be booked in advance.

If you chose to stay onsite, you will need to bring with you a sleeping bag, torch and pillow. There are shower and toilet facilities onsite. More details will be provided for you at the time of booking.

A kitchen is provided for your use in the evening (catering not provided), should you wish to stay onsite overnight.

How to get here:

Please visit our website for details:

<https://www.fordhallfarm.com/find-us/>

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