

**A de-stress course with a difference
by Wild, Wet 'n Woolly**

Firm Foundations in Felt

A 9 week course of reflective felt-making

Starting Sept 2017

Felt-making is a beautifully free-flowing form of creative expression

Find your own felting style with this series of guided workshops

3 levels in 3 week blocks over 3 terms

Each level comprises

Plain

Textured

3D

Tuesdays 5.30-8.30

Equipment provided

Bring own towels

£7 per hour plus materials =

£63 per term plus materials

FIRM FOUNDATIONS IN FELT

This lovely course is a slow approach to learning a whole range of felt-making techniques and adapting them to suit YOU.

What's the rush? Slow your life down, create the space and choose a new way forward. Allow yourself important time-out to really enjoy a stress-free series of guided sessions that allow you to explore felt-making in a reflective manner over a period of time. The main 'goal' is to find out how felt-making suits you; your body's abilities, your personality, your lifestyle and your creative needs, so that you can have a happy, healthy and stress-free 'friend for life'.

This course will help you find the answers to some very important questions

Can you manage all stages of felt-making comfortably without strain on muscles or joints?

How much energy can you put into your felt-making?

Do you do big, bold and hearty, or discreet, sensitive and soft?

Do you have regular time to commit or just small pockets of stolen time?

Do you want to create 'felt art', functional objects, or do you just want to play?

Felt-making can be a fast, energetic activity using a lot of strength, or it can be a gentle, well-paced activity using a range of different movements that suit the individual. Neither approach is 'right'. My experience as both a felt-making teacher and a professional masseuse has shown me the importance of finding your own felting style in order to be able to sustain felt-making as a hobby, craft or full-time occupation without injury or a build-up of tension which becomes chronic and affects you in other areas of your life.

So this course is about just that. It's spread out over 3 terms so that neither you nor I feel the pressure of cramming a lot of new learning in to every single week of term. It also gives you time to play around and experiment more before the next set of guided sessions takes place. Also to carve out a dedicated time and space at home for yourself so that you can sustain your felt-making activities as regularly as you want. Adding a new activity into a busy life in a shared space can be the most challenging thing of all. So you are welcome to do some of your regular playing in my studio at first if it's difficult to get it off the ground at home all in one go.

Each week you will make something lovely and build on what you've learned the following week. Here's what we'll aim to cover together, and I'm sure you'll want to play around a lot outside of this too.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Optional week 4
	Producing flat felt the way you want it	Management of textured effects in felt	Creating 3D in felt	Freefall felt
Term 1 level 1	Flat v lumpy Thin v thick Straight v shaped Shrinkage Colour effects	Adding natural and synthetic decorations such as yarns, cotton, hessian, silks, curly fleece, and careful... slippery fibres! Controlling the felting process	Joining flat felt panels Shaping edges Making felt rolls and tassels Felting rolls and panels together	Using any of the skills learned to create something beautiful
Creation	Tiled panel or placemat	Textured picture or abstract	Decorative bag or pouch	
Term 2 level 2	Making and understanding the uses of Soft felt v Medium felt v Full felt	Adding other fabrics to create textural effects; e.g. silk, muslin, scrim Controlling pattern, shrinkage and shape	Felting around a lino template incorporating decorations from week 2	Using any of the skills learned to create something beautiful
Creation	Pre-felt multi depth picture	Scarf or wrap	3D bag	
Term 3 level 3	Joining felts; onlay and inlay techniques for different effects Molding felt to shape; felt balls, beads, rainbow buttons	Inclusions; how to attach, bury, reveal felted balls, beads, buttons Making craters, pleats, pockets	Lino template vessel, bowl or bag with 3D additions and inclusions Funky vessel or bowl	Using any of the skills learned to create something beautiful
Creation	Your choice	Your choice		

** After Level 1 **Creations** above are suggestions only. You may have other ideas...!

*** There may be some changes to the programme depending on how the group needs to evolve