

Course Information Sheet 2025/26

Learning for Pleasure Course

Course title:	Soft Furnishing and Upholstery		Code: LPR401X
Tutor:	Alicja Wygas		
Day & Time:	Thursday 10:00am -12:00pm		
Start & End Dates:	Term 1 25/09/25-23/10/25 06/11/25-27/11/25	Term 2	Term 3
Number of sessions:	9		
Venue:	Ramsbottom Library and Adult Learning Centre		Room No: Sheila Magnall and Lowry
Learner Numbers:	Minimum	Maximum	
	8	10	
Costs:	Full Fee	Discounted Fee	
	£142.38	£71.19	
Cost of Consumables	Learners will provide their own fabrics and materials for the project of their choice. There are limited materials available from the Bury Adult Learning Service stock; learners will cover the cost of materials used.		

What will I learn on this course?

This course is suitable for beginners as well as those who would like to extend their existing soft furnishing and upholstery skills further. The content of the course is learner led; individual learners usually choose to work on specific projects, which become their aim for the term or part of the term. Some projects could extend over the full academic year depending on their complexity. The tutor will introduce learners to the most current trends in soft furnishing and upholstery as well as how to use traditional methods. The class is very friendly; learners cooperate, encourage and support one another. Because there is a wide variety of projects taking place, learners have an opportunity to gain some new knowledge and observe skills used, which might encourage them to have a go themselves.

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Use sewing machines and overlockers confidently and safely.
- Use tools and equipment appropriate to the project you are working on safely and with confidence.
- Estimate the amount of fabric and materials relevant to the project you will elect to work on.
- Construct items of soft furnishings like blinds, curtains and cushions using different methods of construction.
- Restore and reupholster a piece of furniture including suspension systems, stuffing and top covers.

Additional information

Before you enrol on a course, advice and information is available to help you decide if this is the right course for you. Contact Learner Services on 0161 253 7501 or e-mail at learner.services@bury.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can get advice and information from Bury Adult Learning Centre on 0161 253 5772.

Tutor profile

I'm a fully qualified tutor with over 30 years of experience in teaching adults. I have been producing soft furnishings for over 40 years. Soft furnishings and upholstery are such an integral part of our homes and can make an incredible difference to our living environment. I love to help learners to construct pieces and to transform their own, and their families' homes by making sometimes simple but effective changes to windows, furniture and furnishings.

Every new re-upholstery project fills me with an anticipation. Very rarely, you come across two pieces, which are the same. I always learn something new along with the learners.

What will I need to provide myself?

You will need basic sewing kit containing needles, pins, scissors, rotary cutter if you have one, stitch ripper, selection of threads, some fabrics if you have any but do not worry, we will find you something to work with on the first session. You will be expected to provide your own materials for the projects you choose to work on.

Please also bring a pen and your glasses, if you need them.

Your tutor will discuss materials further at the first class.

Please check that the class is running before buying anything.

What could I do next?

Your tutor will be able to advise on the options available to you in their subject. If you would like to speak to someone about moving on, please ask your tutor to refer you to Learner Services or contact them directly on 0161 253 7501 or e-mail at

learner.services@bury.gov.uk .

Can I get extra help?

Support with English and Maths is available. For more information, please contact Learner Services on 0161 253 7501.

Extra support is available for those learners who have sensory, physical or cognitive impairments, neuro-divergent or with mental health conditions.

Help with paying for your course

You may be entitled to a reduced fee for your course if you claim a benefit. Please see the course guide or ask at the centre for more details. You will be asked to produce evidence on enrolment.

How to enrol

Phone: 0161 253 5772

Call into: Bury Adult Learning Centre, 18 Haymarket Street, Bury, BL9 0AQ

Please keep your copy of this information sheet. It will be useful throughout your course.