

Carpenters Fellowship Frame 2026

Course **CF03** “build your own **Shave horse**”

Includes materials for you to build and take away this versatile tool.

A **shave horse** is a sit on, foot-powered, quick-release vice used in green woodworking to securely hold wood while shaping it with a drawknife or spokeshave.

Slightly different versions are used for repetitive tasks including making Windsor chair parts, wooden spoons, tool handles, framing pegs, fencing, roof shingles and shakes, and trug laths, clamping the workpiece tightly with leg pressure while it is worked on.

- Each participant in the Shave Horse Workshop will have a slab for making a seat. This may be Ash, Sweet chestnut, softwood, Oak or Douglas fir. It will be shaped for comfort using a draw knife or spoke shave
- Each shave horse will have three or four legs For this we will perhaps use some coppice hazel or round ash logs, cleaving them to make tapered octagonal legs. These can be finished on the pole lathed and fitted to 1 ½” holes drilled into the slab seats.
- Depending on the intended use of the shave horse - we will discuss and make the appropriate clamping mechanism. A sloping board, support and either a nodding donkey design or a traditional cleft pole frame with spindles.

A “herd” of 3-legged saw horses.



Tutors: **John Russell** (et al) with a team of peg makers and **Rebecca (Becca) Tann** (using a not so traditional chain morticer) have a wealth of experience in working with “green” wood and will guide you through the making, using traditional tools which include a pole lathe for the round items. We will need about 50 oak pegs making for another course at Frame 2026



Two 4 legged horses from John’s workshop

