

Courses **Homes & Property**



Skill up: master upholstery at Les Tuileries (left) or head to the Judith Blacklock Flower School for courses on flower arranging, millinery and even jewellery making

Money savers

Winter is a great time to take a course and learn how to DIY, says **Barbara Chandler**

THE GOODLIFE CENTRE

What: DIY/ household maintenance, mosaics, wood carving, print making and so on. **Where:** 122 Webber Street, SE1 (020 7760 7613; thegoodlifecentre.co.uk). **Example:** 10-week DIY course, Thursday evenings (£295).

JOHN CULLEN LIGHTING

What: plan your own energy-saving scheme, with latest technology. **Where:** 561-563 King's Road, SW6; (020 7371 9000, johncullenlighting.co.uk). **Dates:** January 31 (£25); March 13 (£25).

LES TUILERIES

What: interior design, curtain-making, decorative painting and more. **Where:** Stoney Croft Farm, Reigate Road, Betchworth, Surrey (01306 888028; linteriordesign.co.uk). **Example:** interior design, March 28 (£125).

JUDITH BLACKLOCK FLOWER SCHOOL

What: flower arranging plus millinery and jewellery making. **Where:** 4/5 Kinnerton Place South, SW1; and New Covent Garden Flower Market School, SW8 (020 7235 6235; judithblacklock.com). **Example:** bridal master class, February 7 (£250).

LEITH'S SCHOOL OF FOOD AND WINE

What: dozens of cookery classes at all levels, from one day/ evening to professional diplomas. **Where:** 16-20 Wendell Road, W12 (020 8749 6400; leiths.com). **Example:** meringues/macaroons, January 24 (£130).



It's all about preparation: B&Q runs a vast number of DIY courses, from just £10

B&Q

What: a vast "you can do it" programme for beginners that tackles one job at a time – painting, papering, carpentry, plumbing and more. Half-price this month. **Where:** B&Q Sutton, and Gillingham (diy.com/youcandoitclasses). **Example:** wall fixings (shelves/mirrors) January 24 in Sutton, or flatpack furniture, January 20, Gillingham (£10).

STAUNCH & FLOW

What: four-hour course on basic plumbing hosted by director Richard Nissan **Where:** 211 Piccadilly, W1 (020 8964 6714; staunchandflow.co.uk). **Example:** Wednesday evenings, check website (£60).

THE INTERIOR DESIGN SCHOOL

What: new Saturday workshops for homeowners/budding designers.

Where: 22 Lonsdale Road, NW6 (020 7372 2811; theinteriordesignschool.co.uk). **Example:** inspirations/mood board, February 4, March 17 and May 12 (£138).

THE TEXTILE STUDIO

What: painting/printing on silk velvet and linen, plus batik; ceramic painting. **Where:** Stable 1, Godshill Wood Farm, Woodgreen Road, Godshill, Hampshire (01425 655 146; thetextilestudio.co.uk). **Example:** silk velvet painting, February 18-19, April 21-22 and May 9-20. One day (£90) or two days (£165).

ANNIE SLOAN

What: furniture painting (distressing, stencilling, waxing, gilding). Tutors trained by Annie Sloan, expert and author, using her much-loved Chalk Paints. **Where:** Phoenix on Golborne, 67 Golborne Road, W10 (020 8964 8123), and The Forest Bailiff, 36 Durham Road, Wimbledon, SW20 (020 8947 5115). **Example:** January 17 and 31 (£95) in W10; half-days January 18 (beginners) and January 21 (advanced), £95, in SW20.



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