



WIN A COURSE

Alasdair is offering Devon Life readers the chance to win a place on a one-day pole lathing course.

There are two places up for grabs. To enter just answer this question: What was the first piece of furniture Alasdair made?

Send your answer by email to competitions@devonlife.co.uk by midday on May 6 putting Little Acorns in the subject line and giving us your name, address and contact telephone number.

For full details of the pole lathing course check out the website: littleacornfurniture.com



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that relies solely on the power in the individual’s leg and arm.

“Everyone who comes to a workshop takes something they’ve made away and that’s the most important thing,” says Alasdair. “I try not to touch the wood. The courses are about me being there but not taking ownership of anything. I’m there to offer guidance and assist.”

For Alasdair, running the courses is a chance to educate people on the importance of trees, and share his knowledge and passion for what he does.

As well as Little Acorn Furniture, he is also a forestry contractor and conservationist.

“I’m planting around 25,000 trees for the Duchy of Cornwall and I’m doing all the aftercare for them. Everything I make is used from wood that grows within a few miles of where I live. I’m taking trees that aren’t

essential in the woodland and it’s improving the woodland habitat.”

The courses are as much about the living wood – the woodland in which the trees come – as the wood itself.

“I’ll never take a tree just to make something from it, there’s got to be another reason. If I take something it makes the place better not worse.

“We’re increasing people’s awareness of our native woodland; yes it looks pretty – but look what comes out of it. Little Acorn Furniture’s message is that what we’ve got is very fragile, very precious, and incredibly valuable – we can use it in the right way.”

And when it comes to problem-solving, the trees are not the only ones to hold wisdom within their roots.

“There’s a series of stages and it’s a metaphor for life,” says



Alasdair. “You do what you can in the initial stage of making something, whether it’s cutting out the shape or finding the tree and splitting it, then you stop and look at what it’s given you, and then you begin again from that point.

“There’s a new set of problems and a new challenge at every stage, and you’ve just got to overcome those problems. ‘Touch wood’ – I’ve always been able to find a way.” ♦

littleacornfurniture.com