

Lisa Downing - basket maker

Jon- Now you were telling me before you remember, I think during the Kermesse I think that there's a slight problem with snakes when you do your harvesting?

Lisa- Yes up in that top field ,

Jean- Wear your wellingtons

Lisa- Yeah, now we rename it 'the adder field'. Yeah, I always see snakes up there.

Jon- And do you have a special gift with these adders

Lisa- Oh yes of course, yes I'm a snake charmer. I call them to me I think. I think that's what it is – they just want.....

Jon- So do they know how to weave baskets as well?

Lisa- They don't. No, they don't. They don't get that close.

Jon- I'll just speak to your student. Now, Jean – is this a very easy course or do you have to concentrate all the time?

Jean – Um, concentration's required

Lisa –When? Not all the time

Jean- Not all the time.

Lisa This bit...

Jean The, uh, the course itself is fantastic

Jon- Right – Is it a day course for you?

Jean- Yeah. This is the second time I've been. First time was just a normal, round basket done with bramble. I have a thing about brambles. We're all growing them and I want to use them

Jon- We are. I can lend you lots, give you lots..

Jean (with Lisa)- I believe there will be a course nearer Christmas where we will forage here for holly, ivy, bramble, bay and we're going to make some wreaths....

Lisa Hedgerow Christmas wreaths..

Jean Christmas wreaths .

Jon- Oh, nice idea..

Jean- I'm definitely going to put my name down for that

Jon – So Lisa, do you actually prefer having workshops one- to-one or a crowd at a time..?

Jean – This is unusual.

Lisa This is a really unusual day... This is a special day for Jean

Jon- The normal kind of day is like when I caught you last week?

Lisa – Yeah... I only, I us....., that was the largest class I've had actually last week. I don't like.....

Jon- That was, what, half a dozen wasn't it?

Lisa- I find that's a lot .. I prefer to keep.. Four is my ideal. If I'm here I, I like to have four.

Jon- For a practical course I think that's probably best..

Lisa- Yeah, because if people get stuck I can't help everybody- people are sat waiting and I feel really bad because I don't wanna rush the person I'm helping but I don't want the other person sitting there for ages as well. (to Jean) A few more and then that's it. You can take it round to that side. That'd be good .

Jon- Who was your inspiration again?

Lisa – I met a man, weaving is... I've always liked weaving, doing sculptures and things. I'm very that way. When I've ever used to be in the UK back in.. before the Millenium I used to teach technology so I'm always very 'hands on', woodwork, metalwork and design – I used to do a lot of computer aided design and CNC work as well and electronics..

Jon- And C?

Lisa – CNC Computer numerically controlled work- there you are – so my brain is pretty wired into design. I look at things and I try and work out how, how it's made and what the design of that would be and, yeah... so.....

Jon- I'm the total opposite.

Lisa – And um my ex-husband used to say to me, he'd say 'I look at a cornflake box he says and I see a cornflakes box. You look at a cornflake box and you see a doll's house, you see a pot, you know, you see a million things that it could possibly be and to me it's just a cornflake box'

Jon – You can see how it's put together

Lisa- Yeah, that's the way my brain goes. I can think – what could you make out of that? How could you – which is what I'm trying to do with everything here really, is trying to work out what I can make out of stuff. At the moment I'm playing with hay...

