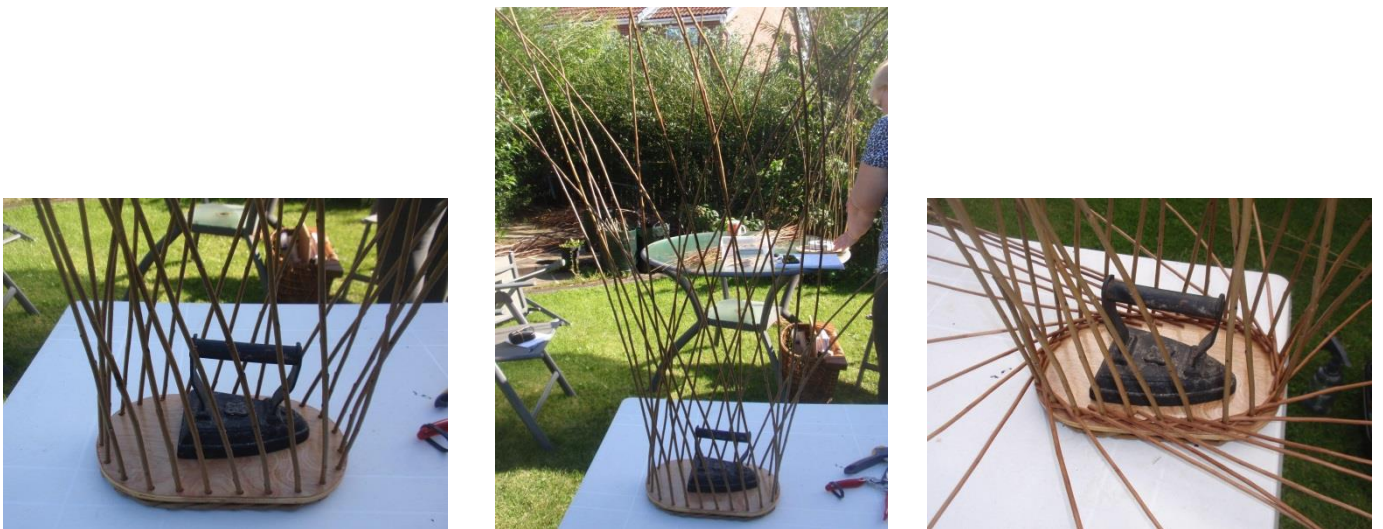


Swirl Basket. Lorraine Griffiths and Kevin Purdy.

Buff and brown willow is used for this basket. The brown willow has been soaked in water for four days and the buff willow for a day then they are mellowed for another day. This procedure makes the willow supple therefore making it flexible to work with.



A plywood base was cut and 24 6mm holes were drilled through at 15mm from the perimeter at equal distance apart and varnished and then allowed to dry. 24 No willow rods 6mm thick and 900 mm - 1200 mm long were selected for the uprights. Pushed through the base about 50mm and locked in around the next.



A weight was placed in the centre to make it more stable. A french rand is done first to about 75mm to start forming the sides (upstand). 24 willow weavers a little thinner than what was used for the uprights. Starting with the tips (the thinner end) weaving in front of one behind one with each weaver working towards the left of the basket until the butt end of the willow is left (the thick end) then insert another upright to each side opposite each other alongside an original rod (these are now classed as one when weaving) 24 no weavers once but this time starting with the butt end and finishing with the tips.



To secure the french rand a border known as a three rod wale. Working with two sets of three weavers at opposite side and starting with the butt end weave in front of two then behind one until you get to the end of the weaver. This has to be done with both sets of weavers at the same time and to make sure that each set of weavers do not catch up with the other set on the opposite side..



Now with the use of a bodkin bend the two uprights alongside the two that were inserted when weaving the upstand. With one of the bent upstands weave in and out until you get to the opposite side and then return to where you had started with it. Continue with the others from the same side leaving the last one to secure the handle later. Do the same with the rods to the other side of the basket. This forms the swirl to the side (upstand). Using the remainder rod, secure the 15 mm diameter willow handle to the basket through a hole that must be drilled through the handle.





Cut off all the ends of the weavers to the inside and out of the basket.



Some the tools used when making baskets, bodkins, knocking iron, knives, willow winders, pincers, secateurs weights, water bottle and wire.