

## A history of English furniture, 1500-1830

---

**Date** 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 **Time** 09:30 – 16.45

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Academic Director** Martin Beazor **Course code** 1516NDX015

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course, please contact** Clare Kerr, Public Programmes Coordinator  
01223 746237 [clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk)

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

---

### Tutor biography:

Martin Beazor is an antiques dealer and Managing Director of his long established family business, John Beazor Antiques in Cambridge. He took a BA Hons. in Economics and Social History from the University of Kent and followed this with a course at the Study Centre for Fine and Decorative Arts based at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

He joined the business in 1973 and began giving talks in 1977; his first course for the Institute of Continuing Education was in 1979 and he has averaged one course a year ever since. Martin covers the field of English furniture from 1500 to 1900, his speciality period being 1660-1830. His talks on the subject are based on time periods: 'Furniture of the 18th Century, designers and cabinet makers': the Works of Robert Adam' or a particular item: 'The History of the Chair'. Martin has also lectured for the University of California, NADFAS and many antiques clubs and societies. He endeavours to convey not only the facts but also the feel of this fascinating subject. Martin is a member of the British Antique Dealers' Association annual Fair a former sometime member of the Furniture Vetting Committee at the Association's Annual Fair; he is a Fellow of the RSA.

---

---

**Day school content:**

---

The course will cover the History of English Furniture from c1500 to c1830 providing a structure on which to build. The course discusses the woods principally used at any one time and the current styles and places this in a social and economic context. This is done chronologically, starting with basic oak furniture through to c1700, then moving on to walnut and the new skills of cabinet making and veneering. The introduction of mahogany in the 1730s heralded great change both in the style and quality of items produced. The late 18<sup>th</sup> century with satinwood and other exotic woods was a period of great refinement and sophistication, followed by the use of rosewood and different mahoganies and new stylistic interpretations and larger markets. The course aims also to develop students' skills in both the evaluation and appreciation of a piece of furniture, and some examples will be available to be handled.

---

**Programme:**

---

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Introduction/outline; how to read/evaluate furniture; features, colour and patination
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Oak and walnut
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Mahogany and satinwood
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Rosewood and handling of some examples of furniture
16:45	Day school ends

---

## Additional information

---

### Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

### Refreshments

Tea and coffee and a light sandwich lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on [ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746262.

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 02 March 2016