

Northern Isles Fibre Adventures

with Elizabeth Lovick

These trips are built for fibre fanatics, who want to visit the Northern Isles of Scotland, learn something of their fibre traditions.

Local folk are very welcome to join us!

The cost for each workshop is £300 per person.

including all materials etc, tea and coffee during the day and evening, use of The Harbour Master's House, computing and workshop facilities throughout the week.

Extras

Evening activities may incur an extra charge for materials, transport etc, and there may be optional visits which you can sign up to which will incur a further fee. Travelling companions are welcome to join us for these.

Food and Accommodation

Food (except coffee and teas) during the day is not included. See a separate file for more details.

If you are coming in from the isles etc and want local accommodation let me know – there are plenty of B&Bs in the village and across the island.

The Old Harbour Master's House

The house, built in about 1660, has recently been completely refurbished to the highest specifications.

Facilities include:

- a large library of knitting and spinning books
- a shelf of books about Orkney and Shetland, past and present
- 5 or 6 spinning wheels
- a (very) large collection of many types and sizes of spindle
- knitting needles of all makes and sizes, including Signature Arts
- three networked computer systems, all with internet access, plus WiFi throughout the house
- a huge stash of all types of fibre and yarn

Knitting classes will tend to happen downstairs and the **spinning wheels** are upstairs. There is a **seating area** upstairs so you can knit while others spin. There is a **toilet** on each floor.

Exact details of the workshop timetables are listed below. They will start on the Saturday evening with an introduction and decisions on who wants to do what when, and finish on the Friday evening. On 5 days there will be structured workshops while the sixth (probably the Wednesday, but weather dependent) will be free.

The Harbour Master's House will be available for you all day and in the evening, not only during the workshops. You will be able to come in and continue your work, browse the library, use the computers and WiFi etc.

Please note that all activities will be supervised by my Scottie and so the Adventures are not suitable for those with allergies to dogs. Sorry...

NIFA 2010 Dates

March Adventure

Focus: Traditional Knitting of the Northern Isles – lace, Fair Isle and ganseys

Main Week

Saturday 20th March to Friday 26th March

Class Content

Sunday – Knitting Ganseys, including techniques and a chance to try 5 ply wool

Monday – Knitting Fair Isle, including techniques such as stranding and steeking

Tuesday – Knitting Shetland lace, including charting and using fine yarns

Wednesday – free time

Thursday – Continuing Fair Isle, including looking at colour and design

Friday Shetland – Continuing Lace, including design

The exact content of the classes – for example, how much history and/or designing – will depend on what the students want.

Previous Experience needed:

You need to be comfortable with the basics of knitting – knit, purl, cast on, cast off, increase, decrease.

note I will be leading a spinning weekend on Shapinsay starting on Saturday, 26th – see the web site for more details.

April Adventure

Focus: General spinning and knitting with some dyeing – your choice

Saturday 17th April to Friday 26th April

Class Content

This will be totally up to you! As the number of people will be low, **everyone can concentrate on their own fibre fun**. I will be emailing you before the week to find out roughly the sort of things you might like to do, and we can make the final arrangements on the first evening. Because I have all my dyeing, spinning and knitting materials here you can also change your mind part way through!!

Experience knitters might like to plan and knit a bag or start a sweater or shawl. Or you might like to **start stranded work or lace** etc. You may like to **learn to spin** with a spindle or wheel, or to **try new fibres** (eg silk, bison, banana) or techniques (eg fine yarns or novelty yarns).

And there will be the chance to **dye your fibres** using Omega dyes.

Previous Experience needed:

This week is suitable for those who want to **learn to spin**, either with a wheel or a spindle. It is also suitable for those who want to try a **variety of traditional knitting techniques**, or to concentrate on one – say to design and start the knitting of a vest or shawl etc.

May Adventure

Focus: Fine Spinning and Lace Knitting Guest Tutor Margaret Peterson from Unst

Class Content

This week is a little different. **Margaret Peterson has agreed to come down from Shetland** to teach with me. She is well known as a spinner and knitter of fine Unst lace, having been taught by the famous Mary Jane Peterson!

You will be able to spend all your time spinning or all your time knitting, or some of each.

In the morning you will choose between **Spinning Wool Fine** OR **Knitting Shetland Lace**, and in the afternoons you will choose between **Spinning Luxury Fibres** OR **Designing your own Shetland Lace** scarf (or shawl).

Evening activities will include a session on **different lace traditions**.

Previous Experience needed:

For knitting, you need to be comfortable with the basics of knitting – knit, purl, cast on, cast off, increase, decrease – and have done some ‘yarn overs’.

For spinning, you need to be comfortable with controlling the wheel (or spindle) spinning wool.

You do not need to be an expert before you start!!

