

# *Northern Lace*

*by Elizabeth Lovick*

## **Carry on Spinning!**

***Not a new film, but a chance to start or improve your spinning skills!***

**Saturday and Sunday, 27th and 28th March 2010**  
***at Haughland House, Shapinsay, Orkney***



***All skill levels are welcome, and the sessions have been planned to accommodate both beginners and the more experienced. There will be wheels and spindles suitable for every ability, and you will be encouraged to move out of your comfort zone and try other fibres, other techniques and other types of spinning.***

### **Saturday, 27th March**

Those coming from Kirkwall will take the **09.45 ferry from Kirkwall** and be met in Balfour Village by Lesley and cars to take us the couple of miles to **Haughland House**. Over coffee we **meet the islanders on the course**, introduce ourselves and sort out exactly **who wants to do what**. Those with **some spinning experience** will be given a new fibre to play with while the **complete beginners** have a session on the basics of spindle spinning.

**Before lunch** we will take a look at **spun yarn** in detail, and talk about how you can **control the fibres** you are spinning. This is the base on which the rest of the weekend is built.



**After lunch beginners** will continue with their work trying different spindles and different types of wool preparation. The **more experienced** will decide what they want to concentrate on for the rest of the weekend – perhaps spinning fine yarns, spinning silk or alpaca – and we will look at **adjusting the wheels and other techniques** needed for that type of spinning.

## Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March

In the morning you will have the chance to work further on the skills you began yesterday.

At the same time, depending on what people want, there will be the opportunity to look at such things as **getting an old wheel working**, **assessing a fleece** and what to look for when buying fibre over the net.

By lunchtime you should be confident in what you have been doing so far – **so after lunch** you will change to **something different!!** If you have been spinning fine you will spin thick, slubby yarns. If you have been working with longer fibres you will try short ones. If you have been working on a spindle you will try a wheel. **Once again the idea is to get you out of your comfort zone and give you the skills which will allow you to carry on spinning on your own when you get home!**

## Evening sessions

*These are stand-alone sessions, not specifically designed to fit with the workshops!*

Saturday Evening 7.00 pm onwards

### Jewellery for Knitters (and Others!) – Part One

We will start off making **stitch markers** and **mobile phone charms**, and progress to a **book mark**. I will bring a selection of **charms and beads** and you will be able to **choose which you use**, to make totally unique items for yourself or for presents.

Sunday Evening 7.00 pm onwards

### Jewellery for Knitters (and Others!) – Part Two

Tonight we will **build on the skills learnt yesterday** to make a **charm bracelet**, a **beaded bag charm** or **ear rings**.



**Note that you do not have to come to both sessions**, but the **skills used at the first session** will form the **basis of what we do in the second**. Note, too, that there will be a **charge to cover materials**. Exact details at the time, but a pair of ear rings or a mobile phone charm will cost £1.00, a beaded book mark £2.00 and a charm bracelet between £3.00 and £5.00 depending on the number of beads and charms used.

## Materials

**You don't need to bring anything except a bag and a pencil!** Materials will be provided. However, if you have a **wheel or spindles** you want to use, do bring them along. Similarly, if you have **fibre you want to use** bring that along. You may also like to bring an **old tea towel** to cover your knee when spinning if you are using raw wool.

Contact **Lesely McKeown** ( [www.orkneyretreat.org.uk](http://www.orkneyretreat.org.uk) )  
for details of accommodation, cost and travel

Contact **Liz Lovick** ( [www.northernlace.co.uk](http://www.northernlace.co.uk) ) with questions about the programme.