

Amanda Hannaford

Handspinner & Dyer



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I have been spinning for almost forty years now, and dyeing for almost as long. I am a member of Somerset, Peter Tavy, Liskeard Spinners and the Online Guilds, all affiliated to the National Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.

I was awarded the National Association of Guilds' Certificates of Achievement in spinning and dyeing, and also have a Stage 1 City & Guilds 7307 teaching certificate. I have taught many Association Summer School classes since 2007 and have had work selected for several Association Exhibitions.

I can take up to four students at a time at home, and can cover basic, intermediate or advanced spinning, and natural or acid dyeing. I have also travelled around the country visiting larger groups and Guilds to give talks and workshops; and have delivered several virtual workshop via the Online Guild.

I have taught in the Netherlands, and also in Afghanistan and Tibet with the aid of a translator.

I have a varied programme of workshops and talks available for Guild and group bookings which I'm happy to present via Zoom, or other online platforms. A few examples are detailed below.



Teaching in Tibet

A richly illustrated talk giving a flavour of the Tibetan nomad culture that I encountered on my five week visit to the Tibetan plateau and the famous Labrang monastery. I was invited to teach Spinning and Dyeing in Chamtsee's new craft workshop. This can be combined with a woollen longdraw spinning demonstration, the ideal way to spin short fibres such a yak down.

Whorls Around the World

A look at the history of spinning, and in particular the many beautiful tools that were in everyday use before the invention of the spinning wheel. A talk illustrated with slides featuring my large collection of ancient whorls and spindles. This ties in very nicely with a spindle spinning demonstration, or spinning from the point on spindles, charkhas and great wheel.



Afghan Adventure

Another talk on travel with a spinning theme. This time my visit to Kabul for a fortnight to teach a group of Hazara ladies to card and spin cashmere. Again this would team up nicely with a woollen longdraw demonstration for easy spinning of down fibres.

MandaCrafts

Spinning & Dyeing Classes in Cornwall

Try a short course in
spinning or dyeing -
basic to advanced

Tuition tailored to suit
the individual or small
group

Varied programme of
talks and workshops
available for Guilds and
larger group bookings

Beginner Spinner Day

Starting with washed fleece, you will learn to card the wool into light and airy rolags ready to spin. Next I teach how to draft fibres and add twist to make yarn using a drop spindle. We then move on to setting up a spinning wheel and learning to treadle it.



You will then spin two half bobbins of yarn and learn how to ply them together for a balanced 2ply yarn. Bracelet plying is also covered along with yarn skeining and measuring. If you book one-to-one tuition you should leave at the end of the day with your first skein of yarn.

All fibre and use of equipment is included in the price, but if you have your own please bring it along. One day is usually enough to learn the basics; if you would like to include fleece sorting, washing and other fibre preparation methods, then you may need to add an extra half day.

Intermediate Spinners

Woollen v Worsted - Hand woolcombing to produce rovings for a super smooth worsted yarn; perfecting your hand carding to make light airy rolags for woollen longdraw spinning.

Further experiments with plying - Learn to chain ply to create a 3ply from one bobbin of singles, or try some of the more

straightforward fancy plies such as spiral, slub and seed.

Why not try other fibres or techniques?-

Such as silk (brick, caps, tops or noil) or another animal fibre, perhaps camel or alpaca; or explore all the wonderful blends that can be created by carding these fibres with wool. Learn to spin from the point on a Great Wheel, Charkha or support spindle.

Advanced Spinners

Spinning plant fibres such as cotton and flax, or maybe trying out some of the slightly more complex fancy plies, like bouclé, ringlet spiral, bullion or snarl.

One-day Dyeing Workshops

Natural dyes - three or four types of plant material are used with mordant and modifiers to produce a wide range of shades on wool (or other animal fibre), silk, nylon or any mixture of these.

Acid dyes - various techniques are covered, to produce a range of solid and multicolour effects on wool or silk, using fibre or yarn.

The Magic of Indigo - Learn to use this ancient dye with modern methods. Pull the fibre, yarn or fabric from the pot and watch it turn blue before your eyes!



Tuition Fees

As you can probably appreciate, the fewer people attending a course, the more individual attention I will be able to give to each student; therefore the a scale of charges below has been worked out accordingly.

<i>No. of students</i>	<i>Price each per day</i>	<i>Price each per hour</i>
1 Person	£90	£20
2 People	£80	£15
3 People	£65	£13
4 People	£50	£10

I can hold the courses in my home, or I am willing to travel to students living within a 25 - 30 mile radius of Truro (for full day courses). I will of course have to make an additional charge to cover my fuel costs in these cases.

Please note - the dyeing courses are full days only, as it is not practical to split this kind of tuition into smaller units. Also, for all full day courses (6 hours tuition) held in my home, refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.