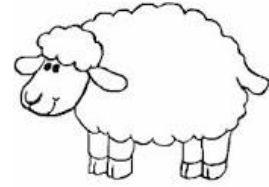


Thrushelton Church Wool Project



Thrushelton is a small church, tucked away in a peaceful spot just about a mile north of the village of Lewdown. You would be unlikely to go past unless you were actually going there, but it is a very special place, sometimes referred to as the 'farmer's church'. So when someone mentioned putting cushions on the pews, our minds turned to the immediate surroundings and we thought of sheep, wool and people.

To cut a long story short, with some help from lots of good friends, Thrushelton Church Wool Project was started.

Over two shearing seasons we have collected fleece from 25 different local farms and smallholdings. In total about 40 fleeces have been donated and these represent over 20 breeds of sheep - a fascinating variety!

We have organised several fleece washing sessions and also wool carding sessions. Quite early on we realised that the best part about our project was that anyone could participate regardless of any previous skills. So keeping this in mind, we abandoned the idea of cushions! Instead, with guidance from Janet Albrighton and encouragement from Val du Ross, we have learnt the locker hooking technique.

So far, with the combined effort of many people, 7 of the pews in the church now have beautiful woollen runners, ready to sit on. They have all been made by locker hooking, using the natural colours of the wool and they have individual designs reflecting the imagination of our team!

Altogether, at least 40 people of all ages have helped with our project or been involved at some level. So it is a true community project. At present there are at least another 10 runners under construction and more to come!



Left: Sylvia and Chloe Crocker from East Raddon B&B with their Jacob fleece.



Right: Drum carding in action.

