

Spirit of Sutterby

Drop Spinning Workshop

Saturday November 28th 2015



Denise gave the usual health and safety briefing and introduced the *Expert for the Day* Paul, who was going to instruct us in the art of drop spindle spinning.

Paul told us all about the preparing of the fleece before it was ready to spin, and how each breed of sheep's wool had different properties and could be used for many things.





After very clear and comprehensive instructions we were each given a drop spindle and some sheep's wool, and we were off spinning our first ply of wool, some quicker and more ably than others, some dropping the spindle and muttering about it going the wrong way.





All the time we were “spinning” if Paul was not giving us extra instruction or helping the less able, he told us about the history of spinning, the types of cloth and goods that came from wool, the development of spinning techniques, how different fleeces need different preparation, the pros and cons of using raw or unwashed fleeces.etc.





When using a drop spindle your end product is a single ply of wool and this can only be used in crochet work or embroidery, it must be twisted with other ply's to use for knitting. So once we had spun enough ply, Paul showed how, using the drop spindle again we could combine our ply into a usable hank of wool.





Paul using Denise's spun ply went on to make the "The Sutterby Hank" showing us all the method so we could follow suit and make our own hanks of wool with our efforts at the end of the day.



The Sutterby Hank of hand spun wool.
Who knows what it could go on to be
part of.





We all had an excellent and informative day, some people were able to carry on spinning wool quite happily while listening to Paul's talk at the same time, and even took some fleece home with them to carry on spinning or to show their grandchildren how to spin wool. Well done Paul and thank you very much for a fascinating talk and instruction.