

# Long Buckby Machine Knitters

**newsletter**

January  
2022



## From the Editor

Happy New Year to all our members and readers!  
Welcome to a short newsletter for January - reflecting the busy time I have had over December!



We start the year with the Covid situation in another precarious state but will keep meetings open as long as we are allowed to do so.

Our venue is large and airy, and we practise social distancing - at the current time, mask wearing is mandatory in the building, unless eating or drinking. We trust our members not to attend if they have symptoms or suspect they have Covid.

We will follow the published programme, as detailed below, but may make amendments if necessary, or if we receive special requests!

Lynda Fiendley

## Today's meeting

<b>10th Jan</b>	<b>Machine Knitting Forum – a chance to catch up on skills and friends!</b> Multiple rolling demonstrations, basic skills to more advanced, patterns, gadgets and garments. Also, software demonstrations. Bring your projects to show, work on or seek advice about
-----------------	--

Today's meeting will involve committee members in stocktaking! Which will mean that others can see what we have for sale and loan, including machines, accessories and yarn.

In addition, we will have problem-solving demonstrations: these can include software demos, which have been flagged up earlier; and a knitting clinic - please let us know beforehand if you wish us to demonstrate something specific [to enable adequate preparation].

## Future meetings

<b>LBMK calendar 2022</b>	<p>All meetings are from 2pm to 4pm, and doors are open from 1.30pm.</p> <p><b>Membership fee: annual £5, plus £3 for most meetings, £5 for those with visiting speaker [marked with ***]</b></p> <p><b>Guest fees: £5 most meetings, £7 for those with visiting speaker.</b></p> <p><b>Tea/coffee and biscuits included, please bring a cup, and take it with you for washing later [we are limiting use of the kitchen post-Covid]</b></p>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Modular Knitting</b> How to join knitting, merge other crafts with your knitting, add on edges with crochet etc.
<b>14<sup>th</sup> March***</b>	<b>Visiting Speaker – Claire Newberry</b> who will talk about her experiences as a knitwear designer, show her designs, and demonstrate some knitting machine techniques
<b>11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Machine Knitting Forum – a chance to catch up on skills and friends!</b> Multiple rolling demonstrations, basic skills to more advanced, patterns, gadgets and garments. Also, software demonstrations. Bring your projects to show, work on or seek advice about....
<b>9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Necklines – hoods, cowls, collars etc.</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> June***</b>	<b>Visiting Speaker: Erica Thomson</b> Erica will demonstrate how to use pressing to enhance your knitting
<b>11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Machine Knitting Forum – a chance to catch up on skills and friends!</b> Multiple rolling demonstrations, basic skills to more advanced, patterns, gadgets and garments. Also, software demonstrations. Bring your projects to show, work on or seek advice about
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b>Holding Position</b> How to use this simple technique for shaping and other effects.
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Edges [hems necks bands etc]</b> Demonstration of edging techniques on the knitting machine, and other ways to finish your knitting
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Machine Knitting Forum – a chance to catch up on skills and friends!</b> Multiple rolling demonstrations, basic skills to more advanced, patterns, gadgets and garments. Also, software demonstrations. Bring your projects to show, work on or seek advice about
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Maintenance.</b> DIY maintenance and tools
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>AGM/ COMPETITION, DISPLAY AND SALES. End of year celebration</b>

## A New Year of knitting

As we have no single demonstration or topic in today's programme, I am choosing to reflect on our machine knitting craft [and others].

In the run up to Christmas, I managed to knit my first MK garment for at least six months. My daughter in law had shrunk the jumper I made her some time ago and asked me for another. This forced my hand into action on the machine, which was good in a way. I did finish it, and it did not take me too long, but I realised that my eyesight is not really up to the finer points on the knitting machine in the winter light.

So I started to think about why I like knitting on the machine. I began a long time ago with a basic machine and loved its ability to produce fabric quickly. Despite many years of knitting shaped garments I think I still prefer that ability, and will focus on producing fabric for the next period of knitting.

This is partly because the Covid situation over the last two years has given me some incentive to hand knit [something to do in the evenings]. I am also doing lots of spinning, mostly with a drop spindle, and it is definitely more suited to hand knitting.

But I have bought a mid gauge LK150 machine, and will continue to experiment with that and hand spun yarn. In addition, I have revived the Zippy 90 [LK100] machine that was in the club cupboard - it is a chunky gauge, but a very basic machine. The great advantage of it is the ease of set up, and it also fits into my i10 boot, which is somewhat of a miracle. The following YouTube video gives viewers some idea of its scope [Knitmaster LK100, Zippy 90 Set Up/ Review - YouTube](#)

This machine is available for hire from the club, but I will keep it at my house, so if anyone wants to borrow it, let me know.

## Our committee member, Jacqui [technician], has also been reflecting on her machine knitting:

I've been hand knitting and crocheting since I was 5. Taught by my mother and older sister who were both into crafts with the addition of sewing and embroidery.

I started knitting with a machine when I was 18. I'd just left school and started my first job. I needed some new sweaters quite quickly so bought an old Jones machine very cheaply. I was soon knitting away and making basic sweaters and cardigans for myself. No ribber, so mock rib and hems all the way. I loved the speed. My mother then got interested and I sold her the Jones and bought a punchcard Knitmaster. I was thoroughly hooked.

I continued knitting for a few years. I wanted to make lace patterns so gave my mother my Knitmaster (they didn't have Knitmaster lace carriages then) and I bought a Brother KH881. Lots of new possibilities with lace patterns!

I got married a few years later, had two daughters, made them sweaters and dresses and all sorts, then sold all my machine knitting equipment when I started working full time again. Fast forward 30 years. When I retired I bought another KH881 from a charity shop. It had a ribber and lots of accessories, all for £40. This was before they started selling on eBay. I got a Brother 950i on Freecycle because the lady was also given it on Freecycle and couldn't use it. I now also have a Singer Style 2 chunky machine, a Brother KH910 and a Bond. Latest machine bought last summer is a Passap Duomatic.

The rest is history. I collected a lot of machines, bought them at auctions, taught myself to strip them down (my father and brother were engineers), cleaned them up and sold them on. I'm still doing that to this day alongside actual knitting. I enjoy both the technical side and the craft side. I find it very satisfying to take a dirty non working machine, bring it back to good working order and use it to make things.

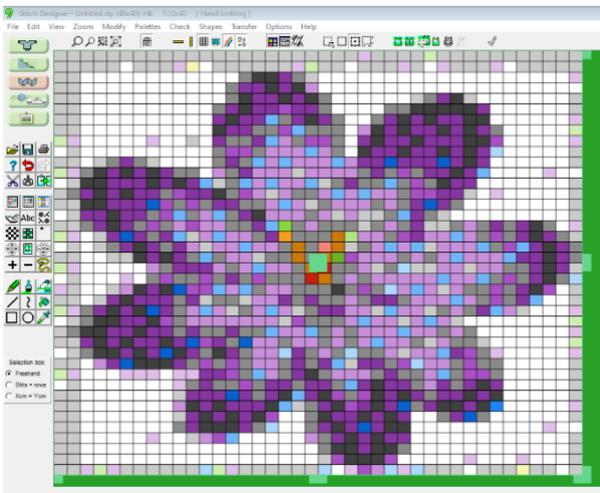
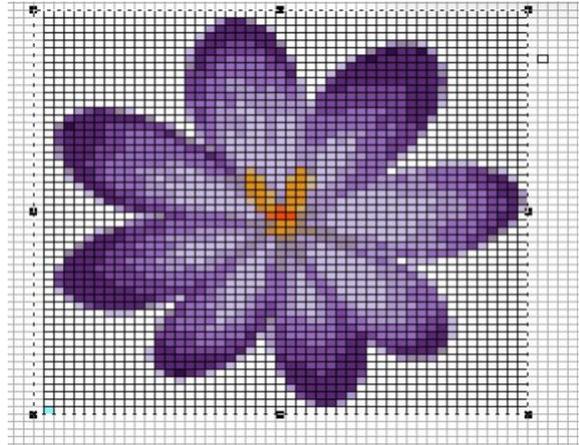
What do I make? Sweaters, cardigans, jackets, socks, lots of socks, bags, a laptop cover, baby blankets.

## Messing about with stitch patterns



On the subject of software, I have used two programs to generate stitch patterns: my original picture was of a crocus [a free clipart picture from [Crocus clipart 20 free Cliparts | Download images on Clipground 2022](#)

I used Stitch Painter [Cochenille Design Studio] to convert the original to stitches:



And I also used Designaknit9 to import into the Graphics Studio and convert to stitches - I had to specify hand knit, because of the number of colours.

I have used different stitch gauges so the comparison is tenuous, but still interesting, I think.

### Some free garment patterns I have seen....

[Ravelry: 'Esther' shrug-top jumper pattern by Carolyn James](#)

Which is an interesting take on sideways knitting, with a shape which would probably not suit me, but is worth a look

[Ravelry: Standard Gauge Lace Yoke Top pattern by Irene Woods](#)

This one looks like a good pattern for a spring/summer top - one I may well try

[Ravelry: Standard Gauge Fair Isle Yoke Pullover pattern by Irene Woods](#)

And another which is not for me, but for those who fancy knitting a circular yoke Fair Isle pullover

## Suppliers

These are still operating an online supply

[www.wools.co.uk](http://www.wools.co.uk) - Uppingham Yarns

<https://yeoman-yarns.co.uk/> Yeoman Yarns

<https://www.yarnoncone.co.uk> Yarn on Cone

<https://woolyknit.com> Woolyknit

and this one deals in recycled fibres <https://www.iinouiiio.com/>

## Other information

Sally Butcher has a [Kalamunda Crafts](#) page on Facebook. Sally is an inspiring machine knitter, with lots of ideas and videos to keep you busy! And now she has her own YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDxy6pQHAs4gd5XBztYWmw>

which is well worth a visit. Well done, Sally, a marvellous resource.

<http://handymachineknitting.libsyn.com> is a regular podcast

<http://knitwords.blogspot.com/> is a blog

### And Finally

I would like to involve others in this newsletter, so please let me know of anything I can include

[Administrator@longbuckbymk.com](mailto:Administrator@longbuckbymk.com) is my club email address.