

# Long Buckby Machine Knitters

## Newsletter

October  
2022



## From the Editor



Welcome to our October edition.

This meeting will be in an 'open forum' format, which could mean a variety of events. We plan some of it, but it does depend on members' needs/wants.

We are hoping to put forward a few ideas for using the yarn we have on sale, and to demonstrate techniques we have introduced this year.

Please come to the meeting if you can!



We do also still have our bumper yarn sale!

**As ever, please bring your own work to show and tell, or work on during the meeting.**

Lynda Fiendley

## Future meetings

<b>LBMK calendar 2022</b>	<b>All meetings are from 2pm to 4pm, and doors are open from 1.30pm. Membership fee: annual £5, plus £3 for most meetings, £5 for those with visiting speaker [marked with ***] Guest fees: £5 most meetings, £7 for those with visiting speaker. 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>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>14th Nov</b>	<b>Maintenance.</b> DIY maintenance and tools
<b>12th Dec</b>	<b>AGM/ COMPETITION, DISPLAY AND SALES.</b> End of year celebration

## Yarns with a twist

Today's meeting is focused on our yarn for sale, and what it could be used for.

Most of the yarn is coned and fine, from various fibres. It can, of course, be used as is, probably on standard gauge machines.

But we have investigated ways of combining yarns, starting with a reprint of an experiment Pat tried a few years ago:

### An investigation into yarn twisting by Pat Banyard-Smith



Pat decided to make samples of different ways of twisting yarns together for machine knitting. She used the following methods, and you can see the results alongside her description of what she did:



Knitting 3 strands together from cones standing on the floor [without twisting]



Using a Daruma yarn twister to twist 3 strands before knitting/ two samples



Using a Twisting Yarn Stack as sold by Hague



And winding the 3 strands together without twisting, then knitting

It is quite interesting to see the difference between the samples



## More experimentation with Lynda

I have used machine knitting yarns in hand knitting since I returned to knitting about 25 years ago. I found it hard to get yarn, so combined different shades of 4 ply mk yarn, usually double stranded. Hand knitting is a bit better at merging the strands, but there is still a random effect.

I have now been spinning yarn for about ten years and decided to try spinning some of our coned yarn to make multicoloured thicker yarns.

One thing I bore in mind was that, as soon as you add twist to yarn, you are changing it from a balanced yarn to one which may bias when knitted. So I decided to twist two strands together one way (clockwise) then ply them with two more similarly spun strands (anti-clockwise). This should make a well combined and balanced yarn, with 4 strands of the original.

If you want further [and better] explanations of this, try these links - the second two are especially interesting. I have found that when you take yarn from a cone, you will get a slight twist and therefore imbalance, but, apparently, with a centre pull ball, the twist is in a different direction from the centre rather than the outside. The amount of twist varies too.

<https://creative-threads.co.uk/twist-and-ply/>

<https://www.moderndailyknitting.com/2019/01/02/picking-and-grinning-how-your-knitting-style-affects-gauge-and-fabric/>

<https://www.moderndailyknitting.com/2019/05/10/twist-part-2/>

<https://www.moderndailyknitting.com/2016/10/14/biased-skewed-bent-shape-yes/> is an article in praise of bias

<https://youtu.be/pE7T3DTj3S0> is a video of making a twisted cable, which is essentially the same process on a smaller scale.



I will also add that my handspun yarn often biases, as I am a less than perfect spinner, but I am happy with it! This (left) is my current project with it (the sleeve of a jumper) and the stitches are not regular, partly because it is a mixture of merino and silk, and partly because of over plying, causing bias. But I like the rough look.

This is how I got on with the twisting:



These are the yarns I used. I was twisting two together in the first spin, then two more, and finally plied them together to make a four stranded yarn.

This is how my first spin looked on the wheel - I did wonder if the yarn was twisted properly, as it did not look right, but it was very well twisted.

I changed the yarn colour occasionally, and knotted the single

strands on, which I would reconsider if I were repeating this. I think I overdid the colour changes too!



These two bobbins are ready for plying. I was not sure how much I had on each bobbin, or if the yarn was distributed evenly. It was not, I had to 'ply' the last few metres against unspun yarn, which would then have a twist and bias.

This is the yarn in its finished state [50g]. It is well balanced, apart from the few metres mentioned above, and I knitted a little [below] on 4mm needles - I am pretty sure it is standard DK weight. The colours are distributed evenly, but I think I have overdone the mixing!



On the one hand, this is an excellent way to produce a well twisted and balanced yarn, and it is easy to knit with. On the other, it took over an hour to 'make' 50g, which would be worthwhile only if I wanted this specific yarn.

I did try again and timed myself. It took me about two hours to make 65g, but I was able to listen to music and relax while spinning, so it was a good use of time! I reduced the number of yarn changes, which was better too.

This is how it knitted on the LK150, tension 3 (left). It was easy to knit with, and I'm sure would knit well on standard gauge, too. I'm not sure how even the colour changes are, a bit random, which was surprising.

I think I might use this technique for a garment in the future, but it will take a bit of forward thinking and preparation.





## The Future

Calendar 2023 - draft for discussion - see below

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<b>Date [all Mon]</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>9th Jan</b>	<b>Colour theory: presentation/ ideas for combining colours/ demo of knitting techniques etc</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<p><b>Machine Knitting Forum – a chance to catch up on skills and friends!</b></p> <p>Multiple rolling demonstrations, basic skills to more advanced, patterns, gadgets and garments. Also, software demonstrations.</p> <p>Bring your projects to show, work on or seek advice about <b>demo colour changing/ weaving</b></p>
<b>13th March***</b>	<b>Visiting Speaker – Alison Dupernex – see below</b>
<b>17th April</b>	Plating and Weaving <b>date change because Easter Monday is 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>8th May</b>	<b>Machine Knitting Forum – a chance to catch up on skills and friends!</b>
<b>12th June</b>	<b>Fair Isle techniques</b>
<b>10th July</b>	Knitting for babies and children
<b>14th Aug</b>	<b>Machine Knitting Forum – a chance to catch up on skills and friends!</b>
<b>11th Sept ***</b>	<b>Claire Newberry</b>
<b>19th Oct</b>	<b>Squares – see below</b>
<b>13th Nov</b>	<b>Accessories/Yokes/ hand tooling</b>
<b>11th Dec</b>	<b>AGM/ COMPETITION, DISPLAY AND SALES.      End of year celebration</b>





**welcome**

**Alison Dupernex**

**Textile Designer**

**[aliscndupernex.co.uk](http://aliscndupernex.co.uk)**

**On**

**Monday, 13th March 2023**

**At Long Buckby Community Centre**

41 Station Road  
Long Buckby  
NN6 7QB

Doors open at 12.30—Bring your own lunch - tea/coffee provided

Talk will be from 2-4

Entrance cost: members £5, guests £7

Advance tickets not necessary, but please let us know if you intend to come, so that we can prepare well - email: [chairman@longbuckbymk.com](mailto:chairman@longbuckbymk.com)



## More ideas



## Squares

Mary made this suggestion after the last meeting:

Seeing the work yesterday prompted an idea that I mentioned very briefly to Lynda. The idea would be for club members to hand knit, machine knit or crochet a square measuring 20cm x 20cm each month, if they wanted to. The number of squares would accumulate during the year and at the October meeting everyone could sit down together and sew the squares together so that they form a large blanket. The blanket could then be donated for Christmas to a local children's hospital, a care home, or similar charity/place where it could be used.

There would be no pressure whatsoever on members to have to make a square, however hopefully members would look at each other's work each month and be inspired to create their own square. It would also be a suitable task for anyone of any level of skill; a complete beginner might simply machine knit a square using stocking stitch, while other more accomplished users might use different patterns or colour designs to create a square. Such a project could also help to inspire creativity and give members something to work on each month without being too technical or demanding.

There would be no restriction on colours or yarns used which would allow for a vibrant, assortment of squares which would make a uniquely coloured and textured blanket. Plying club yarn together could be a great way of incorporating some of it into the project too.

## Members survey

We would like to ask for your input, either in person at the October meeting, or by email if you cannot make it to the meeting.

### Questionnaire

1. Is the draft calendar of interest to you, and would you like to see any changes?
2. Are you happy with the current meeting formats:
  - a. Presentation/demonstration by club members i.e., Pat and Lynda
  - b. Forum/ open meetings
  - c. Visiting speakers
3. Can you suggest any topics/skills/ideas for our meetings?
4. Do you think we should have a monthly show and tell - i.e., a formal slot for it?
5. Would you like a revival of our annual competition?
6. Would you like a raffle to be held at the March meeting?
7. Any other ideas?



## Internet links you might like

<http://creativemachineknitting.blogspot.com/>

Vikki Haffenden's site with some interesting tips

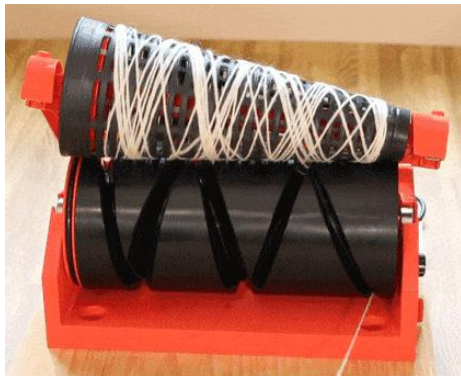
<https://www.crowood.com/products/creative-machine-knitting-by-alison-dupernex> information about our March speaker's book

[https://alessandrina.com/2022/09/13/pretend-mock-cables-4/?fbclid=IwAR3Qt0IwfUaCMrYodWM9mrMfM2D0TigC\\_dk\\_rWWYzfLyPb96d1hPoLKB2FE](https://alessandrina.com/2022/09/13/pretend-mock-cables-4/?fbclid=IwAR3Qt0IwfUaCMrYodWM9mrMfM2D0TigC_dk_rWWYzfLyPb96d1hPoLKB2FE) this site is full of ideas and tips; this page is about cables and has mock cables made with tuck stitch.

And this one is a bit different...

I have bought two items from this man connected with spinning - an e spinner and a yarn meter, both via Kickstart. They took a while to come but were both well made and good value. He uses modern technology to innovate in such products. And this time he has chosen to make an electric cone winder, which looks great, and certainly tempts me.

[EEW Cone Winder by Maurice Ribble — Kickstarter](#)



It is not cheap, but I think it is probably good value.

Like his other products, it ships from the USA, and you may have to pay customs on top, but I had no real issues with the other items, and the support is good. Worth a look, I think.

Even if you don't want to buy one, he has information about cones which is interesting, and a suggestion about 3d printing of cone bases, which might be of use.

**For sale** - A pristine knitting machine bundle.

After machine knitting for almost 40 years, I treated myself to a brand new machine, ribber and lace carriage only a few years ago.

I have now decided reluctantly to sell as I need the room for my other crafts.

This machine has hardly been used and is in immaculate condition.

I have all the original packaging.

All these items were purchased from new.

SK840 Knitting machine (standard gauge electronic)

SRP60N Ribber.

580 Lace Carriage (never used)

AG24 Intarsia Carriage (never used)

Silverlink 5

Curly cable.

collection is preferred (Staffordshire).

£1295 (pounds sterling)

Contact Angela on 01889 585525, 07818 093204, angelrevell5@hotmail.com



## 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

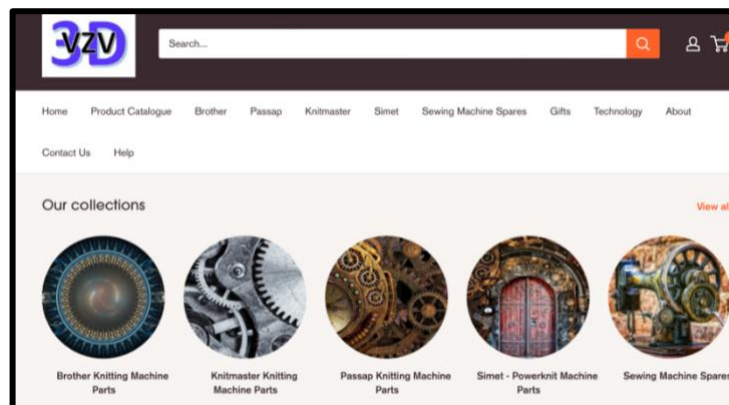
<https://www.yarnoncone.co.uk> Yarn on Cone

<https://woolyknit.com> Woolyknit

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

For 3d printed  
try

<https://vzv3d.com/>



parts

## 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.