

Long Buckby Machine Knitters

Newsletter



March 2025

From the Editor



Welcome to our March newsletter.

This month's meeting is a longer one, with Bill King as our special guest - details below on the flyer

The community centre now has a policy of keeping the doors locked, and has a doorbell at the entrance for users to alert the group inside so that they can let people in. Our meetings take place in the Upper Hall, and there is a doorbell labelled as such, on left side of the door.

In May we have an extra meeting, on the 19th, which is a sew-along session on overlocking. Members who would like to attend should note that:

- If you bring electrical equipment to the meeting, it needs to be PAT certified - we have arranged for this at the May 12th meeting - you need to bring your overlocker power lead to be checked.
- We would like to know who is coming - please let us know if you wish to attend.
- The session is between 10.30-16.30 on May 19th and will be an informal one - we hope to assist each other with techniques. There will be some printed information available at the session.
- The cost is yet to be determined - it depends on numbers but will not be over £10 [to pay for the room]

There is an interesting article to read [here](#), which explores the differences between coned and skeined yarn.

And [here](#) is a link to a site for punchcards. It is in Russian, but you can get your search engine to translate.

Lynda
[and Pat]

Contacts:

Lynda administrator@longbuckbymk.com

Pat chairman@longbuckbymk.com

Calendar 2025

LBMK calendar 2025	<p>All meetings are from 2pm to 4pm, [except where stated] and doors are open from 1.30pm.</p> <p>Membership fee: annual £5, plus £3 for most meetings, £5 for those with visiting speaker [marked with ***]</p> <p>Guest fees: £5 most meetings, £7 for those with visiting speaker.</p> <p>Tea/coffee and biscuits included</p>
Date [all Mon]	Topic
13th Jan	Felting
10 th Feb	Machine Knitting Forum - buttons + knitting to fit
10th March***	Bill King basic cards/jacquard/brioche/lace + taster sessions in Dorset buttons, drop spindle spinning, crochet bunting, jewellery making, raglan top down + bring and buy 11.00-16.00
14th April	Cut and sew, inc projector cutting
12th May	Machine Knitting Forum - crochet/ hk /mk borders
19 th May	Overlocker group sew – bring your machine and share the experience – 10.30-14.30
9th June***	Erica Thomson - embellishment
14th July	Finishing – edges, seams , steaming
11th Aug	Machine Knitting Forum – crochet/hk/mk embellishments e.g. flowers
8th Sept ***	Claire Newberry – design process
13 th Oct	Making patterns from different sources – HK patterns/dressmaking patterns/existing garments
10th Nov	Machine Knitting Forum – wire knitting
8th Dec	AGM/ COMPETITION, DISPLAY AND SALES. End of year celebration

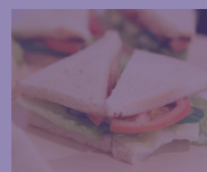
Long Buckby Machine Knitters present

**Monday,
March 10th
2025
11-4
Long
Buckby
Community
Centre
NN6 7QB**



**Tea and coffee
provided**

**Bring your own
lunch**



**Find our
website
via the
QR code**

Bill King

showing machine knitting skills, including:
Basic card tricks

Double jacquard with manipulation

Brioche - true on ribber/ mock on single bed

Lace and lacy stitches

Members £5

Visitors £7

Pay on door

**please let us know
you are coming at**

**chairman@
longbuckbymk.com**

Timetable

11-11.15 registration

**11.15-12.45 taster
sessions**

**12.45-13.15 lunch
and bring and buy
stall**

**13.15-13.45 fashion
show [bring yours to
show and tell]**

14.00

Bill King

Taster sessions:

making-

buttons

bunting

jewellery

spindle spinning

top down raglan

or

bring your own work

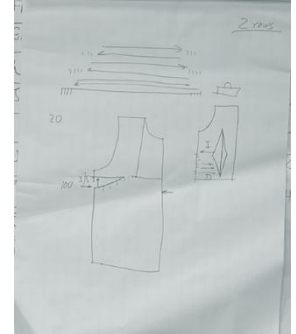
Last Month

We had a forum style meeting, with informal demonstrations.



Lola started with a presentation about using darts and short row shaping to fit rounded body parts.

We then had a short introduction to plating on the machine, followed by Kath showing how darts could also be formed using slip stitch to shape them.



I have been experimenting with CoPilot, the Word version of AI. This is what it came up with for plating - I have edited it a little:

During the session, I elaborated on the technique of plating on the knitting machine, which involves feeding two different yarns simultaneously, creating a fabric where each side has a different appearance. This method can be used to achieve unique textures and colour effects, offering knitters a vast array of creative possibilities. I demonstrated how to properly set up the machine for plating, including adjusting tension and selecting appropriate yarns.

We didn't really get time for the planned Dorset button making, but I include the links from last month for those who would like to try it.

[plating knitting machine - YouTube](#) this search comes up with several videos which show plating, mainly on a Brother machine.

1. Dorset Button making

<https://youtu.be/-VU4-Esyobc?si=98Gr5UF1ejHN6kD7> for an introduction into how to make them

<https://henrysbuttons.co.uk/uploads/5/9/3/7/59371639/dorsetcartwheelbutton-2021.pdf> For a worksheet

And <http://www.potterwrightandwebb.co.uk/how-to/how-to-make-a-yorkshire-button> For a Yorkshire button worksheet

Again, I tried this out with Copilot, and it came up with this:

How to Make a Dorset Button

A Step-by-Step Guide

The Dorset button is a charming, traditional handmade button that originated in the county of Dorset, England, during the 17th century. These buttons were initially made from discarded sheep horn rings and leftover yarn, which were carefully woven into intricate designs. Today, Dorset buttons are a delightful craft that can be used for various decorative purposes, from adorning garments to enhancing home décor. Below is a comprehensive guide on how to make your own Dorset button.

Materials You Will Need

- Ring: You can use plastic, metal, or wooden rings. Curtain rings often work well for this purpose.
- Needle: A tapestry needle is ideal due to its blunt tip and large eye.
- Thread or Yarn: Choose a strong thread or yarn in the colour of your choice. Embroidery floss, wool, or cotton yarn are all good options.
- Scissors: To cut your thread or yarn.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Prepare the Ring

Begin by cutting a length of thread or yarn, approximately 18-24 inches, depending on the size of your ring. Thread your needle and tie a knot at the end of the thread. Pass the thread around the ring, securing it with a few knots to ensure it stays in place.

2. Blanket Stitch Around the Ring

Start covering the ring with blanket stitches. To do this, bring your needle up through the centre of the ring, pass it over the outer edge, and bring it back through the centre again. Pull the thread tight and continue this process around

the entire ring. Ensure the stitches are evenly spaced and snug against one another.

3. Create the Spokes

Once the ring is completely covered, it's time to create the spokes. These are the threads that run across the diameter of the ring and form the foundation for the weaving. Divide the ring into segments by wrapping the thread from one side to the opposite side, passing through the centre each time. Aim for an even number of spokes, typically six or eight, but you can choose more or fewer depending on your design preference.

4. Begin Weaving

With the spokes in place, you can start weaving. Bring your needle up through the centre of the ring and weave over and under each spoke in a circular pattern. Continue weaving, ensuring that the threads are pulled tight, and the design remains uniform. As you progress, push the threads towards the outer edge of the ring to keep the weaving tight and compact.

5. Fill in the Centre

Continue weaving until you reach the centre of the ring. At this point, you can either finish off the weaving by tying a secure knot at the back or add additional decorative elements, such as French knots or beads, to enhance the design.

6. Secure the Threads

To secure the threads, pass the needle through the back of the weaving several times, making sure the stitches are tight and secure. Cut off any excess thread or yarn.

Tips and Variations

- Experiment with Colours: Use different colours of thread or yarn to create vibrant and unique designs.
- Try Different Patterns: You can create various patterns by varying the number of spokes and weaving techniques.
- Incorporate Embellishments: Add beads, sequins, or other small decorations to make your Dorset buttons stand out.
- Adjust Ring Sizes: Use rings of different sizes to create buttons suitable for various projects.

Applications of Dorset Buttons

Dorset buttons are incredibly versatile and can be used in numerous ways:

- Garments: Use them as functional or decorative buttons on clothing, such as cardigans, jackets, and dresses.

- Accessories: Incorporate them into accessories like hats, scarves, and bags.
- Home Décor: Add them to cushions, curtains, and other home décor items for a personalized touch.
- Jewellery: Create unique pieces of jewellery, such as earrings, necklaces, and brooches.

Conclusion

Making Dorset buttons is a delightful and rewarding craft that offers endless possibilities for creativity. Whether you are a seasoned crafter or a beginner, the process of making these buttons is both meditative and enjoyable. By following the steps outlined in this guide, you can create beautiful Dorset buttons that add a touch of handmade charm to any project.

March meeting

Taster sessions:

[all materials provided]

1. Making buttons - as above
2. Making bunting - crochet [pattern download here](#) [although I have had trouble with access]
3. Making jewellery - using a crochet hook, thread and beads [pattern download](#)
4. Spindle spinning - using a drop spindle to spin yarn - [information sheet here](#)
5. Demonstration of top-down raglan on the knitting machine - you tube video link here <https://youtu.be/NOwWV5P9QXw>
6. Or bring your work in progress!

Show and tell:

Bring your items to show - we hope to present these in fashion show style

Bring and Buy

We have a few items for sale, including yarn and accessories. If you would like to sell your own items, please label them with a price and your name.

Suppliers

www.wools.co.uk - Uppingham Yarns

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

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

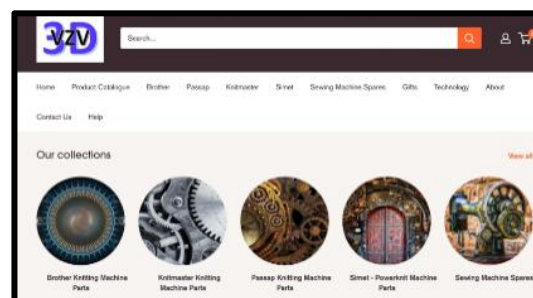
<https://woolyknit.com> Woolyknit

and this one deals in recycled fibres

<https://www.iinouiiio.com/>

For 3d printed parts try <https://vzv3d.com/>

[Buttons - High Quality Buttons For Sale - Totally Buttons](#)



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 find her on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDxy6pQHAs4gd5XBztYWmw>
Well done, Sally, a marvellous resource.

Claire Newberry is also fantastic - [Claire Newberry's Knitting School | creating knitting machine, DAK9 tutorials & patterns | Patreon](#) for DAK tutorials, and [Claire Newberry - YouTube](#)

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

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

www.twam.uk is a good place to offload unwanted yarn, machines and accessories - they will send them to Africa to help people start up small businesses. Local centre in Rugby.



KNITTING &
CROCHET GUILD

The Knitting and Crochet Guild is also a good source of information and much more:
www.kcguild.org.uk

And Finally

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

administrator@longbuckbymk.com please include LBMK in the subject

©Long Buckby Machine Knitters, 2025 [Long Buckby Machine Knitters \(longbuckbymk.com\)](http://Long Buckby Machine Knitters (longbuckbymk.com))