

Knit and Natter
July 20th 2013 at All Saint's Church Hall, Hampton

By Jenny Kelly

At the peak of this summer's heat wave, Middlesex Machine Knitters held their Knit and Natter at Hampton. It could not have been more of a contrast to last year's event when the weather was wet and windy. Fortunately, on the day, the temperature had dropped a few degrees making it less unpleasant to be indoors and the heat did not deter a large number of machine knitters to make their way to Hampton.

This year we were spoilt - we had two speakers! In the morning, Nick Traylen from Uppingham Yarns gave us a talk on Know Your Yarns. Nick is an excellent speaker, able to hold your attention effortlessly, especially when he throws in the odd witty joke. There really is a wealth of yarns out there for us to try, made from the most unbelievable materials. Samples he had aplenty, some so precious that only an infinitesimal amount was passed around the audience.



In the afternoon, Fiona Morris gave an equally enthralling talk on Pattern Play, and encouraged us to make more of the punch cards that come with our knitting machine. The challenge was to discover how many variations can be made from one punchcard.



As well as Nick's and Fiona's stands we had Nina Miklin, Sue Castro, Erica Thompson, Wendy Piper, Elaine Cater, Anne Smith, a Guild stand and an exhibition of knitting from students of Morley College.



Our charity stand was again Shooting Star Chase Hospice and this year the club had knitted booties to sell for the charity.

Needless to say there was plenty of tea, coffee, squash, and cake available and those who won the raffle and quiz were thrilled with their prize - six months subscription each to Machine Knitting Monthly.

All of us who helped run the event thoroughly enjoyed the day and I hope those who attended did so as well.