

CELBATING 30yrs took place on 20th October 2013 but NOT at the Platform, Morecambe, Lancashire.

If you were present or are totally bored with this event just skip it and go to the next section but what occurred was so incredible, one person wrote in to say that when she told her father he commented "There is more content in that than a lot of Hollywood or TV film dramas!" Below is my report but first a **HUGE** thank you to everyone who submitted items for the crochet competition. What a pity you could not all have had a prize. Thank you again.

The Report but first A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone for turning an imminent disaster into a fantastic success.

Less than 20 hours before The Platform was to be set up for a joyful celebration, rain poured through the roof and fused the electrics. It flooded part of the building which was then pronounced unsafe. When the electricians went on the roof, they found the lead from the roof had been removed, so the building was no longer waterproof! I received the first phone call at 12.55.

Morecambe is a tourist town which meant that all the large venues were in use for weddings and other functions. Eventually the Platform found a venue at 1.40pm. Fortunately for me, the Strathmore Hotel had decided not to take a function that weekend, leaving only a receptionist on duty. The hotel allowed me to relocate but first they had to strip the room and remove the dividers to just a shell, all before the end of the skeleton staff shift at 3.00pm. Staff from the Platform transported tables, urns and other equipment from one end of the promenade to the other, and sent one member of staff to help in moving heavy items from 8.0am until 10am on the Sunday.

I needed to collect Claire Montgomerie at 3.00pm to escort her to Crochet Design where judging the entries of the competition was taking place – she was the third judge with Helen Jordan and myself. Between 1.40pm and 2.45pm phone calls, text and jungle drums managed to reach sufficient people to help set up the room at the Strathmore. I could not feel guilty at leaving them as only two hrs after I had received the news, the judging of the entries took place. Around 4.00pm the room went very dark and extra light had to be brought in so the judging could be completed fairly. This was due to a freak cloudburst but 30-40 minutes later the room took on a series of strange natural lights due to a double rainbow appearing just outside the window. I took heart when seeing this and I have included it in my thumbnail pictures of the event which are opposite

That same evening, those who had booked a place enjoyed the meal at the Headway Hotel. Anyone who had not heard by then of the re-location, was informed and learned of the way friends, colleagues, and anyone who could be got hold of, had rallied round to give us a good start for the following day. At 7.00am on the Sunday, students, visitors, (and their spouses), my friends and colleagues, all combined to help to make a successful outcome for the event in a spirit of camaraderie that was truly awesome.

To put up this very large exhibition of students' work, display the competition entries, and see to the trading tables in such a short time was amazing. In addition it was necessary to display and organise the history and development of the International Diploma in Crochet, find a space for a demonstration area, a working space for the children of the area to start to crochet, to make sure a space was available for the prizes for the RNLI, and find space for a non-existent stage. How can I ever thank all the 'worker bees' and 'ants' for their contribution?

Claire Montgomerie, Editor of Inside Crochet opened the event only 8 minutes after 10.00am and later in the afternoon presented certificates to students who had completed one or other parts of the International Diploma in Crochet.

Again our thanks to the sponsors for supporting this event and the winners were:

Winner	Area	Item	Sponsor
Jeanne Taylor	New Zealand	a wearable art jacket	Crochet Design
Unagh McCullough	N. Ireland	a christening robe	King Cole
Daniela Pieringer	Austria	mixed techniques cotton rainbow curtain	Tailor Made/Inside Crochet
Laila Lagnemar	Sweden	three-piece fashion garment	Search Press
Wilma Armatage	Scotland	sugar starch basket summer flowers	Thread of Life
Sarah Cooper	England	Tunisian floral hairband	Tulip Hooks of Japan
Jane Simpson	England	textured cushion	Tulip Hooks of Japan

Best in show: Jeanne Taylor

Due to the change of location we missed out on people who may have come to see the displays but because they had paid for parking near the Platform in order to see the exhibition, did not arrive at the Strathmore. Also those who did not have transport from one end of the promenade to the other missed seeing the show. In addition we chose The Platform because there would be potential visitors going to the market and then walking through to see what The Platform was offering. We also missed some of the children who were going to do some crochet because getting to the hotel in the time allocated to teaching them to crochet was not possible. It is quite a distance requiring a long walk for little legs, from the west side of the promenade up to the east where the Strathmore is located.

Those were the negatives but on the positive side, we had visitors texting friends and families asking them to try to get to the new venue to support us. We did not have a 'quiet time' which frequently happens towards the end of most exhibitions. We had a small but steady stream of admiring people who wanted to know more, about the course, about crochet in general and about the range of hooks, yarns, and accessory items – most of which had not been seen before.

At the end of the Sunday, the worker bees stayed behind to help dismantle the tables and exhibits. Again I must give thanks to those that remained behind to do this heavy work when they were already tired.

Monday saw an enthusiastic group of people in a workshop at the Clarendon Hotel. Once we were packed up from there, it was into the office to sort out the prize winners, the raffle prizes which netted almost £100 for RNLI, the sponsors, traders, and other participants.

DATES for your DIARY

Dates for the "Teaching Methods" workshops 2014

The whole course is in 4 parts.

The four parts are being combined over two days on 23rd and 24th August 2014 to allow those from further afield to attend, even to combine it with a summer break with family and friends. The weekend costs £150 but excludes lunch.

Other Events

21 to 23 March: H&H Trade Exhibition in Cologne where I have been invited to demonstrate the beautiful hooks and knitting needles made by Tulip in Japan.

26 & 27 April: Wonderwool Wales where I will be exhibiting. I will also be taking a wooolschool on buttons and one on Tunisian pouches for mobiles etc.

Also Helen Jordan (Thread of Life) will have a stand selling a large variety of tools for crochet.

23 to 26 June: At Higham Hall I will be tutoring a residential course on the ‘Creative Appeal of Crochet’ focusing on colour, texture and combining both techniques and mixed media.

27 & 28 June: Woolfest Cumbria, where once again you can come and talk to me on my stand.