



CREATIVE twins who brought smiles to a town during lockdown have topped off a remarkable year by picking up an award.

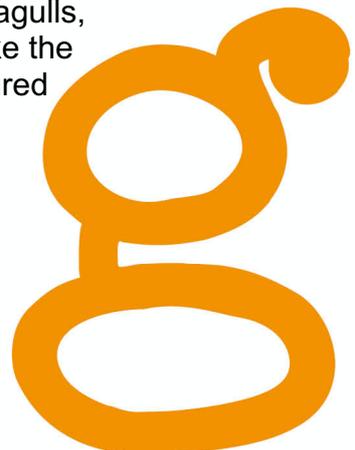
During the first Coronavirus lockdown in March last year, talented duo Rachel and Ruth Williamson began making elaborate knitted and crocheted scenes which they placed on post boxes in Rhyl.

The idea came after retired police officer and keen yarn bomber Rachel spotted a glum-looking queue of people outside her local chemist and set about thinking how to cheer them up.

She hit upon making the post box toppers, with the first appearing on a box on Lynton Walk. The project grew arms, legs and knitting needles and a year on, Rachel and Ruth have created more than 80 toppers to cover post boxes in Rhyl and surrounding towns and villages.

Each topper takes between 24 hours and several days to make, and, between them, the sisters have created a variety of scenes featuring castles, boats, seagulls, soldiers, moles and even an octopus. Rachel knits, and Ruth helps make the complicated structures such as castles. The latest scene to go out featured HM The Queen and went out in time to mark the monarch's birthday.

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The pair's efforts have garnered national interest, and Rachel has sent out her topper's pattern to keen knitters across the country. Their efforts to make people smile have now been formally recognised with a special award from Rhyl Town Council.

Rhyl Mayor Cllr Diane King said: "Rachel and Ruth have made people smile over what was a really difficult and challenging time. People were using their lockdown exercise to try and spot the toppers, actively going out of their way to find them.

"The amount of work and detail that goes into each one is phenomenal, and they have put Rhyl on the map. It was only fitting that the town council recognised their achievements, so I was only too pleased to present them with these special certificates."

Rachel said the project had 'taken over their whole lives', but they didn't see themselves stopping any time soon.

"People have been very kind, and we have had lots of donations of wool, so much so we can't get in our living room. It's only right we carry on for the time being. We're having a whale of a time. Our favourite topper was probably the one featuring Dave, the seagull. He's lived a bit, and he has been brought back in for tweaks and repairs, but he's still here to tell the tale."

Rachel said the Royal Mail had been superb, and people had even dropped off flowers and biscuits to say thank you.

"The response has been staggering, and our toppers are now in Denbighshire's Museum so we'll be part of history. We'd love to thank everyone for their support and the mayor for our certificates. We're Rhyl girls born and bred, so it means a lot to be recognised by the town council," she added.

Cap: Top that: From l-r: Rachel, Rhyl mayor Cllr Diane King, and Ruth with their town council awards.

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