



Time Travellers Club

Dugoed Bach
Mallwyd
Machynlleth
Powys
SY20 9HR

September-17

www.hilltopcloud.co.uk

Dear Club Member,

The Blackpool Illuminations have been happening since 1879, whilst the Vegas strip might now out-shine it in terms of lights, it's still one of the biggest light displays in the UK. When the display was first turned on it was 1 year before Edison patented the light bulb, and the display was just 8 arc lamps on the promenade. The event was marketed as being "Artificial Sunshine". The first display that has notable similarities to the modern event was in 1912 when Princess Louise switched on a display of 10,000 bulbs, the local businesses requested that the display be repeated the following years, and the event has grown ever since.

What makes it all the more special is the short lived nature of display. The show just lights for 66 days from September to November. They were originally developed as a way of extending the holiday season, providing a reason for people to visit the resort outside of the summer.

Now more than 1 million bulbs cover 6 miles of seafront, costing £1.9 million. It takes 22 weeks to erect the displays, and 9 weeks to take them down again. The use of LED technology means the displays now use two thirds of the energy required 10 years ago, and it now all comes from green, renewable sources.

As technology developed the colours of the Illuminations evolved, now there are a whole rainbow of colours flashing against the dark night sky. As bulbs evolved they became powerful enough to place behind fibreglass moulds, creating huge glowing sculptures. The whole system runs using 12V or 24V, a much lower voltage than the standard in the UK of 230V. This system was developed for maximum efficiency and longevity of the system.

I'm planning for this to be the last paper copy of the letter you'll be getting. As you may have noticed last month I've swapped the way that I do the postage, and the letter is now no longer needed to provide your address on the parcel. Each month I'll put a link to the letter in the email I send out to say the club has been shipped. The same link will also be available in the Ravelry group.

Happy Spinning,

Katie