

LISTENING TASK – THE STORY OF ELA

My journey with handcraft began when I was a little girl. Handcrafting was an obligatory subject at primary school and during classes we learnt how to sew, how to crochet, how to knit... So I've learnt some of the skills already at school. Later, when I was an adult woman, there was a time when my husband was studying, we had two daughters but we didn't have much money. So I was sewing, crocheting and knitting. And I was embroidering as well. But as the time passed, these skills were no longer needed. When I was 52 years old, I was forced to retire and I had to do something with all this free time in my hands. I wanted to go to the University of the Third Age but it was November then so it was too late to enrol. So I started crocheting again. My daughters supported me a lot. They both collect antiques and they have asked to make them some doyleys. I remember that the biggest one I did had 150cm diameter. At the end, it was taking me three hours to create another row around this doyley. Then I came up with an idea to do some Christmas decorations. So I crocheted little doyleys as if they were snowflakes. When I went to the University of Third Age, I went to various workshops to try many different techniques. For example, I was going to decoupage lessons. But to be honest, I didn't enjoy them that much. I always liked crocheting the most. I was buying special books with patterns in crocheting and I was learning them myself.

At some point I became interested in the local craft in Wrocław. But it turns out that it barely exists. This is because there is almost no native population around here – they were all forced to move after the war. At one point, there was an attempt to create Wrocław's embroidery. In 1998, Czesław Rodziewicz created a local pattern of embroidery. There was even an exhibition, book with exemplary embroideries, and workshops to spread the idea. Wrocław's embroidery was supposedly different from all other local embroideries. At the same time, it did borrow some elements of, for example, flat embroidery. Now, as far as I know, it didn't really become popular.