

Welcome to the Homecraft Section, an integral part of Usk Show as one of the busiest marquees on Show day, from early morning until the end of Show day.

Preparation towards the day starts in March when the schedule is drawn up covering all classes, across the sections. These include: Floral Art, Themed Display, Preserves, Home baking, Wine and Drinks, Handicrafts, Art, Craft and Photography - also Junior classes for age groups from under 5's up to 16 years. Some of the individual classes will be newly devised for the current year, others will be old favourites traditionally associated with Homecraft over the years. The Floral and Themed classes will follow chosen titles inspired by topical or celebratory events.

The printed schedule is launched via Usk show website, forwarded to the previous year's competitors, or circulated in outlets around the locality in May.



Judges, who are experienced, skilled, and talented in their appropriate fields, will be contacted and confirmed over the following weeks. It is deemed an honour to be asked to judge as it is recognition of their talents and hopefully enjoyed. Their role should be taken seriously as much work and effort will have been done by exhibitors to actually put their work forward to be judged against others!

Certain classes will need to be entered to the Homecraft Secretary by the Monday prior to Show Day so that the space required per entry can be allocated beforehand. Planning the layout and spacing is a lengthy process which is part of Homecraft steward's role, ready with sufficient display room for the exhibits. Setting out of the Homecraft marquee takes place on the Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning prior to the Show on Saturday. Tabling set around the marquee is covered with white tablecloths to create a flow and cohesive impression, with individual classes defined separately by red ribbon.

Competitors may leave exhibits, at their own risk, from 4 to 6 o'clock on Friday afternoon. However, the majority stage their exhibits on Saturday morning by 9.45, having handed their entry forms to the secretaries. An envelope containing the exhibitors name/address should be attached to the exhibit.

The judges arrive and meet their stewards by 9.45, when the marquee is closed to the public, ready for judging to commence promptly at 10 o'clock. Entries have increased over the past ten years from around 400 to over 1800 in the record year 2017, most of which are of a very high standard and keenly entered. Over the next two hours entries will be judged according to the schedule class title, therefore all entries should be according to schedule otherwise will be eliminated without being judged.

A basic guide list of considerations the judges would be looking for across Homecraft classes: -

- Floral Art: interpretation of title, balance, condition of flowers/foilage, mechanics, accessories, etc



- Themed Display: theme interpretation, presentation, balance, each element judged, etc
- Preserves: presentation, appearance – colour, distribution of fruit, texture - set, fruit soft, flavour
- Homebaking: presentation, appearance, texture, flavour



- Wine and drinks: description, presentation, appearance, flavour



- Handicrafts: presentation, suitability, neatness, finish
- Art, Craft and Photography: interpretation of subject/title, presentation, finish,
- Junior section: interpretation of subject/title, neatness, finish, originality, according to age.



The judges will place entries first, second, third and maybe highly commended, with prize cards placed alongside the winning entries. After the placings are recorded by the section stewards the results are logged and calculated for the points, collated by the secretaries.

The exhibitors with the most points in each section will win the engraved cup, kindly presented by friends of the Homecraft section: an award is also given for the best exhibit in each class. Prize money kindly donated by sponsors, can be collected from 4 o'clock onwards. Rosettes are presented to Junior class winners too. Five o'clock brings a flurry of exhibitors collecting their entries, receiving the prize monies, taking down of displays. The stewards would clear up the marquee of evidence for all the hard work that has gone towards another long successful Show day. Some may even undertake returning exhibits to their rightful owners or schools. A post Show meeting is held later in September to report on entry numbers: judges, the day as a whole.

The Show management committee and Homecraft section wishes to thank all supporters -

- to all stewards especially for their time setting up/clearing the marquee, stewarding on Show morning and/or afternoon rotas,
- to the sponsors for prize money covering all eighty-six classes in the section
- to all generous help and support to this busy section.
- to the exhibitors with their interest and enthusiasm

as there would not be a Show if it were not for everyone's involvement

Thank you.

