



58th MORPETH NORTHUMBRIAN GATHERING



Friday 10th to Sunday 12th April 2026
[Exhibition Friday and Saturday Only]

GROUP A COMPETITIONS

Arts & Crafts

painting, photos, needlecrafts, costumes, etc. for children and adults

General Rules for all Arts & Crafts Competitors

(1) ENTRIES: Each entry must be the entrant's own work and, unless significantly altered for the sake of improvement, must not have been entered before in the same class. Previous winners of a Gathering Novice class cannot re-enter that class.

(2) ENTRY FORMS: A separate form per competition is needed, but it may include more than one entry to that class by the same entrant/collaborators/school/ society/group. **Entry Forms and receipts must be handed in with your items at the time given below, will all sections filled in**, including year, competition number, full contact details including any email address. Forms are available in advance or on delivering entries at Exhibition - see 10 and 4 below. Be sure you are given back your receipt slip with your entry's code number filled in, in order to collect your item on the last day - see 7 below.

(3) ENTRY FEE: Children's, Disabled and Costume competitions are free. **All other classes:** entry fee £4.00 for one or more items in each class, up to a maximum of £16 covering all Group A classes entered by any one entrant, to be paid on delivering entries (cash, please, or cheques to MNGC – sorry we cannot handle card payments).

(4) ENTRY SUBMISSION TIME/DATE: received **5.30 pm to 7 pm on Thurs. 9th April 2026, Morpeth Town Hall.** Please vacate hall by 7 p.m. to allow for the judging. [See Note 7 below for Saturday return of entries]

(5) LABELLING: Each entry (or separable part) must be labelled or marked with the entrant's name and competition number. All reasonable precautions are taken, but the Committee & its helpers cannot accept liability for damage or loss.

(6) EXHIBITION: Exhibition open: **FRIDAY** 9.30 am-5 pm; **SATURDAY** 9.30 am-4.30 pm; In entering, entrants agree to their entries being displayed throughout the Gathering Exhibition, till the collection time of 5 pm **SATURDAY**.

(7) RETURN OF ENTRIES: **5 pm-5.30 pm** on Gathering **Saturday** at Exhibition. Please do not try to collect entries before this time, nor on Sunday 12th when the Town Hall will be closed. Be sure to bring your receipt! For security of entries and personal safety, please leave Exhibition by 4.30 pm, returning to counter in hall when doors re-open and show your receipt. **COLLECTION OF ART ENTRY SALES:** at end of Saturday exhibition - see details below under A1.

(8) AWARDS: **1st:** a plaque or medal to keep and for some classes a trophy (held for the year); **2nd, 3rd, Highly Commended*, Commended***: a certificate. Classes 66 & 73 have first place only, awarded at judges' discretion. Awards are collected when entries are removed at 5 pm **Saturday** (or if that's impossible please collect from Westgate House after the Gathering). You may have name & year engraved on the trophy, at entrant's expense; please consult Westgate House if repairs are needed or there is no space left for name. If a class has a large number of entries the judges may elect to subdivide the class. * (if awarded)

(9) "NORTHUMBERLAND" & "NORTHUMBRIAN": refer to the Tweed-Tyneside (both banks) community, area and heritage.

(10) ENQUIRIES: to Westgate House, Dogger Bank, Morpeth NE61 1RE (sae please); phone 01670 513308; email: kim@northumbriana.org.uk. **COMPETITION LEAFLETS & ENTRY FORMS:** (including other categories B: Writing/Composing; C: Performing) from the above or website at any time or, after 1st March, at Morpeth Tourist Information Centre (01670 623455), The Chantry, Bridge Street, Morpeth, NE61 1PD. **GENERAL DETAILS AND RESULTS:** website: www.northumbriana.org.uk and <https://www.facebook.com/morpeth.gathering>.

N.B. Because we are no longer allowed to use Morpeth Town Hall on Gathering Sunday the exhibition has had to be reduced to just Friday 10th and Saturday 11th, with competition entries to be collected and awards handed out at 5pm on the Saturday. Because of the logistical problems of clearing the exhibition while musical events are going on the Saturday we have had to reduce the scope of the exhibition and the number of competitions being. Items in omitted categories can still be entered in the Miscellaneous Class or (where appropriate) junior competitions.

Competition Rules

PAINTING & DRAWING

A1: ART: subject: any aspect of Northumbrian life, or scene, past or present; medium optional; title provided by entrant; no number limit. **SALES:** price may be indicated, if desired, on entry forms and on a label/sticker on item, which sum, less 10% Exhibition expenses, will be paid to entrant if entry is sold. Purchased items must remain on display until collected at closing time on Gathering Saturday. Artists not wishing to compete may request space to display Northumbrian paintings for sale on the terms just described. [For children's art please see below.]

PHOTOGRAPHY

A4a: PHOTO PRINTS: up to 4 colour or monochrome prints produced without digital enhancement, mounted, 20 x 16" max. 7 x 5" minimum, of entrant's own studies of Northumbrian subjects; with titles.

A4b: ENHANCED PHOTO PRINTS: entry: as for A4a but allowing digital enhancement techniques.

A6 EXOTIC T-SHIRT PHOTOGRAPH: for a photo of a Gathering T- or sweat-shirt being worn in an exotic/improbable location/situation (not necessarily abroad). Photo may be posted to Gathering office in advance with fee

NEEDLECRAFTS

(all to have a Northumbrian theme where possible)

A35: NEEDLEWORK ITEM: any item of needlework, including cross-stitch, canvaswork, patchwork. Please state if entrant's own design.

A40: KNITTING OR CROCHET ITEM: any knitted or crocheted item.

OTHER CRAFTS

(all to have a Northumbrian theme where possible)

A59: MISCELLANEOUS: an item not eligible for any other craft competition.

A60: EASTER CRACKET (flowers): for an arrangement of Spring flowers, dried flowers and/or foliage set in clay, Oasis etc. on stool or similar; renewable during Exhibition.

Note: Formerly, at Easter, May Day or Whitsuntide, a Northumbrian cottage woman would put a bed of clay on her cracket (small stool), prick many holes in the clay for wild flower stems and so create a colourful cushion which stood on her doorstep and earned pennies from passers-by.

A62: EASTER EGG: for a hard-boiled egg dyed or decorated with paint or other medium and provided with eggcup or other display stand (which is not judged). (See Note on A61 above.). *Note: The dyed Paste, Pace, Pyeas or Pasche Egg, universal symbol of Spring and the Resurrection, was important in Easter Sports, long kept up by*

Northumbrians & still so at Morpeth on Easter Monday, with boolin & jaapin (egg bowling & knocking together). Pace eggs are still given as Easter gifts.

A63: DISABLED PERSON'S CRAFT: for any craft; multiple entries from centres/clubs welcomed. Please name each entrant & describe item/s on entry form/s. An entry transferred to another class needs its own Entry Form (Gen. Rule 2).

A64: JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL ART & CRAFT: item (not eligible for another class) made by entrant aged under 14 on Gathering Saturday; any medium; Northumbrian theme.

A65: JUNIOR GROUP ART & CRAFT: display of craft items made by class/group/set aged under 14 on Gathering Sat.; judged as a whole; Northumbrian motifs welcomed; **NB: space restrictions in hall mean any group display must not exceed 6 feet in width.**

A66: WYN BIBBY MEMORIAL TROPHY: awarded at judges' discretion for outstanding inspiration/ingenuity/patience revealed in an item displayed in Gathering Exhibition; specific entries to this class not required or accepted.

COMMUNITY COMPETITIONS

A70: SHOP/OFFICE WINDOW DISPLAY: of any characteristic aspect(s) / item(s) of Northumberland and/or its people past or present; need not relate to entrant's business; judged on character/effectiveness/appeal/ingenuity.

A72: GROUP COSTUMES: for best overall costuming of a staff/team/group/family during all or part of the Gathering weekend.

A73a/b: CUDDY/CUSHIE BUTTERFIELD COSTUMES: for best individual male/ female costumes among A72 entrants.

A large format printed version of these rules is available.

Ring 01670 513308

www.northumbriana.org.uk

Next (59th) Gathering 2nd to 4th April 2027 (to be confirmed)