

'Discovery'

The Lace Guild's 2019 Triennial Competition - a couple of technical details.

It is still not too late to think about entering. Perhaps you already have a beautiful piece of lace on a pillow, one of your unfinished objects. Could this be your chance to discover that with a little motivation it could be finished in time for entry?

As you can see the Exhibition will be at Delapré Abbey and it is appropriate to have this prestige exhibition in one of the UK's traditional lacemaking areas; hopefully it will help raise the profile of lace here. As happened with Let's Celebrate in Cumbria, we are being helped and supported by the local lace group and this help is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Can I take this opportunity to encourage entries in the Section A, traditional classes? These classes should demonstrate the best of our British and Continental lace and I hope to see a strong entry of Midlands laces this time, so visitors can have a taste of the local lace heritage.

Coming to more technical matters, we've had a few enquiries about the size allowed for entries, particularly in the traditional and group classes. Apart from the three classes with their own size restrictions, there is no limit for the lace made for any other class except that they must fit into the outer packaging and be within the weight limit, including your outer bag and other packaging. Please read the rules carefully as it is only fair that any entries that are over size or over weight are not judged as it may have given that entry an advantage when other entrants may have adapted their entry to comply. Because we know how much time and care goes into your lace, even if your entry was disqualified from judging, it would still be exhibited unless you didn't want it to be.

Please remember that your lace will be unpacked and repacked at least three times, for registration and photography, for judging and for exhibition. If we have a hundred entries and each takes five or ten minutes to unpack and then to repack, you can do the maths yourselves to see how many volunteer hours are needed to do this each time – repacking takes longer because we look after your lace just as carefully as you did. Please also try to ensure that it is possible for this to be done by one person, occasionally some of the more complex entries really need three hands! If you would like an early view of all the entries, we would welcome volunteers to help with each of the three occasions; please contact the office for more information.

To help us in the above process, may I suggest that you pack your lace completely ready to take to post, then unpack it again and repack it *at least once* to see if that is possible without using any other materials, including putting the packed lace and outer packaging into your fabric bag. For example, if when you pack it originally you use sticky tape to hold protective paper or bubble wrap in place,

often the only way we can unpack without damaging that wrapping is to cut the tape, which then makes it very difficult to repack it as securely. Please consider other options such as making a bag out of bubble wrap that the lace can slide into, rather than wrapping round it. Please put your name on all the separate bits of packing you use so they stay with your entry.

If you have any queries at all about any aspect of the competition, please contact the office and your question will be forwarded for the answer. The Triennial is a snapshot of the best of lace being produced in the UK (and some from around the world) at the time of each event, and is one way that you, as lacemakers, can show the wider public that it is not an impossible and mysterious art. Remember, you do not need to be a Lace Guild member to enter this exhibition and competition.

We look forward to seeing your entries!