



Tip of the Month—May 2018



Entering your Work in Competitions

Many shows throughout the country have competitions to encourage and support the local arts and crafts. Have you considered entering? What ever craft you do, this is a great way to inspire others, display the craft and keep it alive. It will also help to improve your skill (if you are lucky enough to get feedback). We spoke to some competitors, judges and stewards to pick up some tips to help you get recognised for your efforts.

1. Keep it clean and tidy – make sure there are no dirty marks on your work and it is not creased – you may need to wash it and/or press it, before submitting it.
2. Finishing touches – look over your project to check that all those ends have been found and neatly sewn in. On large projects it is easy to miss an end, so look several times.
3. New balls and changing colours – don't use knots! There is a lot of information on the internet about different types of knots, but in judging knots are frowned upon.
4. With rugs and clothing, check that matching edges are the same length and shape and that corners are the same shapes.
5. Buttonholes – check that the buttons fit through them.
6. Seaming - ensure the seams lay flat.
7. If you are using a simple pattern, the evenness of tension and neatness of stitches is even more critical as any variations stand out more.
8. Using a more complex pattern doesn't mean this will give you an advantage if it has not been executed well.
9. Consider how well the colours match the pattern. For example, the more complex the pattern, the colours should be kept simple to show off the pattern. If the pattern is simple, using colour can add more interest.

But most importantly, enter something, to ensure there is a display and continued interest in the craft. You don't always have to win, although it is very rewarding to do so