Home Industries

During the show, the Home Industries area will be packed with items of craft, arts, photography and home baked goods, writing and needlework. Entries to the Home Industries competitions are open to schools, womens institutes, care homes, young farmers clubs as well as the general public.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 24th April 2026

Cups will be given out at the Annual Awards Night on 14th November 2026 in Tullyglass Hotel

Due to the number of entries each year, items exhibited MUST be collected between 4.15 and 6pm on Saturday of the show - after this time, items will be discarded as we do not have any storage facilities.

County Antrim Agricultural Association reserves the right to amalgamate or split classes according to the number of entries.

enter and pay online at:-
https://showingscene.com/organisation/ballymena-show

or send paper entries and payment to Show Secretary, County Antrim Agricultural Association, Ballymena Showgrounds, St Patrick's Link, Town Parks, Ballymena, Co Antrim, BT43 7FU
30/05/2026 10:30

Home Baking Open Section

This section is open to everyone(individuals own work - no groups.) All entries will be judged on presentation and taste.

Judging takes place on Friday 29th May. All exhibits to be brought to the Home Industries area at Ballymena Cattle Market on Thursday 28th May between 2pm and 6pm or Friday 29th May between 10am and 12noon.

The Early Riser award will be presented to the entrant in classes 1 - 20, who gains the highest number of points in these classes based on 1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 1 point.

Mortons Flour offer a special bonus of £2 to each 1st prize winner in classes 1 - 20 who use Mortons Flour - each exhibit must be accompanied by the Blackbird Trademark cut from any size bag of Mortons Flour.

Entry Fee = £1

Prize Money - 1st = £10, 2nd = £6, 3rd = £4
Ring: home industries area

Judges

Ann Strain (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
1	A Marble Cake	Baked in a 1 lb loaf tin
2	An Iced Half Sandwich Orange Cake	
3	A Lemon Drizzle Cake	Baked in a 1lb loaf tin
4	A Ginger Cake	Baked in a 1lb loaf tin
5	An Iced Carrot Cake	Baked in a 1lb loaf tin
6	A Chocolate Sandwich	Filled in the centre only
7	A Victoria Sandwich	Filled in the centre only
8	A Madeira Cake	Baked in a 1lb loaf tin
9	A Jam Swiss Roll	
10	A Half Coffee Sandwich	Decorated
11	A Rhubarb Crumble	
12	Four Chocolate Brownies	
13	Four Flakemeal Biscuits	
14	Four Shortbread	
15	Four Fruit Scones	
16	A Wheaten Loaf	Baked in a 1lb loaf tin
17	Four Blueberry Muffins	
18	Four Chocolate Chip Cookies	
19	Four Biscoff Traybakes	
20	Four Sausage Rolls	

First Time Exhibitors Home Baking - Open Section

Entries may be taken to Home Industries area at Ballymena Cattle Market on Thursday 28th May between 2pm and 6pm or Friday 29th May between 10am and 12noon.
Entry fee = £1
Prize Money - 1st = £6, 2nd = £4, 3rd = £2
A cup will be awarded to the first time exhibitor who gains the most points in these classes based on 1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points and 3rd = 1 point
Ring: home industries area

Judges

Ann Strain (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
21	Four No Bake Tray Bakes	
22	Four Decorated Buns	
23	Four Plain Shortbread Biscuits	
24	Four Plain Scones	

Needlework and Crafts - Open Section

Kindly sponsored by Black Agri
Open to everyone
No age limits
Individuals own work - no groups
Exhibits to be brought to the home industries stand on Thursday 28th May between 2pm and 6pm
Entry fee - £1
Prize Money - 1st = £6, 2nd = £4, 3rd = £2

The R Vogan Sewing Machine Cup will be awarded to the entrant gaining most points in classes 25 - 39 based on 1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 3 points.
Ring: home industries area

Judges

Shirley Dew (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
25	A Hand Knit Or Crocheted Adult Beanie Hat, With Bobble	
26	A Crocheted Baby Blanket	
27	A Felted Picture - Framed Or Unframed - Any Size	
28	Any Item Of Embroidery In Any Medium	
29	Any Piece Of Tapestry - Framed	
30	A Knitted Baby Gift To Include 3 Articles	
31	A Carrier Bag Made From Recycled Materials	
32	Any Item of Patchwork	
33	Any Upcycled Item	
34	Any Hand Knitted Baby Garment	
35	A Framed Piece Of Cross Stitch	
36	Any Hand Knitted Or Crocheted Toy	
37	A Handmade Bag	
38	Any Machine Sewn Item	
39	Any Other Needlework Or Craft Item, Not Classified in Above Classes	

First Time Exhibitors Needlework and Crafts - Open Section

Kindly sponsored by Black Agri
Exhibits to be brought to the home industries area at Ballymena Cattle Market on Thursday 28th May between 2pm - 6pm
Entry Fee = £1
Prize Money - 1st = £6, 2nd = £4, 3rd = £2
A cup will be awarded to the first time exhibitor with the most points in classes 40 - 45 based on 1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 3 points
Ring: home industries area

Judges

Shirley Dew (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
40	Any Crocheted Item	
41	Any Embroidered Item	
42	A Hand Knitted Scarf	
43	A Friendship Bracelet	
44	A Handmade Stuffed Toy	
45	Any Other Needlework Or Craft Item, Not Classified in Above Classes	

Photography - Open Section

Open to everyone - no age limit
Individuals own work - no groups
Exhibits to be brought to the home industries area at Ballymena Cattle Market on Thursday 28th May from 2pm - 6pm
Must be the work of individuals not groups
Entry fee = £1
Prize money - 1st = £6, 2nd = £4, 3rd = £2
Limited to amateurs, not professionals
Judging will be on the art of photography only
Photographs must be mounted on card

The Darren Cumberland Photography & Get It Framed NI Award will be awarded for the best exhibit in this section
Ring: home industries area

Judges

Darren Cumberland (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
46	A Photograph Depicting "Northern Ireland Weather"	
47	A Photograph Depicting "Fun In The Snow"	
48	A Photograph Depicting "The Farming Family"	
49	Any Black and White Photograph	
50	A Photograph Depicting "My Favourite Farm Animal"	
51	A Photograph Depicting "Sunrise Or Sunset"	
52	A Photograph Depicting "Farming Machines At Work"	
53	A Photograph Depicting " A Farmers Work Is Never Done"	
54	A Photograph Depicting "Welcome To Northern Ireland"	

Women's Institute Section

Classes confined to WI members only
Individuals own work, no group
Entries in this section are ineligible for any other class
Baking and floral entries to be brought to the Home Industries section at Ballymena Livestock Market on Thursday 28th May from 2pm to 6pm or baking may be brought on Friday 29th from 10am - 12noon

Entry Fee = £1 per entry
Prize Money - 1st = £6, 2nd = £4, 3rd = £2

The Jane Black Salver will be awarded to the person gaining the most points in WI section - 1st = 3 points, 2nd 2 points, 3rd = 1 point
The Ballymena Borough Council Runcimann Bowl will be awarded to the Womens Institute gaining the greatest number of points in the WI classes(Ballymena District)

Identification of exhibitor must NOT be displayed on the front of any exhibit and names should only be written on the back.)
Ring: home industries area

Judges

All Judges (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
58	Four Currant Squares	
59	A Decoupage No Bigger Than A4	
60	A Fresh Flower Arrangement Entitled "Spring Bright"	No Bigger Than 10" X 10"
61	Painting - "Autumn"	No Larger Than 24 x 21ins and must be ready for hanging
62	Photograph - "The Colour Red"	Size 7 x 5 or 6 x 4 ins
63	Mixed Berry Jam - Any Size	

Young Farmers Club Section

Kindly sponsored by D McKay
Exhibits to be brought to the Home Industries area at Ballymena Cattle Market on Thursday 28th May from 2pm - 6pm or if preferred, baking may be brought on Friday 29th May from 10am - 12noon
Open to young farmers club members only
Identification of exhibitor must not be displayed on the front of any exhibit and names should only be written on the back
Individuals work only - no groups

Entry Fee = £1
Prize Money - 1st = £6, 2nd = £4, 3rd = £2

A trophy sponsored by Mid and West Antrim UFU group will be awarded to the club gaining the most points in this section based on 1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points and 3rd = 1 point
Ring: home industries area

Judges

All Judges (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
123	A Piece Of Hand Painted Pottery	
124	A Decorated Photo Frame	
125	A Photo Entitled "A Day In The Life"	must be mounted
126	A Filled Victoria Sponge Cake	
127	A craft item - AGE 12 - 18 years	
128	A craft item - AGE 19 - 30 years	

Adult Painting - Open Section

Kindly sponsored by The Kernohan Family. A cup will be presented in memory of Nicola (donated by her parents) to the best entry in this section
Exhibits to be brought to the Home Industries area at Ballymena Cattle Market on Thursday 28th May from 2pm - 6pm
Entries can be in any painting medium, framed or unframed
The painting must be the own work of the artist submitting
Finished size - no larger than 16" X 20"
Entries will be judged on artwork only

Entry Fee £1
Prize 1st = £6, 2nd = £4, 3rd = £2
Ring: home industries area

Judges

Catherine Flood (Judge)

Number	Name	Description
55	A Painting Depicting "The Place That I Love" eg Landscape, Interior, Garden	
56	A Painting Depicting " Emotions & Your Inner World" eg Anger, Calm, including Portraits	
57	A Painting Depicting "Still Life And Everyday" eg Food, Flowers, Vehicles, Animals	