

The Thirteenth North East Hedge laying Match

Sunday 13th October 2024

Closing date
1st October 2024

**Hepple Farm
Thropton
Northumberland**

**The venue will be signposted from the
B6341 West of Rothbury**

*B & B : Try Thistleyhaugh B + B or Granby Inn
at Longframlington*

By kind permission of The Riddell family

Enquiries to:: **David Boyson 07771 721573 dbcountryside@btinternet.com**
David Wood 07702 642299 david.wood4949@gmail.com

Hepple is a beautiful, rugged upland estate situated along the River Coquet just upstream of Rothbury. Three quarters of the land is heather moorland and one third is rough pasture. There is a herd of wide-roaming Longhorn Cattle, some Highland Cattle, a band of Exmoor ponies and a handful of handsome Mangalitsa pigs. Over the last few years, the estate has taken a different approach to managing the estate, an approach that many call rewilding, and are welcoming the longer sward, the increase of diverse vegetation and the unpredictability that comes with letting the animals choose where they pasture. The hedge that is to be layed forms the border of a hay meadow and the field where the cows calf in in the early spring. It is a mixed native hedge and was planted in 2007. After it is layed the intention is to replace the protective fence at a three-metre distance from the hedge to encourage a dense wildlife corridor.

Safety Notice

Neither the organisers or any of their agents accept any liability for loss, damage or injuries sustained at this event.

Whilst all reasonable precautions are taken to ensure safety, entry to the event is entirely at each individuals own risk

Please obey all signs and follow any instructions given by the site personnel

A responsible adult must accompany children at all times

Please ensure your vehicle is locked. Do not leave valuable items in the vehicle

SAFETY ASSEMBLY POINT :: In case of emergency go to the safety assembly point which is clearly marked on site. Sound the claxon.

A minor injuries first aid kit is available on site

Lunch will be provided for cutters at 2.30pm followed by PRIZE GIVING

CLASSES & PRIZES

Class 1 Novice, any style

Not open to cutters who have won a Novice class
7 yards length. Competitors may **not** use chainsaws.

1st prize £50 and the Kathy Matthew Memorial Trophy

2nd prize £40 3rd prize £30

If more than 10 entries received, additional prizes to be given

Special prizes: Best Local Cutter living within a radius of 30 miles of the event.

The Kathy Matthew Memorial Trophy has been generously donated to North East Hedgelaying by Kathy's husband Clive. Kathy was a passionate supporter of the education and training of young people. Always ready with encouraging words for beginners, Kathy's trophy is fittingly awarded to the first Novice.

Class 2 Intermediate, any style (*this class will be run subject to sufficient entries, otherwise entrants will be allocated to Novice or Open depending on competition record to date - please complete section on entry form*).

Open to cutters who have won a Novice class and who have not been placed in the first 3 in an Open Class.
8 yards length. Competitors may use chainsaws **if can show qualification certificate and wear correct PPE.**

1st prize £60

2nd prize £45 3rd prize £30

If more than 10 entries received, additional prizes to be given

Special prizes : Best Local Cutter living within a radius of 30 miles of the event.

Class 3 Open, any style

9 yards length.

1st prize £80 and the Andrew Adams Perpetual Challenge Trophy

2nd prize £60 3rd prize £40

Cash prizes to 3rd. If more than 10 entries received, additional prizes to be given

Special prize for Best Cutter 25 years of age or under.

Andrew Adams, Past President of the National Hedgelaying Society, founder of the Meynell Hedgelaying, Durham Hedgelaying and North East Hedgelaying competitions, has generously donated this silver trophy which he designed and commissioned, and which is modelled on his own goshook.

Best re-growth from hedges laid during the previous year's competition.

The David and Pam Wood trophy will be presented for the best re-growth from 2023.

The Best length laid in Northumberland style.

A trophy will be presented to the cutter laying the best length in "Northumberland style" in any class.

Grand Prix

**A special prize of £200 will be presented to the cutter
Accumulating the greatest number of points over
The three matches taking place over the weekend.
Beginning with the Durham match on the 11th followed by
the Scottish match on the 12th
and finally the North East match on the 13th**

Rules

1. Classes may be cancelled or amalgamated at the discretion of the Steward.
2. The organisers reserve the right to refuse any entry at their discretion.
3. Competitors are to lay the length drawn starting from their number and working towards the next highest number. They will be told which way to lay the hedge and on which side to leave the waste. Each length cut must join its neighbour.
4. The time limit for competitors will be 5 hours; 9am to 2pm. The draw will be held at 8.45am. There will be no clearing up time & competitors working past this time may not be judged.
5. Competitors may receive assistance in specific circumstances from stewards and other competitors. However if a Steward feels that non-essential assistance is being received, after one warning the competitor will be disqualified.
6. Competitors have a duty of care to themselves and other competitors with regard to safe working practice and must comply with Health and Safety Regulations. **Competitors in Intermediate and Open classes may use chainsaws if qualified and wearing correct PPE.**
7. 'Deadwood' use must be kept to a minimum—excessive use may be penalised by the judge.
8. Competitors competing as a pair in the novice class will be paid prize money per pair.
9. Winners of this event's Novice class may not compete in the Novice class at this event again.
10. All trophies presented are perpetual and cannot be won outright and are held for a maximum 12 month period. The winner must take personal responsibility for the safekeeping of the trophy including insurance, guaranteeing to return it by the date specified and confirm their acceptance of these terms by signing for the trophy on the day.
11. Judging will be on a points basis and the decision of the Judge is final!

The Thirteenth North East Hedgelaying Match Entry Form

NAME:

CLASS No:

ADDRESS:

.....

..... **POSTCODE:**

ARE YOU LOCAL (within 30 miles of the event?) Y/N

HAVE YOU BEEN PLACED 1ST / 2ND / 3RD IN ANY COMPETITIONS?

STATE WHICH AND MOST RECENT

TELEPHONE:

EMAIL please include an email address

D.O.B: (if under 25)

PLEASE STATE WHICH STYLE OF HEDGELAYING YOU WILL CUT

.....

WILL YOU BRING YOUR OWN

BINDERS? YES / NO

STAKES? YES / NO

(nb : binders and stakes will be supplied to competitors who choose not to bring their own)

All entries to be sent to:
David Boyson dbcountryside@btinternet.com

entries close on 1st October 2024