



Irish Countrywomen's Association
Bantracht na Tuaithe

NATIONAL ICA COMPETITIONS

2020-2021 PROGRAMME



National Contests Chairperson: Ursula Burke. Tel: 086 300 0788

National Contests Secretary: May Campbell, 086 375 1242

Doonameran, Kenagh, Co Longford. maycampbell113@gmail.com

Points of Note to all competitors in National ICA Competitions:

- 1. Please adhere strictly to the criteria of each specific Competition.**
- 2. There must be at least two entries in any competition for it to be held.**
- 3. Judges decision is final in all Competitions.**
- 4. No Late entries will be accepted.**
- 5. From 2020 onwards, 1st Prize in any competition will only be awarded to the same entrant/team for two consecutive years. Having enjoyed 1st Prize for two consecutive years, the winning entrant/team will not be allowed participate in this competition again for a period of one year.**
- 6. All Cups, Plaques, Shields and Trophies must be returned to the ICA National Competitions Committee one month prior to that competition being run again and 2 months prior to the National AGM**
- 7. Names and photographs of competition entrants/winners/audiences may be posted on our Web site www.ica.ie and on our Facebook page “ICA National Competitions”. If you do not want your name/photograph posted to those sites, please indicate this clearly to the Competitions Committee on your entry or at competition events.**

The National Competitions Committee wish to advise all our ICA members taking part in the Competitions in An Grianán, (listed below), that dates and events in 2021 are subject to change due to the current Covid-19 crisis. Every effort is being made by the Committee to plan and organise events as before and we hope our finals will take place according to plan. In the interest of health and safety of all our ICA members participating in our competitions, we must act responsibly in keeping everyone safe. We will, therefore, be in touch with competitors should we feel the need to make any changes to our planned schedule and we look forward to hopefully seeing you all once again in 2021 .

Thank you for your co-operation.

Chairperson/Secretary

National Contests Weekend 2021

Date: Saturday 20th to Sunday 21st March 2021

Location: An Grianán

On this weekend, we will hold the competitions for the Patsy Lawlor Cup and Shield for Set Dancing, the Eleanora Gibbon Cup and Shield for Drama & Music, the Baumann Shield for Music, National Table Quiz Final, Blackberry Solo singing and the Contest Committee Award

Gempack Baking & Creative Writing Final

Location : An Grianán

Date : Wednesday 31st March 2021

PLEASE NOTE COMPETITION NUMBERS 5,6,7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are OPEN GUILD COMPETITIONS.

1. Gempack Baking Competition National Final Wednesday 31st March 2021

The GEMPACK Baking Competition Final will be held in An Grianán on Wednesday 31st March.

The competition is for a "**Carrot & Pineapple Cake with Coconut**" following the attached Edward Haydens Recipe and baked in a large Loaf Tin. One cake per Federation. Proof of Gempack purchases is required at Federation and National Competitions.

The names of the Federation winners must be submitted to National Contest Secretary, **May Campbell**, Doonameran, Kenagh, Co Longford, N39NX24 by **Friday 12th March 2021**.

The Federation Winners will be invited to come to An Grianán on Wednesday 31st March 2021. Registration of the entries will take place at 10.30am. Tea and

coffee at 11am followed by a Cookery Demonstration. All meals, accommodation on the Tuesday or Wednesday night and breakfast on the following day will be sponsored by GEM PACK.

2. Creative Writing Competition - Closing Date: Friday 31st January 2021.

A short story titled “Covid-19”.

(Maximum 2,000 words, word count must be stated).

Please send entry marked “Creative Writing Competition” to National Contest Committee member, Angela McKeon, Cloonany, Longford, N39E7F9. Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, Guild and Federation on a separate sheet of paper and submit with your entry. **Entries must be typed on one side of paper only, using double line spacing and font - Times Roman, size 12. Send a hard copy to Angela McKeon with your entry fee of €10 not later than 31st January 2021 and email a copy to angelaamckeon2014@gmail.com** Please make cheques payable to ICA Contests.

*We hope to produce the **Creative Writing Booklet** containing all entries. Your story will be included unless you opt out at the time of submitting your entry. If you would like us to return the original story, **please** include a stamped self-addressed envelope. Six stories will be shortlisted to go forward to the National Final in An Grianán on 31st March 2021 and will be read by the writer or a person of their choosing on Wednesday afternoon. The shortlisted writers will be treated to dinner on Wednesday evening and B&B.*

3. Inter Federation Cup for Art - Photography

Closing Date: Friday 26th February 2021

Titles: Colour Photograph: Nature Photography ... "The Natural World around us"

Black and White Photograph: Vintage Object "Vanishing Ireland"

Size of Photographs - 5x7 inches, 13 x 18 cm - unmounted.

Photographs entered must have been taken by the entrant.

Please send entry marked "Photography" to National Contest Committee member, Ann Noone, Cloonahard, Longford N39X8Y9 by Friday 26th February 2021. Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, Guild and Federation on a separate sheet of paper and submit with your entry. **Please** enclose an appropriately sized stamped self-addressed envelope for return. **No details of entrant on photograph.** Entry Fee: €5.00 per photograph or 3 photographs for €10 – Please make cheques payable to ICA Contests.

4. Baumann Cup for Art - Closing Date: Friday 26th March 2021

Art: Painting – " Still Life "

Unsigned, unmounted and unframed (Acrylics only – mixed medium will be disqualified) on canvas -**not larger than 14 " X 18" (35.5 cms x 46cms)**. Please send entry marked "Baumann Art" to National Contest Committee member, Ann Noone, Cloonahard, Longford N39X8Y9 by Friday 26th March 2021.

Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, Guild and Federation on a separate sheet of paper and submit with your entry. **Please** include stamped self-addressed envelope for return. No details of entrant on painting. Entry Fee: €5.00 - Please make cheques payable to ICA Contests.

5. National Table Quiz Final – Saturday 20th March 2021

Closing date- Friday, 26th February 2021

- Team of three participants which can be made up from the same Guild as before or from different Guild members in a Federation but only one team from each Federation can go forward for the National Final.
- Entry fee €30 at Federation round.
- Out of the entry fees for the table quiz, we are asking Federations to pay for dinner B&B for their winning team to attend the National Final at An Grianán on Saturday 20th March 2021 at 2pm. Lunch on 20th March is not included. Winners must make their own arrangements for lunch.
- Total cost €240 payable to National Contest Secretary before 26th February 2021.
- There will be ten rounds with ten questions in each round at the National Final. One ICA round and one Picture round.

Please send names of winning team (printed in Block Capitals) and cheque for €240 made payable to ICA Contests to National Contest Secretary, May Campbell, Doonameran, Kenagh, Co Longford, N39NX24 marked "National Table Quiz" before **26th February 2021**. Include contact numbers and email addresses.

6. Patsy Lawlor Cup for Set Dancing - Full Set (OPEN GUILD COMPETITION) **Closing Date for entry 5th March 2021. Final – Sunday 21st March 2021**

Teams will be required to dance two figures of their chosen set.

Marching on and off floor not permitted. Dancing shoes (jig, hornpipe, batter) not permitted. Uniforms will not gain extra marks / Teams need not all be from the same Guild.

Bring your own music on CD or Tape and Player for the National Final.

Entry fee €5 pp on the door at the Final.

Please send entry details marked "Patsy Lawlor Cup – Full Set" which should include the names of sets being danced, names of the Competitors and their Guilds, contact name, address, telephone number and email address to Helen O'Shea, Cleraun, Newtowncashel, Co Longford N39RC99 , no later than 5th March 2021. National Final on **Sunday 21st March 2021**.

E-mail: helenmarieoshea@gmail.com

**7. Patsy Lawlor Shield for Set Dancing - Half Set (OPEN GUILD COMPETITION)
Closing Date for entry 5th March 2021. Final – Sunday 21st March 2021**

Teams will be required to dance two figures of their chosen set.

Marching on and off floor not permitted. Dancing shoes (jig, hornpipe, batter) not permitted.

Uniforms will not gain extra marks. Teams need not all be from the same Guild.

Bring your own music on CD or Tape and Player for the National Final.

Entry fee €5 pp on the door at the Final.

Please send entry details marked “Patsy Lawlor Shield – Half Set”, which should include the names of sets being danced, names of the Competitors and their Guilds, contact name, address, telephone number and email address to Helen O’Shea, Cleraun, Newtowncashel, Co Longford N39RC99. **Closing Date for entry 5th March 2021. Final–Sunday 21st March 2021.** E-mail helenmarieoshea@gmail.com

8. Baumann Shield for Music (OPEN GUILD COMPETITION) Closing date for entry is 19th February 2021

Two Songs: 1. Winning Eurovision Song

2. 1940’s/1950’s song

Group: minimum of 4 singers (need not all be from same Guild)

Accompanist need not be an ICA member but all singers must be paid up members.

No backing tracks allowed. Costumes will not gain marks.

Entry fee €5 pp on the door at the Final.

Please send entry marked “Baumann Music”, which should include the names of the two songs, Guild, Federation, contact name, address, telephone number and email address to Helen O’Shea, Cleraun, Newtowncashel, Co Longford N39RC99, not later than 19th February 2021. National Final on Sunday 21st March 2021.

9. Eleanora Gibbon Shield for Music (OPEN GUILD COMPETITION)

Closing date for entries 19th February 2021.

National Final on Sunday afternoon 21st March 2021.

Dhá amhrán as Gaeilge (two songs in Irish)

1. Amhrán faoin Mhuir (Song about the Sea)
2. Amhrán ó do laethanta scoile (Song from your schooldays)

Group: minimum of 4 singers (need not all be from the same Guild)

Accompanist need not be an ICA member but all singers must be paid up members.

No backing tracks allowed. Costumes will not gain marks.

Entry fee €5pp on the door at the Final.

Please send entry marked “Eleanora Gibbon Shield” which should include the names of the two songs, Guild, Federation, contact name, address, telephone number and email address to Helen O’Shea, Cleraun, Newtowncashel, Co Longford N39RC99, not later than **19th February 2021. National Final on Sunday 21st March 2021.**

10. Eleanora Gibbon Cup for Drama (OPEN GUILD COMPETITION)

Closing date: 5th February 2021

Theme: Blind Date

Twenty minutes empty stage to empty stage.

Tables/chairs/hand-held props/musical instruments/electronic devices only.

Please send entry marked “Eleanora Gibbon Cup for Drama”, which should include the names of the performers and their Guild, Federation, contact name, address, telephone number and email address to National Contest Secretary, May Campbell, Doonameran, Kenagh, Co Longford, N39NX24, no later than 5th February 2021. National Final will be in An Grianán on **Sunday 21st March 2021 at 10.30 am**

Entry Fee €5pp on the door at the Final.

**11. Guild Year Book for the Betty Manning Trophy
Closing Date Friday 26th March 2021.**

The competition for 2020-2021 is to produce a Guild Year Book, which will give details of all guild activities for the year. The Year Book will be from April 2020 to March 2021. The year book will be a record of all the things the Guild does during the above ICA year with and for its members. It should include photographs, reports or anything of relevance to a particular Guild event. The Year Book should promote the Guild by including information on Guild meetings, outings, classes, workshops and activities such as crafts, drama, sports etc. The Year Book should tell of the fun and friendship enjoyed by Guild members and how the Guild met the needs of members throughout the year. The Year Book should tell of charitable work and community involvement. It should celebrate the successes of members and of the Guild. It should speak of Guild involvement at Federation and National level.

It may be hand written and/or computer generated. Presentation will be important. The year book must be A4 size.

The Guild Year Book must be the work of at least three guild members but we would envisage it being a real Guild effort with various people being involved throughout the ICA year, recording events as they happen.

Entry Fee is €10 with cheques payable to ICA Contests. Entries to be sent marked "Guild of the Year" to the National Contest Secretary, May Campbell, Doonameran, Kenagh, Co Longford, N39NX24. Please include contact name, address, telephone number, email address, Guild and Federation on a separate sheet of paper and submit with your entry fee of €10. Alternative delivery arrangements can be made by contacting May 086 375 1242 after 6p.m.

12. Blackberry Hearing “Singing Voice of ICA”...sponsored by Blackberry Hearing

All you singers in ICA! It is time to exercise your vocal chords, as a solo singing challenge is coming your way. Thanks to Blackberry Hearing Sponsorship, you have the chance to exhibit your solo singing skills. One entry per Federation. Rules governing this Competition is as follows:

- Time allotted for each performance is 2-3 minutes.
- Participants will not be allowed to refer to the lyrics while singing.
- The participants will be judged on the song selection, voice quality, clarity, rhythm and their appeal to the audience.
- The participants are allowed to use their own musical instruments. Accompanist, if required in the performance, will be provided by ICA National Competitions.
- Choice of song is open to the participants.

The name of Federation winner and the song entry should be submitted to National Contest Secretary, May Campbell, Doonameran, Kenagh, Longford or email maycampbell113@gmail.com, no later than Friday 29th January 2021. Date of National Final in An Grianán on Sat 20th March at 7p.m. Finalists in this competition will be invited to An Grianán, where all meals and an overnight stay will be sponsored by **Blackberry Hearing**.

13. Comórtas Gael Linn -. Closing date: Friday 26th February 2021

Scéal (Story) – “An Grianán...An áit is fearr liom”

Suas go dtí 700 focal (up to 700 words). Closing date: Friday 26th February 2021.

Entry Fee €5.... Please make cheques payable to ICA Contests.

Please send entry marked “Gael Linn Scéal” with your entry fee to the National Contest Secretary, May Campbell, Doonameran, Kenagh, Co Longford, N39NX24, no later than 26th February 2021, with a stamped addressed envelope for return if required.

14. Inter Federation Cup for Crafts Closing Date: 26th March 2021

Craft: **“A Rag Doll”**

Minimum height 14” and must include embroidered features and detachable clothes.

Points to note: Suitability of materials for body. Attachment of hair. Suitability and finish of clothes including fastenings. **None of the following will be accepted:** Bought faces, Kits, Knitted or crocheted bodies.

Please send entry marked “Craft” with your entry fee on or before 26th March 2021 to Ursula Burke, 29 College Park, Longford N39X5D1. Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, Guild and Federation on a separate sheet of paper and submit with your entry. **Please** enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for return. No details of entrant on the Rag Doll.

Entry Fee: €5.00 – Please make cheques payable to ICA Contests.

15. Muriel Gahan Rosebowl. Closing Date: 26th March 2021.

Item: **“A Matching Jewellery Set”.**

Design and make a matching Necklace, Earrings and Bracelet.

It can be wired or seed Beads.

Please send entry marked “Muriel Gahan” with your entry fee on or before 26th March 2021 to Ursula Burke, 29 College Park, Longford N39X5D1. Please include your name, address, telephone numbers, email address, Guild and Federation on **a separate sheet of paper** and submit with your entry. **Please** include a large stamped self-addressed padded envelope for return of entry. No details of entrant on item.

Entry Fee: €5.00 – Please make cheques payable to ICA Contests.

16. Breda McDonald Trophy / Hobby section for beginners
Closing Date 26th February 2021

Three of any of the following items

- Pressed Flower Picture
- Knitting (small items minimum size 6 inches/15 cm)
- Glass Etching
- Glass Painting
- Needle Felting
- Pin Flair
- 3D Decoupage
- Deco Patch
- Cane Edge Tray
- Ribbon Work
- Wool Crochet (Pin Cushion, Pot Holder, Toilet Roll Cover)
- Cross Stitch (Bookmark, Card or other small item)

The competition is not open to Handcraft Teachers. The three items must be the work of one person.

Points to be judged

1. Shape
2. Design

Points 1 – 10 awarded for each item submitted. (Each to be a different craft).

Trophy awarded to person gaining most points in this section.

Entry Fee €10 - Please make cheques payable to ICA Contests

Closing Date 26th February 2021

Entry form available from Central Office and online from www.ica.ie (competitions section).

Please forward completed entry form and cheque with items to **Central Office**. Judging will take place at Handcraft Week. Items can be collected from Central Office after that week. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of items if so wished. Trophy will be presented at the National AGM in 2021.

17. MEMORIAL HANDCRAFT TROPHY - Closing date for Entries 26th February 2021

The craft chosen for the Award in 2021 is as follows: **Crochet**

“A Wool Crochet Baby Quilt”

The wool can include synthetic yarns.

It can be a Cot quilt or a pram quilt. Good design and even tension.

This competition is judged at Handcraft Week in An Grianán.

Refer to Handcraft Booklet for points of note.

This competition is not open to Handcraft Teachers.

Entry Fee: €10.00 – Please make cheques payable to ICA.

Please include a large stamped addressed padded envelope for return of entry.

Closing date for Entries will be 26th February 2021 and all entries to be sent to Central Office, 58 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Alternatively, members attending Handcraft Week can bring their entries together with their entry fee to An Grianán. All entries will be judged during Handcraft Week.

18. Contest Committee Award 2021 - Closing Date 26th February 2021

Make and Model

Item: *A Hat for a Special Occasion* to be modelled at the Competitions Weekend in An Grianán.

Please send entry marked “Contest Committee Award 2021” with your entry fee and a short synopsis about the hat e.g. material used, time and the occasion to wear it, to National Contest Secretary, May Campbell, Doonameran, Kenagh, Co. Longford, N39NX24. Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, Guild and Federation on a separate sheet of paper and submit with your entry.

Entry Fee: €5.00 - Please make cheques payable to ICA Contests. **Closing Date- 26th February 2021. If the entrant cannot attend the Competitions weekend and has no model, the Competitions Committee will nominate someone to model their entry on the day.**

19. ICA Trophy for Reporting Closing Date: Friday 26th March 2021

Write a report on “**Queuing....The New Norm**”

The report should be maximum 700 words.

Please send entry marked “Reporting” to National Contest Secretary, May Campbell, Doonameran, Kenagh, Co Longford, N39NX24 by Friday 26th March 2021. Please include your name, address, telephone number, email address, Guild and Federation on a separate sheet of paper and submit with your entry. If you would like us to return the original report, **please** include a stamped self-addressed envelope. Entry Fee: €5.00 - Please make cheques payable to ICA Contests.

20. Pitch and Putt 2021 - Will be held in April 2021 in Seapoint and An Grianán.

The National Pitch and Putt Competition will take place on Saturday 10th April 2021 in Seapoint Pitch and Putt Club, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth with a Fourball Shot Gun start at 11:30 am.

Teams should arrive for 11:00 am to give everyone time to get to their allocated tee box.

The competition is open to teams of 4.

The fee for a team of 4 is €110 which includes lunch for 4 at An Grianán and Green Fees at Seapoint Pitch and Putt Club.

Entry forms can be collected from any Competitions Committee member or it can be downloaded from our Web site www.ica.ie

The closing date for entries is Friday, 12th March, 2021.

TIMELINE FOR ENTRIES 2021

29/01/2021	2. Creative Writing
29/01/2021	12. Blackberry Singing Voice of ICA
05/02/2021	10. Eleanora Gibbon Cup for Drama
19/02/2021	8. Baumann Shield for Music
19/02/2021	9. Eleanora Gibbon Shield for Music
26/02/2021	3. Inter Federation Cup for Art - Photography
26/02/2021	5. National Table Quiz
26-02-2021	13. Comórtas Gael Linn
26/02/2021	16. Breda McDonald Trophy
26/02/2021	17. Memorial Handcraft Trophy
26/02/2021	18. Contest Committee Award
05/03/2021	6. Patsy Lawlor Cup, Full Set
05/03/2021	7. Patsy Lawlor Shield, Half Set
12/03/2021	1. Gempack Baking Competition
12/03/2021	20. Pitch and Putt
26/03/2021	4. Baumann Cup for Art, Painting
26/03/2021	11. Guild Year Book
26/03/2021	14. Inter Federation cup for Crafts
26/03/2021	15. Muriel Gahan Rosebowl
26/03/2021	19. Reporting