

THE SIXTEENTH COTLEY HEDGELAYING COMPETITION

Saturday 21st March 2026 at Cotley Farm, Chard, TA20 3EW
(Directions from A30 AT CHARD)

By kind permission of Mr and Mrs TOM EAMES

The competition is divided into three classes:-

Pairs

intermediate

Open

Each competitor (or pair) will be expected to lay and secure a length of hedge within the competition time limit. The length and difficulty of hedge varies with the class ranging from about 7 metres for novices to roughly 10 metres for the Open.

- Competitors should meet at 9:00am for briefing and the draw for lengths. The competition will start at 9:30am and finish at 3:00pm.
- Hedges should be laid in the "Devon" style using mainly crooks to secure the finished length (please, no baler twine).
- Please bring sufficient crooks for your own use together with your own tools.
- A limited number of crooks will be available on the day for Novice and Pairs competitors without their own.
- Each Competitor will lay the length drawn starting from their number and working to the next highest number.
- Each competitor must lay out the first few steepers for the next competitor to use.
- All competitors will get refreshments and each competitor or novice pair will receive a £20 cutting fee except prize-winners provided the allotted length of hedge has been completed.

Judging is done on a points basis

Quality of cutting, finish of cut stool and absence of splitting.	40 Points
Selection and best use of crooks leading to overall hedge strength.	30 Points
General appearance, quality, and neatness of finished hedge; its effectiveness as a stock barrier and tidiness of the working area.	30 Points

Prizes will be awarded in each class, subject to a minimum number of entrants:

- 1st Prize £100 plus an annual trophy
- 2nd Prize £60
- 3rd Prize £40

CHAINSAWS & SAFETY

Competitors may use chainsaws provided they wear personal protection equipment (PPE): chainsaw trousers, boots, helmet and gloves. The Pairs classes are not expected to use chainsaws but may do so if they abide by the conditions above.

Competitors without chainsaws, or those without PPE will be able to call upon the assistance of chainsaw stewards.

The organisers carry public liability insurance but have no insurance for personal accidents and cannot accept responsibility for such accidents.

Competitors are reminded that by signing the entry form they have agreed to comply with current Health and Safety regulations when using a chainsaw & any other tools being used.

Completed entry forms should be returned to Mary Perry, Wambrook Mill, WAMBROOK, CHARD, SOMERSET TA20 3EW
phone: 01460 66543 email: maryperry@cotley.co.uk

The closing date for entries is **Saturday 14th March 2026**

ENTRY FORM FOR COTLEY HEDGELAYING COMPETITION 2026

Class Pairs Intermediate Open

Name: _____ 2nd Member of Pair

Address: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

Signed: _____ Signed: _____



THE Seventeenth COTLEY ANNUAL HEDGELAYING COMPETITION

**Mary Perry,
Wambrook Mill,
Wambrook,
Chard,
TA20 3EW**

