

13 August 2026

Dear Parish Councillor

TATTENHALL VILLAGE SHOW

Organisation

As you will be aware, Tattenhall Horticultural Society (as it was then called) took on the Show when the former long-standing Agricultural Show ceased to exist. Since then the Tattenhall Gardening Society, as it now is, has organised, managed on the day and funded the Village Show.

Finances

We run an annual Plant Sale which part-funds the Show. Other sources of income are tea & cake sales, a raffle, door entry fees and members' subscriptions. We have also occasionally been able to secure sponsorship. It should be noted that members' subscriptions are intended to be used to fund other society activities, principally our Speaker programme. We are a small society (57 members currently) and speakers can now cost us £150-200 per talk (fees plus travel). The BI hire alone can amount to more than £80 for the evening. Also, the Plant Sale is heavily dependent on a few larger-scale producers and we cannot rely on their plants always being available. Although we will be increasing membership fees this year, for the first time in very many years, the increase cannot hope to keep pace with our raised speaker costs, nor can it pay for the Show.

In addition we have not received any sponsorship from the Bolesworth Estate this year and, as you know, the Parish Council previously stated that they would not give us another grant. For Show 2026, therefore, we are completely on our own as regards financing. For this year, this is not a problem as we have built up a reserve fund, and we were fortunate also to hold a very successful Plant Sale this year.

The Future

The Gardening Society Committee's view is that the Show is a village event, not purely a horticultural one (for example, only just over half the 79 classes in the schedule are for grown things). It is clear to us, from reviewing the entry forms, that the majority of people entering and/or visiting the Show are not Gardening Society members. However, it appears to fulfil a significant social function for its visitors. As such, we believe that both the costs and the organisation are falling unfairly on a small group and

that both should be borne by a wider group in the village, or the village as a whole via the Parish Precept.

On top of that, the present committee has had to manage in the past few years without a Show Secretary and the strain is telling. We are all getting older (and creakier) and can no longer do what we once did. The Committee has therefore taken the decision that the Village Show 2026 will be the last one that they organise and that the Society pays for.

We are writing to the Parish Council to inform you of the above decision and to make the suggestion that the Council or some other grouping (existing or created for this purpose) take on responsibility for organising and financing of the Show. We will publicise our decision and the reasons for it more widely in due course and will put any volunteers in touch with each other.

As current organisers, of course, we have a wealth of experience of how to run such an event and we will be more than happy to share this experience with any new grouping.

Should Councillors have any questions or comments for the Committee, please respond to tattenhallgdnso@gmail.com. Committee members will also attend the Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 7 September.

Regards

Alex Radley
Chair
Tattenhall Gardening Society