Colwich Parish Council Environment Committee

Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show Report November 9th 2026

This year's Haywoods Flower and Vegetable Show on September 6th was one of the earliest that has been held. This was in response to previous flower, fruit and vegetable entrants who felt that their produce is past it's best toward the end of that month. However, the weather had other ideas, and unfortunately and for whatever reasons, every class apart from Baking (!), Art and Photography had fewer entries than last year.

In summary, the number of entrants had dropped by 23.3%, with a corresponding reduction in the number of entries by 24.1%. There were only 9 new entrants compared with 17 in 2025.

As well as fewer exhibit entry fees, there was also a decline in the number of visitors despite our re-launched website and extensive use of Facebook. Fewer people through the door resulted in a significant drop in entry fees, raffle tickets sold, refreshments income and surplus table donations.

Our annual expenditure has been fairly stable at around just over £700. But the Show's income can vary and because of the factors above, this year we ended the day with a deficit of £300.This was mitigated by a generous donation from another Community Group.

In contrast to this sorry tale, there were still enough people attending the Village Hall to make it a very jolly occasion. Brendan did a great job presenting the trophies, with the children especially thrilled to receive theirs.

The standard of the Photography and Art entries was particularly high. We were particularly pleased to see such excellent work from artists entering for the first time.

We have just held our customary Show meeting review, noting where changes need to be made to improve the outcome of next year's event.

Finally, with a resident population of around 5000 in Colwich Parish, it is very disappointing, if not puzzling, to understand why there has been an average of only 56 entrants per show over the past 8 years.

Jim Sarjant, Chairman