VILLAGE SHOW

Origins of the Show

The Teffont Village Show was originally known as The Flower Show and was thought to have had its roots in 1918 or 1919. There are few references to the Village Show between the Wars, and during the Second World War the Show was suspended.

Village Show Cups

The first three cups, named after their donors were originally presented in the late 1940s.

They are the *Willan Challenge Cup* – for local vegetable growers (local means living in the village); the *Keatinge Challenge Cup* – for local produce makers (cakes, jams and other produce and the *Burrell Challenge Cup* – for Open classes for flowers and vegetables.

The *Bill Couch Challenge Cup* was created in Bill’s memory in 1966.

The *Skipper Cup was created* in 1983 specifically for the children’s classes

In 1986, the Show Committee decided to recognize what a tower of strength Cyril Lever had been to the Show. After his death a Cup was purchased and presented in his memory. This was presented for the years 1988/1990 when the Show was held in the Village Hall, but unfortunately has been missing since that date.

Post Second World War

The VillageShow restarted in 1946 and in 1953 records show that a debate was held by the Parish Council when a unanimous vote was passed that the Horticultural Show, as it was then called, should be continued.

In the mid-1960s when there were local Shows held in nearly every Nadder Valley village, discussions were held about whether to combine these shows into a collective Nadder Valley District Show. Indeed an experimental Nadder Valley Show was held in Teffont in the Black Horse Barn one Saturday but by 1968 this was not considered to be a great success and the Teffont Show was reinstated and held in the Village Hall and Magna Church.

The Show lived on in this format for over 20 years although it would have probably not have survived without the support of Mrs Haynes and the Dinton Primary Church of England School. During this time the highlight of the raffle was an enormous Manor Farm turkey!

In the early 1990s there was concern again about the long term viability of the Show and a new Committee was established in 1990 when Malcolm McBain was confirmed as the new Chairman.

In 1991 the format of the show was updated with a single marquee used for the exhibits and tea, and later for dancing in the evening. In addition, the Show moved again, back to Teffont Evias but beyond the Manor this time. This was with the kind permission of Professor Keatinge.

Village Show Chairmen and Chairwomen from 1982 to Present Day

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| 1982 | Mrs J Johnstone | Successful show with entries increased. |
| 1983-1984 | Mr Wiltshire | Entries from Dinton School were up with classes for 10-13 and 14-16. 1984 was a bad growing season with reduced entries for vegetables but the children’s entries had increased. |
| 1985 | Mr A Pitcairn | Very dry season. There were unavoidable increase in costs of putting the Show. Record entries from 150 children. |
| 1986-1987 | Mr Wiltshire | Reduced entries due to bad weather. The Cyril Lever cup was purchased for ‘the outstanding exhibit in the Show’. |
| 1988-1989 | Mrs J Willan | Entries were maintained but fewer people attended. In 1989 there were up to 62 cookery and handicrafts exhibits. |
| 1990 | Mr M McBain |  |
| 1991 | Mrs Cartwright | (An interim year of Mr McBain’s Chairmanship). Decline in entries followed the trend of recent years. A village questionnaire revealed a desire for the Show to continue and a new venue in the Evias Manor Grounds was agreed – by kind permission of Professor Keatinge. |
| 1992-1994 | Mr M McBain | A video of the Show was much approved by the British Tourist Authority. With the new format it became clear that the Show had become a device to make money for many charitable causes. |
| 1995-1999 | Dr K Nicoll | During this period entries and attendance increased. The Dog Show proved a great success and attraction. The 1999 Show had the highest entries ever and £400 was set aside for the Village Millennium celebrations. |
| 2000-2014 | Lt Col A Chapman | In 2000 the Village Show was replaced by the Teffont Millennium Party.  In 2001 the outbreak of the Foot and Mouth threatened the Show but at the last minute MAFF lifted the restrictions. 2004 had very wet weather and a large Willow tree fell onto the beer tent causing considerable damage but thankfully no one was injured.  The Show continued to grow in popularity and the evening party was always well attended. |
| 2015- | Mr R Blamey | The Village Show is building on its recent successes and its well-earned reputation for hosting a traditional and successful event for all the family. |

Current Philosophy behind the Village Show

The aim of the Show Committee is to:

“Put on a day of inclusive events which succeeds in bringing together the Teffont community appealing to as many villagers as possible and involving both long-term residents and newer arrivals, as well as families and friends of all generations*”.*

* Emphasis remains on Teffont and its residents, ‘fun for all’ and children/families
* Each year there is a chosen charity which will receive any ‘operating profit’
* In 2015 the Village Show raised £1500 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Key Elements of the Show

* A wide range of Flower, Produce and Art Classes held in the marquee
* Tea & Cakes – a traditional and important part of the Show!
* Stalls/Gazebos including: Raffle, Local Produce, Bric a Brac, Bottle Stall, Book Stall, Chutney Stall, Bar/BBQ, Ice cream and other local artisans
* Arena Events and competitions run throughout the afternoon and end with the famous Tug - of - War
* Dog Classes and the “Homan Dog Races” are an annual highlight
* The Evening Party starts with ‘Dark & Stormy’ cocktails and supper courtesy of Howard’s House and is followed by dancing to “Crisis” Teffont’s resident band.