



**Defaid Mynydd Cymreig Balwen
Balwen Welsh Mountain Sheep Society**

**Newsletter September 2025
Llythr Newyddion Medi 2025**



**Welcome Croeso
A warm welcome to our new members**

**ANNUAL DINNER – NEW DATE Sunday 2nd November 2025
Llanbister Village Hall – LD1 6TN
(Behind Llanbister Primary School)**

**Main
Beef or Pork with all the trimmings
Selection of Vegetables
Vegetarian Option Available**

**Puddings
Apple Crumble
Lemon Meringue
Profiteroles**

**Price Adults - £25
Under 10 - £14**

Choices to be with Sue by Wednesday 15th October

Annual Show and Sale – Saturday 20th September

Ffermio - the Welsh agricultural programme was present at our Society Show and Sale last Saturday. Hopefully many of you were able to watch this on Monday 29th Sept.

Outside of Wales it can be watched on Sky (134); Virgin Media (164), Freesat (120), Freely (77-online only)

It can also be viewed on www.S4C.cymru/clic as Clic or BBC iPlayer. Please use the subtitles on the various channels.

A record number of entries at our Annual Society Show and Sale in our 40th Anniversary year. Top price of the day at £700gns went to the Groucott Family for their yearling ram.

The pre-sale Show Champion, a ram lamb from Mr. Lynn Williams, Talley, sold for £540gns. Not to be outdone the females held their own in the sale ring, and top call of the day went to the Reserve Champion Female, a ewe lamb from Zahvia Paewai-Jones at £500gns.

Thank you to the Judges Mr. Brian Price and novice judge Mrs. Amy Harries. Thank you to all the staff at Monmouthshire Livestock Centre for all their hard work in ensuring another successful sale. Also thank you to Country Girl Media for the photographs.

And a very big thank you to Geraint, Martin and Chris for their hard work in inspecting and checking details of every sheep entered before the Show commenced.

Sale averages (guineas) - 24 aged ewes - £111.78. 22 yearling ewes - £177.55. 43 ewe lambs - £148.83. 9 aged rams - £242.81. 9 yearling rams £310.33. 10 ram lambs - £249.90.



Above – judge Brian Price with Huw Williams with his Yearling Ewe, and Lynn Williams with his Ram Lamb and novice judge Amy Harries.

Winners of the Day -

Aged Ewe - 1st Alun Davies, 2nd Alun Davies
Shearling Ewe - 1st Huw a Mair Williams, 2nd Zahvia Paewai-Jones, 3rd Alun Davies
Ewe Lamb - 1st Zahvia Paewai-Jones, 2nd Goronwy a Eiddwen Jones, 3rd Mair Hughes
Ram Lamb - 1st Lynn Williams, 2nd Will Thomas, 3rd Lynn Williams
Shearling Ram - 1st R. and J. Evans, 2nd Zahvia Paewai-Jones, 3rd Mark and Rhian Pole,
4th Meinir a Gary Howells
Aged Ram - 1st Dylan Jones, 2nd Tania a Gerwyn Jones, 3rd Helen Arnold

Open Day

A huge thank you to Meinir, Gary, Sioned and Dafydd for providing an excellent venue for an absolutely brilliant day. The weather was also in our favour. It was lovely to see many members plus new and prospective members.

The Society is extremely grateful to all the Businesses who Sponsored the Open Day. Diolch yn Fawr.

Thank you to every one who supported the Society by both buying and selling the Grand Raffle tickets.

Many thanks to Chris and Pete with their double act conducting the Auction.

A huge huge thank you to everyone who donated items and to everyone who purchased them. The highest price was £240 for a spectacular shepherds crook.

Many thanks to Adam and Gerwyn for demonstrating and passing on trimming tips, and for encouraging members to have a go.

A special thanks to Sioned and her friends for getting everyone to have a guess at the number of sweets in the jar. Well done.

The Junior Stock-judging competition was won by Llion and runner-up was Cerys. The Adult Stock-judging was won by Dylan, and runner-up was Goronwy.

Special thanks to the Sub-Committee members who worked hard both before and during the day to ensure its success.



Hosts Meinir and Gary with Roger Davies (flock 1), a founder member. The celebratory cake.

Roger's enthusiasm to ensure the survival of the breed was matched by a small group of like minded people within the Upper Towy Valley and surrounding area which saw the formation of the Society at a meeting held on 21st February 1985. Although Roger is no longer able to farm his flock, his blood lines continue with family members (flock 575).

Royal Welsh Winter Fair

Don't forget that the closing date is 8th October 2025.

Show Points Competition

Please send me your results for this year's showing season.

For exhibitors within Wales the shows must have had a Balwen Society judge.

For exhibitors in England, the new Bricklin Shield will be awarded to the member with the sheep awarded the most points in either Rare Breed or Hill sheep classes.

I look forward to receiving your details by 25th October. Awards will take place at the Sunday Lunch.

Royal Welsh Show



Members and their sheep in the main



parade. Judge Iwan Jones Evans with Zahvia with the Champion and Lynn with the Reserve Champion.

The support from members of the Balwen Society was truly amazing with twelve groups of 3 entered into this competition. This year saw Balwens with the second highest number of entries at the Show.. Members had a brilliant show, although it was saddening that our many members in England were unable to enter due to restrictions in place at the time.

The Young Handlers Competition was once again very well attended. The Winners of each age group were – Beca Jones, Carianne Williams and Deian Williams. Many thanks to the Society's new Patrons – Brian and Helen Jones for judging the classes. Also huge thanks again to Rhys O. Jones for his support by providing the medals for each entrant, and to Margaret and all involved with organising this event.

Membership

Please remember if you filled in your membership form with two names, this is a Family membership. If you wish to change it to an individual membership please notify me. Please remember for those of you who completed a standing order last year to alter it for 2026 when Family membership rises to £45 and Individual membership rises to £30.(The first time in many many years). If any one wishes to receive an up to date standing order please let me know. Please remember to pay your annual membership between 2nd January and 31st March at the latest. Please ensure membership does not go out before January.

Please make sure that I have up to date contact details – email address, and phone number especially.



40th Anniversary Tumbler

I still have a few of these lovely tumblers available to purchase at £15 each. They will be available at the Sunday Lunch. If you are unable to attend on Sunday 2nd November we can arrange to meet at an agreed location, or the Winter Fair.

Inspection and Registration

Don't forget that the final inspection for this year, in Wales is due to take place in Rhayader on Saturday 8th November. This could alter if new restrictions are put in place. Please book with myself , contact details at beginning of newsletter.

England -

Sunday 26th October at Butts Farm, Cricklade Rd., South Cerney, Cirencester. GL7 5QE

Judy Hancox – 07904243140

Saturday 8th November

South Yeo Farm East, Northlew, Oakhampton. ES20 3PS

Gillian Dixon – 01837 810274

Please book with Chris – 07792232758 or email chris@tyderi.plus.com
at least a WEEK BEFORE with numbers of lambs/yearlings

National Show 2025 – Anglesey Show

The Society's first National Show took place at Anglesey Show on Wednesday 13th August. There was a fantastic turn-out. A very big thank you to everyone who supported the Show. A special thank you to Rhys O. Jones for providing the medals and to his father for presenting them. Congratulations to Ken Jones, Helidon flock for winning the Championship, and to the Downes family, Cadwrn flock on winning Reserve Championship. Many thanks to Chris Lewis for judging.



Winners -

Aged Ram (5 entries) 1st Ken Jones, 2nd Dylan I Jones, 3rd Ken Jones

Yearling Ram (3) 1st Ken Jones, 2nd Helen Waylen Morse, 3rd Elen and Elsie Prydderch

Ram Lam (8) 1st DRL Williams, 2nd Ken Jones, 3rd Teulu Downes, 4th DRL Williams, 5th Teulu Downes

Aged Ewe (9) 1st Dylan I Jones, 2nd Helen Waylen Morse, 3rd Margaret Hughes, 4th Elgan Jones, 5th Elen and Elsie Prydderch

Yearling Ewe (9) 1st Margaret Hughes, 2nd Dylan I Jones, 3rd Ken Jones, 4th Ken Jones

Ewe Lamb (12) 1st Teulu Downes, 2nd Teulu Downes, 3rd Cara Gittins, 4th DRL Williams, 5th Elgan Jones

Group of Three (7) champion Dylan I Jones, reserve champion Teulu Downes

female champion Teulu Downes reserve female champion Dylan I Jones
male champion Ken Jones reserve male champion DRL Williams
Champion Ken Jones Reserve Champion Teulu Downes

National Show 2026.

This will be held at Rhandirmwyn Show on the last Saturday in August. We look forward to another warm welcome, and the excellent support from many members.

Melton Mowbray 12th/13th September

This year's Balwen section at Melton Mowbray Rare and Traditional Sale was a really good showing of some quality sheep from six vendors. Some thirty five animals in total.

In the Show section judged by Mr. Adam Lynch (Holthall) saw a decent entry.

Winners - Aged Ram class won by Mr. D. Henson..

Aged ewe – won by Jason Whybrow (Cardington)

Shearling ewe – won by Jordan Stone

Ewe lamb class won by Jordan Stone, with a very smart ewe lamb from Lynn Arrowsmith coming a very close second.

Champion went to Jordan Stone for his Ewe lamb, and Reserve Champion also went to Jordan Sone for his Shearling Ewe. The quality of females on display at this sale was truly fantastic and a true credit to the vendors, making judging difficult.

A display stand was set up and manned by Katie Mander and Adam Lynch for the duration of the sale, this was no small undertaking whilst also inspecting all animals in the sale and registering in the region of 40 animals. It was a lot of work.

However throughout the whole sale yet again this year trade was incredibly sticky with some breeds struggling to 20 – 30 guineas. One Castle Morrit male being sold for charity failed to make that society upset price of 60 guineas.

The Balwen section saw two buyers, one a new keeper who brought several ewes at 100 guineas, and the judge who brought the champion ewe lamb at 100 guineas. A total of seven animals sold.

This year's Blue tongue restrictions made this sale very important for English keepers, however in future years it's essential that both this sale and the official sale are supported both by buyers and society members to help with judging and running stands etc..

A big thank you to all the vendors that supported the sale, all of whom are keen to keep going with this sale and inspection.

Congratulations

Finally, but by no means last Congratulations to Carys (flock 352) on successfully passing her degree in Agriculture and Animal Science at Aberystwyth University, and to Rhian (flock 211) on passing 7 work related exams this year. Well done.

Also in the past couple of months Society members have celebrated their weddings.

Congratulations to Hanna Lois and Tom (flock 521), Chloe and William (flock 575), Lowri and Emile (flock 416), and Gethin and Mirain (flock 361). Best wishes for a long and happy future to them all.

Please do let me have your news for future newsletters

Take care,
Sue