



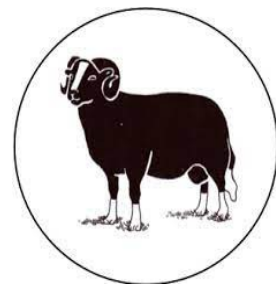
**Cymdeithas Defaid Mynydd Cymreig Balwen
Balwen Welsh Mountain Sheep Society**

Newsletter December 2025

Secretary Sue Williams

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A warm welcome to our New Members

Membership Subscription Renewal

Please find attached a Standing Order with the new figures in (the first rise in many, many years). Membership is due as of 1st January every year. It would be helpful if this is paid as of 2nd January. Members have until 31st March to make this payment, especially important if you are a member of the Judges Panel, and wish to vote at the AGM. The Society prefers payments via Standing Order or BACS. Cheque payments are still accepted at present. Please use your flock membership number as reference.

Neges y Cadeirydd / Chairman's Message

Croeso i lythyr newyddion olaf 2025. Welcome to the last newsletter of 2025 and what a year it's been for the Society as we've celebrated our 40th Anniversary.

There was a very good turnout at the Sunday Lunch held at Llanbister Hall at the beginning of November, and it was wonderful to see members from all over Wales and beyond socialising and supporting the Society. The Annual Awards were presented, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr & Mrs Brian Eagles, for donating a new shield for the highest number of points at shows outside of Wales. November saw the final inspection day of 2025 in Rhayader, where a 100 head of sheep were inspected.

The large and smaller shows have been an excellent shop window for the breed throughout the summer and the Winter Fair was no different with 8 pairs forward for judging. Congratulations to Paul Hancox for winning, and I was personally pleased to see Paul winning with lambs bred by us as a family. The full Winter Fair results can be seen further along in the newsletter and I would like to thank Mathew Brown and Dunbia for supporting the Society with the Taste Test Award entry.

The first ever Balwen Sheep Society National Show was held this year at Anglesey County Show and what a show it was. An excellent turnout of sheep and a lovely atmosphere between members – Diolch am y croeso. We look forward to next year's National Show to be held at Rhandirmwyn Show, SA20 0NT on Saturday 29 August 2026.

As we look back at a successful year, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Teulu Shadog for inviting us to hold the Society Open Day at their farm. It was a wonderful day from start to finish. Many of you may remember Mike and his camera roaming about during the day, well the finished product is nearly ready, so please keep an eye out for a special video on social media between now and the end of the year.

As we look forward to a New Year, 2026 will hopefully, once again, be a memorable year for the Society. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible during the year. I would like to thank all officers and committee members for their support and hard work

throughout what has been a busy and successful year.

Dymunaf Nadolig heddychlon i holl aelodau'r Gymdeithas. Diolch am bob cymorth a chefnogaeth yn ystod 2025 ac edrychaf ymlaen at flwyddyn lwyddiannus arall i'r Gymdeithas yn 2026. I wish you all a peaceful and restful festive season and wish you all well for 2026. Once again thank you all for your continued support.

Hwyl a chofion,

Enfys Downes (Cadeirydd / Chair)

40th Anniversary Tumblers

I still have a few of these lovely tumblers available at £15. I look forward to hearing from you. Sue.



Royal Welsh Winter Fair

Llongyfarchiadau i bawb fu'n cystadlu yn y Ffair Aeaf yn Llanelwedd. Congratulations to everyone that competed at the Winter Fair. The Balwen Sheep Society was well represented in the live classes and the carcass hall.

Class Results (8 pairs forward)

- 1st - Paul Hancox (60kg)
- 2nd - DP Jones (50kg)
- 3rd - Mark Gwillim (43.5kg)
- 4th - Ioan & Erin Downes (51kg)
- 5th - Tania & Gerwyn Jones (46.5kg)
- 6th - Tania & Gerwyn Jones (49.5kg)

Continental Sire x Welsh Mountain Dam (16 pairs forward)

- 4th - Teulu Downes - (76.5kg)
- Dutch Spotted Sire x Balwen ewe

Carcass up to 32Kg live weight pure native mountain or hill lamb.

- 4th - Tania & Gerwyn Jones.
- Liveweight - 21.5Kg
- Deadweight - 10.5Kg

Taste Test Award - 2 legs of lamb

- 5th - Tania & Gerwyn Jones



Bricklin Shield – Highest number of points at shows outside of Wales - Adam Lynch & Katie Mander, Holt Hall Flock

Pencefn Challenge Cup – Highest number of points at 2025 Shows – Zahvia Paewai-Jones, Zav Flock

Tyderi Challenge Cup – Runner up Highest number of points at 2025 Shows – Steve Newman, Ebbw Flock

Alun & Mair Williams Cup for the Best Animal at 2025 Shows – Zahvia Paewai-Jones, Zav Flock

With warm wishes to everyone for 2026, and I hope we all enjoy the break.

Look forward to catching up with everyone next year.

Sue

