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Neges gan y Cadeirydd / Chairman's Message

Annwyl Aelodau / Dear Members

You are all aware of the current national situation regarding Covid-19. The Society has no option but to cancel the committee meeting that was scheduled for 19 April and the Spring meeting on 3 May.

A number of members who regularly participate in local and national shows will know that several societies have either postponed or cancelled this years' shows. Our advice is that members should check with individual shows in order to get the most up to date information. The same is true for many livestock auctions and again we urge you to keep updated with your local situation. I'm sure that you're aware that currently all breeding stock sales are cancelled – we will have to wait and see if this has any affect on Autumn sales – we will keep you updated.

The Society Flockbook is still planned for the beginning of May. However, I must stress, that I can give no assurance of an accurate date, due to the ever changing daily situation that may affect Society officers and/or the printers the Society uses. I appreciate that not all members are on Facebook or any form of on-line media, so can I please ask you to share this message with fellow members who are not on-line. Because of the current national restrictions in place, this newsletter will not be printed and will be an electronic version only. It may indeed be the case that the Society finds itself in the same situation for the next newsletter. Therefore, can I please ask all members, to take this opportunity to ensure that the contact details that the Society has for you is up to date.

Farming is well known for being an industry that can be lonely at the best of times, and this current situation that we all find ourselves in is worrying for us all due to many different reasons. Don't be afraid to ask for help and if anyone needs a chat don't hesitate to pick up the phone to myself, any of the officers or committee members.

The country finds itself in an unprecedented situation and therefore it is imperative that we all follow Government and medical advice. I would like thank all members who are key workers – please look after yourself. Now is the time for us all to pull together, support each other and be kind.

Diolch / Thank you

Malcolm Evans
Cadeirydd / Chairman

Membership

Please remember that membership subscriptions are due before the end of March. Members are reminded that no correspondence will be sent out once membership has lapsed. If you pay by standing order, please ensure this is paid in January. It has also become apparent that the information that the Society holds in terms of whether members keep Torddu/Torwen sheep is very incomplete. You may have noticed that this information was omitted from the 2018 flockbook. We also need these figures for both breeds in order to try and get the Torwen Sheep onto the Rare Breeds list. Can you please contact one of the officers with your updated details so that we can update our membership database accordingly or comment on the facebook post on the Society's closed group – Diolch.

Letter for Glastir

Please note that the SFP deadline had been moved to 15 June. Please contact the secretary if you need a letter for the Glastir element. Please note that the letter the Society provides confirms membership only. It is your responsibility as members to provide evidence of sheep owned e.g. copies of registration forms, copies of flockbooks or invoices of sheep purchased.

OFFICERS

- **Treasurer** – Mrs Kate Williams

✉ treasurer@badgerfacesheep.co.uk ☎ 07815 835333

- **Membership Officer** – Mr Huw Williams

✉ membership@badgerfacesheep.co.uk ☎ 07825 295364

- **Publicity Officer** – Mr Dafydd Williams

✉ publicity@badgerfacesheep.co.uk ☎ 07773 978352

- **Website Administrator** – Mrs Debbie Kingsley

✉ webadmin@badgerfacesheepsociety.co.uk

- **Registrations Officer** – Mr Aeron Edwards

✉ registrations@badgerfacesheep.co.uk ☎ 07496 884418

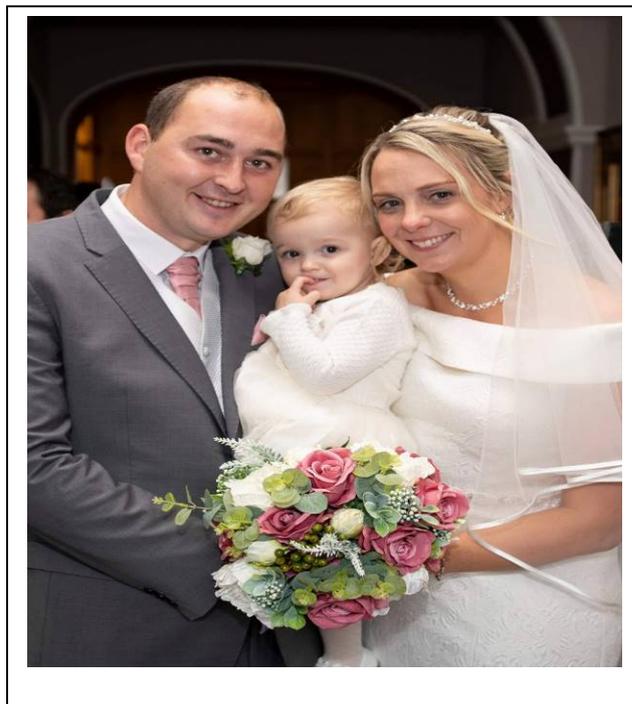
- **General Secretary & Flockbook Administrator** – Mrs Enfys Williams

✉ secretary@badgerfacesheep.co.uk ☎ 07792 869484

Membership Officer – Mr Huw Williams

Hi, I'm Huw Williams, born and bred with Badger face welsh mountain sheep in the hills of Talley. The sheep have been ever present in my life on the family farm, and I became a member in my own right in 2008. I have been lucky enough to win numerous 1st prizes at the RWAS including breed championship in the Torwen and reserve breed championship in the Torddu.

Alongside the flock of Torddu and Torwen at home we have numerous other breeds plus commercial sheep to keep us busy during the year. I have managed to convert Kate, my wife, into liking the Badgers and Carianne our daughter is well on her way. I'm always happy to chat on the phone. Being a farmer I don't have set times so feel free to phone whenever convenient.



Treasurer – Mrs Kate Williams

Hello All! I'm Kate Williams and as most of you know I am married to Huw and we live together with our daughter Carianne at Banc, Talley. I work as an Accountant in Brecon, and help out on the farm as much as I can. I am passionate about saving people money and therefore aim to save the society as much money as I can without cutting any corners.

We have flocks of both Torddu and Torwens! Having only been introduced to the breed 6 years ago, I am still learning but Huw tells me I am getting better at spotting a good one!! I look forward to seeing you all as soon as it is safe to do so. Take care of yourselves during these scary times and I am on the end of the phone if anyone wants a chat.

Publicity Officer – Mr Dafydd Williams

Dafydd Williams lives in Talybont, Aberystwyth. He has three children who all have strong interest in farming. Along with his partner Lisa, Parents and Grandparents, the close knit family run two farms, one at Devil's Bridge and the other at Bow Street, about 15 miles apart. They have kept Torddu since 2001 and Torwen since 2003. He also keeps a flock of Kerry Hill sheep and Welsh Black cattle but the Badger Face sheep is his first delight.

During the summer he is busy showing the sheep and the cattle throughout the Country competing in Local and County shows. Best achievements to date is winning Balwen Breed Champion at the Royal Welsh 2009, Champion male and Reserve male Torwen Royal Welsh 2016 and winning breed Champion Three years running in Anglesey show with the same Torddu ewe including Reserve Interbreed.



Website Administrator – Mrs Debbie Kingsley

Debbie Kingsley is a farmer, working with her husband Andrew at South Yeo Farm West in Devon, where they keep native and rare breed cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry plus goats from time to time. They have kept Badger Faces (both Torddu and Torwen) for nearly 25 years.

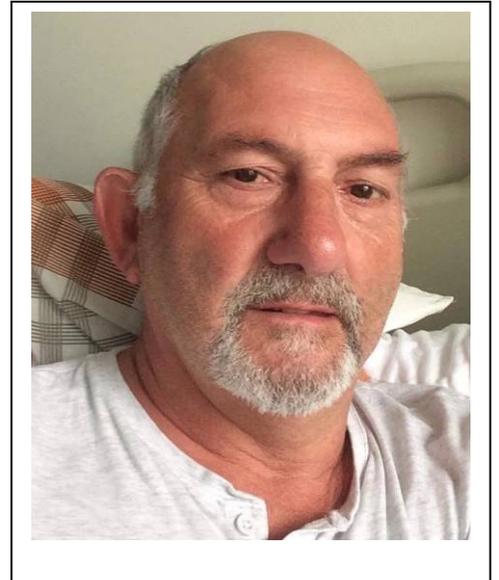
Having run smallholder and livestock courses for over a decade, Debbie also writes for smallholding magazines and is currently co-writing two books on livestock. She is also a consultant, trainer and facilitator working in the arts and cultural sector and is an experienced Chair and board member of arts organisations.



Registrations Officer – Mr Aeron Edwards

I Joined the society in 1978, after being over and speaking to the late Alun and Hilda Issac. The Badger Face Sheep society was only starting, I think I was the 51st member.

I loved the challenge of the Torwen Sheep, and have seen so many changes over the years, but I hope I keep to type, as the hardy mountain sheep, not many do. I work in IBERS, Plas Gogerddan, as an experimental worker with the legume breeding. Whilst 2020 is proving to be difficult for many I'm looking forward to working with you all as part of this role within the Society.



General Secretary & Flockbook Administrator – Mrs Enfys Williams

I'm married to Dan and together we live in Pumsaint, Carmarthenshire with our two children - Ioan is 5 years old and Erin is nearly 2 months. We rent 40 acres in Cwmann, where we keep a small flock of 100 sheep including some commercial ewes, Dan's flock of pedigree Balwens and my small flock of 15 Blue Texels. The Blue Texel cross well with both Torddu and Torwen - again showing how adaptable and versatile the badger face sheep can be.

I work full time as a Service Manager in the NHS covering Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. I grew up in Llanddeusant, and as a family, we bought our first badgers back in the early 90's and have been involved with the breed ever since. Both my brother and I will always be grateful to Mr Myrddin Parry for all his encouragement and advice. It was the badgers that first got us involved in showing. My enjoyment within showing has changed over the past few years, and it's now the Winter shows that I find the most rewarding.

I'm always at the end of the phone, a text message or an e-mail and, whilst I may not be able to answer there and then (I may be working or reading a bed time story) leave a message and I will always get back to you.



Gail Shrubshall - Winner of the Small Flock Competition, South England

Badger Face sheep are all I have ever known. It began with Mum purchasing two Torddu shearing ewes at Findon sheep fair when she was pregnant with me, knowing very little about the breed, but keen to start showing sheep. Ben Lugsden lent us a tup and sold us some ewes to start us off. With the offspring the following year we went to ram registration day with a small show at Holland Farm where Ken Gethin was the judge, Menna and Myrddin Parry conducting the admin. Our ewe lamb won her class and went on to be show champion - Mum and Dad were hooked!

The passion and enthusiasm for showing derives from my late grand-father who used to breed and show pedigree Large Black pigs. Today it feels like we do far too many shows- but clearly we enjoy it. Locally the Badger Face tend to be in Any Other Breed sections but this does not put us off! It is very hard for a judge to take their eyes off a smart shiny Torwen ewe on a sunny day in a line of white sheep. Growing up our main family holiday was to Royal of England show at Stonleigh, spending the week in make shift hotel I for Williams which improved year on year- mainly down to Dad's innovation/entertainment and for me having the opportunity to learn off experienced exhibitors.

Dolphin Sheep Fair (at South of England showground), takes place mid-September is our main sales outlet for our Badger Face females, with un-registered males going to our local market- Ashford. We eagerly look forward to catalogue release of Breed Society NSA and Llandovery sales. With both sales strongly supported we usually end up doing both! The journey to Wales is usually discussion around what's in the catalogue and eagerly looking forward to the hustle and bustle of the sale. With so many smart sheep forward it is hard to come home with an empty trailer. Driving back home along the M4, it is constant discussion about who has brought what and how much they have paid- did we miss something?

Today we keep both Torddu and Torwen on North Downs in Kent, grazing various pieces of land around the parish. We are fortunate to be able to lamb indoors- to ensure the lambs get off to the best possible start with Dad spending many a night in the caravan next to the sheep, with a small flock every lamb is precious. Not long after the lambs are born they are given a full examination to assess any show potentials. Fitting sheep in around a full time job isn't easy. Safe to say after a hard days work there is no better sight than seeing lambs racing around a cherry orchard in bloom and seeing the odd cheeky Badger ewe stretching on her back legs to reach the greenery on the tree. With a full time job that entails travel across the UK and Europe - I am forever grateful for all that Mum and Dad do, it really is a team effort.

In the autumn of 2019, it was a great pleasure for us to show Flock Competition judge- Stephen Pugh around our small enterprise. The introduction of Flock Competition is a great opportunity for members to show case their whole flock- it was a lot easier than selecting just a handful of sheep to go to a show- which can sometimes be a little stressful in the Shrubsall household with Mum, Dad and I each having different opinions on the ideal perfect Badger. We were delighted to be awarded winner of Small Flock Competition last year and would strongly encourage members to participate in this competition going forwards.

Unfortunately 2020, show season is currently on hold. COVID 19 has changed everyone's lives in some way or another. I hope you, your families and your sheep are staying safe during these unprecedented times. Keep focusing on the Badger Face sheep and it will get you through!

Best Wishes

Gail Shrubsall



Joshua Brigg – Winner of the Large Flock Competition, South England

GORSE FLOCK

Veronica Brigg started the Gorse Flock in 1985 with the purchase of a few ewes which she saw at Gordon Lewis' farm at Talley when she delivered some Wiltshire Horn rams that he had bought. These were topped up with a few more from Emlyn Pugh, who she had got to know through the NSA Ram Sales at Builth Wells, and another ewe from the breed sale at Builth that year. Further purchases, much later, were made at the colour breed sheep sale at Llandovery from Glyn King and the late Dai Lewis' dispersal.

She has always concentrated on keeping the true Welsh type and characteristics as this can easily be lost when breeding any breed out of its natural area. To this end she has gone back to Welsh breeders for her rams. The breed has, over the years, created a lot of interest in the Midlands area and been popular with smallholders and lifestyle breeders who have been introduced to the breed when Veronica has taken them to local shows. A limited amount of showing has been undertaken further afield including occasionally at the Royal Welsh and Three Counties.

A few years ago, from a chance enquiry, twenty ewes, of mixed ages, some with lambs and some shearlings together with a ram were sent up to the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides where they created a lot of interest.

Joshua has always had an interest in the flock and has helped Veronica with the flock over the years.

In 2016 Joshua was delighted to be able to put a Badger group Reserve Champion Group at the Anglesey Show. He was also delighted to be elected to the Committee and also be appointed an official breed judge.

The highlight of 2019 was to be judged the best large flock in England, the flock consists of 55 registered ewes, and very pleased to have sold a number of registered ewe lambs, to set up a new flock back in Wales. Like all breeders looking forward to catching up with all members once the current national situation improves.

Veronica and Josh Brigg.



It's Showtime.....well sort of!

For many of our members, showing is the highlight of the year, allowing us to exhibit the best of our flock and socialize with another. However, given these unprecedented and difficult times this will not be possible during the summer of 2020. Therefore, during the coming months I would like to invite you to compete in our very own first online show!

We will post the competition in the closed Facebook group, on the 1st of every month, starting in May. Closing date is 10th of every month. You can enter by posting a picture in the comments, e-mail or send a printed photo to the secretary. (The secretary will post any pictures she receives onto facebook).

Rules:

- Chairman will nominate a judge for each month
- Judge will be announced after the closing date
- Entries must consist of this years' stock only (no previous show pictures to be used)
- Only one breed entry per flock (1 Torddu / 1 Torwen)
- One photo only (1 Torddu / 1 Torwen)
- Not necessary for the animal to be held by handler
- Judges choice is final

Classes as follows:

May – Ram any age

June – Aged ewe

July – Yearling ewe

August – Ram Lamb and Ewe Lamb

#bachosbort #allabitooffun



Congratulations to our former President Ms Kate Hovers, who has been elected chair of NSA Cymru. Kate will be in the role for two years and will look to support the organisation with the policy work and attend stakeholder meetings where necessary. She will also chair NSA Welsh Sheep which will take place on Tuesday 18th May 2021.



Congratulations to Dewi Parry on being elected as the Chair for the National Federation of Young Farmers Club (England and Wales) for 2020 – 2021. Dewi will lead a team of officers and staff during his term as Chair. Dewi has held the post of club chairman at Betws-yn-Rhos YFC as well as being a former Clwyd YFC Chairman.



Newsletter

Please send any relevant news that you wish to be included in the next newsletter to the Secretary before 6 June. The committee is always looking for members who are doing something to promote the breed across the UK – please send us your good news and/or interesting stories.