

Cystadleuaeth Silwair Cladd Cymru Gyfan 2022

All Wales Clamp Silage Competition 2022

Winner: Ifan Ifans

I farm in partnership with my father, Tomos Evans, at Tyddyn Cae, Boduan, on the Llŷn Peninsula. In 2017, we converted the farm from beef and sheep to dairy.

Three months after completing my degree in Agriculture and Business at Harper Adams University, I began milking 200 New Zealand Friesian heifers. They calved in August. We decided on a block calving system in the Autumn, with the milk being sold to South Caernarfon Creameries

I have been very fortunate in having had the opportunity to rent blocks of neighbouring land over recent years. It has enabled us to increase the herd to our present 390 cows. We grow forage and keeping youngstock on the land, releasing more ground in the grazing block for milking cows.

We have invested in the infrastructure and improvements, including increasing the grazing block by 90 hectares. It enables us to implement rotational grazing from the end of February until the beginning of November, as we aim to produce as much milk as possible from pasture.

Our TMR ration includes silage, wholecrop, maize and a bought in blend and is fed over the winter months. The main ingredient of the TMR is the silage, so it's vitally important that we produce good quality silage.

We follow a multi-cut system, cutting the silage every 4/5 weeks, beginning at the end of April. We usually cut after midday and ted the crop, before beginning to harvest early the following day.

In order to get the silage clamped as soon as possible, we use contractors to do the work. Slurry is applied with a 'trailing shoe' and nitrogen artificial fertilizer is added as soon as possible after harvesting.

It was a pleasure to win the All Wales Clamp Silage competition in 2022.

CARAS Awards New Fellowships & Associateships

Associateship

Eifion Huws

Eifion Huws was awarded Associateship in March 2022 for his submission 'Tireless Contribution to the Agricultural Industry, particularly the Dairy Sector.'

Ayrshire cows have been a big part of my life, on the farm and the show circuit, along with agri politics, football and of course my wonderful family.

I was born in Caernarfon and raised in Anglesey, where I attended Pencraig College and obtained a City & Guilds certificate in Agriculture. I then worked for W R Williams on a dairy farm, milking 48 Ayrshire cows.

I moved back home to Penrhos, when that farm was sold. I bought one of W R Williams's pedigree Ayrshire cows. She was Cherry 7th and cost me 100 guineas. It was from her bloodline, among others, that we developed the Penrhos Ayrshires herd. I milked them for 50 years and we reached a peak of 130 cows.

In 1969 I married my late wife Eirlys and we have four wonderful children. They have all been a tremendous support to me, especially after I lost my wife. We moved back into the family home at Penrhos after my father retired. Then when I retired we moved into Rhoslyn.

I am a big admirer of the Young Farmers Federation and have supported them for many years. I was County President. I have had great pleasure watching the youngsters I've trained to judge livestock develop.

I was elected Chairman of the Anglesey County Branch of the Farmers' Union of Wales in 1994. I was elected Chairman of the central Milk and Dairy Produce committee and then onto the Central Finance and Organisation Committee and am now Vice President. I have enjoyed representing the dairy industry all over Europe, meeting different people and seeing different methods of farming.

In my spare time I've enjoyed showing cattle at local and national shows, including the Royal Welsh Show. I enjoy football and as an avid Arsenal fan, I enjoy going to matches with all the family.

I managed Bodedern for five seasons. We once took a 5-a-side team from the village to Wembley and won the whole competition!

Gwobr Hir-Wasanaeth

Long Service Award

Dewi Davies (Dewi Auctioneer)

I was brought up between Talgarreg and Synod Inn, so I'm a Cardi although I've lived in Carmarthenshire for over 60 years.

I went to Ysgol Gwenlli, now closed, and then to Aberaeron Grammar School. During my teens I felt that I would like to get a job in the summer holidays and heard that they needed someone in Llanybydder to pack wool.

The local farmers would bring wool to the mart to be recorded, weighed and packed in large sacks. They weighed around five hundred pounds and were sent by train to Halifax.

My job was to walk on the wool in the sacks to make sure that they were full. Having made a connection at the mart, I then asked Charles Evans whether there was any chance of a 'temporary' full time job. As we all know, that temporary lasted more than 60 years!

I started in the wooden office by the entrance to the station, carrying out minor market day duties and recording the calves. I stayed with my uncle at Llanybydder during the week and went home by bike at the weekend. In due course I bought a Ford van – I remember its registration, NLL 945, to this day.

I was baptised as David Rees Davies, but I was called Dewi (probably after the Saint!!). Throughout my career I was called Dewi Auctioneer, as there was already another Dewi in the office.

I began selling at a farm sale – four ducks at the end of the sale and I made a success of it. I went on to sell in implement sales and then calves for many years.

Over the years, I've sold many thousands of cattle, sheep and horses and have enjoyed every minute. The opportunity followed to sell farms and cottages at auction and privately.

There have been some challenges over the years. Foot and Mouth Disease meant the market came to a stop for a period, apart from selling horses. And of course there was Covid.

Stock prices have risen considerably over the years, but there has also been a corresponding rise in farmers' costs. Mark and the young staff now have a thriving business and I wish them every success for the future.

Gwobr Hir-Wasanaeth

Long Service Award

Dewi Davies (Dewi Cash)

I have worked as a 'cashier' with Evans Brothers, the company of auctioneers, for 60 years.

When I started working with the company back in 1954, I used to cycle from my home in Llanllwni to work in Llanybydder every day. We worked in an office on the square at first, before later moving to a building near the mart.

On market day, my work was to record the names of the vendors, make a note of the animals and prepare bills for the buyers. A similar system still operates, but all the accounts are now kept on computer.

There have been major changes during the 60 years I've been working. The introduction of decimals stays in the memory, changing from pounds, shillings and pence to pounds and pence and having to change all the accounts. The beginning of VAT was also a difficult period for us and it involved much more work.

The outbreaks of BSE and Foot and Mouth Disease are the other periods which stay in the memory. These were very difficult periods for farmers and I remember farmers phoning us for a chat, just because they were glad of someone to lend an ear.

Throughout the years, the company has received and paid millions of cheques. Posting the cheques to customers, meant that stamps had to be put on envelopes.

Then the franking machine came into existence, saving much work and time. I then used the Kalamazoo system to pay cheques, before using the online system.

Cadeirydd Newydd y Pwyllgor Marchnata a Chyfathrebu New Chair of the Marketing & Communications Committee

It is a great honour and privilege for me to have been elected Chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee. It meant that, following three years as the RWAS Ambassador, bidding farewell to that role wasn't as difficult back in December.

As I step into this role, it's important that I pay tribute to former chair, Mrs Susan Jones. She has steered the Society's marketing and communications development for a lengthy period and, on a personal level, Susan has supported me and offered encouragement over the last four years. I'm very grateful to her.

I've developed a career in the field of marketing and communications, so I am offering a background and skills which hopefully will be of benefit. I spent eight years in communications as an Engagement Manager in the National Assembly for Wales, before moving to the marketing side as a Digital Manager. I am now an International Marketing Manager for the Welsh Government.

I hope this experience will be useful as we look to develop the Society's marketing strategy during the next few years, together with using digital communication technology to its full potential. I'm looking forward to working with the committee and staff on these exciting developments.

I have written in past issues of the Journal that the strength of this Society is its members, and our structure of advisory committees. It is my intention that we improve communication with these committees, therefore the members, highlighting communication and marketing campaigns we deliver around the Society's objectives. Any discussion points raised in county meetings can be fed back to the committee, thus completing the cycle.

Lowri Lloyd Williams

Obituary

Anne Elizabeth Mair Howells Glyn Dwyfan, Capel Bangor

Anne (Nan) and her late husband, Ceredig, attended the Royal Welsh Show for many years. Ceredig provided sheep from the farm at Ponterwyd to be sheared in competitions, while Nan stewarded in the flower marquee.

They used to take the caravan to the show each year and parked it behind the marquee. They made many new friends and she appeared on television a number of times.

Nan was honoured at the Royal Welsh Show in 2004 with an Honorary Life Governorship presented by Queen Elizabeth II for her work as senior steward in the floral art section for more than thirty years. She took great pride in her service and in having met Her Majesty.

Born at Llwyn, Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, in 1931, Nan was the only child of David and Elizabeth James. Following the sudden death of her father, she moved to Minafon, Capel Bangor, with her mother and grandfather.

She attended Ardwyn Grammar School and at the age of 16 found employment as a dental nurse with Bert Evans in Aberystwyth. She then went to work as a telephonist at Ysbyty Bronglais, North Road, moving on to work at the new hospital for more than 30 years.

She married Ceredig from Ponterwyd in 1953 and they had two children, Bethan and Huw. She loved growing flowers, cooking, sewing and knitting and was President of the Melindwr branch of Merched y Wawr.

Nan arranged a number of successful events to raise money for charities at the hospital and on behalf of Merched y Wawr.

Obituary

Tribute to Dai Jones FRAgS

On the fourth of March 2022, with spring in the air, a mighty oak whose branches reached out across Ceredigion, Wales, and the four corners of the world fell in Llanilar. It was a unique oak, with the foremost authors of Wales recording the event.

Here is what Manon Steffan Ross says in Golwg.....

'On the day Dai reaches the headland the daffodils decide to open widely and joyfully beneath the hedges. Spring has come and Dai has wandered far over the brow of the hill leaving the beaming smiles of the flowers in his wake'.

The journey began in North London. Dai's father was originally from Lledrod and Llangwryfon and his mother from Talybont. Gerallt Lloyd Owen in the opening couplet of one of his memorial poems to Llwyd o'r Bryn says:

"Arweiniaist blant y bryniau,- a rhoddaist Ruddin yn eu gwreiddiau."

"You led the children of the hills, - and put Heartwood in their roots."

Heartwood is what proves whether wood is alive or not. There was a vivacity in Dai that never faded.

He was the eldest of the three children of Trefor and Glenys. His brother and sister still live in London, but Dai was to return to his roots in Llangwrddon, as the village is colloquially known. He had an ideal upbringing with Uncle Morgan and Aunty Hannah at Tyn Cefn Farm. The Sunday School and the 'Little Meeting' were key to his development as a youngster.

One of his final programmes on Cefn Gwlad featured him in the company of Sir Bryn Terfel. Here were two artists who had reached the pinnacle of their careers without forgetting their roots.

Each respected the other and sang a song with gusto as they travelled together in the car. They both recognised their great debt to the opportunities given to them when they were young. The heartwood was deeply ingrained.

Dai married Olwen at Carmel Chapel, Llanilaron, on the Saturday following the Aberfan tragedy. The Reverend J D Jones, Olwen's uncle, officiated and Ifor Lloyd was best man.

Dai was indeed fortunate in winning Olwen, who was industrious in her work and without fuss. She was his solid backbone until the final hour and Dai appreciated that. They were both on the same wavelength.

Dai attended Eisteddfodau throughout the country and made friends wherever he went. He reached the pinnacle in 1970 by winning the Blue Riband at the Ammanford National Eisteddfod and the Singer of the World at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. Quite an achievement!

Although he had reached the top, he never forgot his roots. Every year he would come to adjudicate at the Llanilar School Eisteddfod, with his enormous leek on his chest. The children would be waiting for him and each would have some story or other to tell him. You could well believe that the Pied Piper had arrived.

An excellent communicator, he would never charge for giving his services in Ceredigion. We owe him an enormous debt. The Royal Welsh Show was all important in his calendar of activities and a dream was fulfilled in 2010 when he was elected as President of the Cardis' Show.

He invited me to lead the Service at Builth Wells Church on the Sunday evening of the show. I deemed it quite a privilege. The church was full to overflowing, with the children of Rhydlywd Sunday School, Lledrod, taking part and they were appreciated by all.

Dai performed a solo and sang the hymn 'O Iesu mawr rho d'anian bur', to the tune of 'The Banks of Ohio', until the notes reverberated across the valley. It was one of the children, Nest Jenkins, who was only ten years old who accompanied him.

Dai was always keen to give the young an opportunity. The Sunday School children still remember his generosity in insisting on paying for sausage and chips on the way home from the rehearsal.

We give thanks today for people such as dear Dai Jones, Dai Lewis and John Davies for ensuring that there is a religious service and Moliant y Maes to begin the show. Yes, the Cardis' Show in 2010 was a memorable one, opened officially by Lord Elystan. He remarked that Dai Jones was the biggest cob ever to come from Ceredigion.

We remember him at the end of the Show raising his bowler hat to the sky to thank the Almighty for the privilege. It is so appropriate that S4C have presented such a beautiful and precious cup in remembrance to him for the group of five beef cattle competition. It was presented for the first time at 2022 Show by Celine, Dai's grand-daughter, with S4C representatives there.

Dai received numerous honours. In 2004 he won a Welsh BAFTA for his contribution to Welsh television broadcasting and in the same year he won the Sir Bryner Jones award for his contribution to rural life.

Whether it was Siôn a Siân, Cefn Gwlad or Ar Eich Cais on the radio, Dai was a natural master of it all. As well as the honour of RWAS making him a FRAGS, he received an MBE in 2000. In 2004 his cup of joy was full once again, when he was awarded an Aberystwyth University Honorary Fellowship under the presidency of Lord Elystan.

He spent over 20 years presenting Rasys and visited America, Germany and France. John Watkin, the television director, commented that even the Prime Minister of New Zealand had recognised Dai Jones, something which caused great mirth. He was a master of his craft and he had everything at the tips of his fingers.

Dai's autobiography, *Fi Dai Sy 'Ma*, was a huge success and translated into English by Lyn Ebenezer, under the title, *Dai and Let Live*. Without doubt, he was the best communicator the media and Wales has ever seen. John Davies Cwmbettws was absolutely right when he said that Dai was, 'King of civilised Society'.

His son, John Ifor, has an agricultural contracting company operating from Berthlwyd and Dai was proud that he had diversified to provide a service for rural areas. Everyone knows John Berthlwyd's blue tractors!

Cymdeithas Hoelion Wyth Tregaron has had a plaque erected on the wall of Berthlwyd commemorating Dai. It is inscribed in fine gold on a blue background, 'Singer, Broadcaster, Entertainer, Patriot and Countryside Treasure'. There is a shepherd's crook in the middle.

In 2019, Dai underwent major surgery and spent periods in various hospitals, but he was able to come back home to his beloved Berthlwyd. There, with the tender care of Olwen, the family and carers, he remained until the final call.

He was able to realise his dream of attending the wedding of Celine, his granddaughter, to Rhodri in Llanddewi Brefi. He was also able to go to the International Sheepdog Trials at Aberystwyth, where he met many old friends.

His funeral service was held at Carmel Chapel, Llanilar, on a spring morning, led with dignity and sensitivity by Reverend John Gwilym Jones, Carmarthen, the Chaired Bard. The organist was Lois Williams with Aled Davies, Pentremawr, leading the hymn singing. Tributes were paid by three friends: Charles Arch, Huw Tudor and Beti Griffiths.

Thanks go to the Chaired Bard, Tudur Dylan Jones, for the fine englyn on the funeral service sheet, which perfectly summarises the life of Dai Jones.

DAI

Dai'r ardal hyd y dalar,- Dai a'i lais

Hyd y wlad, Dai'r cymar,

Dai frenin ei werin wâr.

Llawn o hwyl yw Llanilar.

Beti Griffiths

Obituary

E Llewelyn Evans FRAgS

Llew as he was known was awarded RWAS Honorary Life Vice Presidency in 1990 in recognition of his outstanding contribution.

He served in many different roles from his initial involvement in the early 1960s as Secretary of the RWAS Meirionydd Advisory Committee. He was a chief sectional steward and served on various judging panels, chairing the RWAS Student of the Year panel. Llew was responsible for raising substantial amounts of money for the feature county appeal years.

His first visit to the Royal Welsh Show was as a schoolboy at Aberystwyth in 1957, the year the Rheidol burst its banks. He was working as a radio messenger, an especially important role as the show fields became submerged under water!

Llew was proud of his upbringing in Bow Street and of his education at Rhydypennau and Ardwyn schools, followed by Bangor University. He lectured in Agriculture at Usk and Llysfasi, before his appointment as Head of Agriculture, Horticulture and Environment at Coleg Meirionydd.

The RWAS was a very important part of Llew's life and he recalled the excitement of attending each year, especially at the Sunday evening Moliant y Maes. And he was very admiring of the enthusiasm and industry of the volunteers, grateful to be a part of the success of the Royal Welsh Show.

Llew was very much admired for his contribution to agricultural education and to agriculture, as well as for all his work with the RWAS. He leaves his wife, Marjorie, son John, daughter Morfudd, son in law Alkis and grandchildren Ariadne, Olympia, Daniel and Carin, who all have very fond memories of times spent at the Royal Welsh Show.

Obituary

Huw Geraint Williams BVSc MRCVS (1939 – 2022)

Huw Geraint began attending the Royal Welsh Show in the 1960s and in 2008 he was appointed RWAS Chief Veterinary Officer.

He had been appointed show vet in 1993, with a team of excellent colleagues, and retired in 2018. He was honoured to be presented with a commemorative medal at the Winter Fair and an Honorary Life Vice Presidency for his outstanding contribution to the Society.

Born and raised in Dyffryn Nantlle, he spent his childhood exploring the wildlife habitats of the valley's hills and woodlands. It was here that he learned about nature and its importance to humanity. Unwittingly, he was building strong foundations for his career.

After graduating from Liverpool University, Huw Geraint returned home to work as a veterinary surgeon in Llŷn, Eifionydd, and parts of Arfon, Meirionnydd and Ynys Môn. He settled in Pontllyfni with his wife, Ann, raising three children.

He enjoyed conversations with the people he met on his calls and in agricultural shows and took great pleasure in sharing stories and leg pulling in close knit company. Huw's devotion to his community, his language and work, and his natural, unassuming warmth, were demonstrated in the much-loved S4C TV series, *Mil o Alwadau*.

Calm, firm and measured, many testified to his quiet kindness. His grandchildren were always amazed at his ability to recite so many poems from memory.

Livestock interests included breeding Section D Welsh Cobs and competing at a number of shows, with some success at the Royal Welsh. Huw also took great pleasure in breeding a Texel flock with his son, Iwan, and spent many a contented hour fishing on the banks of the River Llyfni.

Huw was not a committee man by nature, but was proud to attend RWAS committees and to have the opportunity to contribute and play his part in improving veterinary care. This included developing new buildings to isolate and treat animals and ensuring that the temperature and quality of the environment in the halls could be controlled, raising health and welfare standards for all animals.

Gwobrau CAFC / RWAS Awards

Rhian Davies Honorary Life Membership

It was an honour and a privilege to receive an award at the 2022 Royal Welsh Show, after having worked for the Society for 24 years.

It is people who create good memories and they include all the special colleagues in the office and in the estate team – so thanks to those who have become good friends for life. There are also those who volunteer and steward, giving their time, opinion and expertise throughout the year. Many are good friends and I thank them for being enthusiastic, helpful and fun-loving characters.

I must also thank my family, my husband and children for all their support over the years. There are many long, additional hours of work as the excitement increases in the build up to the shows. One memory is of my daughter, Mari, saying when she was little 'we're going to 'Mummy's Show'. I hope that she will be going to 'Mummy's Show' for many years to come!

As a farmer's daughter from Llansadwrn in Carmarthenshire, I started working for the Society in reception back in 1998. It meant that each day began by travelling through three counties and climbing the famous Sugar Loaf, as I car-shared with good friends and colleagues.

The company made the journey much more pleasurable and of course helped with the travelling costs! I'm an expert on the A483 and know every corner and good place to overtake on the road from Llandovery to Builth if ever you need any tips!

My first job was in the front office, sharing a room with Caroline Metcalf and Caron Evans. I had a lot of enjoyment and good guidance in welcoming and helping people who visited or phoned. Caroline and Caron were both very hardworking and I thank them for their welcome, assistance and support.

Opportunities arose to progress and to work in several different roles, including as a personal assistant and in administration work for the Smallholding and Countryside Festival. My most recent role was as an administrative officer inviting all the special stewards and helping with contractors.

It has been a pleasure co-ordinating and developing the various sections of the Festival, the Show and the Winter Fair, and, in particular, seeing the Festival's livestock section growing. Just a few of my favourite duties have involved meeting and working with talented and colourful characters in the farriery and decorative ironwork section and seeing the Winter Fair going from strength to strength.

It was a privilege to meet Queen Elizabeth in 2004 as the Show celebrated its centenary and to have the chance to meet many other members of the Royal Family in different events. It was also a pleasure to get the opportunity to go to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace with my husband.

One of the biggest developments over the years has been how technology has changed the way we all work and communicate. It was out with the old fax machine and many fewer letters and forms in the post as the digital age took the front seat.

Now social media opens doors and offers an enormous platform to market, advertise and communicate in a fast, modern manner. Zoom and Teams have also reduced the need to travel as much, but it is so nice and so important to see us all together again face to face on the Showground.

I wish the Society every luck and success for the future. The place is very close to my heart and if I can be of any help and assistance in any way you need only ask.

Young Handler Awards

Sheep – Junior

Winner: Eiliw Grug Davies

It was a dream come true to win the Young Handlers Championship at the Royal Welsh Show, especially as we were being filmed live on S4C!

I'm eight years old and over the years I have helped my parents with the show cattle, but this time I was on my own with a ewe I didn't know. A friend loaned me a Dorset ewe and I didn't see her until about half an hour before the competition started.

We travelled to the Show from our 35 acre smallholding at Drefach, Llanybydder, where we breed Limousin cattle and have six Texel sheep. It was a hot and humid Wednesday and the sweat was running down my back. I was very nervous and excited.

There were about twenty of us competing in the class. We were going round and round the ring and the judges, Mr and Mrs Arfon Williams from Bala, were asking each and every one of us questions.

The television cameras were also filming us. I had not dreamt at all of winning a prize, but I was short-listed to the final six. The Show President, Harry Fetherstonhaugh, came in to the ring to talk to us and we were live on S4C.

The result was announced and I felt very lucky to have won the first prize. I had a red prize card with numerous rosettes and also a glass tankard. I could not believe that I had won the Young Handlers Championship at the Royal Welsh Show and I was then interviewed again live on S4C by Meinir Howells. What a wonderful feeling !!!

2022 will be a year to remember for sure. Many thanks to the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society for organising the Young Sheep Handler's competition, ages 10 and under, and for Geraint and Eleri Jones (Roci Flock) for lending me their ewe in order to take part in the competition. I am grateful to the sponsors M&S and thanks to Ruth Rees photographer for the photos.

Many, many thanks – Diolch.