

0:00:08.160,0:00:12.719
Hello and welcome to Ear to the Ground

0:00:10.480,0:00:16.320
with me Aled Jones and happy new year.

0:00:12.719,0:00:17.680
Yes, this is our first podcast of 2021

0:00:16.320,0:00:20.240
and I know last year was quite a

0:00:17.680,0:00:21.680
volatile year on many fronts

0:00:20.240,0:00:24.080
but we do hope this year is going to

0:00:21.680,0:00:26.160
turn out better. Having said that, it's

0:00:24.080,0:00:28.480
been a very successful period

0:00:26.160,0:00:29.439
full of excitement in the world of

0:00:28.480,0:00:31.439
sheepdogs

0:00:29.439,0:00:33.360
because we've seen over the past 12

0:00:31.439,0:00:35.520
months the world record for the highest

0:00:33.360,0:00:38.559
priced sheepdog been broken at least

0:00:35.520,0:00:40.719
three times, so it's no surprise that

0:00:38.559,0:00:43.200
there is quite a bit of interest

0:00:40.719,0:00:44.160
in training sheepdogs all across Wales

0:00:43.200,0:00:46.719
at the moment.

0:00:44.160,0:00:48.160
That interest has led to a group of

0:00:46.719,0:00:51.120
farmers coming together

0:00:48.160,0:00:51.760

to form an Agrisgop group through

0:00:51.120,0:00:54.079
Farming

0:00:51.760,0:00:55.360
Connect and I'm joined by the leader of

0:00:54.079,0:00:57.520
that group Elen Pencwm

0:00:55.360,0:01:00.000
alongside two of the members of the

0:00:57.520,0:01:01.920
group on this podcast, Dewi Jenkins

0:01:00.000,0:01:04.080
and Elin Hope and we'll come to Dewi

0:01:01.920,0:01:07.040
and Elin in just a moment.

0:01:04.080,0:01:08.960
But first, Elen, welcome to Ear to the

0:01:07.040,0:01:10.880
Ground. It's wonderful having you

0:01:08.960,0:01:12.240
on this podcast. This feels a little bit

0:01:10.880,0:01:13.600
strange talking to you in English

0:01:12.240,0:01:14.560
because we're so familiar with talking

0:01:13.600,0:01:17.119
to each other

0:01:14.560,0:01:18.240
in Welsh. But first of all, how are you

0:01:17.119,0:01:21.520
keeping?

0:01:18.240,0:01:23.200
Hello Aled, siwmai. Yes happy new year

0:01:21.520,0:01:25.280
and everything and happy new year to

0:01:23.200,0:01:26.479
everybody who's listening. I'm keeping

0:01:25.280,0:01:29.360
very well thank you,

0:01:26.479,0:01:30.079
I can't complain. I've been very busy over

0:01:29.360,0:01:33.280
Christmas with

0:01:30.079,0:01:35.520
two little boys, never-ending turkey

0:01:33.280,0:01:38.240
sandwiches and now I'm looking forward

0:01:35.520,0:01:40.560
to 2021.

0:01:38.240,0:01:43.360
Absolutely, and I know you've been

0:01:40.560,0:01:45.920
leading a group of very enthusiastic

0:01:43.360,0:01:48.240
and determined young people who are

0:01:45.920,0:01:50.720
keen to forge out careers in the

0:01:48.240,0:01:52.399
sheepdog training world and

0:01:50.720,0:01:52.960
people are already doing an exceptional

0:01:52.399,0:01:55.200
good job

0:01:52.960,0:01:56.399
for themselves already. Tell us a bit

0:01:55.200,0:01:58.479
more about that group,

0:01:56.399,0:01:59.759
how it came together and what you want

0:01:58.479,0:02:02.079
to achieve?

0:01:59.759,0:02:03.840
Yes. Well Aled, my background was in

0:02:02.079,0:02:06.159
media and stuff like that. I moved back

0:02:03.840,0:02:09.200
to Ceredigion and I wanted to

0:02:06.159,0:02:11.680
work in the agricultural sector.

0:02:09.200,0:02:12.239
I'm a farmer's daughter, even though

0:02:11.680,0:02:14.400
you know

0:02:12.239,0:02:16.640
I'm not a farmer.

0:02:14.400,0:02:18.400
It's too long hours for somebody like me.

0:02:16.640,0:02:20.959
I couldn't be doing that all day,

0:02:18.400,0:02:22.720
too much hard work, but I wanted to be

0:02:20.959,0:02:24.640
supportive of

0:02:22.720,0:02:27.200
our countryside and the people working

0:02:24.640,0:02:30.239
in it and I wanted to live here

0:02:27.200,0:02:31.040
out in the sticks. I went to Menter

0:02:30.239,0:02:34.080
a Busnes

0:02:31.040,0:02:35.760
and the next thing I knew I started work as

0:02:34.080,0:02:38.239
an Agrisgop leader.

0:02:35.760,0:02:38.800
For anybody who maybe hasn't heard

0:02:38.239,0:02:41.680
of it,

0:02:38.800,0:02:42.720
it's available to anybody who has a

0:02:41.680,0:02:44.879
little bit of land

0:02:42.720,0:02:46.400
and it brings people together who have a

0:02:44.879,0:02:48.640

vested interest

0:02:46.400,0:02:50.080
or want to work on a project together. Or,

0:02:48.640,0:02:51.519
maybe they don't even know

0:02:50.080,0:02:53.920
what they want to do. It's about bringing

0:02:51.519,0:02:55.120
people together forming this nucleus of

0:02:53.920,0:02:57.599
people and then,

0:02:55.120,0:02:58.879
through action learning, using their

0:02:57.599,0:03:01.599
ideas to go on

0:02:58.879,0:03:04.319
and do whatever they want to do. It

0:03:01.599,0:03:07.200
was back in 2018.

0:03:04.319,0:03:07.840
I've known some of the young sheepdog

0:03:07.200,0:03:11.200
handlers.

0:03:07.840,0:03:13.200
I remember interviewing Elin.

0:03:11.200,0:03:14.480
I think she must have been,

0:03:13.200,0:03:16.159
she'd be able to tell you if I was right,

0:03:14.480,0:03:17.200
but I'm sure she was about 11 or 12

0:03:16.159,0:03:19.840
years old,

0:03:17.200,0:03:21.200
and I went to Abermeurig and I

0:03:19.840,0:03:22.640
interviewed Elin and she was running

0:03:21.200,0:03:24.720
sheepdogs then.

0:03:22.640,0:03:26.319

Even then I thought, god she's good

0:03:24.720,0:03:27.680

but she's only 10. So you can imagine

0:03:26.319,0:03:30.080

what she's like now.

0:03:27.680,0:03:31.760

Then there's Dewi. I've

0:03:30.080,0:03:33.760

known Dewi since

0:03:31.760,0:03:35.840

he was about 11

0:03:33.760,0:03:37.040

because he was in the young farmers in

0:03:35.840,0:03:39.440

Talybont.

0:03:37.040,0:03:41.200

And I can tell you this,

0:03:39.440,0:03:43.200

not only did I get

0:03:41.200,0:03:43.840

Dewi Tyngraig to come to the Agrisgop

0:03:43.200,0:03:45.920

group,

0:03:43.840,0:03:47.040

I've also had Dewi wearing a

0:03:45.920,0:03:50.239

pantomime dress

0:03:47.040,0:03:52.159

and lipstick and bloomers,

0:03:50.239,0:03:54.400

he was one of my actors. What

0:03:52.159,0:03:54.720

happened was, when I joined the Agrisgop

0:03:54.400,0:03:56.640

group,

0:03:54.720,0:03:58.400

I thought what about doing something

0:03:56.640,0:04:01.040
with sheepdogs. It's a

0:03:58.400,0:04:02.879
a world that I'm very interested in,

0:04:01.040,0:04:03.920
I'm very fond of the people who work in

0:04:02.879,0:04:06.480
that industry

0:04:03.920,0:04:07.439
and I'm also mesmerised by the whole

0:04:06.480,0:04:10.080
process.

0:04:07.439,0:04:10.959
I contacted Dewi, and as it happens in

0:04:10.080,0:04:14.480
an Agrisgop

0:04:10.959,0:04:16.799
Group, he then went on to have a few

0:04:14.480,0:04:19.840
more names and we came together.

0:04:16.799,0:04:20.320
And we've had an amazing time. We've

0:04:19.840,0:04:21.919
been

0:04:20.320,0:04:23.759
with the best. We've been with Kevin

0:04:21.919,0:04:26.160
Evans, Nigel Watkins,

0:04:23.759,0:04:26.880
Aled Owen, we've spoken to Sarge van der

0:04:26.160,0:04:28.320
Sweep

0:04:26.880,0:04:30.479
over the internet during

0:04:28.320,0:04:31.919
lockdown and we've learned quite a lot

0:04:30.479,0:04:33.600
and it's been good fun.

0:04:31.919,0:04:36.000

Yes, I'm sure it's been a lot of fun and a

0:04:33.600,0:04:38.160
lot of learning as well.

0:04:36.000,0:04:39.520
You and I are both people from outside

0:04:38.160,0:04:41.680
of the sheepdog

0:04:39.520,0:04:42.639
world and I'm sure working with

0:04:41.680,0:04:44.800
these young people

0:04:42.639,0:04:46.320
has given you an insight into a world

0:04:44.800,0:04:46.880
which you didn't know a huge

0:04:46.320,0:04:50.400
amount

0:04:46.880,0:04:50.800
about beforehand. I'm telling you

0:04:50.400,0:04:52.880
now,

0:04:50.800,0:04:54.880
they're very ruthless, ruthless lot

0:04:52.880,0:04:58.320
darling, you better be

0:04:54.880,0:05:00.560
aware! I'm just joking, but

0:04:58.320,0:05:02.160
they are

0:05:00.560,0:05:04.639
very keen,

0:05:02.160,0:05:06.960
they are very passionate and they know

0:05:04.639,0:05:10.479
what they're doing. There's something

0:05:06.960,0:05:10.960
for a midlife 40 year old woman

0:05:10.479,0:05:12.560
who can

0:05:10.960,0:05:14.320
sometimes get around to maybe getting

0:05:12.560,0:05:15.759
the kids to school on time, maybe

0:05:14.320,0:05:19.680
chucking a bit of ironing

0:05:15.759,0:05:22.000
and doing a lasagne, these guys can train

0:05:19.680,0:05:23.360
and do such a good job. That's

0:05:22.000,0:05:24.000
why you hear about them. You heard about

0:05:23.360,0:05:25.440
Dewi

0:05:24.000,0:05:27.440
selling his dogs. You heard

0:05:25.440,0:05:29.440
about Elin winning in the trials

0:05:27.440,0:05:31.759
and it's really quite lovely to see.

0:05:29.440,0:05:34.080
They're just capable young people.

0:05:31.759,0:05:35.840
Absolutely, and let's meet them now Dewi

0:05:34.080,0:05:37.520
Jenkins and Elin Hope. Well, Dewi

0:05:35.840,0:05:39.919
Jenkins from Talybont,

0:05:37.520,0:05:42.320
he's a familiar name to many of us and

0:05:39.919,0:05:43.440
known in the sheepdog circles. We see him

0:05:42.320,0:05:45.199
on television

0:05:43.440,0:05:47.440
very frequently and also we hear about

0:05:45.199,0:05:50.000
his success in the sales.

0:05:47.440,0:05:51.919
Elin from Felinfach, near Lampeter, and is

0:05:50.000,0:05:54.080
also making a name for herself in

0:05:51.919,0:05:56.880
the sheepdog scene and also has been

0:05:54.080,0:05:59.440
working with sheepdogs since a very

0:05:56.880,0:06:01.600
young age. Dewi, if I turn to you

0:05:59.440,0:06:04.240
first. You're very experienced

0:06:01.600,0:06:06.000
in this world, but that said, you

0:06:04.240,0:06:09.520
are still keen to be a part of this

0:06:06.000,0:06:11.600
group and to learn more. Yes,

0:06:09.520,0:06:12.800
what an opportunity it was, to

0:06:11.600,0:06:15.759
join this

0:06:12.800,0:06:16.800
group and being able to go around the

0:06:15.759,0:06:19.440
country

0:06:16.800,0:06:20.000
to the best handlers in the country

0:06:19.440,0:06:24.000
and in

0:06:20.000,0:06:26.240
the world and to learn off

0:06:24.000,0:06:27.199
every one of them which was very

0:06:26.240,0:06:28.960
interesting.

0:06:27.199,0:06:30.400
Every one of them were different in

0:06:28.960,0:06:34.880

their way. They had different

0:06:30.400,0:06:36.800
ways of training their dogs and

0:06:34.880,0:06:40.319
it was a very good experience for all of

0:06:36.800,0:06:42.880
us and I think we all learned a lot.

0:06:40.319,0:06:44.479
Elin, how about you? Did you

0:06:42.880,0:06:47.360
find that people were very

0:06:44.479,0:06:49.120
open to sharing their knowledge and

0:06:47.360,0:06:51.840
their expertise? Because for somebody

0:06:49.120,0:06:54.160
like me from outside the sheepdog world

0:06:51.840,0:06:56.080
it can appear to be a very

0:06:54.160,0:06:58.240
competitive world, in a very

0:06:56.080,0:07:00.400
secretive world, but were people more

0:06:58.240,0:07:03.440
open than you thought they would be?

0:07:00.400,0:07:04.080
Yes, I think they were quite open to the

0:07:03.440,0:07:07.440
ways

0:07:04.080,0:07:09.840
of training their dogs.

0:07:07.440,0:07:12.160
But I also think they might be hiding a

0:07:09.840,0:07:15.360
few tips and tricks

0:07:12.160,0:07:18.560
under the shoulder! But no, it was very

0:07:15.360,0:07:20.720
helpful and I learned a lot.

0:07:18.560,0:07:22.720

As Dewi said, they all had different

0:07:20.720,0:07:25.599

ways of training dogs

0:07:22.720,0:07:26.960

and every dog is different so it

0:07:25.599,0:07:29.599

requires different

0:07:26.960,0:07:32.800

training methods and techniques to

0:07:29.599,0:07:35.280

get the best of that dog.

0:07:32.800,0:07:37.039

And I guess there's no right or wrong in

0:07:35.280,0:07:39.440

so far as, everybody's got to develop

0:07:37.039,0:07:40.319

a style that suits them and the type of

0:07:39.440,0:07:43.360

dog that they

0:07:40.319,0:07:44.160

like to work with? Yes you're right. A

0:07:43.360,0:07:46.800

lot of people

0:07:44.160,0:07:48.080

like different type of dogs but the

0:07:46.800,0:07:51.759

type of dogs

0:07:48.080,0:07:54.720

that people like these days are

0:07:51.759,0:07:56.479

smooth coated and prick-eared dogs that have

0:07:54.720,0:07:59.840

got plenty of power

0:07:56.479,0:08:01.199

when working sheep. Those are

0:07:59.840,0:08:04.479

the ones that are selling

0:08:01.199,0:08:07.199
for a lot of money, therefore, we

0:08:04.479,0:08:08.879
try and breed those type of

0:08:07.199,0:08:11.039
dogs.

0:08:08.879,0:08:13.039
I see Elen you wanted to come in there.

0:08:11.039,0:08:14.560
Yes, I just wanted to add in, this I think

0:08:13.039,0:08:14.879
is one of the beauties of being in the

0:08:14.560,0:08:17.039
group.

0:08:14.879,0:08:18.800
As Elin was saying,

0:08:17.039,0:08:19.120
you do expect they're not going to

0:08:18.800,0:08:22.240
give

0:08:19.120,0:08:25.199
all their tips away but we go to

0:08:22.240,0:08:27.520
different people and you have a

0:08:25.199,0:08:30.080
little bit of everybody's information.

0:08:27.520,0:08:32.080
Also, I think Dewi might

0:08:30.080,0:08:34.159
say that's right actually.

0:08:32.080,0:08:35.839
What I noticed, because they

0:08:34.159,0:08:37.839
would bring their dogs, Elin would bring

0:08:35.839,0:08:39.120
a young dog with her and Dewi would

0:08:37.839,0:08:41.919
bring something young,

0:08:39.120,0:08:43.599

we would watch the master

0:08:41.919,0:08:46.560
classes. So we'd watch

0:08:43.599,0:08:48.640
Nigel or Kevin or Aled working with

0:08:46.560,0:08:49.040
Dewi and his dog. What I noticed

0:08:48.640,0:08:52.480
was that

0:08:49.040,0:08:53.440
you learned a lot from standing back

0:08:52.480,0:08:55.120
a bit.

0:08:53.440,0:08:57.279
You learn just as much from standing

0:08:55.120,0:08:59.200
back and watching somebody else

0:08:57.279,0:09:00.320
having a master class because it can all

0:08:59.200,0:09:02.320
pick up

0:09:00.320,0:09:03.839
and that I found was quite interesting.

0:09:02.320,0:09:04.880
You can learn from all

0:09:03.839,0:09:07.440
different aspects,

0:09:04.880,0:09:08.399
even just talking together in the crowd.

0:09:07.440,0:09:10.480
You'll be surprised

0:09:08.399,0:09:13.920
what things come out can just be those

0:09:10.480,0:09:13.920
little bits of information.

0:09:14.080,0:09:17.839
And what I found as well being a part of

0:09:16.080,0:09:19.600
different groups over the years are,

0:09:17.839,0:09:21.120
when you're learning together, everybody

0:09:19.600,0:09:23.120
picks up on something different

0:09:21.120,0:09:25.120
depending on how you've interpreted

0:09:23.120,0:09:27.040
things you've seen or heard.

0:09:25.120,0:09:28.720
As a group, collectively,

0:09:27.040,0:09:30.560
you probably absorb a lot more

0:09:28.720,0:09:35.680
information rather than trying to learn

0:09:30.560,0:09:37.360
on your own. Yes, definitely.

0:09:35.680,0:09:40.399
everybody was there to help each

0:09:37.360,0:09:43.440
other and I think we

0:09:40.399,0:09:45.279
picked up a lot and we've seen new

0:09:43.440,0:09:48.080
handlers

0:09:45.279,0:09:49.040
coming into this Agrisgop group when

0:09:48.080,0:09:52.000
they've come on

0:09:49.040,0:09:53.839
in into the nursery trials and on to

0:09:52.000,0:09:55.680
completing the trial which is nice to

0:09:53.839,0:09:56.640
see.

0:09:55.680,0:09:58.720
Does it take quite a bit of

0:09:56.640,0:10:00.160
confidence to start competing?

0:09:58.720,0:10:01.680
Is it quite intimidating

0:10:00.160,0:10:04.079
when you're competing for the very first

0:10:01.680,0:10:05.360
time? And Elin,

0:10:04.079,0:10:07.760
you're somebody that started competing

0:10:05.360,0:10:09.600
from a very young age, does that help

0:10:07.760,0:10:10.880
as you develop your skills and

0:10:09.600,0:10:13.920
confidence?

0:10:10.880,0:10:15.440
I think it has, but

0:10:13.920,0:10:17.680
it's quite nerve-wracking when things

0:10:15.440,0:10:20.320
aren't going right on the trial field.

0:10:17.680,0:10:22.000
With big competitions I'm sure

0:10:20.320,0:10:25.120
everyone gets nervous

0:10:22.000,0:10:28.240
as you're trying to do your very best.

0:10:25.120,0:10:30.240
But I think it does help when you

0:10:28.240,0:10:32.320
do it younger because

0:10:30.240,0:10:34.240
you're not thinking as much about it,

0:10:32.320,0:10:37.440
it's only you and the dog out there

0:10:34.240,0:10:41.040
Competing, so it does help

0:10:37.440,0:10:42.640
when you're younger doing it.

0:10:41.040,0:10:44.480

And Dewi, what do you think? Do

0:10:42.640,0:10:46.399
these top

0:10:44.480,0:10:47.519
sheepdog handlers, do they still get

0:10:46.399,0:10:49.519
nervous even

0:10:47.519,0:10:50.720
the big names, those who've won several

0:10:49.519,0:10:52.160
times do they still

0:10:50.720,0:10:54.240
feel nervous when they're out there

0:10:52.160,0:10:57.440
Competing? Well

0:10:54.240,0:10:59.360
they don't look nervous.

0:10:57.440,0:11:01.200
while we're watching them running but I'm

0:10:59.360,0:11:03.519
sure they are.

0:11:01.200,0:11:05.760
Don't get me wrong, with a bit of

0:11:03.519,0:11:09.040
luck in the

0:11:05.760,0:11:12.240
trials,

0:11:09.040,0:11:13.839
sometimes

0:11:12.240,0:11:15.600
you can have a bad sheep and that makes

0:11:13.839,0:11:17.760
things

0:11:15.600,0:11:19.519
much more difficult so there's

0:11:17.760,0:11:22.160
a bit of luck on the day.

0:11:19.519,0:11:22.880
But when that luck comes, you need to

0:11:22.160,0:11:26.000
be

0:11:22.880,0:11:27.600
ready for it. Yes, absolutely, and I know

0:11:26.000,0:11:29.760
you've focused a lot

0:11:27.600,0:11:31.440
during your master classes on the

0:11:29.760,0:11:32.959
tips and hints around

0:11:31.440,0:11:34.959
how to go about training and getting the

0:11:32.959,0:11:38.079
best out of your dog, but how important

0:11:34.959,0:11:40.640
is the breeding and the bloodlines

0:11:38.079,0:11:41.920
of sheep dogs and working dogs? Is that a

0:11:40.640,0:11:45.279
key component

0:11:41.920,0:11:45.600
in all of this? Yes definitely.

0:11:45.279,0:11:49.360

0:11:45.600,0:11:51.200
A good dog always

0:11:49.360,0:11:53.200
goes back to something good in his

0:11:51.200,0:11:55.440
line. Since joining this

0:11:53.200,0:11:58.880
Agrigop group I've been

0:11:55.440,0:12:02.240
studying the lines of dogs more.

0:11:58.880,0:12:03.279
I think it's very important to

0:12:02.240,0:12:06.959
see which blood

0:12:03.279,0:12:09.760

clicks together and try and

0:12:06.959,0:12:10.000

do it again to have something special.

0:12:09.760,0:12:13.120

0:12:10.000,0:12:14.560

Whatever you've been studying

0:12:13.120,0:12:18.079

Dewi you've done okay because you've

0:12:14.560,0:12:18.079

been doing quite well in the sales.

0:12:18.880,0:12:22.240

Yes, tell us a bit more about that there.

0:12:20.800,0:12:24.160

We know we've seen some incredible

0:12:22.240,0:12:26.320

prices being reported,

0:12:24.160,0:12:28.639

why is that? Why is there such

0:12:26.320,0:12:30.720

interest and demand for sheepdogs now?

0:12:28.639,0:12:32.480

I don't know. It's a job to put my

0:12:30.720,0:12:35.519

head around it because

0:12:32.480,0:12:36.880

I thought when this virus first came on

0:12:35.519,0:12:39.600

the scene,

0:12:36.880,0:12:41.200

they thought the sales

0:12:39.600,0:12:43.040

would be struggling and it'd be

0:12:41.200,0:12:44.959

a job to sell them but

0:12:43.040,0:12:47.760

it's gone totally the opposite way.

0:12:44.959,0:12:48.399

The prices of dogs have flown

0:12:47.760,0:12:52.560
up and

0:12:48.399,0:12:53.360
the price of puppies has gone up as

0:12:52.560,0:12:56.959
well. That

0:12:53.360,0:12:59.839
helps. So, now somebody buys

0:12:56.959,0:13:00.880
a working bitch, they can always breed

0:12:59.839,0:13:02.959
from her

0:13:00.880,0:13:04.480
and potentially the pups will pay for

0:13:02.959,0:13:07.120
the bitch.

0:13:04.480,0:13:09.920
That's one reason why the bitch

0:13:07.120,0:13:11.680
have gone up in price.

0:13:09.920,0:13:13.519
And obviously over the past 12 months

0:13:11.680,0:13:15.760
we've seen a lot more online

0:13:13.519,0:13:16.720
sales, how successful have they been Dewi?

0:13:15.760,0:13:18.720

0:13:16.720,0:13:21.200
They've definitely been successful.

0:13:18.720,0:13:25.120
It's open to the world

0:13:21.200,0:13:27.600
to bid so easy rather than depending

0:13:25.120,0:13:29.360
being on the phone to somebody

0:13:27.600,0:13:31.760
for a few seconds when the sale is

0:13:29.360,0:13:34.079
actually on. They can bid from their own

0:13:31.760,0:13:36.399
house in their own time.

0:13:34.079,0:13:38.320
It's definitely been a massive

0:13:36.399,0:13:40.639
success really.

0:13:38.320,0:13:42.720
And Elin, is there a big demand from

0:13:40.639,0:13:44.320
foreign buyers for Welsh sheepdogs that

0:13:42.720,0:13:45.600
are Welsh sheepdogs and the bloodlines

0:13:44.320,0:13:48.880
have been developed

0:13:45.600,0:13:52.000
very sought after on the global market?

0:13:48.880,0:13:55.440
I would say there's a lot of demand

0:13:52.000,0:13:58.240
for sheepdogs that are in

0:13:55.440,0:13:59.839
Wales just because of their breeding are

0:13:58.240,0:14:03.360
of high quality really.

0:13:59.839,0:14:04.480
Also, the trainers and handlers in

0:14:03.360,0:14:08.639
Wales

0:14:04.480,0:14:10.959
are very good, therefore,

0:14:08.639,0:14:13.680
people from other countries wants

0:14:10.959,0:14:15.120
to buy those dogs.

0:14:13.680,0:14:17.680

0:14:15.120,0:14:19.519

And Dewi, when you're looking for dogs, what are the

0:14:17.680,0:14:21.040

characteristics that you look

0:14:19.519,0:14:24.160

out for? What's the

0:14:21.040,0:14:26.160

ideal type of dog for you?

0:14:24.160,0:14:27.839

I think the most important thing is the

0:14:26.160,0:14:30.959

temperament.

0:14:27.839,0:14:31.440

If that's wrong you're struggling all

0:14:30.959,0:14:33.760

the way,

0:14:31.440,0:14:34.480

but if the temperament is good, the dog

0:14:33.760,0:14:36.800

likes you,

0:14:34.480,0:14:38.480

you like the dog, you're on the right

0:14:36.800,0:14:40.720

foot to start off.

0:14:38.480,0:14:42.399

You're friends with a dog and it makes

0:14:40.720,0:14:45.600

the training sessions

0:14:42.399,0:14:46.959

much easier. On top of the

0:14:45.600,0:14:49.920

temperament,

0:14:46.959,0:14:51.600

looks counts a lot now. People

0:14:49.920,0:14:54.959

like a smooth coated

0:14:51.600,0:14:55.920

smart dog. Maybe you try and pick

0:14:54.959,0:14:59.519

something smart

0:14:55.920,0:15:01.839
and then it comes down to the

0:14:59.519,0:15:02.639
other things then like speed

0:15:01.839,0:15:05.680
and power.

0:15:02.639,0:15:06.639
And like Elin said, the dog

0:15:05.680,0:15:09.680
that's uses

0:15:06.639,0:15:10.959
its own head, a dog like that is

0:15:09.680,0:15:13.600
priceless.

0:15:10.959,0:15:14.480
Yes and Elin, is there a dog that

0:15:13.600,0:15:17.440
stands out

0:15:14.480,0:15:18.079
in your memory as a very

0:15:17.440,0:15:20.160
special

0:15:18.079,0:15:21.839
dog that's made a big impact

0:15:20.160,0:15:23.600
or a major impression on you?

0:15:21.839,0:15:25.519
It might be one you've bred yourself or

0:15:23.600,0:15:27.360
one you've come across in the trials,

0:15:25.519,0:15:28.560
what is the standout dog for

0:15:27.360,0:15:30.639
you? I'd say

0:15:28.560,0:15:32.399
the dog that's made the most impression

0:15:30.639,0:15:35.279
for me is the

0:15:32.399,0:15:36.320
first pup that I had and trained

0:15:35.279,0:15:40.320
with the help of

0:15:36.320,0:15:43.839
Jane Drinkwater. She was called Fflos

0:15:40.320,0:15:45.920
and from training her

0:15:43.839,0:15:47.759
I was learning and she was also learning,

0:15:45.920,0:15:50.800
and she taught me a lot

0:15:47.759,0:15:54.560
on the trial field and also

0:15:50.800,0:15:56.560
at home working on bigger flocks.

0:15:54.560,0:15:59.199
I'd say that she's the one that's

0:15:56.560,0:16:01.279
really helped me be the person I am

0:15:59.199,0:16:02.959
now with dogs.

0:16:01.279,0:16:04.320
And what about you Dewi, what's your

0:16:02.959,0:16:06.160
stand-out dog?

0:16:04.320,0:16:07.360
I'd have to say as well the same as Elin,

0:16:06.160,0:16:10.959
my first

0:16:07.360,0:16:13.440
border collie dog I had as a

0:16:10.959,0:16:17.279
present from Dai Jones Llanilar.

0:16:13.440,0:16:19.120
Mos is 12 year old now. He's

0:16:17.279,0:16:20.079
retired from work but he's still helping

0:16:19.120,0:16:23.040
me train

0:16:20.079,0:16:24.480
young dogs.

0:16:23.040,0:16:26.399
I was very lucky there was something

0:16:24.480,0:16:29.040
special about him

0:16:26.399,0:16:30.800
and I think he taught me more than I

0:16:29.040,0:16:34.839
taught him.

0:16:30.800,0:16:38.079
By today, I've got

0:16:34.839,0:16:39.040
the son of him and grandson and the

0:16:38.079,0:16:42.000
granddaughter

0:16:39.040,0:16:43.920
of him as well who keeps on going

0:16:42.000,0:16:46.240
with the line.

0:16:43.920,0:16:48.480
And do you become very attached to

0:16:46.240,0:16:50.880
certain special dogs so much so that you

0:16:48.480,0:16:54.639
you cannot sell them?

0:16:50.880,0:16:56.320
Yes it's very hard to see a dog

0:16:54.639,0:16:58.320
going, especially one

0:16:56.320,0:17:00.000
which has been with you for about two or

0:16:58.320,0:17:04.079
three years

0:17:00.000,0:17:06.319
but you know sometimes you have to leave

0:17:04.079,0:17:08.799

them go to make room for a young

0:17:06.319,0:17:11.600
one to come through.

0:17:08.799,0:17:12.559
As long as they go to good homes,

0:17:11.600,0:17:15.760
which they've been looked

0:17:12.559,0:17:17.199
looked after, I don't mind. And

0:17:15.760,0:17:18.640
Elin you were telling me earlier in

0:17:17.199,0:17:20.720
fact that you're always keen for your

0:17:18.640,0:17:22.640
dogs to find good homes

0:17:20.720,0:17:24.160
Yes, I always like to make sure that the

0:17:22.640,0:17:28.079
dog is in the right place

0:17:24.160,0:17:31.280
and that the dog suits the

0:17:28.079,0:17:32.000
handler as some people are harder

0:17:31.280,0:17:35.280
than others on

0:17:32.000,0:17:35.840
dogs therefore a weaker dog would not

0:17:35.280,0:17:38.559
suit

0:17:35.840,0:17:39.840
a hard handler. I like to

0:17:38.559,0:17:40.400
make sure that they're in the right

0:17:39.840,0:17:43.760
place.

0:17:40.400,0:17:45.919
Maybe I'm being a bit too soft and I

0:17:43.760,0:17:47.039
look after them too well, but I like

0:17:45.919,0:17:50.880
to see them

0:17:47.039,0:17:51.360
happy in their new homes. And Elen if

0:17:50.880,0:17:53.840
I can

0:17:51.360,0:17:55.840
turn to you, listening to Dewi and

0:17:53.840,0:17:57.679
Elin there, it's absolutely fascinating.

0:17:55.840,0:17:58.559
It's a window into a world I know very

0:17:57.679,0:18:00.320
little

0:17:58.559,0:18:02.320
about. I'm sure you've had that same

0:18:00.320,0:18:04.160
feeling of excitement

0:18:02.320,0:18:05.679
and interest from what you've

0:18:04.160,0:18:07.679
learned? It's really

0:18:05.679,0:18:09.679
interesting and I think just

0:18:07.679,0:18:11.360
the end of that conversation

0:18:09.679,0:18:13.600
and if there's something that's

0:18:11.360,0:18:15.440
going out there, because

0:18:13.600,0:18:17.039
it's easy enough for people to say who

0:18:15.440,0:18:19.039
don't understand this world,

0:18:17.039,0:18:21.840
they say, oh they make money and

0:18:19.039,0:18:22.480
dogs are selling for a lot of money,

0:18:21.840,0:18:24.880
yes,

0:18:22.480,0:18:26.960
but as we heard Dewi and Elin say,

0:18:24.880,0:18:27.679
they put a lot of time, they put a lot of

0:18:26.960,0:18:29.919
effort

0:18:27.679,0:18:30.799
and more than that, they make sure that

0:18:29.919,0:18:33.760
they are

0:18:30.799,0:18:35.280
selling these dogs to working people

0:18:33.760,0:18:37.760
where the dogs are being

0:18:35.280,0:18:38.720
used and they enjoy it. These dogs have

0:18:37.760,0:18:40.880
the best

0:18:38.720,0:18:42.559
life because they're doing every day

0:18:40.880,0:18:44.400
what they were meant to do.

0:18:42.559,0:18:45.200
They're not sold to people to be kept in

0:18:44.400,0:18:47.600
a home and

0:18:45.200,0:18:50.320
not going out. These are dogs to work

0:18:47.600,0:18:52.480
with animals or cattle or whatever

0:18:50.320,0:18:53.440
and they're really responsible. To be

0:18:52.480,0:18:56.320
Honest,

0:18:53.440,0:18:58.320
it makes me really proud because I think,

0:18:56.320,0:19:01.600

in Wales Aled, we're good at

0:18:58.320,0:19:03.600
doing three things right. First off, we have

0:19:01.600,0:19:06.080
the best authors in the whole of the

0:19:03.600,0:19:08.880
world, we're pretty good at singing

0:19:06.080,0:19:11.200
and the other thing is the

0:19:08.880,0:19:11.840
sheepdog world. If you go anywhere around

0:19:11.200,0:19:14.640
the world,

0:19:11.840,0:19:15.039
go back to the breeding 60

0:19:14.640,0:19:17.919
years-

0:19:15.039,0:19:18.640
70 years, you'll go back to dogs from

0:19:17.919,0:19:21.200
Wales.

0:19:18.640,0:19:22.720
I really think this is an

0:19:21.200,0:19:24.720
important industry

0:19:22.720,0:19:26.720
and we need to support each other and I

0:19:24.720,0:19:27.520
think in the Agrisgop group, that's what

0:19:26.720,0:19:30.480
I've seen.

0:19:27.520,0:19:31.360
If people are doing well, don't

0:19:30.480,0:19:33.919
knock them,

0:19:31.360,0:19:34.559
learn from them because if their game is

0:19:33.919,0:19:36.960
up

0:19:34.559,0:19:38.880
it brings everybody else's game up. I'm

0:19:36.960,0:19:40.240
very proud of the people I've had in the

0:19:38.880,0:19:42.559
group and their success

0:19:40.240,0:19:43.679
and it's just lovely to see, it really is

0:19:42.559,0:19:45.600
lovely to see.

0:19:43.679,0:19:47.120
Maybe who knows Aled, if there are

0:19:45.600,0:19:49.760
people listening,

0:19:47.120,0:19:50.400
sheepdogs might not be your thing,

0:19:49.760,0:19:52.080

0:19:50.400,0:19:54.400
it might be something else, but join an

0:19:52.080,0:19:57.440
Agrisgop group just to have that

0:19:54.400,0:20:00.880
help and to have that

0:19:57.440,0:20:03.360
support with other like-minded people.

0:20:00.880,0:20:05.120
Yes, absolutely and I'm very envious of

0:20:03.360,0:20:07.520
you Elen because you've been spoiled as

0:20:05.120,0:20:10.159
an Agrisgop leader to work with such

0:20:07.520,0:20:11.360
enthusiastic and really impressive

0:20:10.159,0:20:14.080
individuals

0:20:11.360,0:20:14.400
in Dewi and Elin and others of course.

0:20:14.080,0:20:16.320

0:20:14.400,0:20:17.760
Elin if I continue now to you,

0:20:16.320,0:20:19.360
there'll be people listening to this

0:20:17.760,0:20:21.760
podcast, farmers

0:20:19.360,0:20:23.200
all across the world potentially, who

0:20:21.760,0:20:24.159
from time to time think they should be

0:20:23.200,0:20:27.200
spending more time

0:20:24.159,0:20:29.120
training their own sheepdogs

0:20:27.200,0:20:30.400
or wanting to start training sheepdogs

0:20:29.120,0:20:33.120
for the very first time,

0:20:30.400,0:20:34.080
what would be your tips, hints and advice

0:20:33.120,0:20:36.880
to them?

0:20:34.080,0:20:37.679
Training dogs takes a lot of

0:20:36.880,0:20:40.720
patience

0:20:37.679,0:20:43.840
and doesn't happen overnight.

0:20:40.720,0:20:44.400
My tips for

0:20:43.840,0:20:47.440
people

0:20:44.400,0:20:50.799
is to take time and not to put

0:20:47.440,0:20:52.480
too much pressure and also

0:20:50.799,0:20:53.360

to learn from different people.

0:20:52.480,0:20:56.480

Ask

0:20:53.360,0:21:00.159

people for help and for tips.

0:20:56.480,0:21:00.960

I think it's best if they

0:21:00.159,0:21:03.919

buy

0:21:00.960,0:21:05.039

a pup from a young age that they can

0:21:03.919,0:21:06.720

also learn

0:21:05.039,0:21:09.760

from the pup and the pup can also learn

0:21:06.720,0:21:12.240

from them, so that they're working together.

0:21:09.760,0:21:13.600

What about you Dewi, what's your advice?

0:21:12.240,0:21:16.159

Yes, definitely

0:21:13.600,0:21:18.640

try and have a pup as young as you can

0:21:16.159,0:21:21.039

from eight weeks old and

0:21:18.640,0:21:22.400

bond with the pup, make friends with him

0:21:21.039,0:21:25.039

and it will make

0:21:22.400,0:21:26.080

the training sessions much easier if the

0:21:25.039,0:21:29.520

pup

0:21:26.080,0:21:30.240

is happy in your company and willing to

0:21:29.520,0:21:33.280

learn

0:21:30.240,0:21:34.720

with you. That's a pretty good advice

0:21:33.280,0:21:36.720
there. As we draw this

0:21:34.720,0:21:38.240
podcast to a close I'm going to ask you

0:21:36.720,0:21:40.559
all the same question now. We're at the

0:21:38.240,0:21:42.000
beginning of 2021 it's the time of year

0:21:40.559,0:21:43.120
we'll be all setting out our new year's

0:21:42.000,0:21:45.120
resolutions,

0:21:43.120,0:21:46.880
Elen, if I can turn to you first, what's

0:21:45.120,0:21:48.880
your plan for 2021?

0:21:46.880,0:21:50.720
Well I've been working with my Agrisgop

0:21:48.880,0:21:52.720
group Aled and everybody else

0:21:50.720,0:21:54.640
since 2018 so

0:21:52.720,0:21:59.039
this year, I'll be glad to get

0:21:54.640,0:22:02.240
rid of them all! Only joking!

0:21:59.039,0:22:04.400
Who knows I might make a

0:22:02.240,0:22:06.880
million, I might carry on with my very

0:22:04.400,0:22:09.200
famous modelling career

0:22:06.880,0:22:10.000
and I might just be driving my brand

0:22:09.200,0:22:12.640
spanking

0:22:10.000,0:22:13.600
car around the place or maybe I just

0:22:12.640,0:22:15.760
carry on,

0:22:13.600,0:22:17.840
having another year of me and just being

0:22:15.760,0:22:18.559
quietly happy. Whatever happens will be

0:22:17.840,0:22:21.679
fine.

0:22:18.559,0:22:23.440
Yes, absolutely. Elin what about you,

0:22:21.679,0:22:26.880
what's your plan for this year?

0:22:23.440,0:22:29.760
I think we're all lucky that

0:22:26.880,0:22:31.760
we're here because the last

0:22:29.760,0:22:34.080
year has been quite tough on everyone,

0:22:31.760,0:22:35.440
so we're just lucky that we're all

0:22:34.080,0:22:38.240
safe and well.

0:22:35.440,0:22:40.000
But it would be nice that we'll

0:22:38.240,0:22:43.200
see some trials happening this

0:22:40.000,0:22:44.080
year as we didn't have so many last

0:22:43.200,0:22:46.559
year,

0:22:44.080,0:22:47.520
so it'd be just nice to get together and

0:22:46.559,0:22:50.640

0:22:47.520,0:22:52.480
attend some trials. And the final

0:22:50.640,0:22:54.960
word over to you Dewi.

0:22:52.480,0:22:55.760

What a difficult year it was. Let's

0:22:54.960,0:22:59.600
hope

0:22:55.760,0:23:00.880
2021 will be better. We were meant to

0:22:59.600,0:23:03.919
have

0:23:00.880,0:23:06.159
three quite big trials, two in

0:23:03.919,0:23:07.280
Wales last year, the Welsh National in

0:23:06.159,0:23:09.760
Tywyn

0:23:07.280,0:23:12.000
and the International in Aberystwyth, our

0:23:09.760,0:23:13.840
local international.

0:23:12.000,0:23:16.240
So, let's hope we'll have those two this

0:23:13.840,0:23:18.640
year, something to look forward to.

0:23:16.240,0:23:21.200
Also, let's hope we'll have some

0:23:18.640,0:23:23.919
local trials as well because

0:23:21.200,0:23:25.840
that's where it all begins. Yes,

0:23:23.919,0:23:27.679
Absolutely, we've really missed

0:23:25.840,0:23:29.520
the shows and the events over the

0:23:27.679,0:23:30.080
past year and we really do hope that the

0:23:29.520,0:23:32.480
things

0:23:30.080,0:23:34.320
will improve and they'll be able to

0:23:32.480,0:23:35.520
hold those events in the very near

0:23:34.320,0:23:37.600
future. Well

0:23:35.520,0:23:39.120
Elen, Dewi and Elin I've thoroughly

0:23:37.600,0:23:41.200
enjoyed in your company, it's been

0:23:39.120,0:23:43.679
absolutely fascinating. I've learnt a lot

0:23:41.200,0:23:45.120
over the past 20 minutes or so and I can

0:23:43.679,0:23:47.440
safely say the future

0:23:45.120,0:23:48.480
of Welsh sheepdog handlers is in safe

0:23:47.440,0:23:50.720
hands.

0:23:48.480,0:23:52.240
All the very best to you in the future

0:23:50.720,0:23:53.520
and who knows, we might see Elen running

0:23:52.240,0:23:55.200
a sheep dog in the trials

0:23:53.520,0:23:57.360
one day soon! I look forward to seeing

0:23:55.200,0:23:57.360
that

0:23:58.320,0:24:02.880
but in the meantime, many thanks for

0:24:00.320,0:24:05.840
joining me and all the very best.

0:24:02.880,0:24:05.840
Thank you very much.

0:24:29.520,0:24:31.600