

Welsh Headlines — 05 Sep 2026

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? Top Story: Walkers' 'horror and disgust' as Pembrokeshire stream runs blood red — abattoir pollution suspected

Walkers in a west Wales beauty spot shared their "horror and disgust" after a tributary of the River Cleddau at Withybush woodland turned "blood red", with locals suspecting discharge from the nearby **Euro Farm Wales** abattoir. Natural Resources Wales is investigating: an environment officer attended but found the stream already "running clear", with "no odour or fish kill detected"; NRW has not confirmed a source and the abattoir denies involvement. **Henry Tufnell**, Labour MP for Mid and South Pembrokeshire, said he had written to NRW's chief executive asking why it happened, warning such incidents are "becoming far too frequent", and pledged work on "root and branch reform" of the water sector on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee. A River Action UK FOI report cited by the article found **80% of 83 Welsh dairy farms** inspected by NRW between 2020-2022 were non-compliant with anti-pollution regulations.

☐ *Nation.Cymru* (Stephen Price) — 5 Sep

?? Politics & Senedd

Reform's Senedd group launches "Yma o Hyd" video attack on Plaid Cymru voters. **Jason O'Connell**, Reform MS for Pontypridd and Cynon Merthyr, recorded the party's direct-to-voters pitch standing in a mountain field, challenging the idea that backing Plaid is an automatic expression of Welsh patriotism: "The dragon certainly doesn't belong to Plaid Cymru... loving Wales

doesn't mean that you have to support Plaid Cymru" and "being Welsh is bigger than politics." The video intercut footage of asylum seekers in a small boat and a transgender pride flag, and used an uncredited piano version of Dafydd Iwan's anthem *Yma o Hyd* — Iwan, Plaid's chair 1982-84, previously condemned the song's use by the Reform-supporting far-right Voice of Wales group in August 2025. One visible comment on the post suggested using violence against Plaid voters. Plaid Cymru and Iwan were invited to comment.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Emily Price) — 4 Sep*

"This is the end for Farage" — Plaid's Saville Roberts demands investigation into Reform donations. Plaid Cymru Westminster leader **Liz Saville Roberts MP** said that if Reform UK broke the law over the Channel 4/Verbatim undercover film — in which head of policy James Orr and aide Dan Jukes were recorded arranging for a US company to fund three polls Reform commissioned ahead of England's May local elections (£32,500) — "they must be fully held to account": "Everyone knows that a fish rots from the head down... this is the end for Farage." She said the footage exposed a belief within Reform "that the rules don't apply to them" and a "troubling pattern... where Reform UK appears all too willing to be bought". Former Electoral Commission chief executive Bob Posner said there should be a criminal investigation as "serious criminal offences" may have been committed. (*Underlying donations row = UK roundup top story.*)

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Stephen Price) — 4 Sep*

Caerphilly council starts wellbeing checks amid "witch hunt" by vigilante group. The council's resettlement team has begun proactively contacting every individual it supports, after Deputy Leader **Shayne Cooke** said the "Welsh Valley Child Protectors" saga had become a "digital witch hunt" on Caerphilly social media — with incorrect addresses for supposed asylum-seeker HMOs being shared and causing "unnecessary alarm and anxiety". The group (co-founded by Joshua Edwards and Ross Perkins) claimed to pause activities on Wednesday after Nation.Cymru's reporting; Gwent Police confirmed it received a call from a concerned member of the public. The article notes most Ukrainians arrived via temporary visa schemes such as Homes for Ukraine and do not automatically get British citizenship or passports. (*Compact update — group formation and pause covered 03-09/04-09.*)

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Emily Price) — 4 Sep*

? Health

Gender-surgery halt: referral rates "significantly higher" than England, Plaid backbenchers demand answers. New detail emerged on the Welsh Gender Service pause: the **NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee** (NWJCC), which told Cardiff and Vale health board to halt new referrals and planned surgeries, said data showed the service's surgery referral rate was "significantly higher" than England's while the proportion progressing from referral for some surgeries was "significantly lower" — some patients, it said, did not meet "the basic requirements for surgery" (including unsuitable body mass index), raising questions over whether assessment was done "appropriately". An independent review is to be commissioned; Health Minister **Mabon**

ap Gwynfor and Deputy FM **Sioned Williams** attended the JCC meeting, after which the government said it had assurances the move is "a pause, not a stop". A letter signed by **26 of Plaid Cymru's 28 backbench MSs** to JCC chairman **Ian Green** — sent Monday, surfaced Thursday — called it a source of "profound disappointment". FM Rhun ap Iorwerth wants a quick resolution. (*Update — pause and fallout covered 29-08 to 03-09.*)

☐ *BBC Wales — 4 Sep 20:27*

New IVF treatments delayed "at least four weeks" at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.

Swansea Bay University Health Board has told patients waiting to start new fertility treatment that they face delays of at least four weeks because of staff absences in key local areas; those already in active treatment are unaffected. One patient told BBC Cymru of being told "within days" of an intended start: "The IVF process is extremely emotional and time-sensitive, and patients like us here in Wales should not have been put in this situation." The board published the delay on its website on 28 August, said there were "no safety issues" but that it could not currently meet regulatory requirements to start new treatments, and that there is "no impact on stored gametes or embryos". It is working with the NWJCC and hopes the pause will not exceed four weeks.

☐ *BBC Cymru Fyw — 4 Sep*

Welsh children "left behind" as England begins Benedict's Law allergy protections. From this month English state schools must follow new statutory allergy-safety guidance — whole-school allergy policies, staff training, individual healthcare plans and spare adrenaline auto-injectors — the first phase of **Benedict's Law**, named after **Benedict Blythe**, five, who died after an allergic reaction at school in December 2021. In Wales spare pens remain optional under broader healthcare-needs guidance. The Benedict Blythe Foundation is urging the Welsh Government to adopt the principles; his parents **Helen and Peter** said families in England now have "a clear national framework" while those in Wales "cannot", calling for "a firm commitment, a timetable and action". Allergy Action Wales (Sarah Pattison) has backed a Senedd petition. The foundation says around two children per classroom have a food allergy and half of English schools lacked spare pens before the reforms; the Welsh Government says it is reviewing its statutory guidance.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Mark Mansfield) — 5 Sep*

? Education

School bus overcrowding sparks safety fears in Monmouthshire. Reform MS **Laura Anne Jones** (Sir Fynwy a Thorfynwy) said parents and pupils complained after a first-day-of-term photo showed pupils "packed like sardines" on a public bus — one morning Usk-to-Monmouth service carried **51 pupils**, with children standing after leaving Usk and more boarding at Raglan on a journey of about 40 minutes. Under the county's changed home-to-school transport policy, some children who previously had dedicated school transport must now use public services if they live within a set distance of a bus stop. Monmouthshire council has promised a larger bus on the route, but Jones questioned whether it would have enough capacity and criticised charges for sixth-formers.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Emily Price) — 4 Sep*

New Welsh-medium secondary school proposed at Caerphilly's Y Gwyndy site. Caerphilly council wants to establish a second Welsh-medium secondary school — the county borough currently has only one — by making **Y Gwyndy**, now a satellite campus of Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, a standalone school from **September 2027**. Proposals go to the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee next week, with Cabinet asked on **23 September** to approve a six-week public consultation. Education cabinet member **Cllr Carol Andrews** said two separate schools was "the most viable and sustainable solution, delivering financial stability while protecting educational standards".

☐ *Nation.Cymru — 4 Sep*

? Economy & Business

Sir Roger Jones — "one of the greats of Welsh business" — dies aged 83. The businessman and former chairman of the Welsh Development Agency died on Thursday. Raised in Carrog near Corwen, he founded **Penn Pharmaceuticals**, one of Wales's largest pharmaceutical companies, in the 1980s; he served on the BBC's Board of Governors (1997-2002), chaired the **WDA** (2002-06) and worked with Swansea University, the National Botanic Garden of Wales and YMCA Wales. A trustee of the Nant Gwrtheyrn language centre and a Brecon Jazz Festival board member, he received an OBE in 1996 and was knighted in 2005 for "services to business and training in Wales". His firm ZooBiotic called him "a mentor, a gentleman and a good friend to many"; Cardiff University's Professor Dylan Jones-Evans remembered "a larger-than-life character who filled every room".

☐ *BBC Cymru Fyw — 4 Sep*

Mum says there's "no fat left to trim" as Welsh Water bills head for 42% rise. Victoria Owen, a single mother from Cardiff, runs a "don't waste it" rule of short showers and reusing water — watering plants with dishwater — but says there is "no more fat left to trim" from her household budget. Most of Wales saw a **27% rise from April 2025** (average bill up from £503 to £639), the start of a five-year Dŵr Cymru programme totalling **42% by 2029-30**, with the bill up 4.8% in 2026/27; Welsh Water says it will invest **£4.2bn by 2030**. Welsh Liberal Democrat figures show Welsh Water lost **85,000 million litres to leaks in 2024/25** (Hafren Dyfrdwy 5,400 million); David Chadwick urged the firm to "urgently get its house in order". An ONS survey found 84% of people had taken at least one water-saving action in the past month.

☐ *BBC Wales — 4 Sep 10:01*

Ministers intervene to put Cardiff East data centre plans on hold. The Welsh Government issued a **holding direction on 24 August** over Cardiff Council's plans to let developer **Curtis Hall Ltd** replace the **Cardiff East Park and Ride** site with a major data centre, preventing permission being granted while ministers decide whether to call the application in. The scheme — one of the city's most contentious, over the loss of the free park and ride serving the University

Hospital of Wales — drew a campaign petition of almost **3,000 signatures** led by Pentwyn councillor Joe Carter, who said he was "delighted that the minister has listened". Curtis Hall says the park and ride closed on cost grounds and has been used for hospital parking since 2023, and that the scheme includes a new bridge/link road between Pentwyn and Llanrumney.

☐☐ *Nation.Cymru / LDR (Kieran Molloy) — 4 Sep*

Dozens of Welsh stations to get new passenger Help Points. Transport for Wales is installing Help Points at **48 stations** as part of a **£1m investment**, prioritising unstaffed stations, those with infrequent services and places with poor mobile coverage — fewer than half of TfW's 248 stations currently have one. The button-to-voice units connect passengers to customer-information controllers based in Wales, most of whom can speak Welsh. TfW customer information manager Teleri Evans said installations start "with those stations with limited phone signal and ones that previously had BT payphones"; work is expected to begin this financial year.

☐☐ *Nation.Cymru — 5 Sep*

Housing plans at Chwillog scaled back after Welsh-language concerns. Plans for land at Chwillog, Gwynedd — where around 80% of residents speak Welsh — have been reduced from 25 to **20 affordable homes** by Williams Homes Bala and Grŵp Cynefin after concerns about the impact on the village's "character and language balance" and a 160-signature petition. The amended scheme (four one-bedroom flats, nine two-bedroom houses, six three-bedroom houses and a two-bedroom bungalow) goes before Cyngor Gwynedd's planning committee on **Monday 7 September**, with officers recommending approval.

☐☐ *Nation.Cymru / LDR (Dale Spridgeon) — 4 Sep*

Ofgem launches Welsh-language recruitment in Cardiff. The energy regulator is hiring a Customer Service Officer (Welsh Language) and a Case Reviewer (Welsh Language) to support Welsh speakers accessing low-carbon schemes including the Boiler Upgrade Scheme and Bill Discount Scheme, as its Cardiff office grows from four staff in 2021 to **187 in 2026**. Deputy director for operations Ceri Moggridge said the roles "strengthen our Welsh-language capability" across schemes worth more than £13bn a year.

☐☐ *Nation.Cymru — 4 Sep*

? Environment

(Top story above — blood-red river pollution investigation. Ongoing: SOS Aggregates "bits of old toilets" tipping row at Coed-poeth/Mwynglawdd re-surfaced on BBC 5 Sep 06:51 but is a re-run of the 04-09 story — no new development; south Wales wildfire battle ongoing — see UK file.)

? Culture & Entertainment

Merthyr actress says fighting Hugh Jackman in *The Death of Robin Hood* was "surreal". **Jade Croot, 27**, from Merthyr Tydfil, plays revenge-seeking **Wainwright** in the dark thriller — based on a 17th-century ballad, with Jackman as a battle-weary Robin Hood at the end of his life and Jodie Comer as Sister Brigid. Filming in Ireland came in "sleet and freezing temperatures" and she once looked "blue", but Jackman "took really good care" of her — "cups of tea" and "dinner in the tent" between takes, and she jokes about the height difference: "I'm very, very petite." Croot, who has starred in Netflix's *Sacrifice* (with Anya Taylor-Joy and Chris Evans) and *The Rabbit Trap* opposite Dev Patel, said acting helped her rebuild confidence after being bullied at school.

📺 *BBC Wales (Angharad Thomas) — 5 Sep 08:03*

Rob Brydon's regret at turning down a Dolly Parton interview. The Gavin & Stacey star told Lucy Owen on BBC Radio Wales he "regrets" declining the chance to interview Dolly Parton after choosing to stay on a family holiday in Arizona — he "never met her" before she died in Nashville on **25 August** (her death and Welsh roots covered 27-29 Aug). Brydon, who hosts *Rob Brydon's Honky Tonk Road Trip*, visited Dollywood during the series, where Parton's relatives traced the Parton and Owens families to Wales; Owen drew a parallel with Parton's Imagination Library as Brydon promotes his debut children's book *The Cat in the Cupboard* (out 10 September), about Crumble the ginger cat. He added he "can't wait" to see Gavin & Stacey co-stars Ruth Jones and James Corden's new comedy *The Choir*.

📺 *BBC Wales — 4 Sep 18:04*

Merthyr's 1987 Atalanta shock hits the stage. *Just One Cornetto*, Anthony Bunko's comedy about Merthyr Tydfil FC's 2-1 European Cup Winners' Cup first-leg win over Atalanta — decided by an 83rd-minute Ceri Williams free-kick deflected off an Italian player — **premiered on Thursday at the Coliseum Theatre, Aberdare**, with about 500 people expected including many of the original players. Bunko says it is "not so much of a football story... a bit like the Full Monty"; the plot follows a boy trying to take his grandfather's ashes to the game, plus a love story. Ben Evans plays Kevin Rogers, the only Merthyr-born player in the side, who scored in the 38th minute. (*Update — show previewed 08-08; this is premiere coverage.*)

📺 *BBC Wales — 4 Sep 13:56*

Roy Saer, folk-song scholar and collector, dies at 90. The authority on Welsh folk song — born in Hebron, Carmarthenshire — joined the Welsh Folk Museum at St Fagans as a research assistant in 1963 and spent years travelling Wales in a caravan recording traditional songs including the plygain carol-singing tradition. He worked with Cymdeithas Alawon Gwerin Cymru (the Welsh Folk Song Society) for more than six decades, becoming honorary president, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2019 Welsh Folk Awards. Former National Library director Dr Rhidian Griffiths called his contribution "wholly essential": "a very, very warm person... quiet and unassuming". He leaves three sons; his wife Ann died in 2018.

📺 *BBC Cymru Fyw — 4 Sep*

Ancient cave art suggests first humans in Ireland walked over from Wales. Researchers led by rock-art expert Dr George Nash of Liverpool University have located **eight cave sites in**

south-west Ireland whose art they believe dates back at least **15,000 years** — around 5,000 years before the previous oldest evidence of humans in Ireland. The Lost Land Bridge Project argues that during the Ice Age, lowered sea levels opened a "lost land bridge" between Pembrokeshire and Ireland's south-east tip near Rosslare — a forested-grassland plateau about 46 miles coast-to-coast. An AI algorithm built from the characteristics of south Wales cave dwellings flagged 28 candidate Irish caves, eight of which had art; the locations are being kept secret to deter vandalism and looting.

📺 *BBC Wales — 4 Sep, updated 5 Sep 06:52*

Llandudno Goldwing Light Parade returns tonight — the motorbike light parade rides through Llandudno on Saturday evening (5 Sep) raising funds for Wales Air Ambulance.

📺 *North Wales Pioneer — event 5 Sep*

? Sport

UCI to bring in real-time rider trackers after Fin Tarling's death. Cycling's world governing body has proposed GPS tracking of riders and vehicles at all professional races, weeks after **Fin Tarling, 19**, died in a collision with a van that strayed onto the course at the Volta a Portugal — still under investigation by Portuguese authorities. After a meeting in Aigle, Switzerland, the Professional Cycling Council "stressed the urgent need to put in place, as quickly as possible, a dedicated safety system allowing the real-time location of riders and vehicles to be tracked at all professional road cycling events, starting with those in the UCI World Tour and UCI Women's World Tour". Trackers were first used at last year's world championships in Kigali after the death of Muriel Furrer, who was not found for over an hour and 20 minutes after crashing in woodland. UCI president David Lappartient said stakeholders "need to move past any disagreements on certain issues and act together"; the proposals need executive committee approval and will be discussed at the Montreal worlds (20-27 September). *(Follow-up — Tarling's death 14-08 and Josh's Vuelta withdrawal covered 21-08/28-08.)*

📺 *BBC Sport Wales (Matt Warwick) — 4 Sep*

Welshman Aneurin Donald gets England white-ball call-up. Derbyshire opener **Donald, 29**, joins England's 16-man T20 squad for the Sri Lanka series after scoring **489 runs in 12 Vitality Blast matches** while captaining the Falcons — including a competition-high **37 sixes** — and helping Trent Rockets reach the Hundred final. Selector Marcus North called him and Sussex's Henry Crocombe "two promising players who have earned their places on the back of impressive performances in domestic cricket".

📺 *BBC Sport — 4 Sep*

Swansea v Wrexham tonight: Parkinson says Wrexham need their "A game".

Championship leaders **Swansea (10 points from 12)** host **Wrexham** at the Swansea.com Stadium at **20:00 BST** on Saturday. Phil Parkinson says his side — seventh last season and fresh

from a 3-0 midweek win at Millwall — are more "accomplished" than the team beaten 2-1 in south Wales last December, but must be alert to keeper Lawrence Vigouroux's distribution after Swansea's 2-0 win over Watford on Tuesday. Wrexham have won only one of their last 11 league meetings with Swansea.

📺 *BBC Sport Wales (Ian Mitchelmore) — 4 Sep*

? Community & Feel-Good

"Absolutely bonkers": ex-rugby pro David Jackson completes 100th ultra marathon in 100 days. David Jackson, 44 — forced to retire from rugby in 2013 after a training brain injury — was due to complete his 100th ultra marathon in 100 days at **Caernarfon Castle on Saturday**, the spot where the "Mission IN-possible" challenge began in May. Running ~50km a day on circuits designed to let local people join in across 25 locations, he has set a world record for consecutive daily ultras (81 days as of 17 August and still counting), with more than **800 people** joining him — youngest aged eight, oldest in his 80s. His wife Catherine has supported every leg; runner Steve Magee, 61, of Caernarfon's "Rhedeg Gyda'n Gilydd" group called it "hollol boncyrs" (absolutely bonkers). Jackson said the 100 days "has left its mark on my body — but nothing compared to the injury I had in 2013"; the challenge raises money for **Headway UK and Head for Change**.

📺 *BBC Cymru Fyw — 5 Sep*

Welsh firefighter among 232 heading to Atlanta for 9/11 memorial climb. Caer Timothy — from the Pontypridd area, now a firefighter at Cornwall Airport and living in Atlanta — helped organise the trip two years in the making, in which British firefighters will climb **110 flights of stairs** — the height of the World Trade Center — at Truit Park to honour the **343 New York firefighters** who died on 11 September 2001 and those who have since died of related illness. Each of the 232 climbers remembers one fallen firefighter: Timothy carries for **Raymond E. Murphy, lieutenant of Ladder 16**. Speaking on Radio Cymru's *Dros Frecwast*, he said it will be a "very emotional" day; funds go to the Terry Farrell Memorial Fund, the Firefighters Charity and the Blue Light Charity.

📺 *BBC Cymru Fyw — 5 Sep*

? Quick Summary

Section	Key story
📺 Top Story	Blood-red Cleddau tributary at Withybush linked to abattoir — NRW investigating, MP writes to agency
📺 Politics	Reform video attack on Plaid voters (Yma o Hyd row); Saville Roberts: "end for Farage"; Caerphilly wellbeing checks

Section	Key story
☐ Health	Gender-surgery pause: JCC data + Plaid backbench letter; IVF delays Neath Port Talbot; Benedict's Law gap
☐ Education	Monmouthshire school-bus overcrowding; Y Gwyndy Welsh-medium secondary proposal
☐ Economy	Sir Roger Jones dies at 83; 42% water-bill rise human impact; Cardiff East data centre holding direction; TfW Help Points
☐ Environment	(Top story) — river pollution investigation
☐ Culture	Jade Croot in Robin Hood film; Rob Brydon/Dolly regret; Just One Cornetto premieres; Roy Saer dies; cave art
☐ Sport	UCI real-time trackers after Tarling death; Donald England call-up; Swansea v Wrexham tonight
☐ Feel-Good	David Jackson's 100th ultra in 100 days; firefighters' 9/11 Atlanta climb

Compiled 5 Sep 2026 ~09:30 BST by Emrys (Hermes cron) · Sources: BBC Wales, BBC Sport Wales, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru, North Wales Pioneer. SearXNG: query 1 returned only index/corroboration pages (frontpages, walesonline, BBC index, NewsNow) plus one event lead; queries 2-3 full garbage mode (Wikipedia/language spam, explicit porn spam) — zero usable article leads; all sources swept directly via the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090), 25 articles fetched via parallel subagents. No fresh GOV.WALES release (newest remains 2 Sep 23:00, covered 03-09). Guardian Wales and BBC Wales Politics indexes carried nothing newer than 4 Sep evening. Skipped as repeats/covered: arms-summit day 2 fallout (04-09 — no new developments found), Dan Thomas/Plaid term (04-09 + UK file), SOS Aggregates waste re-run (04-09), human poo at Bannau Brycheiniog (04-09), James Taylor world-champs bronze (UK file — no detail available), Rob Brydon UK one-liner (detail added here), Reform donations UK top story (UK file — Plaid angle only), trans-surgery pause re-caps (02-09/03-09 — only new JCC data + backbench letter added), Dolly Parton death (27-29 Aug).

Tags

- #daily-news
- #wales
- #senedd
- #pollution
- #health
- #politics

Revision #2

Created 2026-09-05 08:10:41 UTC by Admin

Updated 2026-09-05 08:10:42 UTC by Admin