Welsh Headlines — 1 Nov 2026

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? Breaking: murder probe after Llandudno street cordoned off

A man has been arrested on suspicion of murder after an incident in Llandudno on Saturday evening. North Wales Police were called to St Seiriol's Road at about **20:00 on 31 October**. Residents reported up to 15 police cars and two ambulances, with tape across the road at the junction with Lloyd Street and a second cordon near the Trinity Centre.

A force spokesperson confirmed a man had been arrested on suspicion of murder and that "our enquiries are ongoing", asking anyone in the area on Saturday night to contact police on 101 quoting reference **O178285**. No details of the victim have been released. (Daily Post, updated 01:01 today)

? Top Story: Alder Hey admits 24 failures over death of 21-month-old Eleanor

A hospital trust has taken full responsibility for 24 failures that led to the death of a 21-month-old girl from Mold. Eleanor Hazel Aldred-Owen died at Liverpool's Alder Hey Children's Hospital on **2 October 2023** after routine surgery for craniosynostosis; a coroner concluded she died as a result of misadventure, contributed to by neglect. An abnormal chest X-ray was never flagged to the ward, her Paediatric Early Warning score was miscalculated on several occasions, and her collapsed lung went untreated until she suffered a cardiac arrest and an unsurvivable brain

injury.

Her parents **Chaz and Rachel** said the guilt had been "unbearable": "As parents, the guilt is unbearable, even though we know Eleanor was failed by the trust and not by us... We don't just constantly grieve for her, we grieve for the people we used to be when our daughter was here."

Chaz said the trust "being compelled to admit gross neglect" was the hardest part, and that two post-operative procedures now named after Eleanor are her legacy. Alder Hey said her "tragic" death "should not have happened"; the family's solicitor, **Lynda Reynolds** of Hugh James, said the public apology mattered but "follows a long and painful process". *(BBC Wales, published 31 Oct, updated 07:07 GMT today; also covered by Cymru Fyw)*

? Health: NHS Wales trapped in a "doom loop", ex-minister warns

Every one of Wales' seven health boards has been escalated at some point since September 2023, and the process meant to flag exceptional failure has become routine, according to a new paper by former Welsh Government minister **Lee Waters** and former Hywel Dda chief executive **Steve Moore**. "Every board is escalated, everyone is reporting, and too little time is left for the hard work of improvement," Moore said.

From Escalation to Improvement — written with Tim Daley and Victoria Ford of Swansea consultancy Perago — calls for national performance measures to be cut from **53 to fewer than ten**, a single reporting channel, and published, measurable conditions for leaving intervention. Priority should go to waiting lists, with a national programme led by health board chief executives and medical directors. The authors highlight a hospital where theatre utilisation rose about 20% after staff worked together on delays — gains that vanished within months once the lead manager was moved on.

The paper argues against breaking up **Betsi Cadwaladr** — "politically attractive" but "probably the worst option" — noting the north Wales board has been under intervention at varying levels since **June 2015**, leaving special measures in November 2020 before returning in February 2023. It cites **Cwm Taf Morgannwg's** maternity and neonatal services as the clearest example of sustained recovery (special measures 2019 → routine arrangements 2024), and points to a combined **£199m** health board deficit in 2025-26 despite a 4.5% real-terms funding increase the year before, as evidence that improvement must address how services are organised. Waters warned that failing to improve performance risks patients drifting to private care: "The numbers are still small, but they point to a slow unravelling of the social contract behind the NHS."

The Welsh Government said its new Accountability and Support Framework, announced **29 September**, "was introduced precisely to address the issues raised". The paper discloses that Perago and Moore's advisory business provide the kind of external improvement support it recommends. *(Nation.Cymru — Mark Mansfield, 01 Nov)*

?? Politics: countryside charity rejects Skates' call to revive M4 relief road

CPRW has warned that reviving an M4 relief road across the Gwent Levels would cause "irreparable damage" — and accused Welsh Labour leader Ken Skates of ignoring the scheme's environmental impact. Skates, transport minister when the road was scrapped, has called for the Plaid-led government to begin work on a revised version, telling BBC Wales there was "no other option on the table" for Newport's congestion. In **March** he had said the relief road's time had "been and gone", describing the cost as "enormous".

CPRW said the arguments that persuaded Mark Drakeford to abandon the black route in **2019** remain valid: "The arguments to protect it are overwhelming and proposals to resurrect the M4 relief road across the Gwent Levels are ill founded… it would cause irreparable damage to its beauty and biodiversity including many threatened species." It pointed to an **Arup report** published by the Welsh Government earlier this year, which it says examined eight options and concluded the original black route was no longer viable, and called for an explanation of spending linked to the Burns recommendations on south-east Wales public transport.

Former Future Generations Commissioner **Sophie Howe** has separately defended her role opposing the road, citing carbon emissions and the needs of households without cars. The row comes as the Welsh Government begins an **18-month study** of roads-based solutions around Newport. *(Nation.Cymru — Mark Mansfield, 01 Nov. The Senedd backed the principle of a relief road by two votes on 21 October, covered in that day's roundup.)*

?? Courts: "greedy" solicitor defrauded Cancer Research UK with fake will invoices

A Cardiff solicitor has been given a suspended prison sentence after submitting fake invoices to Cancer Research UK's free will-writing scheme for clients who did not exist. Michael Fogg, 47, of Cyncoed, traded through Trusting Willpower Ltd, which joined the scheme in 2021. The company invoiced the charity **£29,090** and was paid **£18,150**; prosecutors said the fraud rested on **40 invoices** totalling **£4,800** — money the charity said could have paid for **48 biopsies**.

Alarm was raised in **July 2023** when 32 thank-you cards sent to people Fogg claimed to have written wills for prompted replies saying they had never used him. The charity emailed 250 supposed clients: 58 addresses were undeliverable. Of 260 wills checked, 41 people said they had not used his services. Judge **Carl Harrison** told him: "You had a position in the legal profession

which allowed you to fund your greed." In mitigation, **James Tucker** said his client felt "deeply ashamed" and cited a brain injury, epilepsy, anxiety and depression. Fogg, who pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation, was sentenced at **Newport Crown Court on Friday** to **10 months, suspended for two years**, plus 120 hours unpaid work and a 24-day rehabilitation requirement. He no longer practises. *(BBC Wales — Angela Ferguson)*

? Nature: rare oil beetle is breeding in Wales again after 60 years

Larvae of the Short-Necked Oil Beetle have been found at Castlemartin Range in Pembrokeshire — the first evidence in six decades that the species is breeding in Wales. The beetle, which depends on solitary bees and flower-rich coastal grassland, went unreported in the UK for almost 60 years after **1948** as habitat loss pushed it to the brink. Last year's survey at Castlemartin found only dead adults, raising fears for its future there; this year, after **three years of searching**, surveyors found larvae on a small area of the site.

Anne Hobbs of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust said it was "very exciting" that the evidence suggested the species was breeding in Wales again. The beetle is classed as nationally rare in Great Britain and vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. It was rediscovered in Devon in **2006** and on the Isle of Coll in **2009**, with populations since found on Tiree, Islay, Barra and Uist. Castlemartin is currently the only site in Wales for the species. *(BBC Wales — Oscar Edwards, 07:08 GMT today)*

?? Roads: motorcyclist dies after crash off the Great Orme

A man has died after his motorbike crashed on the Great Orme in Llandudno and he fell into the sea. North Wales Police were called to Marine Drive at about **22:31 GMT on Thursday**; a multi-agency response involving the RNLI and HM Coastguard recovered him from the water and airlifted him to Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor, where he was pronounced dead. The crash happened about a mile from the Toll House towards the summit.

Police want to speak to the driver of a black vehicle — possibly a **Ford Fiesta** — seen travelling from Mostyn Street into North Parade and up towards the Great Orme at about **22:26**. Sgt **Alun Jones** said the force's thoughts were "with the man's family and friends at this very difficult time". Officers are particularly keen to hear from anyone with dashcam footage between the Toll House and the summit between 22:00 and 22:30 on Thursday. *(BBC Wales / Daily Post)*

? North Wales: urgent care closure plans draw "dire consequences" warning

Objectors have formally hit back at Betsi Cadwaladr's plan to end urgent primary care centre services at Ysbyty Penrhos Stanley in Holyhead, Ysbyty Alltwen in Tremadog and Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor by 31 March 2027. The board says access to urgent care remains a "priority" but the centres face financial pressure and recruitment difficulties.

Jeff Evans, a Holyhead county councillor, said closing the facility would leave residents as "second-class citizens"; Conservative MS **Janet Finch-Saunders** said the centres "help to relieve pressure on our accident and emergency departments when people are unable to get an appointment with their GP but require immediate care". Ynys Môn MP **Llinos Medi** and Reform Wales leader **Helen Jenner** are among those who have written to the board. *(BBC Wales — Gareth Wyn Williams, 17:42 GMT 31 Oct; the original closure plan was covered in yesterday's roundup)*

? Culture & media: a ghost story for Bannau Brycheiniog, and Bara Caws says farewell

The BBC has confirmed a 22 November launch for *The Witch Farm*, a four-part supernatural drama filmed and set in the Welsh countryside. Episodes one and two land on iPlayer on **Sunday 22 November**, airing on BBC One and BBC One Wales on 22 and 23 November at 9pm. Written by **Danny Robins** (*Uncanny*, *The Battersea Poltergeist*), it stars **Michael Socha** and **Gabrielle Creevy** as Bill and Liz, who leave London in 1989 for Heol Fanog, a remote farmhouse in the foothills of Bannau Brycheiniog.

Emyr Morris Jones — "Emyr Bara Caws" — is retiring after 45 years with Theatr Bara Caws as the company marks 50 years since it formed after the 1976 National Eisteddfod in Aberteifi. He joined in 1982 after being offered the job over a drink in a Bangor pub, waking the next morning to find the offer scrawled on a torn beer mat. **Manon Steffan Ros** recorded a *Llwyfan* programme for BBC Radio Cymru about the anniversary and his retirement.

Gabrielle Creevy — the Port Talbot actress also starring in *The Witch Farm* — has told BBC Radio Wales how much she enjoyed playing "a very Welsh assassin", Eleanor, in season two of Netflix's *Black Doves*, auditioning in a Welsh accent and having Bridgend details written into the script: "I just love Wales and I just love taking that with me."

A Welsh proverb now stands in stone at a Chinese temple. "*A fo ben, bid bont*" — whoever would lead, let them be a bridge — has been carved into a monument at Southern Shaolin Temple in Putian, Fujian Province, alongside Chinese inscriptions, a daffodil, a lotus and a joint Welsh-Chinese dragon emblem. It marks the link between **Hafan Shaolin Cymru**, founded in Ruabon in 1995 by **Pol Wong**, and the temple; the stone was unveiled on 17 October.

? Sport: a record hammering in Sydney, and a derby thumping in Cardiff

Australia 124, Wales 6 — the biggest score in international rugby league history. The Jillaroos ran in 21 tries in Sydney, leading **60-0** at half-time (the largest half-time lead in any World Cup match, men's or women's), with winger **Jaime Chapman** scoring six. The total passed Denmark men's 122-8 win over Sweden in 2012, and the 118-point margin is the largest in any women's international, though France men's 120-0 rout of Serbia in 2003 remains the record win. Wales still had a celebration: at 100-0 down **Paige Travis** became the first player to score against Australia in the tournament, with **Preston** converting. *(BBC Sport — Chris Kirwan)*

Cardiff humbled Ospreys 26-0 in the United Rugby Championship Welsh derby, centre **Steffan Emanuel** dictating play — he set up both of **Tom Bowen's** tries, created **Josh Adams'** score with a well-judged kick and then sealed the bonus point as **Tom Howe** went over from a rolling maul. Ten Wales internationals were rested across both sides ahead of the Nations Championship. **Dragons avoided a third straight defeat**, beating bottom side **Zebre 35-14** at Rodney Parade with a bonus point — David Richards, Anzelo Tuitavuki, Fine Inisi, Cai Evans and a penalty try. *(Nation.Cymru / PA)*

Keelan Williams has retired at 22 after stage one heart failure ended his career. The former Liverpool and Burnley academy prospect was diagnosed at 15 with a bicuspid aortic valve, and underwent two open-heart surgeries and two pacemaker implants before exhausting his medical options. His older brother is Wales international **Neco Williams**. "It's sad and disappointing that I've had to make the decision to retire and step away from playing because of a cardiac condition." *(BBC Sport)*

Wales face a fight to keep their best young female footballers, with the FAW admitting the market for talent has become "increasingly aggressive" after **Layla Drury**, 17, the Wrexham-born forward who became Manchester United's youngest female goalscorer in January, switched to England. Chief football officer **David Adams**: "We must make every effort to protect our assets and retain our top talent." Meanwhile **Jess Fishlock**, 39, plays what could be her final match for Seattle Reign against Orlando Pride today as they chase the last NWSL play-off place; she retires at the end of the season with 166 Wales caps. *(BBC Sport)*

? Also in brief

- **Three Cardiff strip clubs have kept their licences** for another year despite objections — Dusk till Dawn, For Your Eyes Only and Playhouse Gentlemen's Club, all on St Mary's Street. Deputy council leader **Sarah Merry** said they contributed to a culture of misogyny and had "no place in Cardiff in the year 2026"; their solicitor **Piers Warne** said objectors offered no evidence of a cumulative problem. *(Nation.Cymru)*
- **A new gravity-fed coaster, "Cartiau Gwyllt", has been approved** at Zip World Blaenau Ffestiniog by Cyngor Gwynedd planners, with tunnels, a new sled store and a relocated toilet block. *(Nation.Cymru)*
- **Coastal users in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend are being asked to help shape water-quality information** through the Healthy Waters, Informed Communities project run by Cardiff Metropolitan and Cardiff universities; a third workshop runs at Trinity Church, Porthcawl, 6-8pm on Monday 2 November. *(Nation.Cymru)*
- **Wales' National Service of Remembrance takes place at the Welsh National War Memorial in Cardiff on Sunday 8 November**, with a two-minute silence at 11am. First Minister **Rhun ap Iorwerth**, who will lay a wreath, said continuing global instability made remembrance "more important than ever". *(Nation.Cymru)*
- **Weather:** the Met Office forecast for Wales is for mist and fog patches to lift, allowing some bright spells, before a front brings thicker cloud and drizzle southeastwards; staying mild with a maximum of **13°C**. *(WalesOnline live blog)*

Method: indexes and article bodies fetched through the Playwright service on MacBach (.100:8090) — BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Cymru Fyw, the BBC "Welsh Parliament" topic page, Nation.Cymru (news, home, sport, culture), the GOV.WALES main news index, the Guardian Wales RSS feed, the WalesOnline Sunday live blog and the Daily Post. SearXNG returned an index-heavy mix this morning (front pages, a TV schedule page and foreign spam) with one usable lead — the WalesOnline live blog — so the sweep went straight to the indexes. GOV.WALES has nothing newer than Friday 30 October 15:10 and the Guardian Wales feed's latest item is Saturday's Christmas rail-engineering story, so neither contributed. Dates were read from each article's own dateline: items from the 31 October roundup (the Glasgow fiscal-powers outcome, Kinnock on winter fuel, the urgent-care closure plan itself, Caswell Bay, Teddy Sloman, Cai Davies, the Aberfan petrol-bomb charge, the trafficking sentences, M4 junctions, rail works, Porthcawl's 1832, the Magic Mike cancellation, Gŵyl Cefni, Meinir Siencyn, Wales v Japan, Wrexham) were dropped or, for urgent care, reduced to the day's new objectors' response. Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit steps were skipped as instructed.

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