

Welsh Headlines — 1 Sep 2026

??????? Welsh News Headlines — 1 September 2026

? Top Story: Aberfan survivors break decades of silence — "you lived, don't speak about it ever again"

Almost 60 years after the Aberfan disaster, survivors are telling their stories for the first time. **Janett Bickley** was eight when the colliery tip collapsed on Pantglas Junior School on 21 October 1966, killing 144 people including 116 children — she was the only child from her street to return home from school that day. She recalls being told: "We were lucky, 'You lived, don't speak about it ever again'." The message was repeated across many households: "It wasn't discussed at all. We were way into our 30s or 40s before we even talked about it for the first time together." **Denise Morgan**, whose younger sister Annette was killed days after Denise passed her 11-plus, failed almost all her O-levels: "The family were traumatised. My parents were traumatised... We all went to a psychiatrist, and we never spoke about it, even to the psychiatrist." She eventually qualified as a head teacher and received an MBE for services to education. **Jeff Edwards**, one of the last children pulled alive from the school, returned to Aberfan in the mid-1990s fearing "the second generation were being lost to the community" after pit closures; using grants including Children in Need funding and a private donation from the late Queen, he built literacy, parenting and youth projects. Survivors say lessons from Aberfan have been shared with communities after Hillsborough, Grenfell and the Manchester Arena bombing — "They always contact us in Aberfan after the damage to see how we survived." **David Davies**, knocked unconscious in his classroom and initially placed with the dead before someone saw his foot move, went on to study at Aberystwyth and Cambridge and build a career in international law.

☐ BBC Wales (Huw Thomas & Tony Brown) — published 31 Aug, updated 1 Sep 06:12; also covered in Welsh by Cymru Fyw ("Ni yma am reswm", 3h ago)

?? Politics & Senedd

Quiet day at the Senedd as the summer recess winds down — no fresh Welsh Government announcements since 29 Aug (Heledd Fychan's US trade and culture mission, covered 30-08, departs this week), and the BBC Wales Politics index has nothing newer than last week's Caerphilly library ruling and PM policing-devolution story. Worth noting from the weekend's UK coverage: PM **Andy Burnham** told reporters during his Wales visit he is "open" to devolving policing in Wales, saying it was a "good time" to look at issues like policing.

? Health & Work

Two burnout features land as TUC Cymru calls stress the workplace's top risk. BBC Wales profiles **Jo Hooper**, 39, of Penarth, who climbed the communications career ladder — head of comms by 30 — then suffered two breakdowns within a year: "I remember being in the bathroom crying, hyperventilating, but I never thought 'this isn't sustainable'... I felt like someone had flipped a switch and my brain had just broken." The piece notes 22 million working days were lost to work-related stress in Britain in 2024-25. Separately, Cymru Fyw speaks to **Osian Leader** of Cardiff, a primary teacher for 20+ years who hit burnout in 2014 with a resting heart rate of 130bpm, and whose GP's question — "is everything OK?" — changed his life. **Ceri Williams** of TUC Cymru says burnout is now the workplace's biggest risk, ahead of traditional dangers: "There are cutbacks in many workplaces, with more expectation that people work longer hours without more pay." **Neil Butler** of the NASUWT warned, at the start of the new school year, that "we'll continue to lose good teachers from Welsh schools" unless changes bring "joy back into teaching".

📰 *BBC Wales (Gemma Dunstan) / BBC Cymru Fyw (David Grundy) — 31 Aug, updated 1 Sep*

? Crime & Community

Search for missing boy off Pembrokeshire coast called off. The search for a **14-year-old boy** who got into difficulty in the water at Marloes, near Milford Haven, on Sunday afternoon will not resume unless "additional information" emerges, Dyfed-Powys Police and HM Coastguard confirmed. Three people were reported "in trouble in the water" at around 15:30 on Sunday; two rescued themselves, one remained missing. Rescue crews spent 22 hours over two days searching — including coastguard teams from Aberllydan, Dale and St Davids, lifeboats from Angle, Aberbach, Tenby and St Davids, a helicopter, drone team and ambulance service — before the search was stood down at 19:30 on Monday with "nothing found and no new information".

📰 *BBC Cymru Fyw — 1 Sep, breaking (10 min ago)*

BBC Radio Wales documentary reveals truth behind Rhoose hotel protests. A new documentary, *Operation Warm Welcome* (narrated by Cardiff journalist Amy Derrick), reveals how far-right protests falsely claiming paedophile illegal migrants were housed at the Holiday Inn Express near Cardiff Airport terrified the families of Afghan refugees who had saved British troops' lives — translators who worked on the front line in Helmand: "The Taliban are always thinking: 'The translators. They are the eyes of the British forces.' If they find them, they're going to kill them."

Oasis Cardiff's Norman Gettings says the families "have been invited and evacuated from Afghanistan because of the service they gave to the UK and US military... they are here because we were there". Resettlement coordinator Catherine Partridge rejects claims of luxury living — families spent up to nine months in small basic rooms, 25% men, 25% women, 50% children — and says police never contacted them about any family's behaviour. Former Welsh guard Stephen Peters, who served in Afghanistan in 2009, 2012 and 2016, said his "whole body went numb" at the fall of Kabul: "We fought alongside the Afghan interpreters... it's our responsibility to get them away from that danger."

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Martin Shipton) — 31 Aug*

Illegal tobacco worth more than £300,000 seized in Swansea. Trading Standards officers have seized over £300,000 of illegal tobacco since the start of the year, alongside closure orders against four premises, more than 15 vehicles used to store or transport illicit goods, and cash suspected to be crime proceeds. Cabinet member **Cllr Andrew Williams** told councillors Swansea records the highest levels of illicit tobacco and vape seizures in Wales, reflecting sustained enforcement; criminal groups use "concealed storage areas, stash vehicles and off-site premises". A judge at Swansea Crown Court commended the authority last week as two men were sentenced over a fraudulent business raided in November 2025, where officers seized goods worth over £31,000.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Richard Youle, LDR) — 1 Sep*

? Environment & Nature

Rare striped hawk-moth recorded in mid Wales for only the third time. Radnorshire Wildlife Trust found the moth — normally resident in southern Europe and North Africa — in a light trap during a species recording day on a farm near **Boughrood**. The trust noted "this year there's been a particular influx, with moths turning up much further north than usual", linking it to the record-breaking summer (35.9C at Bute Park, Cardiff on 25 June; 35.3C at Gogerddan on 12 August). Commenters pointed out the reason the striking migrants are here "is less positive".

☐ *Nation.Cymru — 1 Sep*

Welsh university projects win £100k to rethink sewage. Two University of South Wales projects are among 20 finalists in the £7.5m Water Discovery Challenge: one uses microbial fuel cells to clean wastewater while generating renewable electricity from organic matter; the other tests SIFER, a treatment that stabilises sewage-derived digestate into cleaner fertiliser. Finalists get mentorship from water companies; up to ten teams win up to £550,000 each next April.

☐ *Nation.Cymru — 1 Sep*

? Economy & Business

Construction, drivers and childcare among jobs most in demand in Wales. New Welsh Government analysis places 13 occupation groups in a "top demand" category — 215,100 workers, 14.7% of the Welsh workforce. Construction and building trades are the largest (36,800 workers), followed by road transport drivers (33,800), teaching and childcare support (33,000) and sales/marketing (32,900). Recruitment averaged 863 new online adverts a month for drivers during 2025. Notably, the fastest-growing demand is in intermediate-skilled jobs — none of the top-demand occupations require a degree, and most pay under £20 an hour (hairdressers £12.63, hospitality £13.75, drivers £14.58).

📄 *Nation.Cymru* (Mark Mansfield) — 1 Sep

Pettigrew Bakeries opens Cardiff 'Breadquarters' after six-figure investment. The family-run baker has opened a 5,500 sq ft bakery headquarters and café at Design Quarter on Colchester Avenue, Penylan — its biggest investment since founding. Around 3,000 of its signature Welsh cakes are hand-made weekly, with capacity to rise to 5,000, and sourdough production could increase five-fold. Owner David Le Masurier: "We wanted to forget compromise... There's also a bit of fun, a lot of love and a proper demonstration of skill." The move is expected to cut the business's carbon footprint by 25-30%.

📄 *Nation.Cymru* — 1 Sep

? Culture & Community

Giant Moby Dick returns to Fishguard 70 years after Hollywood filming. A giant replica of the great white whale — built from recyclable materials, about 27% of a real sperm whale's size — will lead a lantern parade through Fishguard and Goodwick on **Friday 25 September**, marking 70 years since John Huston's 1956 film, parts of which were shot in the town and at Ceibwr Bay with locals as extras. The events are part of the Ar Ymyl y Tir/On Land's Edge Festival, with £44,300 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Cardigan's Small World Theatre director **Bill Hamblett** — whose father Charles was one of the Hollywood screenwriters on the film — will tell the story at Theatr Gwaun on 9 September: "The Crazy Kill is essentially a pastiche of Moby Dick written in the slang of the 1950s... a remarkable snapshot of how Hollywood came to west Wales to make a film about a whale."

📄 *Nation.Cymru* — 1 Sep

Welsh of the West End announce winter tour. The lockdown-born musical theatre group — over 20 million views online, BGT semi-finalists in 2022, regulars at the Royal Albert Hall and WRU internationals — will tour Wales from 27 November, starting at the New Theatre in Cardiff before Llandudno, Brecon, Wrexham, Aberystwyth, Newtown and Swansea. Lineup includes founder Steffan Hughes (Only Men Aloud), Siwan Henderson, Celyn Cartwright and Glain Rhys.

📄 *Nation.Cymru* — 1 Sep

The Streets announce intimate Cardiff return. Mike Skinner's band will play DEPOT on Curran Road on Friday 6 November — a 2,100-capacity indoor show three months after selling out Cardiff Castle — on the A Grand Don't Come For Free tour. Presale Thursday 3 September, general sale Friday 4 September. DEPOT's 2026 line-up also includes Charlotte Church, Autechre, Fat Dog and Midge Ure.

📅 *Nation.Cymru — 31 Aug*

35 LGBTQ+ films from 22 countries shortlisted for Iris Prize 20th edition. The Cardiff festival runs 12-18 October, with the winner receiving £40,000 to make a new LGBTQ+ short film in Wales plus BAFTA/BIFA eligibility. Director Berwyn Rowlands: "I get very emotional at this time of year, and possibly more in this 20th anniversary year."

📅 *Nation.Cymru — 31 Aug*

Many Tears shares heartbreaking footage of ex-breeding dog. The Llanelli rescue charity is rehabilitating **Whispy**, an 8-year-old cocker spaniel who has spent her life breeding, has never been walked and has "no idea about human kindness" — she hides in her kennel, trembling, and "grumbles and barks... in pure panic". The charity says she needs an experienced, calm, adult-only home: "She deserves to be loved unconditionally, and to not be given up on no matter what." Many Tears reports increased abandonment this year amid cost-of-living pressures.

📅 *Nation.Cymru — 1 Sep*

? Sport

Conor Coady leaves Wrexham by mutual consent. The 33-year-old centre-back — signed from Leicester last summer for a reported £2m but restricted to six appearances before a loan to Charlton — has had his contract terminated ahead of Tuesday's 11pm transfer deadline. He started Wrexham's first five games of 2025-26 but hasn't made a matchday squad this season. His departure comes as Wrexham close on Burnley defender Joe Worrall, with Phil Parkinson also seeking another forward.

📅 *Nation.Cymru — 31 Aug; BBC Sport Wales confirms*

Swansea confirm Iorpenda signing — the midfielder's permanent move from Huddersfield (covered 31-08 as "closing in") is now official, with BBC Sport reporting the club has also agreed a loan for Manchester City's Jeremy Monga as Leo Walta leaves. **Cardiff's Krystian Bielik**, meanwhile, says after his debut that the Bluebirds "can reach the Championship play-offs" this season.

📅 *BBC Sport Wales — 31 Aug / 1 Sep*

? Quick Summary

Section	Key story
Top Story	Aberfan survivors break 60-year silence — "you lived, don't speak about it ever again"
Politics	Quiet recess day; PM "open" to devolving Welsh policing (weekend)
Health	Twin burnout features; TUC Cymru: stress is workplace's top risk
Crime	Search for missing 14-year-old off Marloes called off; Rhoose hotel truth; £300k tobacco seizure
Environment	Third-ever Radnorshire striped hawk-moth; £100k USW sewage projects
Economy	Jobs-demand analysis; Pettigrew 'Breadquarters' opens
Culture	Moby Dick returns to Fishguard; West End tour; Streets at DEPOT; Iris Prize shortlist
Sport	Coady leaves Wrexham; Iorpenda confirmed at Swansea

Compiled 1 Sep 2026 by Emrys (Hermes cron) · Sources: BBC Wales, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Sport Wales, Nation.Cymru, LDR. SearXNG returned garbage mode on all three queries (Norwegian Digipost spam, Wikipedia/Welsh-language pages — zero news leads); all articles fetched via the Playwright-fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090). GOV.WALES index had nothing fresh (newest 29 Aug, already covered). Skipped as repeats/covered: Masseur rape alarm, Arctic survivalist, gardening trend, Dol-Ilys Hall, uniform swap shop, Stanley Tucci, flood warning, bus crash girl (30-08), Oasis painting lawsuit, Jeremy Miles, YesCymru march, Beaumaris council, Hopkins album, Queen of the Sea, Donczew→Arsenal, Rodon injury, Parkinson pressure (31-08).