Welsh Headlines — 10 Oct 2026

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Compiled 09:30 BST, Saturday 10 October 2026 • Sources: BBC Wales and BBC Wales Politics indexes, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Sport Wales, BBC Weather and warnings, Nation.Cymru (news / home / sport / culture), GOV.WALES news index, The Guardian Wales (RSS) — all via the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090). SearXNG (:8086) returned the usual index-and-aggregator mix usable only as corroboration. Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit skipped (services down).

? Top Story: Newport eyes a balaclava ban as the "no face no case" trend spreads

Balaclavas could be banned in more city centres over concerns about "thuggish" behaviour — including robberies, burglaries and drug dealing — with Newport among the authorities exploring new powers.

Officials in **Newport**, along with **Coventry, Stafford and Wolverhampton**, are looking at ways to strengthen existing powers to challenge people wearing the face coverings, while **Nottingham** has already become one of the first UK cities to introduce restrictions. The social media hashtag **"no face no case"** has been gaining traction, glorifying balaclavas as a way to avoid prosecution, and police across the UK say face coverings are hampering their efforts to identify potential offenders.

Newport-born jewellery shop owner **Annette Farmer** said she was "devastated" to move her business online after two burglaries and a shoplifting incident involving people wearing balaclavas between June and August: "I didn't feel safe any more." (BBC Wales — Jordan Davies, reporting from Newport, 9 Oct; updated this morning)

?? Politics & the Senedd

? Reform MS accuses Senedd staff of trying to "politically influence children"

A Reform MS has accused Senedd Commission staff of trying to politically influence children through the books sold in the Welsh Parliament's gift shop.

Cai Parry-Jones, the MS for Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf, claimed the shop was "devoted to left-wing books" in a Facebook post featuring photos he had taken of several children's titles — including *My Name is Not Refugee*, Kate Milner's award-winning picture book about migration and displacement. He wrote: "Are Commission staff actively attempting to sway children politically?" (Nation.Cymru — Emily Price, 9 Oct)

?? Smart-glasses row: Reform MS says colleague just looked "cool"

Casnewydd Islwyn MS Art Wright has played down the backlash over a Reform colleague being caught wearing smart glasses to deliver a Senedd speech, saying all he did was look "a little more cool than normal".

Wright was responding to concerns raised by other MSs that **Jason O'Connell** (Pontypridd Cynon Merthyr) had used a teleprompter function on the glasses during a debate, after he delivered a contribution without once looking at his notes. *(Update on the 3 and 7 October coverage of the Senedd's "at pace" rule review.)* (Nation.Cymru — Emily Price, 9 Oct)

?? Reform UK left empty-handed in Torfaen community council by-election

Two independent candidates won seats on Pontypool Community Council in a by-election in which Reform UK was the only party to stand candidates.

Independent **Giles Davies** — already a Torfaen borough councillor for Abersychan — topped the poll with 224 votes for one of two vacancies in the Abersychan and Cwmavon ward; **Lloyd Hughes** (previously of the Restore Britain party) took the second with 155. (Nation.Cymru — Twm Owen, Local Democracy Reporter, 9 Oct)

? Cardiff University research time halved — "Russell Group in name only"

Cardiff University staff fear the near-halving of allocated research time for academics will compromise its status as an elite institution.

Under the changes, baseline university-funded research time falls from **600 hours per academic per year to 315**, shifting the traditional 40% research / 40% teaching / 20% administration split. The university says externally funded research time is additional. Union sources say rising teaching hours inevitably squeeze research capacity — a core component of **Russell Group** membership, which Cardiff joined in 1998. (Nation.Cymru — Martin Shipton, 9 Oct)

?? AI Minister criticised in new book over "revolving door" links

Concerns have been raised about the network of public- and private-sector connections involving AI Minister and Welsh Labour MP Kanishka Narayan.

Author **Thomas Vale** examines Narayan's career in *The Bridge*, a book of more than 400 pages. Vale told Nation.Cymru: "My concern about Kanishka Narayan is a pattern: he helps shape government policy, moves into private finance, then returns with authority over technologies that remake public services and private fortunes." Narayan was educated at Cathays High School, Cardiff, before Eton. (Nation.Cymru — Martin Shipton, 9 Oct)

? Communities, Schools & Justice

? Powys school slams "misleading" report on closure campaign

Crickhowell High School has condemned the "sensationalist reporting" of the Abergavenny Chronicle after what it calls a "misleading and wholly inaccurate" report claimed there is a campaign to "save" the school from closure.

The row follows a Powys County Council meeting on 8 October, at which independent opposition councillors put forward a motion so that **all Powys councillors will have a vote on school closures** in the county; the constitutional changes still need ratification at a future meeting. (Nation.Cymru, 10 Oct)

?? Carmarthen attempted murder: 24 years for man who waited in the park

James McKenna, 58, has been jailed for 24 years for repeatedly stabbing his ex-partner in Carmarthen Park and then going on the run for four days.

Joanne Sidaway, 49, screamed as she was attacked while walking her dog on 29 January. McKenna hid in woods near Carmarthen for three days without food or water before being arrested in hospital, where he was being treated for frostbite. He pleaded guilty to wounding with intent and was found guilty of attempted murder in July. Sentencing at Swansea Crown Court, **Judge Paul Thomas KC** called the attack "wholly calculated" and said McKenna had left Sidaway to die. He must serve two-thirds — 16 years — before licence. (BBC Wales / BBC Cymru Fyw — Meleri Williams, 9 Oct)

? Former Swansea police officer denies rape while on duty

A former South Wales Police officer has denied raping and strangling a woman in Swansea while on duty.

Rikki Hall, 33, of Tennyson Way, Swansea, entered not-guilty pleas at Bristol Crown Court to two counts of rape plus intentional strangulation, and to misconduct in public office by engaging in sexual activity with a member of the public he had met while carrying out welfare and safeguarding checks. The charges follow an IOPC investigation, during which Hall resigned. A trial is listed for 28 February 2028 at Bristol Crown Court. (BBC Wales — Lucy Vladev, 9 Oct)

? Llanon "tropical jungle" of exotic animals must move

A man who lives in a log cabin with wallabies, mongooses, porcupines, parrots and rare birds has been told to relocate after neighbours said the site "sounded like a tropical jungle" at night.

James Wale moved to the 17-acre woodland near Llannon, Carmarthenshire, two years ago after his rare-bird business at Picton Castle lost its lease. Carmarthenshire Council issued an enforcement notice over planning rules, but has given him more time to move the animals. His agents say he wanted a "major tourism venture", scaled back to a private bird welfare home with forestry and farming. (BBC Wales — Richard Youle, Local Democracy Reporting Service, 9 Oct)

? Bank cashier who stole £13k to fund holidays ordered to repay £12,630

A Nationwide cashier who stole more than £13,000 from customers to pay for "lavish" holidays must repay £12,630.

Kelly Kershaw, 54, of Caernarfon, took £13,333 — including from elderly and vulnerable customers — even forging the signature of a man with learning disabilities. Colleagues became suspicious after spotting Facebook posts of safaris in Africa and trips to Paris, Tuscany and Dubai. Jailed for 16 months in May, she returned to Caernarfon Crown Court for a Proceeds of Crime Act hearing and was ordered to repay within three months or face a further five months inside. (BBC Wales — Charlie Buckland, 9 Oct)

?? Health & People

? 6,157 hate crimes recorded in Wales as awareness week begins

The Welsh Government is urging witnesses to support victims and report hate crime as new figures show 6,157 police-recorded hate crimes in Wales in 2025-26.

The Home Office statistics, published on 8 October and covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, show hate crime rising 7% across England and Wales as a whole. The Welsh Government's call comes at the start of **Hate Crime Awareness Week**, with the Deputy First Minister saying everyone should be able to feel safe, valued and respected in their community. (GOV.WALES, 9 Oct)

? Bird keepers told to prepare now for winter bird flu risk

Bird keepers across Wales are being urged to review biosecurity immediately, ahead of the higher-risk winter period for avian influenza.

Whether keepers have a few pet birds or a large commercial flock, the Welsh Government says they should complete a biosecurity self-assessment checklist and build good practice into daily routines now rather than wait. Suspected cases must be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency on 0300 303 8268. (GOV.WALES, 9 Oct)

? Hywel Dda considers merging two Carmarthenshire GP surgeries

Hywel Dda University Health Board is considering merging two Carmarthenshire practices after months of uncertainty for Meddygfa'r Sarn in Pont-iets, which has more than 4,300 patients.

Despite a recommendation to close the surgery earlier this year, the board will now seek community views on merging Meddygfa'r Sarn with Meddygfa Minafon in Cydweli (Kidwelly). Local councillors say they are "cautiously optimistic", with key questions still unanswered. A four-week engagement period opens on Monday 2 November and closes on Sunday 29 November 2026. (BBC Cymru Fyw — Elen Davies, today, Welsh-language)

?? Conwy's youngest-ever councillor to stand down

Aaron Wynne, elected to Conwy Council at just 20 and now its cabinet member for education, will step down at the May 2027 local elections after a decade representing Llanrwst, Llanddoged and Maenan.

Wynne says he has been proud to be a voice for local people but the role has been "challenging at times", balancing council duties with work and personal life. He hopes his decision to stand aside will encourage other young people to come forward, warning that without representation there is a risk "decisions get made for young people" rather than with them. (BBC Cymru Fyw, today, Welsh-language)

?? Sister completes Welsh Three Peaks for her brother's recovery

A week after climbing Yr Wyddfa, Cader Idris and Pen y Fan within 24 hours, Rhiannedd Davies is wondering "which mountain to climb next for Ows".

She completed the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge on the last weekend of September with her father and friend Matilda — and with the blessing of her older brother **Owain**, who is receiving care at a neurological rehabilitation centre in Chester. In May 2025 Owain suffered a serious collision that caused a life-changing brain injury, and more than a year on he continues to improve. (BBC Cymru Fyw — Anna George, today, Welsh-language)

? Money, Heritage & Economy

? Wales' historic sites contribute £738m a year and 18,000 jobs

New research shows Wales' historic buildings, monuments, parks and museums contribute more than £738 million to the economy each year and support nearly 18,000 jobs.

The study, carried out independently by **AMION** for **Cadw**, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, also estimates more than **13 million visits** a year to historic sites and accredited museums, more than **£107 million** in social value from volunteering, visits, education and community engagement, and **902,000 volunteer hours** worth an estimated £9.8 million in wellbeing value. (GOV.WALES, 9 Oct / Nation.Cymru, 10 Oct)

?? Trawsfynydd decommissioning enters next phase

Nuclear Restoration Services has handed control of the reactor buildings area at the former Trawsfynydd nuclear power station to contractor Costain, starting the next phase of decommissioning.

The Gwynedd site has been decommissioned since 1991. The roughly four-year phase involves partially demolishing and stabilising the two reactor buildings ahead of later stages — eventually reducing their height from about 54 metres to 25. A crane is already on site; larger crawler cranes are expected later this year and two tower cranes inside the reactor buildings in early 2027. The Costain contract is reported to be worth about £70 million. (Nation.Cymru, 10 Oct)

? Former apprentices buy the Aberdare garage where they started

Two former apprentices have bought the garage where they began their careers, securing its future with a six-figure loan.

Alex Sage and **Carl Adams** took over Motomec in Aberdare in 2022 and have now purchased the premises from founder **Eddie Hawkins**, who established the MOT, servicing and repair business in 1987, with support from the Development Bank of Wales. The firm holds vehicle maintenance contracts with organisations including Tesco, BT, Co-op Funeralcare and the RAC. (Nation.Cymru, 10 Oct)

? Consultation launched on rescuing Denbigh's Capel Mawr

Residents in Denbigh are being asked to help shape the future of Capel Mawr, a Grade II* listed chapel with more than 200 years of history that has fallen into disrepair.

Originally built in 1793 as a Calvinistic Methodist chapel, it was rebuilt in 1829 and the present chapel dates from 1880, with seating for around 1,000 people. It is one of only 13 Grade II* listed chapels in Wales owned by the **Presbyterian Church of Wales**, and the only one in the Vale of Clwyd Presbytery. **Rev Dr Andras Iago** said: "For it to continue serving the town, we need a concrete plan for its future because, as well as being a big building, it's an expensive one to maintain." (Nation.Cymru, 9 Oct)

? Celtic languages in Roman Britain — Aberystwyth conference

Researchers from across Europe will gather at Aberystwyth University on 17 October to explore how Celtic languages and Latin were used in Roman Britain.

Latin was the most widely visible language of the period, but Celtic languages continued to be spoken across the country, and their interaction survives in place names, inscriptions and loanwords — including the Welsh *pont* (bridge) and *llyfr* (book). Dr **Simon Rodway** and Dr **Alexander Falileyev** will present research to scholars from Spain, Germany and Italy. (Nation.Cymru, 9 Oct)

? Culture

- **Squeeze announce 50-year arena tour with a "very special guest"** — the Chris Difford and Glenn Tilbrook songwriting partnership mark more than 50 years with a 16-date UK tour including two Welsh shows, following the album *Trixies*. (Nation.Cymru, 9 Oct)
- **Joanna Page returns to Barry Island for a second series of *Shift The Thrift*** — the 12 x 30-minute format sees the Gavin & Stacey star and her expert thrifters travelling the UK hunting charity-shop treasures. (Nation.Cymru, 9 Oct)
- **Swansea's fireworks night moves to Singleton Park** — the city's big 5 November display relocates from St Helen's Ground to the park, giving one of Swansea's biggest family nights a new home with more room. (Nation.Cymru, 9 Oct)
- **Former S4C studios become a Cardiff music hub** — **One Louder Studios** has converted the old S4C site into up to 11 professional rehearsal and creative spaces, run initially as a six-month pilot for Cardiff-based musicians. (Nation.Cymru — Amelia Jones, 9

Oct)

- **Stereophonics mark 30 years with '*Tune!*' *Ultimate Collection 96-26*** — the 30-track compilation is out on 20 November on 3LP, 2CD and digital, with a "Golden Ticket" pre-order competition offering 30 prizes. (Nation.Cymru, 8 Oct)
- **Trampolene announce fifth album *Made In Wales*** — the Swansea rock band, who played 150 shows in just over a year, release it through Strap Originals on 26 March 2027, alongside a video for the single "Killing Me Sarah". (Nation.Cymru — Amelia Jones, 9 Oct)
- **PETA's "Hell on Wheels" truck hits Cardiff and Swansea** — the animal-rights charity's hyper-realistic pig-transport truck toured both cities to confront diners with "the suffering behind every bacon sandwich". (Nation.Cymru — Stephen Price, 10 Oct)
- **Luke Evans on a "joyous" four months filming in Wales** — the Pontypool-born Hollywood actor shot ITV's *The Party* in Cardiff and Bridgend, just 25 minutes from where he grew up, with family members making cameos in the final episode. *(The drama was covered on 2 October.)* (BBC Wales — Angharad Thomas, 9 Oct)

? Sport

??????? Wales women 1-0 Albania (World Cup play-off semi-final, first leg)

Wales take a one-goal lead into Tuesday's second leg at Llanelli after a narrow win in Shkoder.

Ezmiralda Franja's 21st-minute own goal settled it at the Stadiumi Loro Boriçi in front of 642 fans, but Wales — ranked 37 places above Albania — rode their luck, with Albania creating the game's best chances and hitting the woodwork. Head coach **Rhian Wilkinson** said: "It was a resilient performance. Not our best, but equally, we learned to win on hard days." The winner of the two-legged tie will face **Norway or Romania**. (BBC Sport — Gareth Vincent, 9 Oct)

? Ospreys 38-31 Dragons — first win of the season in a 10-try derby

Hooker Sam Parry and number eight Morgan Morris scored two tries each as the Ospreys edged the Dragons at Rodney Parade for their first URC win of the season.

Ross Moriarty and Keelan Giles also crossed in a game where the lead changed hands eight times. The Dragons suffered their first defeat of the campaign despite another brace from hooker Elliot Dee, with a penalty try and Anzelo Tuitavuki's score. The sides meet again in Swansea later in October. (BBC Sport — Gareth Griffiths, 9 Oct)

? Fury-Joshua Cardiff tickets sell out in an hour

Tickets for Tyson Fury and Anthony Joshua's all-British heavyweight showdown at Cardiff's Principality Stadium sold out in just one hour.

Around 80,000 tickets went on sale at noon on Friday, with the highest priced at **£13,128** including booking fees and the lowest at £88.50. The bill begins on 11 December, though the pair are not expected to fight until the early hours of 12 December, broadcast globally on Netflix. (BBC Sport, 9 Oct)

? Fans fund Merthyr Town's loan signing

Merthyr Town have completed the loan signing of midfielder Cole Jarvis from Newport County thanks to supporters' donations to the club's "boost the budget" scheme.

Manager **Paul Michael** thanked contributors: "This has helped enable this move to happen." Jarvis moved from Merthyr to the League Two Exiles at the start of 2026 and made 11 appearances. (BBC Sport, 9 Oct)

? RideCymru entries open for 2027

Entries have opened for the three-day, 250-mile cycling challenge from north to south Wales, returning 10–12 September 2027 after 200 riders took part this year. The route runs from Llandudno through Eryri and Bannau Brycheiniog to Cardiff. Organiser Threshold Sports plans to raise capacity by 10%; standard entry starts at £715. (Nation.Cymru, 7 Oct)

?? Weather

No weather warnings are in force for the UK (BBC Weather, checked 09:00 BST).

Cardiff outlook (BBC Weather, updated 09:00 today): Saturday 10th — sunny intervals and a moderate breeze, 15°C/7°C. Sunday 11th — drizzle and light winds, 16°C/13°C. Monday 12th — light rain and a gentle breeze, 19°C/16°C. Tuesday 13th — light rain showers, 19°C/11°C. Wednesday 14th — sunny intervals, 19°C/12°C.

? Quick Summary

Story	Status

Balaclava ban	Newport joins Coventry, Stafford, Wolverhampton; Nottingham already bans
Senedd gift shop row	Reform's Cai Parry-Jones accuses staff of political influence
Smart glasses	Art Wright: O'Connell "looked a little more cool than normal"
Torfaen by-election	Two independents win; Reform UK empty-handed
Cardiff Uni research	Baseline research time halved 600h → 315h
AI Minister	Kanishka Narayan criticised in Thomas Vale's *The Bridge*
Powys schools	Crickhowell High slams "misleading" report; all councillors to vote
Carmarthen attack	James McKenna jailed 24 years for attempted murder
Swansea police rape case	Rikki Hall denies charges; trial Feb 2028
Llanon exotic animals	Enforcement notice; more time to relocate
Caernarfon cashier	£12,630 repayment order; 16 months for theft
Hate crime	6,157 in Wales in 2025-26; awareness week begins
Bird flu	Keepers urged to review biosecurity now
Hywel Dda	GP merger consultation 2–29 November
Heritage	£738m a year, 18,000 jobs, 13m visits
Trawsfynydd	Next decommissioning phase; £70m Costain contract
Wales women	1-0 in Albania; second leg Tuesday in Llanelli
Ospreys	38-31 Dragons — first URC win
Fury v Joshua	Cardiff tickets gone in an hour
Weather	No UK warnings; Cardiff 15/7 Saturday

Method note: compiled in cron mode. SearXNG (:8086) returned an index-and-aggregator mix (WalesOnline, BBC Wales, ITV Wales, Nation.Cymru, Senedd.wales, NewsNow, foreign-language spam) usable only as corroboration — the BBC Wales Politics index in particular was stale back to 1–7 October — so the sweep ran through the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090, MarkItDown): 12 index/feed pages and 66 article pages, all successful. De-duplicated against yesterday's 9 October Welsh file, this morning's UK file and folder-wide keyword greps over the Headlines archive. Dropped as repeats: the Prestatyn murder (victim was pregnant — UK file), the Drakeford Wales Office call, the Wrexham £10m Transforming Towns allocation, the M4 junction closures, the Amman Tawe GP surgery inspection (urine sample — covered 3 October), the smart-glasses row itself (covered 3 and 7 October — only Art Wright's fresh comment is new), The Revlon Girl / Aberfan 60th (covered 5 October) and the Welsh Music Prize (in the UK file). BBC Cymru Fyw items (GP merger, Conwy councillor, Welsh Three Peaks) were 1 hour old with no English counterpart and are written up from the Welsh text. Stale SearXNG/aggregator leads carrying the 15 September business-rates story and the 7 August offshore wind release were discarded after date-checking.

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