Welsh Headlines — 13 Nov 2026

??????? Welsh Headlines — 13 November 2026

Compiled 13 November 2026, 09:00 GMT. Sources: BBC Wales, Cymru Fyw, BBC Sport, Nation.Cymru, GOV.WALES, BBC Weather.

? Top Story: Aberystwyth University to shed 150 jobs in £16m cuts

Aberystwyth University is set to lose 150 jobs as it seeks to save £16m by the end of 2027-28, its lecturers' union has said. The university announced a "further phase of its restructure" on Wednesday, saying it will review "all academic units" — portfolio, curriculum and resourcing — after an ongoing review of non-academic departments. Aberystwyth UCU said members were "devastated and angry", that most of the losses will fall on teaching and research staff, and that another 150 colleagues have already gone in the past 18 months.

"Staff are shocked by the scale and speed of what is being proposed," the union said. "Behind every job is a person, a family, and years of knowledge, expertise and commitment that help make Aberystwyth University what it is." The university employs 1,819 staff and has not put its own figure on redundancies. Vice-chancellor Professor Jon Timmis blamed changes to UK visa and immigration metrics, which he said had significantly cut universities' ability to recruit higher fee-paying international students, adding that adapting "cannot be achieved without some very difficult decisions". A voluntary severance scheme will be offered.

Aberystwyth's mayor, Emlyn Jones, told BBC Cymru Fyw the cuts could be an "ergyd ofnadwy" — a dreadful blow — to the town and the wider area, calling the university "such an important and large employer". Student landlord Gwerfyl Owen Harding, from Cemaes near Machynlleth, feared the town could "decline further". It follows the university's decision in August to pause a £53m plan to turn the first home of the University of Wales into a cultural hub.

?? Senedd & politics

Smart glasses have been effectively banned from the Senedd chamber, days after the Llywydd ruled they could be used as a teleprompter. Members were told on Tuesday that Huw Irranca-Davies "will not be considering any other requests to use AI-equipped glasses in the Siambr until the review has reported", and that "no members will be using the technology until the review has been completed". Reform's Jason O'Connell, whose camera-less glasses prompted the row, said he had voluntarily stopped using them; he told BBC Wales he was "ambivalent" and that they were "a useful tool to be used on occasions". The Senedd Commission's review is due to conclude by the end of 2026. (The Llywydd's original ruling allowing them, with advance notice, was covered here on 6 November.)

Reform has tabled a freedom of speech motion for debate on Wednesday 18 November, a week after boycotting plenary over Joe Martin's speaking ban. The motion, in the name of chief whip Llŷr Powell, runs to a single line: "To propose that the Senedd believes that the principle of freedom of speech should be upheld and defended." The boycott meant Reform missed its own debate on support for the armed forces and veterans, and it is understood some of its members with forces links were unhappy about that.

Wales Green Party leader Anthony Slaughter has described undergoing intense cancer treatment while campaigning for May's Senedd election. Diagnosed in January 2025, he had "some intense bouts of treatment in the first half of 2025" but said his campaign team "filled in the gaps" and that he is "very well at the moment". Slaughter, one of the party's first two MSs, steps down as leader at the end of the year; he also told BBC Walescast he would not have voted for the "Zionism is racism" motion passed at its October conference, after which deputy leader Phil Davies resigned.

Young Welsh voters are split on independence, with the argument now "normalised" among under-35s, according to a leading academic. A BBC feature paired Cerys, 35, from Bridgend — who backs independence and further powers over policing and justice — with Patrick, 20, a Newport student who says "as of right now, I just do not think there is a case for it" but wants more devolution. A Survation poll for YesCymru found under-35s more supportive than older voters. Reform Welsh leader Helen Jenner called the new constitutional commission "ridiculous" and said voters "do not want to see Wales ripped out of the United Kingdom".

Ministers intend to advertise for a new Welsh Language Commissioner before Christmas, with an appointment published in May 2027. Cabinet Secretary Anna Brychan told the Senedd's culture committee the process follows Efa Gruffudd Jones's resignation for "personal reasons"; Lowri Williams is deputy commissioner and is carrying out the role in the meantime. Former National Library chief executive Pedr ap Llwyd said the role itself now needs a "comprehensive review".

? Floods: a year after Storm Claudia

A 95-year-old woman evacuated when the River Monnow burst its banks spent her final 10 months in a Wetherspoons hotel room and died before she could return home. Jean Powell kept asking "when am I going home?" from one of the Kings Head's rooms in Monmouth, her neighbour Wyn Smith said: "All she wanted to do was come back home and we couldn't fulfil that." She died in September.

The river hit record levels in the early hours of 15 November last year, reaching 18 times its normal level as almost a month's rain fell in 24 hours; the event is officially rated a one-in-75-year flood, swamped more than 400 properties and overwhelmed defences built 35 years ago. Some residents are still in rented accommodation, Airbnbs or a care home. "Unfortunately it could happen again. There's that fear," said Wyn. Natural Resources Wales has warned long-range forecasts point to a wetter, windier winter than usual and that people should prepare for "the unthinkable"; the Met Office now rates record-breaking wet winters as once-in-20-year events rather than once-in-80.

?? Courts

A man who subjected his partner to an "appalling" catalogue of coercive control has been jailed for four years and 11 months. John Gizzi, 55, of St Asaph, admitted coercive and controlling behaviour towards Natasha Farah, 32, and intentional strangulation of her sister. Mold Crown Court heard the abuse emerged after Natasha suffered severe brain damage in a suspected suicide attempt; Judge Mills called it one of the worst coercive control cases the court had seen and condemned Gizzi's "dreadful misogynistic language". There were shouts of "scumbag" from the public gallery, and Natasha's mother — wearing a "Justice for Natasha" T-shirt — said she would campaign for longer sentences.

An asylum seeker who broke into a Cardiff family home and exposed himself to two children has been jailed for six years. Mohammed Abbas, 29, entered the house in the early hours of 30 July 2025 and repeatedly asked the girls, who were asleep with their older sister, whether they wanted sex. The children's mother said it had affected "their emotional wellbeing, their education and the ability to feel safe in their home".

A housing association worker found dying in a crashed car in Bridgend had been stabbed in the heart, an inquest opening has heard. Eleanor Barnfield, 47, died in hospital on 19 October; a provisional cause of death was given as "stab wound to the trunk involving the heart". Coroner Rachel Knight suspended the inquest pending the criminal case — Clifford Foster, 61, has been charged with her murder.

An inquest has concluded that a mother of one who collapsed descending Yr Wyddfa died of exertional heat stroke. Sophie Goodyer-Bird, 35, from Birmingham, was climbing the mountain days after her birthday in July; the Caernarfon hearing recorded death by natural causes. (The inquest opening was reported here in September.)

? Health & society

A 16-year-old young carer from Bridgend says she is burnt out and "pushed aside and forgotten" by friends. Madeline, who cares for her mother and grandfather, is one of about 8,200 young carers identified in Wales; the Carers Trust says the UK-wide figure of 170,000 aged five to 17 is the "tip of the iceberg". She said support is "crucial" for young people in her position. The Welsh Government said its latest carers strategy, due this month, has a particular focus on young carers.

Two-thirds of children in Wales do not take part in club sport regularly, according to the 2026 School Sport Survey. The Sport Wales survey, answered by 122,000 pupils at 1,000 schools, found income and ethnicity shape participation, and that more than 256,000 children want to do more sport or try new ones. Sport Wales called for "radical and urgent changes" from the Welsh Government to make sport easier to access; ministers said children's health is "very important" to them.

?? Environment & planning

Fresh questions have been raised about the landowner behind a proposed explosives factory inside Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, after it emerged a company he founded collapsed owing more than £1.3m. Harry Legge-Bourke — who owns the Glan Usk Estate at Crickhowell, home of the Green Man festival — set up Skylark Defence Ltd in September 2025 to supply the armed forces from a site near Trefil, close to where Aneurin Bevan's ashes were scattered. Blaythorne Group Ltd, which he founded in 2007 and left in 2016, was declared insolvent in 2019; the administrator put the shortfall for unsecured creditors at £1,374,511, with claims now above £1.6m and no dividends paid. Campaigners renewed calls for any planning application to be called in. The park said no application has been made. (The factory plan itself was covered here on 1 October.)

Two years after Flintshire Council spent more than £1m clearing an illegal waste site, nobody has been held responsible for it. Around 1,200 tonnes of rubbish were dumped at Riverside Way in Queensferry before a major fire on 8 November 2024; the clean-up came from council reserves after an original £400,000 estimate, and the council intended to recover the cost from those responsible. Neither Natural Resources Wales nor North Wales Police will confirm whether anyone has been identified.

? Transport & housing

The north Wales coast railway will close between Chester and Holyhead for three weeks in January for a £25m upgrade, triggering one of Transport for Wales's biggest-ever rail replacement operations. The line shuts from 9 to 29 January 2027, with trains resuming only as far as Llandudno Junction and buses continuing to Holyhead until 5 February; the Conwy Valley line closes over the same period. Network Rail is renewing track and upgrading the Conwy Tubular bridge, Bodorgan tunnel, Penmaenbach and both termini, plus footbridges at Prestatyn and Pensarn. Limited-stop buses will run every 30 minutes.

House prices in Wales are forecast to rise 21% by the end of 2031, outpacing the UK average of 15.8%, according to Savills. The report, presented during Hugh James's Housing Week, attributes the stronger outlook partly to relative affordability — Welsh prices sit at 71% of the UK average, forecast to reach 73%. It expects just 0.5% growth in 2027 as mortgage rates bite, then acceleration from 2028, and warns completions (up 10% year on year) remain 12% below estimated need, with planning consents almost a third short.

? Culture

Robat Gruffudd, founder of the publisher Y Lolfa, has died aged 83. Born in the Rhondda and raised in Swansea, he co-founded the satirical magazine Lol in 1965 and set up Y Lolfa at Tal-y-bont near Aberystwyth in 1967, building it into one of Wales's leading publishers of literature, children's books, Welsh-learning titles and political writing, and printing Papur Pawb. He refused to accept his Bangor degree in 1964 in protest at the university's treatment of Welsh, and in 1980 was arrested with his wife Enid during Operation Tân, the police inquiry into Meibion Glyndŵr, and released without charge. He won the Cwlwm Cyhoeddwyr Cymru lifetime contribution award in 2007.

A Welsh show by Icicle Works frontman Ian McNabb has been cancelled after he defended Russell Brand. The Acapela Studio date in Pentyrch on 25 March 2027 is off, along with all his UK dates, after a Facebook post in which he said "all these chicks who turn up at these situations know exactly what's going on". Brand was sentenced on Monday to 10 years and six months for rape and three sexual assaults.

? Sport

Taine Basham starts his first Wales international in four years against New Zealand on Saturday after Aaron Wainwright was ruled out with a calf injury. Steve Tandy makes four starting changes for the Nations Championship match at the Principality Stadium (14:10 GMT): Basham at number eight, James Botham at blindside, Adam Beard in the second row and Gabriel Hamer-Webb on the wing in place of Josh Adams. Tomas Francis is out for the campaign with a knee injury and Keiron Assiratti has been called up. "We have to go up another level this weekend and be more ruthless," said Tandy. Wales have not beaten the All Blacks since 1953.

Wales travel to Oslo to face Norway and Erling Haaland on Saturday (17:00 GMT) with a blueprint from their 2-1 win in Cardiff last month. Haaland has 65 goals in 59 caps; Craig Bellamy said shackling him is "a collective responsibility, not just an individual one" and that his side must take "a calculated risk" rather than sit deep. Victory could still leave Wales second, third or fourth in Nations League Group A4.

Colwyn Bay's Gerome Warburton fights WBC middleweight champion Carlos Adames in Riyadh on Saturday, at super-middleweight in a non-title main event on Zuffa Boxing's first Saudi show. "He's a world champion, but this is my time to show the world that I belong at this level,"

said the 31-year-old, who beat Nathan Heaney in September.

Jonathan Davies is to leave the BBC after 30 years, with Italy v Wales in Rome to be his final Six Nations commentary. The 64-year-old former Wales fly-half and rugby league international said the decision was his own: "It's just time. I have honestly not been told to head towards that door."

?? Weather

No weather warnings are in force for the UK. Today is fine and dry after a cold, frosty start, with plenty of autumnal sunshine, light winds and highs of 7-8°C — but it will feel rather cold. Tonight stays clear and dry with a widespread sharp frost, down to about -4°C. Saturday brings another frosty start, then a dry day of sunny spells and more cloud, breezier on the coasts, 9°C. Sunday turns unsettled with bands of rain or showers, locally heavy, moving north, and a milder 11°C; Monday looks drier and brighter.

Method: SearXNG for leads, then indexes and article bodies fetched via the Playwright service on MacBach (.100:8090) — BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, mid Wales, the BBC Welsh Parliament topic page, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Sport and Welsh Rugby, Nation.Cymru (news and home), the GOV.WALES news index and BBC Weather. No fresh Welsh Government release since 11 November. ITV, WalesOnline and the Senedd site remain unusable through the service; Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit were skipped. Not repeated from earlier roundups: the smart glasses ruling itself (6 Nov), the explosives factory plan (1 Oct), the Newport medieval ship's £27.5m bill (7 Nov), Jess Fishlock's retirement (9-11 Nov), the Green leadership ballot (10 Nov) and the National Commission (11 Nov).

Revision #2
Created 2026-11-13 09:07:05 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-11-13 09:07:06 UTC by Admin