Welsh Headlines — 14 Nov 2026

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? Top Story: Burnham tells Welsh Labour to give communities "real power"

The prime minister will tell Welsh Labour's first conference since May's election defeat to "listen", "take stock" and "do things differently", pledging to push power "down and out until it reached every postcode". Burnham speaks at Venue Cymru in Llandudno on Saturday — the day Prof Anand Menon of King's College London presents the review of why Labour lost.

"We have to listen. We have to take stock. And we have to commit to doing things differently," he will say. "Politicians have always said they'll listen more. This time, we've got to do more than talk about giving people a voice. We've got to give them real power over the decisions that shape their lives."

He will argue devolution to the Senedd was a "huge step forward" but "never just about moving power from Westminster to Cardiff", saying the next three decades should give every region, town and community a greater say. Advance extracts give no detail on which powers would move, and local government powers currently rest with Cardiff Bay under rules set by Westminster.

Welsh Labour leader Ken Skates said the findings were "difficult" and voters felt taken "for granted": "People felt that we had stopped listening, public services were not improving quickly enough and we had taken their support for granted. Our task is to earn trust again." Labour fell from 30 Senedd seats to nine in May, finishing third behind Plaid Cymru and Reform, and

Burnham's devolution push has been criticised by former transport minister Lee Waters, who says it "just doesn't work" in a Welsh context.

?? Senedd & politics

Reform has refused to rule out a no-confidence vote in the Senedd's presiding officer over the speaking ban on Joe Martin. Chief whip Llŷr Powell told BBC Radio Wales Breakfast: "I'm not going to say that we're going to do that now, but what I would say is it's not off the table right now because freedom of speech and the right of members to raise legitimate concerns should be the main priority." Martin was barred until he apologises for telling the chamber that "mass immigration and differing birth rates" would make white British people a minority by 2063 — remarks Huw Irranca-Davies called "unnecessarily provocative and deliberately offensive" and "clearly discriminatory". Powell denied Martin was invoking a far-right conspiracy theory: "Joe was asking a legitimate question based on demographic changes." Reform boycotted most proceedings on Wednesday; its freedom of speech motion is due for debate on 18 November.

A Telegraph columnist has used census figures to defend Martin — figures that show demographic change but no evidence of the deliberate "replacement" the conspiracy theory alleges. Stephen Daisley cited a fall from 87.5% in 2001 to 74.4% in 2021 in the share of people in England and Wales identifying as "white British"; in Wales alone the figure was 90.6% in 2021, down from 93.2% in 2011. Martin's 2063 date matches a 2025 projection by Reform's Matt Goodwin built on an ONS assumption of 340,000 net migrants a year, since revised to 230,000; the ONS says it does not produce projections by ethnicity.

Deputy First Minister Sioned Williams used an interfaith dinner marking 25 years of the Muslim Council of Wales to say there is "no place in our Senedd or in our nation for scapegoating". Speaking at Cardiff's Coal Exchange Hotel during Interfaith Week, she said: "Against hatred, prejudice, discrimination and division, we must all offer each other solidarity." She pointed to a joint statement of solidarity signed by more than 50 faith representatives in Wales earlier this year, and said cohesion "does not mean that we must all think the same".

A Reform figure who withdrew from the Senedd election after a Nazi-salute image emerged has been canvassing in next week's Risca East by-election. Corey Edwards was photographed with thumbs up alongside former Reform Wales leader Dan Thomas rallying support for candidate Darren Crandon on Thursday. Edwards, once top of Reform's Pen-y-bont Bro Morgannwg list, quit citing mental health issues after Nation.Cymru published the image; Farage said he had been impersonating Basil Fawlty.

? Bird flu: stricter biosecurity rules across Wales

Poultry and captive bird keepers across Wales must follow stricter biosecurity rules to reduce the risk of avian flu spreading from wild birds. The move follows housing orders in England and Scotland earlier this week. Wales is yet to record an outbreak this year, but confirmed cases across the border have escalated in recent weeks and any suspected case must be reported immediately to APHA.

Rural resilience minister Llyr Gruffydd said the measures were "proportionate to the risk level in Wales at this time". They include making areas where birds are kept unattractive to wild birds, feeding and watering flocks in enclosed areas, cleaning and disinfecting footwear, fencing off wet or boggy areas, keeping ducks and geese separate from other poultry, a mandatory biosecurity self-assessment within seven days, and extra restrictions for keepers with more than 500 birds. The risk to human health "remains very low" and properly cooked poultry and eggs are safe, he said; the UK government said it does not anticipate an impact on Christmas turkey supply. Tens of thousands of birds were culled after cases in mid, west and north Wales in 2025.

? Microsoft outage hits Welsh public services

The Welsh government, police forces, fire service, health boards and councils were among those affected by a global Microsoft outage that began on Thursday. Teams, Outlook and Copilot were hit in more than 70 countries; Microsoft reported "encouraging recovery progress" in Europe and confirmed the issue was not a cyber-security breach.

South Wales Police and Dyfed-Powys Police had problems receiving reports through their websites, with Dyfed-Powys' contact-centre email also down; both asked the public to call 101 for non-emergencies. North Wales Fire and Rescue Service could not receive emails or web enquiries but said emergency response was normal. All health boards warned of possible delays, and Natural Resources Wales' email and online reporting system was down. Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Rhondda Cynon Taf councils reported email disruption. In Merthyr Tydfil, travel agent Chris Allen said staff could not send booking confirmations, while Dafydd Isles of Harp Funeral Services said paperwork delays stopped some families attending registry office appointments. The Welsh Local Government Association said operations "remain under control".

? Health

Betsi Cadwaladr's chief executive is leaving to run an NHS organisation in England. Carol Shillabeer, who joined the north Wales health board as interim chief executive in May 2023 shortly after it was placed in special measures, becomes chief executive of Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust in the new year. Board chair Dyfed Edwards praised her "dedicated and determined leadership"; Welsh Conservative leader Darren Millar MS said she had failed to tackle the region's NHS failings or improve performance. The board said "a considerable amount of work

remains to be done".

A newborn died after hospital staff decided not to wake his mother for monitoring, an inquest has found. Eve Taylor, 29, was admitted to Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor, at 36 weeks with signs of infection; she later woke "feeling an intense fear", and an emergency caesarean was delayed further when she was moved to the labour ward rather than an operating theatre. Sonny Taylor died three days after his birth on 3 October 2022 from a brain injury caused by oxygen starvation and sepsis. Senior coroner Kate Robertson concluded his death would not have occurred had the monitoring happened and his mother gone straight to surgery; Betsi Cadwaladr admitted failings and its head of midwifery Karen Roberts said monitoring now happens "100%" of the time when required. The coroner said it was "entirely regrettable" the inquest took four years, the death having only reached her after media coverage of the board's apology.

Female judo athletes, coaches and parents will get free period products at the Girls That Judo Festival in Cardiff this weekend, funded through the Welsh Government's Period Dignity Grant, which helps all 22 councils provide free products.

?? Courts

Two kayakers died after setting out on inflatable kayaks they had repaired with "duct tape and a puncture repair kit", an inquest has heard. Simon Wilson, 35, a father of four, and Connor Parfitt, 24 — both cleaners living in staff accommodation at Hafan y Mor holiday park near Pwllheli — were seen repairing the kayaks on 20 July and paddling about a mile offshore the next evening, apparently in no difficulty. Parfitt's body was found near Llanfarian on 26 July and Wilson's at Llwyngwril on 28 July; post-mortems gave hypothermia after a period of fasting, and drowning. Coroner Kate Robertson concluded both deaths were accidents, saying the kayaks may have been damaged at sea.

A 24-year-old man has appeared in court charged with possessing a firearm after armed police responded to a "critical incident" in Swansea. David Joyce, of Bonymaen Road, Swansea, is accused over a car damaged "consistent with a firearms discharge" on Clase Road, Morriston, on 6 November; he was arrested in Mansfield three days later, remanded in custody and will appear at Swansea Crown Court on 14 December, denying affray and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

? Water: £600m D?r Cymru scheme planned

Plans for the largest water infrastructure project in Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's history have been submitted — a £600m scheme to serve more than 400,000 properties. Applications to Merthyr Tydfil council and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park would build a new

treatment works at Dan-y-Castell Farm, a pumping station at Pontsticill, and new pipelines, plus upgrades at Llwyn-onn, with the century-old works at Pontsticill and Cantref decommissioned. Chief executive Roch Cheroux said climate change is "already being realised in Wales", with more frequent storms and heatwaves increasing pressure on ageing assets.

? Transport: Severn Bridge closures

Monmouthshire council has called on National Highways, the Welsh Government and the South Wales Trunk Road Agent to plan together to ease congestion during prolonged lane closures on the M48 Severn Bridge. Eastbound restrictions run from Saturday 14 November to Friday 20 November as the bridge is prepared to take lorries over 7.5 tonnes again — a limit imposed in May 2025. The work includes foundations and ducting for traffic lights, number plate recognition cameras and weighing equipment that will hold lorries and cap how many are on the bridge at once. Councillor Paul Griffiths, who represents Chepstow, said the crossing was "invaluable and crucial" and pressed for a timetable on a longer-term cable solution; Councillor Armand Watts warned lorries could queue on the A466 Wye Valley Link Road.

? Environment

A Welsh conservation project has recorded its highest number of breeding curlew pairs since monitoring began — but too few chicks survive. An estimated 55 pairs were found this summer across the uplands of Ysbyty Ifan and Hiraethog, up from 41 in 2025. The Cri'r Gylfinir / The Curlew's Call project found 21 nests, protected 19 with temporary electric fences, saw chicks hatch in 17 and eight reach fledging. Curlew numbers have fallen by roughly 80% since 1990 and populations need about one fledged chick per two pairs a year to halt the decline; productivity remained below that level.

A cherry tree shortlisted for Wales' Tree of the Year in 2019 has been cut down by a council, Nation.Cymru reported.

? Education: Cardiff nursing school fears

Staff at Cardiff University's nursing school fear a fresh attempt is under way to close it. The school was reprieved in 2025 after a UCU-led campaign against closure, but Health Education and Improvement Wales then cut student commissions and awarded a South-East Wales nursing training contract that Cardiff Metropolitan University is understood to have won at least partly. An insider told Nation.Cymru the move "raises some serious questions about workforce planning", warning colleagues anticipate another round of redundancies in 2027.

? Business: Pembroke Dock laundry expansion

A family-run laundry is aiming to become one of the UK's most energy-efficient with Welsh Government support. Snow White Laundries, founded in 1968, is investing £1.69m in "zero stream" equipment at a new facility in Pembroke Dock, creating 15 jobs and cutting gas use by 40% using AI-controlled quality control to recover waste energy. Enterprise minister Adam Price said: "Without our support, Snow White Laundries would not have been able to invest in this technology for several years."

? Culture

Owain Wyn Evans has completed a near-400-mile cycle through all four UK nations for Children in Need, raising £4,760,086. The Radio 2 Early Breakfast host, from Ammanford, set off from Glasgow on 9 November and finished in Cardiff's Central Square just after 11:00 GMT on Friday, greeted by his husband Arran Rees and his parents. "This has been the hardest challenge of my life, 100%," he said; his bike was named Shania Chain. Children in Need raised £38.7m in its 46th campaign.

Tenby Museum has acquired two 17th century silver finds unearthed near Pembroke Castle by a metal detectorist. They are a decorated thimble inscribed "LYKE STIL LOVE EVER", reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 2022, and a post-medieval seal matrix.

? Sport

Wales face New Zealand at Principality Stadium on Saturday (14:10 GMT) as 20-1 outsiders, with bookmakers expecting a 35th straight defeat stretching the run to 74 years since the 1953 win. Tickets are still available for a fixture that once sold out on the fear of missing history. Steve Tandy's side spluttered to a 28-21 win over Japan last time out and face Australia, who were beaten by England last weekend, at 20:10 next Saturday.

Wales go to Oslo to face Norway at 17:00 GMT with Joe Rodon set to start against Erling Haaland despite playing only two minutes since August. Ben Cabango — who kept Haaland quiet in Cardiff's 2-1 win last month — and Sorba Thomas are suspended. Wales sit third in Group A4 on three points, above bottom-placed Norway on head-to-head; staying in the top tier and Euro 2028 seeding are at stake. "What we have done against Norway in Cardiff will not be enough here," said Craig Bellamy.

An independent study commissioned by the Ospreys has challenged the WRU's plan to cut Wales' men's professional teams from four to three. The Sheffield Hallam *Welsh Rugby*

Data Report looked at 23 seasons of Cardiff, Dragons, Ospreys and Scarlets records and found the evidence did not support the change, warning that cutting a team would halve derbies from 12 to six a season — derbies made up 48% of home league attendances between 2012 and 2026. "Narrowing down the pool of players into fewer locations will narrow down the competition pool," said Prof Keith Davids. Alun Wyn Jones, the Ospreys' director of rugby, said: "We want four Clubs."

?? Weather

No weather warnings are in force for the UK. Cardiff has a cold, bright Saturday of sunny intervals and light winds, highs of 9°C and a low of 4°C. Sunday brings light rain showers and a milder 11°C; Monday is dry with sunny intervals, 8°C; Tuesday turns wetter with heavy showers, 11°C, before a colder, clearer end to the week.

Method: SearXNG for leads, then indexes and article bodies fetched via the Playwright service on MacBach (.100:8090) — BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Sport, Nation.Cymru (news and home), the GOV.WALES news index and BBC Weather. GOV.WALES had two new releases from Friday (period products, Pembroke Dock laundry). Not repeated from yesterday's roundup: the smart glasses ban itself, Reform's boycott and freedom of speech motion (tabled 13 Nov), the Aberystwyth University cuts, the Green leader's cancer treatment, Wales' team selection for the All Blacks, and Robat Gruffudd's death. Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit skipped as instructed; ITV Wales, WalesOnline and the Senedd site remain unusable through the fetch service.

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