Welsh Headlines — 14 Oct 2026

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Compiled 09:40 BST, Wednesday 14 October 2026 • Sources: BBC Wales/Cymru Fyw/Sport, Nation.Cymru, GOV.WALES, Guardian Wales — method note at the foot.

? Top Story: Glynd?r national park shelved as minister declines public inquiry

Plans for Wales' first new national park since 1957 look set to be dropped after the minister responsible told the Senedd he would not hold a public local inquiry "at this stage".

Constitution Minister Dafydd Trystan Davies said the Welsh Government could achieve its environmental objectives "through alternative mechanisms, without establishing a new National Park Authority and without incurring the financial commitments that the designation would require".

He said establishing the Glyndŵr National Park — proposed around the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, stretching from Prestatyn towards the border — would have cost more than £11m, and noted that every council covering the proposed area opposed the plans. A final decision will follow a four-week period in which further representations can be made to him.

Davies said a "significant volume of evidence" had been gathered since Natural Resources Wales concluded the area satisfied the test for designation, with "strong feelings in favour and strong feelings against". He acknowledged the potential benefits — nature recovery, climate resilience, recreation and sustainable tourism — but said important questions had been raised about affordability, value for money and "potential impacts on local communities, infrastructure, energy developments, housing and the Welsh language".

The announcement was welcomed by Reform UK Wales and the Welsh Conservatives. Labour MS Vikki Howells accused Davies of a "lack of ambition", saying Plaid Cymru — "a party that says it wants to tackle the nature emergency" — was choosing to "duck his responsibility with what is effectively half a decision". The Campaign for National Parks called it a retreat: chief executive Rose O'Neill said the failure to back an inquiry was "a bitterly disappointing retreat from Wales's National Park ambitions", pointing out that 67% of those consulted had supported the proposal. The charity has requested meetings with ministers and will keep pressing during the four-week window.

(BBC Wales, 13 Oct, 15:00 BST; Nation.Cymru, 13 Oct; BBC Cymru Fyw, 13 Hydref 2026. Yesterday's roundup flagged that a ministerial statement was due today.)

?? Politics & the Senedd

? Senedd's ceremonial opening: King Charles's first as Head of State — and a call to walk out

King Charles III and Queen Camilla will attend the Ceremonial Opening of the Seventh Senedd on Thursday, the first time the King has performed the role as monarch.

The event, due to be held on Thursday 15 October, formally marks the beginning of the new Senedd term and is the first ceremonial opening since the chamber expanded to 96 members. Queen Elizabeth II opened every post-election session from 1999 until her death in 2022; Charles has attended every official opening but this will be his first as Head of State.

Anti-monarchy groups are urging MSs to walk out during the King's speech and join protesters outside the Welsh Parliament from 11am. Adam Johannes of Real Democracy Now said: "An unelected king opening an elected Senedd. What an insult… If the Senedd is genuinely the people's parliament, why does it need an unelected monarch to open it? We should be citizens, not subjects." Campaigners are calling for a republic and for MSs to condemn the Welsh Government's decision to invite the King.

(Nation.Cymru, 13-14 Oct — ICNN Senedd reporter Ella Groves)

? £60m ALN deal unblocks the mini-budget

The Welsh Government has reached agreement with Welsh Labour on its supplementary budget, which failed to pass in the summer, adding £60m for additional learning needs.

Labour, now in opposition after losing May's Senedd election, had rejected a £40m-a-year deal over three years in angry scenes in the final week of term in July; leader Ken Skates had demanded

£100m this year. The Supplementary Budget was laid before the Senedd on Tuesday and will be debated on 3 November.

First Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth said: "This agreement reflects what can be achieved when parties across the Senedd work together." Skates said Labour had "managed to secure a significant cash injection for schools" but still believed the government should go further. Reform said the deal was good for Plaid and Labour but not for Wales. The headteachers' union NAHT expressed "deep disappointment" at the funding level; ASCL welcomed it. Ap Iorwerth faced First Minister's Questions on the back of the deal.

(GOV.WALES, Tue 13 Oct, 10:00; BBC Wales, 13 Oct; BBC Cymru Fyw, 13 Hydref)

?? Finch-Saunders praised after asking a question in Welsh

Janet Finch-Saunders MS has been praised for asking a question in Welsh at the Senedd — weeks after causing outrage by urging a minister to answer a question in English.

The Conservative MS asked Plaid Cymru's Heledd Fychan about Welsh Government action on scabies, following the outbreak that saw two wards closed and visitor restrictions imposed at Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli. She said Welsh cases had risen from 1,300 in 2018 to more than 12,000 in 2023-24. Hywel Dda health board says the risk to the wider public is low and a number of cases are being managed in healthcare and the community across Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

(Nation.Cymru, 14 Oct)

? Iran war inflation will squeeze Welsh spending plans, academics warn

Higher-than-expected inflation caused by the US and Israel's war on Iran will hit the Welsh Government's spending plans, according to a Cardiff University briefing.

Ed Gareth Poole and Owain Cynfab of the Wales Governance Centre say the 2026 price jump has "one primary cause: a global energy price shock linked to the conflict in Iran". CPI inflation reached 3.1% in August, up from 2.9% in July, and the Bank of England now expects around 3.7% in Q4 2026 and 4.2% in Q1 2027. The briefing analyses Plaid's supplementary budget deal with Labour and the prospects for 2027-28.

(Nation.Cymru, Martin Shipton, 14 Oct)

? Health & Public Services

? Same-day mental health support: the "no wrong door" vision

People across Wales could get mental health support on the same day they seek help, without needing a referral, under plans set out by the mental health minister.

Deputy Minister for Social Care, Mental Health and Women's Health Delyth Jewell announced the commitment to same-day access and a "no wrong door" approach at a Wales Alliance for Mental Health event at the Norwegian Church in Cardiff to mark World Mental Health Day. The open-access model is being trialled through demonstrator projects before wider roll-out, and builds on the NHS 111 Wales Press 2 helpline, which has taken more than 300,000 contacts since launching nearly four years ago — the most common callers being 18-34 year olds (18%) and the busiest day Monday (over 15%).

Jewell said: "The Open Access approach is about making it easier for people to get help when and wherever they need it… It removes unnecessary barriers, reduces waiting times, and provides a straightforward route into services."

(GOV.WALES, Wed 14 Oct, 00:01; Nation.Cymru, 14 Oct)

? Cardiff and Vale declares incident as UHW faces "exceptional pressure"

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has declared a business continuity incident, with some planned appointments and procedures potentially postponed.

Chief operating officer Paul Bostock said pressure was particularly acute at the University Hospital of Wales. Urgent, time-critical and cancer care, and long-waiting patients, will be prioritised; services remain open and emergency care is still available. Patients whose appointments are affected will be contacted directly, and families of patients ready to leave hospital are being asked to help with arrangements.

(Nation.Cymru, 14 Oct)

? Physiotherapy students protest at the Senedd over job shortages

Physiotherapy students and graduates protested on the steps of the Senedd, warning that newly qualified staff could be "forced to leave Wales or turn to other fields".

They told BBC Cymru they felt "frustrated" and "uncertain" about their futures because of a shortage of NHS posts. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy says demand continues to rise.

(BBC Cymru Fyw, 13 Hydref 2026, Welsh-language — no English counterpart at compile time)

? Rural Affairs, Business & Environment

? Farm payments land as support ramps up

Thousands of Welsh farm payments have reached bank accounts, with 90% of farms claiming under the Sustainable Farming Scheme Universal Layer and 94% under the Basic Payment Scheme now paid their advance.

Advance payment rates were increased this year to 80% to ease cash-flow pressure after the summer's dry weather. Rural Resilience Minister Llyr Gruffydd said the payments build on previously announced support for the industry.

(GOV.WALES, Tue 13 Oct, 23:00)

?? Red squirrels and pine martens get a boost

A conservation partnership has been extended, shoring up red squirrel numbers in Clocaenog Forest and supporting the species in northern Gwynedd and Ynys Môn.

Magical Mammals — a partnership between Red Squirrels Trust Wales, Clocaenog Red Squirrels Trust and Natural Resources Wales — has released captive-bred red squirrels and reintroduced pine martens to selected woodlands, with volunteers building release enclosures, nest boxes and monitoring. NRW specialist adviser Rebecca Clews-Roberts said the work gave both species the best chance of establishing self-sustaining populations.

(Nation.Cymru, 14 Oct)

?? Cardiff and Vale College campuses reach their highest point

Cardiff and Vale College has marked the topping out of its two new landmark campuses in the Vale of Glamorgan as the next phase of construction begins.

The project is being delivered under the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

(Nation.Cymru, 14 Oct)

? "I was made to feel stupid" — dyslexic mum now runs a multi-million pound firm

Steph Hind, 34, from Hawarden, told Wrexham Business Professionals that neurodivergent people can be a major asset to employers given the right support.

Diagnosed with dyslexia at five, she now runs a multi-million pound business and is living proof, she says, that adjustments pay off.

(Nation.Cymru, 14 Oct)

?? People & Justice

? Maserati driver who killed a woman is given a suspended sentence

A 66-year-old Maserati driver who killed a woman and seriously injured two others — including his own wife — has been given a suspended prison sentence.

Ronald Dowling, of Caerphilly, overtook another vehicle in heavy rain before aquaplaning, skidding across the carriageway and hitting Sharon Berry's car at New Inn, Pontypool, on 26 October 2023. His wife Kim Dowling was left paralysed and passenger Jane Beedell suffered extensive injuries. He had pleaded guilty to causing death and serious injury by careless driving and was sentenced at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court to 27 months, suspended for two years. The court heard he was travelling at 76mph three seconds before the crash. Judge Celia Hughes told him: "Your consequences should live with you for life."

(BBC Wales, 13 Oct)

? Joe Cordina was "retaliating" when he punched a man, court hears

Former boxing world champion Joe Cordina is on trial accused of assaulting Jamie O'Brien at a Texaco garage in Pentwyn, Cardiff, on 27 February.

Cardiff Magistrates' Court heard the incident came to light when a witness video was published on WalesOnline. The prosecution said O'Brien "pushed Mr Cordina with his shoulder" and Cordina then "punched him with sufficient force to push him to the ground" and pushed him repeatedly; the defence says Cordina was "retaliating". O'Brien's sister told police her brother "hated" Cordina and she feared he had "sought him out". A second assault charge against Cordina was dropped on Tuesday; O'Brien has already admitted assault by beating and was given a conditional discharge in August.

(BBC Wales, 13 Oct)

? Ex-detective loses £344k claim against North Wales Police

A former detective who sued his force over the handling of his grievance after his fiancée's affair has lost his case.

Andrew Fearon split from Rebecca Hutt in 2017 after she had an affair with a colleague, Shaun Parry. His ex-fiancée later married the grievance manager who investigated his complaint — but Judge Sarah O'Brien found no evidence they got together until long after the investigations. Fearon, who said he was left with complex PTSD, sought £343,251 in damages and loss of earnings; the judge disagreed the force was to blame.

(BBC Wales, 13 Oct)

? "Our baby died on Christmas Eve and we're still waiting for answers"

Baby loss charities Sands and Tommy's are calling on the Welsh Government to make sure bereaved parents can contribute to reviews of deaths.

Brooke and Wil Rees-Webb, from Pontypridd, lost their son Gwilym Ioan at 11 days old on Christmas Eve 2025 and are still awaiting answers about his unexplained death as they prepare to mark his first birthday. His medical notes suggest he had a "serious neonatal infection", according to his mother. The Welsh Government said it had "committed to ensuring every bereaved parent and family has access to high-quality, consistent and compassionate care".

(BBC Wales, 13 Oct; BBC Cymru Fyw, 3 hours ago, Welsh-language)

?? Cymru Fyw (Welsh-language reporting)

? Carmarthenshire schools: decision day for two, consultation moves on four

Full council is expected to decide today (Wednesday) on the futures of Ysgol Meidrim and Ysgol y Fro in Llangyndeyrn, after a governor warned that pupils at Ysgol Meidrim have started "blaming themselves" for the closure threat.

Glyn Harbour said the year-long campaign had left children anxious about the school's future. Carmarthenshire Council wants to close both, citing low pupil numbers and financial pressure. Meanwhile the council's education scrutiny committee has agreed to recommend moving ahead with consultation on four more primaries — Ysgol Blaenau, Ysgol Pontiets, Ysgol Carwe and Ysgol Bancffosfelen. BBC Cymru reports Ysgol Pontiets has 16 pupils against a capacity of 83 and a deficit of £80,469.

(BBC Cymru Fyw, 13 Hydref 2026, 3 and 18 hours ago — Welsh-language; the wider closure row was covered in the 9-13 October roundups)

?? Fears for the Taith exchange scheme's future

Former education minister Kirsty Williams has raised concerns about the future of Wales' international exchange programme, warning there will be fewer opportunities if Taith cannot secure sufficient Welsh Government funding.

The programme is due to end in August 2028 and ministers are considering next steps; the Welsh Government said no decision has been made.

(BBC Cymru Fyw / Newyddion S4C, 13 Hydref 2026 — Welsh-language)

?? Roman fort discovery "gives reality" to the Mabinogion

A Roman fort discovered in Pembrokeshire is being linked to the legend of Macsen Wledig — Magnus Maximus, who ruled the Western Roman Empire in the 380s.

Macsen features in the Mabinogion tale *Breuddwyd Macsen Wledig*, and the find is being discussed as evidence behind a story written centuries later. (The Guardian reported the Frenni Fawr site on 12 October as potentially confirming the myth of an emperor's camp.)

(BBC Cymru Fyw, 13 Hydref 2026 — Welsh-language)

? Culture

? Michael Sheen's Our Town wins Best Revival at the UK Theatre Awards

A Welsh National Theatre production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, starring Michael Sheen, has taken Best Revival at the UK Theatre Awards 2026.

The production was the inaugural show from Welsh National Theatre, created in partnership with the Rose Theatre, and gave the Pulitzer Prize-winning play a Welsh lens. *(Nation.Cymru, 13 Oct)*

?? Japan's ambassador returns to Wales

Japan's ambassador to the UK, Hiroshi Suzuki — who has built a following for learning the Welsh national anthem — has announced his first visit to Wales this year, after frequent trips during 2025's Year of Wales and Japan. *(Nation.Cymru, 13 Oct)*

? Star guests lined up for Ruth Jones and James Corden's The Choir

Hannah Waddingham, James McAvoy and Jim Broadbent will guest star in the Gavin and Stacey co-creators' Apple TV comedy drama, in which Jones and Corden play siblings who have not seen each other for years. *(Nation.Cymru, 13 Oct — the main cast was covered on 8 October)*

Also in culture: an independent Italian restaurant, **Ciliegino** in St David's shopping centre, has been named Cardiff's best on Tripadvisor, beating more than 1,150 other eateries with a 4.8 average from 1,800-plus reviews and a 2026 Travellers' Choice Best of the Best award *(Nation.Cymru, 14 Oct)*. **Witches markets and spiritual fayres** organised by Cariad Events Cymru will run at Margam Park, Craig-y-Nos Castle, Cardiff City Stadium and Swansea's Brangwyn Hall this autumn *(Nation.Cymru, 14 Oct)*. And **Rob Brydon** will voice Ghost in *The Baddies*, a new Julia Donaldson Christmas animation, alongside Gavin and Stacey co-stars Sheridan Smith and Alison Steadman *(BBC Wales, 13 Oct)*.

? Sport

? Wales women through to World Cup play-off final — and one game from Brazil

Wales beat Albania 3-0 at Parc y Scarlets to seal a 4-0 aggregate win in their World Cup play-off semi-final and set a new national record of 10 games unbeaten.

Mayzee Davies headed in her first goal for her country on 34 minutes, with Elise Hughes and Hannah Cain striking after half-time. Rhian Wilkinson's side now face Norway — coached by former Wales boss Gemma Grainger and ranked 13th in the world, 18 places above Wales — in a two-legged play-off final in December for a place at the 2027 World Cup in Brazil. Wilkinson said the pressure would be on Norway: "The pressure is always on the big nations and that's something I think we thrive on. We're a small nation, we fight for each other."

(BBC Sport, 13 Oct; Nation.Cymru/PA, 13 Oct; BBC Cymru Fyw, 13 Hydref)

? Cardiff 5-1 Watford, and Swansea stay top despite a racism allegation

Cardiff City thrashed Watford 5-1 at the Cardiff City Stadium in front of 17,921, with Jack Moylan scoring twice and Watford's losing run extending to four games.

A Moylan double (11' penalty, 35'), a Mattie Pollock own goal and an Ollie Tanner strike gave Cardiff a 4-0 half-time lead, and Callum Robinson added a fifth on 85 minutes before Hector Kyprianou's late consolation. Hornets fans voiced anger at the club's ownership.

Swansea City remain top of the Championship after Ronald's last-minute winner at Millwall — a match held up for around seven minutes in the 65th minute after alleged racist chanting aimed at substitute Eom Ji-sung. Referee Edward Duckworth followed the protocol and spoke to both benches; an announcement confirmed police were working to identify offenders from CCTV. Swans head coach Vitor Matos said: "We all know there is no space for this... we are here to stand with the player."

Wrexham lost 2-1 at home to West Brom, Kieffer Moore's 30-yard strike cancelled out by Isaac Price and substitute Aune Heggebø in the final 11 minutes. Phil Parkinson said it was time to "batten down the hatches" before Saturday's visit of Preston.

(BBC Sport, 13 Oct — Swansea report updated this morning; Nation.Cymru/PA, 13 Oct)

? Rees-Zammit demands an end to artificial pitches

Louis Rees-Zammit has called for an end to artificial surfaces in the Gallagher Premiership after posting a photo of friction burns to his right leg sustained at Saracens' StoneX Stadium.

"Can we please stop playing on these Astro Turf pitches. Someone do something about it!" he wrote. Bristol director of rugby Pat Lam admitted resting three players rather than risk them on the 4G pitch.

(Nation.Cymru/PA, 13 Oct)

?? Weather

No Met Office warnings are in force for Wales. The only yellow wind warning today covers the Highlands and Eilean Siar in Scotland (10:00-19:00). Cardiff: sunny intervals and a gentle breeze, highs of 19°C and lows of 13°C — Thursday turns cloudier with highs of 20°C, before a colder, sunnier weekend (15°/5° on Friday, 14°/5° on Saturday). *(BBC Weather, updated 08:59 today)*

? Quick Summary

Story	Key detail
Glyndŵr park	Minister declines public inquiry; £11m cost; four-week representations window
Senedd opening	King Charles's first as Head of State on Thursday; republicans urge walkout
ALN budget deal	£60m extra unblocks the supplementary budget; debate 3 November
Mental health	Same-day, no-referral "no wrong door" approach; 300,000 NHS 111 press 2 contacts
UHW pressure	Cardiff and Vale declares business continuity incident; some procedures postponed
Farm payments	90% SFS and 94% BPS claimants paid advances at an increased 80% rate
Carmarthenshire schools	Council decides on Meidrim and Ysgol y Fro today; consultation on four more

Story	Key detail
Maserati crash	27-month sentence suspended for two years over fatal New Inn crash
Cordina trial	Prosecution says boxer punched a man at a Cardiff petrol station; defence says retaliation
Baby Gwilym	Pontypridd parents still awaiting answers; charities seek a parental voice in reviews
Wales women	3-0 v Albania, 4-0 on aggregate; Norway in December's play-off final
Football	Cardiff 5-1 Watford; Swansea win at Millwall amid a racism allegation; Wrexham 1-2 West Brom
Weather	No warnings for Wales; Cardiff 19/13, sunny intervals

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Method note: compiled in cron mode. SearXNG (:8086) returned a usable index mix this morning — the day's WalesOnline live blog URL (consent-walled when fetched, dropped without retry), BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, the GOV.WALES news index, ITV Wales and BBC programme pages — used for corroboration and the GOV.WALES queue, with the sweep itself run through the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090, MarkItDown): 15 index/feed pages and 60 article pages, all successful. Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr, Reddit and ITV article pages were skipped as instructed (itv.com returns HTTP 500 through the fetch service, and senedd.wales serves only a consent shell). De-duplicated against yesterday's 13 October Welsh file, this morning's UK file and folder-wide keyword greps: dropped as covered or stale were the endometriosis feature (1 day old, yesterday's top story), the Gwent "zero-hours" detectives story (13 October), the FM's "don't undermine Wales" line to Burnham (a 2 October Plaid conference quote refreshed by the UK file), the Denbigh Capel Mawr survey (10 October), Tiwns Cymru (13 October), the Aberfan 60th anniversary programming (5 and 10 October), the Glamorgan head coach's England move (13 October), The Choir cast reveal (8 October), the Luke Evans/ITV The Party locations feature and the wallaby sanctuary and Calon Hearts stories (9-10 October). Cymru Fyw article pages carry only the Welsh dateline, so the homepage's relative stamps ("3 awr yn ôl") were used alongside the Welsh dates.

Revision #2
Created 2026-10-14 08:10:12 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-10-14 08:10:13 UTC by Admin