Welsh Headlines — 2 Nov 2026

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Compiled 09:10 GMT, Mon 2 Nov 2026. Sources: BBC Wales/Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru, GOV.WALES, Guardian, WalesOnline. Nitter/Phice/Flaresolverr down — skipped.

? Top Story: 44% in Wales report discrimination as wellbeing flatlines

More than four in ten people in Wales say they experienced discrimination in the past year — 44%, up 11 percentage points since 2023 — according to Carnegie UK's Life in the UK 2026 Index. Wales' overall wellbeing score is 61 out of 100, unchanged over the year and exactly the UK average, with the charity describing outcomes as "stubbornly unchanged".

Satisfaction with local job opportunities has fallen sharply: just 17% are satisfied with opportunities in their area, down from 30% in 2023 and below the UK average of 22%. Only 61% report good general health (67% across the UK) and around one in ten report poor mental health. Democratic wellbeing is Wales' weakest category at 39/100 — just 14% believe they can influence decisions affecting Wales and 8% feel able to influence UK decisions, although both rose six points. Low trust in the UK Government stands at 53%, while low trust in the Welsh Government fell seven points to 36%; only 8% have high trust in MSs and 5% in MPs.

Carnegie UK chief executive **Sarah Davidson** said wellbeing had "remained stubbornly unchanged, while too many people continue to experience discrimination, poor health and a lack of confidence in local job opportunities", calling it "an opportunity for all levels of government in Wales to further strengthen trust". The findings draw on 6,731 UK respondents, including 519 in Wales, surveyed by Ipsos between 21 and 27 May. *(Nation.Cymru, 02 Nov)*

?? Politics: Kinnock warns devolving justice would bring "more downsides

than upsides"

Lord Kinnock has questioned the case for devolving justice and policing to Wales, saying the transfer would bring "more downsides than upsides" unless it demonstrably made communities safer. The former Labour leader said that if devolution meant "Wales was better protected, that the streets were safer" and "the justice system was more efficient", there would not be "much of an argument" against it — "but those guarantees are absent at the moment".

Speaking on a Newyddion S4C YouTube special marking Prime Minister **Andy Burnham's** first 100 days, he warned of "the upheaval of creating what would have to be effectively a new system with new management... with an introverted view of the justice system". His stance puts him at odds with former Lord Chief Justice **Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd**, who recently said there were "no arguments of substance" against devolving justice and policing — a core demand of the Plaid Cymru government. Deputy First Minister **Sioned Williams** has pressed the case, writing to Lord Chancellor **Alex Norris** in July about the "jagged edge" between devolved and non-devolved responsibilities and urging ministers to revisit the refusal to fund a Residential Women's Centre in Swansea. *(Nation.Cymru — Mark Mansfield, 01 Nov)*

?? Senedd: MS calls for pause on deposit return scheme over cost to families

Clwyd MS Louise Emery has urged the Welsh Government to pause its Deposit Return Scheme, warning the 20p deposit will hit vulnerable families, the elderly and disabled people hardest. The scheme launches on **1 October 2027** and adds 20p to eligible single-use PET bottles, aluminium cans and glass bottles, refundable on return to a designated collector.

"Buy a 24-pack of water and you're charged an extra £4.80 before you've even got it to the car," said Emery, who also warned that people who are elderly, disabled or don't drive face "lugging bags of bottles and cans back to a shop" — and lose out entirely when a reverse vending machine is full or broken. She says councils face lost income from selling on kerbside recycling, pointing to Conwy's environment cabinet member **Cllr Mike Priestley**, who estimates a **£1m-a-year** revenue hit for his authority. Emery also flagged a fraud risk from including glass in Wales while England does not, and criticised the voucher-based refund model: "We're asking people to post a bottle into a machine and come away with a paper ticket, like it's 1985."

A Welsh Government spokesman said it is working with scheme administrator **Exchange for Change** to make the scheme accessible, that glass "carries a zero-pence deposit for four years to give industry time to adapt", and that guidance will be published before launch. *(Nation.Cymru —*

Richard Evans, LDR, 02 Nov)

? Housing: homelessness services "face major crisis" without budget boost

Eighty-three per cent of homelessness and housing support providers in Wales are running grant-funded services at a deficit, according to a survey of 44 organisations by Community Housing Cymru and Cymorth Cymru. Over half (57%) are drawing on reserves to keep services open — a practice providers say is sustainable for an average of just **1.5 years**.

Ahead of the Welsh Government's draft budget, the bodies are calling for a **16% increase** to the Housing Support Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant to cover delivery costs, fair pay and rising case complexity. They say every £1 invested in the Housing Support Grant generates £1.40 in wider savings, including **£237m for the NHS** and **£206m for social care** by preventing crisis interventions. Without a settlement, providers warn they may cut capacity, freeze recruitment, make redundancies or hand back contracts.

Katie Dalton of Cymorth Cymru said services face "year-on-year increased demand and complexity, coupled with 15 years of funding constraints", while CHC's **Elly Lock** said Wales is "at a crucial stage" as it implements once-in-a-generation homelessness legislation. *(Nation.Cymru — Martin Shipton, 02 Nov)*

? Health: free NHS Wales app support to quit vaping as new curbs come in

Public Health Wales has added a vaping module to the NHS Wales Help Me Quit app, offering personalised quit plans, craving-management tools and help reducing nicotine strength and frequency. The launch coincided with restrictions introduced last week that extend the under-18 sales ban to nicotine-free vapes and other nicotine products including pouches, and ban promotional giveaways and substantial promotional discounts.

Consultant in public health **Mary-Ann McKibben** said vaping "has helped many people in Wales stop smoking and remain smoke-free" and the priority is reducing relapse risk, while "increasing numbers of adults" want help becoming completely nicotine-free. Deputy Minister for Public and Preventative Health **Nerys Evans** said the module and the new laws were "an important step in protecting children and young people's health and wellbeing". Bilingual resources include a Your Quit Plan tool and a Passport to Vape Free guide. *(Nation.Cymru, 02 Nov)*

? Policing: e-bike raids net drugs, cash and weapons — and a murder arrest in Holyhead

Amphetamine, cannabis, suspected cocaine, cash and weapons including air rifles were seized in 14 early-morning raids across south Wales as South Wales Police targeted e-bike-related crime. Operation Grebe, briefed at 06:00 in Merthyr Tydfil, covered Cardiff, Pontypridd and Swansea: **12 bikes seized and 11 people arrested**, with four charged in Swansea over alleged crack cocaine and heroin supply. Supt **Emma Fox** said e-bikes are "blighting communities" and "often linked to drug use, drug supply and organised criminality" — and that children riding them are being exploited. **Dr Timothy Holmes** of Bangor University said e-bikes "grease the wheels" of organised crime because they are fast and manoeuvrable. Surrey Police's Operation Scramble has seized 136 e-bikes this year, up from 127 in 2025. *(BBC Wales — Jordan Davies, published 01 Nov, updated this morning)*

Separately, a 61-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a "medical emergency" at a house in Holyhead. North Wales Police were called by the Welsh Ambulance Service at **03:49 GMT on Sunday** to Morawelon Road on Anglesey. Det Insp **Rob Mahoney** said the force was treating it as an "isolated incident" with no ongoing threat, and that there would be an increased police presence while detectives investigate. The man remains in custody. *(BBC Wales — Charlie Buckland, 01 Nov. Distinct from the Llandudno murder arrest covered in yesterday's roundup.)*

? Conwy: clubhouse fire shuts golf club "until further notice"

Conwy Golf Club has closed its course and all facilities after a fire caused "significant damage" to the clubhouse on Saturday night. North Wales Fire and Rescue Service was called at about **21:21 GMT**, with crews from Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Rhyl, Denbigh, St Asaph, Abergele and Betws-y-Coed attending alongside a high-volume pump from Caernarfon. Pictures showed the roof burned through. Nobody was hurt and the cause has not yet been determined.

The club said it was "with great sadness" it had to share news of "a serious fire", that it "will not be speculating while official investigations take place", and that emergency services had asked members and the public to stay away until the site is declared safe. Its championship links is ranked number one in north Wales. *(BBC Wales — Charlie Buckland, 01 Nov; WalesOnline)*

? Culture: Llantwit Major singer Cate McHugh wins The Voice UK

Cate McHugh, a 31-year-old from Llantwit Major who began busking on the streets of Cardiff as a teenager, has been crowned winner of The Voice UK. She appeared stunned as her name was read out on the ITV show, telling viewers "I did it", and was hugged by coach **Sir Tom Jones** on his final appearance after he announced he had been "fired".

McHugh, who has the degenerative sight condition Stargardt disease and is registered blind, wins **£50,000** and a recording contract; her first single, a cover of The Beatles' **Blackbird**, is out now. "I'm entirely gobsmacked and absolutely haven't fully processed this information just yet," she said, while footage showed a watch party in Cardiff erupting. She said she waited at her blind audition because she could not see whether any chair had turned — "and then Tom Jones started talking". *(BBC Wales — Angela Ferguson, 01 Nov)*

The chief executive of S4C has defended the use of English on Y Llais, the channel's Welsh-language version of the format, saying it needs to attract new audiences and encourage learners. Geraint Evans told BBC Radio Cymru's *Beti a'i Phobol* that a quarter of contestants considered themselves learners, so some interviews were conducted in English — a decision criticised by some viewers and in a Nation.Cymru opinion piece earlier this year. He said S4C "is not just about serving traditional Welsh speakers", noting more than half the audience for both *Y Llais* and *Amour a Mynydd* is under 45. *(BBC Cymru Fyw — Bryn Jones, 01 Nov)*

? Business: £700m sites fund could reach south-east Wales; Uniqlo picks Cardiff

Cardiff Capital Region is among the areas being considered for a new £700m UK Government "strategic sites accelerator" launching today, aimed at reviving stalled industrial and commercial developments through loans, equity investment and grants. The programme will back six to ten nationally important sites and aims to attract up to **£2bn** in private investment, targeting projects held up by planning, grid connections or access to finance.

The region covers ten council areas from Bridgend to Monmouthshire. Chancellor **John Healey** said "local leaders know their communities best", while Business Secretary **Jonathan Reynolds** said outdated infrastructure, thin access to finance and planning problems "shackle our potential". *(Nation.Cymru, 02 Nov)*

UNIQLO has confirmed its first Welsh store — a two-floor, roughly 940 sq m shop at St David's in Cardiff, opening in autumn 2027. It will be the retailer's 27th UK store. COO

Alessandro Dudech called Cardiff "a vibrant city with a rich cultural heritage", and St David's centre director **Helen Morgan** said there had been "phenomenal demand from Welsh guests". *(Nation.Cymru, 02 Nov; WalesOnline)*

Cardiff AI start-up Aventail — formerly Locai — has won Welsh Government backing to develop technology that lets businesses control where and how AI tasks are processed. Funding comes via the SMART Flexible Innovation Support programme (amount undisclosed); the firm is based at Tramshed Tech. Chief executive **Joseph Ward** said businesses "shouldn't have to give up control of their data" to use AI, and Enterprise Minister **Adam Price** framed it as part of the mission to halve Wales' productivity gap. *(Nation.Cymru, 02 Nov)*

? Also in brief

- **Tenby's Cofion Books has closed** after more than 40 years on Bridge Street. Owner **Albie Smosarski** spotted the empty storefront inside the town walls four decades ago; the shop billed itself as "Britain's most photographed bookshop" and was famed for piles of books and a handwritten "enter at own risk" sign. Writer **Nathen Amin** called it "absolute chaos". *(Nation.Cymru, 02 Nov)*
- **Denbigh Museum is hunting the "lost chair" of the 1882 National Eisteddfod** — no chair was awarded that year because none of the seven awdlau submitted met the judges' standard. The museum realised the chair was missing while cataloguing photographs taken by a Bristol photographer, Warner. Vice-chair **Medwyn Jones** said they would "love to find it". *(BBC Cymru Fyw — Anna George, 31 Oct)*
- **Two police missing-person appeals:** South Wales Police are looking for **Tiffany George**, 25, last seen at the DNA Lounge on St Helen's Road, Swansea, at about 05:30 on Sunday 1 November, wearing a black short dress with black wings and black boots (ref 2600357247). Gwent Police are looking for **Ruby**, 14, from Nelson, last seen at home at about 13:30 on Saturday 31 October (ref 2600356641).
- **Travel:** lane three of three is closed eastbound on the M4 Prince of Wales Bridge between J23 (M48) and J22 (M49) due to an obstruction; one lane is shut westbound on the A55 between J11 (Llandygai) and J10 (Bangor) after a lorry broke down.
- **Weather:** a bright start for many, though fog patches may linger in prone spots; cloudier from the north-east into the afternoon but still plenty of sunny spells. Cooler than yesterday, with a maximum of **12°C**. *(Met Office via WalesOnline)*

Method: BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, the BBC "Welsh Parliament" topic page, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru (news, home, culture), the GOV.WALES news index (nothing newer than 30 Oct), the Guardian Wales RSS feed and the WalesOnline Monday live blog — all fetched through the Playwright service on MacBach (.100:8090). SearXNG gave a usable mix this morning and supplied the WalesOnline blog URL. De-duped against the 01-11 roundup (Senedd murder arrest, Alder Hey, oil beetle, Great Orme crash, solicitor fraud, Betsi urgent care) and against earlier files (radiologist shortfall, fiscal powers, winter fuel/Kinnock). Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit were unreachable and skipped.

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