Welsh Headlines — 2 Oct 2026

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Compiled 09:35 BST, Friday 2 October 2026 • Sources: BBC Wales and BBC Wales Politics indexes, BBC News and BBC Sport, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru (news / sport / culture / feature), GOV.WALES, WalesOnline live blog, BBC Weather (Playwright fetch service). Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit skipped — services down.

? Top Story: FM demands a "New Deal for Wales" as Plaid gathers in Llandudno

Rhun ap Iorwerth has written to Prime Minister Andy Burnham asking for "a New Deal for Wales" — powers and financial freedoms already available to Scotland — in a letter sent on Thursday and seen by BBC Wales, the day before his first Plaid Cymru conference speech since becoming First Minister. The Plaid leader's 2,000-word letter makes a detailed case for the transfer of powers over **policing and justice, rail infrastructure, the Crown Estate and welfare**, plus "funding arrangements that are fair, needs-based and reflect Wales' demographic and economic realities". He argues the May Senedd election "delivered a clear mandate from the people of Wales for positive change", and that "Wales should be able to benefit from the same constitutional and fiscal tools already available in Scotland". In his speech to party members in **Llandudno on Friday afternoon**, ap Iorwerth will say: "The UK Government speaks of rewiring the state, but with so little of that constitutional current flowing from Westminster, Wales can so often feel off grid." Burnham has promised a "fair hearing" and previously said he would be "open" to Welsh control of policing, but has **ruled out giving Wales the power to hold an independence referendum**, telling BBC Wales last month that the UK Parliament had to have "a say on an issue of that magnitude" and that he did not "think we can create a different arrangement for Wales". Plaid has governed as a minority administration since May — ending 27 years of Labour government — and lost a key vote on its spending plans in July. Ap Iorwerth is expected to meet the PM, alongside the first ministers of Scotland and Northern Ireland, at the end of the month. (BBC Wales / Nation.Cymru)

?? Senedd & Politics

?? Badenoch refuses to rule out Tory help for Plaid's budget — and pledges 500 more police

Kemi Badenoch has not ruled out Welsh Conservatives helping Plaid Cymru ministers pass the Welsh Government's supplementary budget, after July's mid-year spending plans were defeated in the Senedd for lack of opposition support. Speaking to BBC Wales ahead of her party's four-day autumn conference in Birmingham from Sunday, Badenoch said the Tories would support "individual policies" where people are delivering things "Conservative voters want", but insisted she was "not interested in doing deals" and that her party was the only "sensible party in the Senedd". "We look at things on a case-by-case basis... If Plaid Cymru makes some decisions that are common sense — I don't anticipate that — then of course we would support them." She also accused the SNP and Plaid of "ganging up together to talk about breaking up the United Kingdom" — "I don't think anybody in Wales wants to leave the United Kingdom except Plaid" — and said the Conservatives have a plan to fund **500 more police officers in Wales**. A Welsh Government source said in September that supplementary-budget talks were "either happening or scheduled to happen with all" opposition parties. (BBC Wales)

? Senedd members rebuked for calling 20mph limit "blanket" — as minister accused of intimidation

Four MSs from four different parties were chastised by the Llywydd during Wednesday's Reform-led debate on Wales' 20mph default limit for using the word "blanket" — terminology the standards commissioner has previously ruled inaccurate. **Janet Finch-Saunders** (Conservative, Bangor Conwy Môn) was first, then **Gwyn Williams** (Plaid, Gŵyr Abertawe), **David Mills** (Reform, Brycheiniog Tawe Nedd) and **Paul Rock** (Green, Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf), who apologised saying "it's in my notes". Llywydd **Huw Irranca-Davies** warned: "please don't try my patience." Separately, Finch-Saunders called a point of order over **Deputy Transport Minister Mark Hooper**, who turned his chair fully around to stare at Reform chief whip **Llŷr Powell** as he concluded the Reform case for scrapping the limit, heckling at times. Finch-Saunders said the minister was "almost intimidating" a member; the Llywydd said he was not clear that was a point of order and told Powell to continue. (Nation.Cymru — Emily Price)

? Newport Bus "crisis" as accounts deadline missed

Newport Transport, the council-owned operator behind Newport Bus, missed the deadline to file accounts for the year to March 2025 and faced compulsory strike-off action by Companies House before the process was suspended this week. Newport City Council now says the delay is linked to financial challenges affecting both the accounts and the audit; five directors were replaced by a new board this month. opposition councillors called the situation "a crisis" and demanded "transparency". A bus depot is being sold to Transport for Wales for **£3.25m**, but the council would not confirm whether the money would support the operator. "Because there hasn't been full disclosure… we are asking for transparency on this," said Cllr **William Routley**, deputy leader of the council's Conservative group. (BBC Wales / Local Democracy Reporting Service)

? Church in Wales pulls back from legislating on same-sex marriage

The Church in Wales has **delayed** plans to introduce equal marriage, saying a longer period is needed to consider the issue. Same-sex marriages can currently be blessed in a Church in Wales church, but wedding ceremonies are not permitted. A Bench of Bishops statement says the planned April 2027 Bill will not now be brought forward; instead the Governing Body's April 2027 meeting will host a facilitated theological conversation on the doctrine of marriage between two external experts — one traditional, one progressive — supported by a neutral doctrinal paper. One longstanding gay member, speaking anonymously, said: "How many more times will the Church in Wales put off making a decision on equal marriage?" The Bench said the decision followed "positive but yet frank interaction". (Nation.Cymru — Martin Shipton)

?? National Museum Cardiff "dysfunctional", says insider

An anonymous insider has told Nation.Cymru that **National Museum Cardiff** has suffered "managed decline… individual posturing and lack of professional interest in the stewardship" of the national collection over the past decade, comparing it unfavourably with the National Library in Aberystwyth. The source cites more galleries closed than open, a natural history gallery "looking like a diorama display from another era", taxidermy birds off display because of an infestation, and Gallery 7 (Landscape) shut "for longer than I can remember". They stress they are **not alleging financial mismanagement** but "an inertia and stasis", and warn extra public money for the museum's centenary could bring "more of the same unless the recent history is probed". (Nation.Cymru)

? "Difficult decisions" ahead over a home for the Newport medieval ship

More than two decades after the **15th-century Newport ship** was uncovered in the banks of the River Usk during construction of the Riverfront Theatre, a permanent home for its timbers is still undecided. The council pays to store the timbers at a visitor centre off Estuary Road, open in summer months; a previous plan to exhibit the ship at the Riverfront was dropped as the space is "not suitable". Council leader **Cllr Dimitri Batrouni** said cabinet will consider an independent options report "later this year", with options "some very expensive, some not", and a Conservative group leader said he was "disappointed little progress has been made over the last decade". (Nation.Cymru / LDR — Nicholas Thomas)

?? Town Centre Taskforce meets for the first time as membership announced

The Welsh Government has published the **full membership of its Town Centre Taskforce** as it held its inaugural meeting, with members drawn from business, academia, local government, regeneration, planning, transport, housing and communities, working to co-Chairs **Professor Simon Gibson CBE** and **Tamsin Ramasut**. Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning **Siân Gwenllian** said town centres are "no longer just places to shop, but places where people live, work, access services and take part in community life", and pointed to permanent business rates support — subject to Senedd approval, a **30% reduction for eligible hospitality and leisure businesses from April 2027**. Recommendations are expected early next year. (GOV.WALES, 1 Oct 13:20)

? £7m fund opens for home energy equipment manufacturers

Businesses in south west Wales can apply for grants of **£100,000 to £1 million** to manufacture home energy equipment and components, under a new **£7m Supply Chain Fund** forming part of the Swansea Bay City Deal's Homes as Power Stations project. The scheme covers heat pumps, solar panels, battery storage, smart energy controls and infrared heating, with applications closing on **9 November 2026** and all funding to be spent by December 2027. Project manager **Oonagh Gavigan** said much of the kit currently comes from outside the region, including overseas. (Nation.Cymru)

?? Courts & Policing

? Educating Cardiff teacher admits sexually assaulting a teenage girl

Gareth Ritter, 44, a teacher who featured in Channel 4's *Educating Cardiff*, pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl — changing his plea mid-trial while giving evidence in his own defence at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court. The court heard Ritter, a former assistant headteacher at **Willows High School** in Cardiff and a prominent brass-band member, offered to drive the teenager home after an event and stopped at a flat he owned in Cardiff Bay, where she says he touched her and kissed her. The woman — who reported the incident years later after Ritter's phone was examined in an "unrelated matter" — told the court: "I said 'I'm a good girl, I don't do this. I go to a Christian school'." Ritter had already pleaded guilty to two offences of possessing, and one of distributing, indecent images of the complainant. He was told the offences carry custodial sentences and will be **sentenced on 4 November**. (BBC Wales — Colette Hume and Stephen Fairclough / WalesOnline)

? Six-year-old boy dies in Llanfairfechan crash; man arrested

A six-year-old boy has died after a collision involving a vehicle and a child in Llanfairfechan, Conwy county, shortly after 17:00 BST on Thursday. The boy was pronounced dead at the scene and a **39-year-old man has been arrested**. Pen-Y-Bryn Road and Bryn Road were closed while police investigated; the boy's family is being supported by specially trained family liaison officers. Det Insp **Tim Evans** said: "Our thoughts are with the young boy's family and friends at this extremely difficult time." (BBC Wales)

? Baby found on Bangor shoreline was a girl, post-mortem reveals

A post-mortem examination has confirmed that the **newborn found on the Menai Strait shoreline near Siliwen Road, Bangor**, on Sunday was a baby girl, and initial indications are that her body may have been in the water for up to a few weeks. North Wales Police are still searching for the mother. Supt **Llinos Davies** urged her to make contact, saying her "welfare and safety" was their utmost concern, and asked anyone with concerns about a girl or woman who may have been pregnant, or whose behaviour has been out of character, to come forward. Betsi Cadwaladr's director of midwifery, **Fiona Giraud**, said: "You may feel you have nowhere to turn... please do not feel that you have to face this alone." (BBC Wales, update published Thursday)

?? Communities, Housing, Health & Money

?? Mountain rescuers warn TikTok and Instagram hikers are heading out unprepared

Social media posts on TikTok and Instagram show the beauty of wild places "without warning about the danger", mountain rescuers have said, as Wales' four largest teams head for record call-out years. Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MREW) recorded 18–24-year-olds as the biggest age group needing rescue in 2024, with **314 incidents — up 89% from 166 in 2019**, and emergencies involving that age group have almost doubled since 2019. **Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team**, Wales' busiest, had its busiest month ever in August with **59 call-outs (two a day)** and expects to hit **450 rescues this year** after 359 so far; Brecon, Ogwen and Central Beacons teams all report big rises on 2020. "Reaching 150 call-outs already this year… we're seeing a lot of burnout among volunteers," said Llanberis volunteer **Tom Carrick**, who said the service would not cope if the rise continues. MREW's **Nick Phillips** said: "We are not criticising people who want to go into the mountain based on what they have seen in a post… but we need to be balanced with the reality." (BBC Wales — Paul Pigott and Liam Evans, Llanberis)

? Wales' most and least affordable places to buy a home revealed

Housing affordability across the UK has reached its most favourable level in more than a decade, with the average home costing around **7.3 times average earnings** — the lowest ratio since 2015 — according to Lloyds, based on April–June 2026 data. In Wales, **Neath Port Talbot is the most affordable** area (average price **£153,212**, a ratio of **4.1**), while **Monmouthshire is the least affordable** (**£300,079**, ratio **8.0**). No Welsh location makes either the UK-wide top ten — Elmbridge in Surrey is Britain's least affordable at 17.4. For first-time buyers the average home costs just under six times earnings (5.9). (Nation.Cymru / Press Association — Vicky Shaw)

?? 26-bedroom HMO approved on Cardiff's North Road despite objections

Reprise Property Ltd has won permission to convert a vacant university office at **8–10 North Road, Cardiff** into four HMOs totalling **26 bedrooms**, despite objections from neighbours and Cathays ward councillors including the council leader and deputy leader. Councillors warned the plans look "very similar" to a nearby conversion "a cause for numerous complaints, especially on waste issues", and said North Road is "the gateway to Cardiff". One resident said at 26 bedrooms the scheme "is more like an apartment hotel or hostel". Planning officers said the bin provision is policy compliant and that refuse-placement behaviour is not something planning can control. (Nation.Cymru / LDR — Kieran Molloy)

? Swansea City lodge plans for a 1,000-capacity fan zone

Swansea City AFC has applied to build a covered **fan zone for around 1,000 supporters** behind the south stand at the Swansea.com Stadium, alongside a new permanent toilet block with a Changing Places facility. The metal-clad structure would serve food and drink and include a video screen, stage and play area, opening three hours before kick-off and up to two hours after; on non-match days it could host supporter events, performances, markets and food events. Nine new trees are proposed and three would be felled, the memorial garden reconfigured and **46 parking spaces lost**. The club, top of the Championship after eight games, hopes to open in December. (Nation.Cymru / LDR — Richard Youle)

? Animal welfare groups press new Welsh Government ahead of World Animal Day

Charities including **Naturewatch Foundation, Hope Rescue and RSPCA Cymru** gathered at the Senedd ahead of **World Animal Day on 4 October**, calling for a stronger animal welfare agenda. Rural Resilience and Sustainability Minister **Llyr Gruffydd** reaffirmed plans for a new **Animal Health and Welfare Plan for Wales**; a Welsh Government consultation on a close season for hares and new offences for seal disturbance runs until **19 October**. Naturewatch's **Sarah Carr** urged tougher rules on dog breeding and action against puppy farming, citing figures suggesting **fewer than 15%** of UK puppies are bred by inspected breeders; Hope Rescue's **Vanessa Waddon** said her charity cared for **794 dogs in 2025** and called for faster rehoming of animals seized in cruelty cases and swift implementation of the greyhound racing ban. (Nation.Cymru)

? Wales records Britain's second-biggest healthy eating improvement

74% of Welsh adults now describe their eating habits as "very" or "fairly healthy", up nine percentage points from an average of 65% across three YouGov surveys in 2019 — the second-biggest improvement of any UK region, behind only Scotland's ten-point rise. Some **14%** of Welsh respondents chose the most positive answer, behind only London (16%), with 24% saying their diets are "not very" or "not healthy at all". The turnaround means Wales — which shared the lowest healthy-eating average with Scotland in 2019 — now sits within two points of table-topping London. (Nation.Cymru / Prestige analysis of YouGov data)

? Cardiff Met launches UK-first counter-terrorism risk course

Cardiff Metropolitan University has launched what it says is the UK's first postgraduate qualification developed in direct response to **Martyn's Law** — the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act, expected to come into force in spring 2027 and named after **Martyn Hett**, one of the 22 people killed in the 2017 Manchester Arena attack. The part-time **PgCert in Counter Terrorism Risk Management** begins in January 2027 and is aimed at event and venue management, private security, local authorities, hospitality and the wider public sector. Programme director **Dr Dewi Jaimangal-Jones** said the programme gives professionals "the confidence to navigate the complexities of terrorism risk management". (Nation.Cymru)

? Prince of Wales visits flood-hit Monmouthshire village

The Prince of Wales told residents of Skenfrith that a "holistic" approach is needed to tackle severe flooding, as the village prepares for another storm season after **four major floods in six years**. Meeting villagers **Rod and Helen Wyatt**, William said the idea of a one-in-50-year event "doesn't make sense anymore... it's happening every year now, it's mad", and discussed slowing water with farming landscaping, tree planting and better monitoring across the whole catchment. He also met Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and Monmouthshire council representatives, and the charity Stump Up for Trees at Great Tre-Rhew Farm. Last winter Storm Claudia brought a month's rain in 24 hours and the River Monnow burst its banks. (BBC Wales / WalesOnline)

? Culture, Language & Life

? Michael Sheen: Owain Glynd?r on stage, Traitors favourite, and a CBeebies bedtime story

Welsh star **Michael Sheen** is in rehearsals to play **Owain Glyndŵr** in *Owain and Henry*, a new Gary Owen play about the prince's relationship with **Henry IV**, which will be staged next to the Senedd at the **Wales Millennium Centre**. "It's an honour and a great opportunity to be able to tell the story," Sheen told Cymru Fyw, saying Glyndŵr was "a person with doubts and troubles like anyone else". He admitted Wales has no *Braveheart*-style epic of its own because "it loses — the rebellion fails and the consequences of that are enormous, and some even suggest we feel those consequences to this day". Meanwhile he tops the odds to win **Celebrity Traitors** series two, which began on BBC One on Thursday (7/2 favourite), and at **18:50 on 1 October** presenter Claudia Winkleman read *Monkeypig* by Welsh author **Huw Aaron** on CBeebies' *Bedtime Story* — timed just before the Traitors launch. (BBC Cymru Fyw / Nation.Cymru)

? Luke Evans "selfishly" found himself the lead in a new ITV drama

Pontypool-born Luke Evans stars as journalist **Martin Gilmour** in *The Party*, a five-part ITV adaptation of Elizabeth Day's novel that he also executive-produced and brought to World Productions, his collaborators on *The Pembrokeshire Murders*. "This is just so fun… Selfishly, there was also a great leading role that I could play," Evans said, adding that coming from "a very working-class background" helped him understand a character treated as "an outsider by almost everybody". He stars opposite Aberystwyth-born **Tom Cullen**; the series starts on Sunday. (BBC Wales)

? Wartime diary of life in rural Anglesey published after 80 years

The Diary of Edrica Huws 1942 has been published by Y Lofla more than 80 years after it was written, with entries from June to September 1942 recording everyday life in **Talwrn, Ynys Môn**, in a village then without running water or electricity. Its author, born in London in 1907 and trained at the Chelsea School of Art and the Royal College of Art — later known for her "Patchwork Pictures" — moved to Talwrn with her husband, industrial designer and naval architect **Richard Huws**, shortly before the war. Her daughter **Catharine Nagashima** describes her as "an improviser" who "managed to be creative amidst scarcity"; the diary was found among her papers after her death in 1999. (Nation.Cymru)

?? Welsh writer is first winner of a new stage-and-screen scheme

Martha Reed — from Pontyclun, with family from the Rhondda and Cynon Valleys, and TV credits including BBC One's *Beyond Paradise* — has become the inaugural writer on the **Welsh National Theatre and Bad Wolf Stage & Screen Writers' Scheme**. She will develop an original play set in contemporary Wales with Welsh National Theatre while simultaneously developing the television adaptation with Cardiff-based Bad Wolf (*Industry*, *His Dark Materials*). "It's really important to me that the stories we tell reflect the humour, heart and tenacity of everyday life in these communities now," she said, naming *In My Skin* and *Iphigenia in Splott* as inspirations. (Nation.Cymru)

? Y Llais names Steffan Powell as new presenter

Steffan Powell — a BBC Radio 1 Newsbeat and Radio 5 Live presenter, and host of *Doctor Who: Unleashed* — will front the **third series of Y Llais**, S4C's Welsh-language version of *The Voice*,

joining returning coaches Aleighcia Scott, Bronwen Lewis, Sir Bryn Terfel and Yws Gwynedd. He replaces **Sian Eleri**, who presented the first two series. "It's brilliant to see Welsh talent given the opportunity to star on such a world-famous platform," Powell said. Tickets for the series 3 recordings are on sale. (Nation.Cymru)

? Cast revealed for Channel 4 thriller filmed in Wales

Callum Scott Howells and **Gabrielle Creevy** lead the cast of *The Night They Vanished*, a six-part romantic thriller filmed in Wales and set in a windswept coastal village in south Wales. Written by **Angharad Elen** and **Hannah Daniel** from Vanessa Savage's novel, it follows Anna, who discovers her childhood home listed on a true-crime website as the scene of her family's future deaths. The cast also includes Tamzin Outhwaite, **Steffan Rhodri**, Matthew Gravelle, Lisa Victoria, Jack Quick and Andrew Lennon. (Nation.Cymru)

? Cardiff Market to host three free nights of live music

Cardiff Market will open after dark from **5pm to 10pm on 15–17 October** for the Cardiff Music City Night Market, with a balcony stage hosting Ifan, Pypi Slysh and the John Mouse Multiverse, plus DJs including Sarah Sweeney and Deckshark, and traders such as Dirty Gnocchi, Bao Selecta, Patagonia and Ffwrnes. Welsh alternative station **Radio Sudd** will broadcast from the market during the day. It is part of **Cardiff Music City Festival (2–17 October)**, supported by the Welsh Government and Cardiff Council, which also takes in Sŵn, Llais and the Welsh Music Prize. (Nation.Cymru)

? Matt Tebbutt on comfort food, grief and Welsh ingredients

Matt Tebbutt, the *Saturday Kitchen* presenter who grew up in Cwmbran, Newport and Cardiff, has published *Legacy Kitchen*, a book exploring how food connects us to people we have lost. He recalls caravan holidays and his grandmother's oxtail stew, and argues Wales should "shout more" about its raw ingredients: "We're very lucky in terms of the ingredients here." (BBC Cymru Fyw)

? "Monumental" novel charts the campaign for a Welsh Parliament

Retired journalist and former Institute of Welsh Affairs director **John Osmond** has launched *Soul on Fire*, a documentary novel tracing the devolution campaign from the crushing **1979** referendum

defeat to the narrow **1997** Yes victory — following his earlier *Ten Million Stars Are Burning*. Launched at the Senedd's Pierhead building in an event staged by Cardiff University's Wales Governance Centre, where Osmond was interviewed by former BBC Wales political editor **Betsan Powys**, the book draws on the National Library in Aberystwyth and the South Wales Miners' Library in Swansea. Osmond argues the miners' strike was central to the turnaround. (Nation.Cymru)

?? Five Welsh projects celebrated in Architectural Heritage Fund's 50th year

Penarth Pier Pavilion and **Llanfyllin Workhouse** in Mid-Wales — described as Britain's finest surviving New Poor Law workhouse, now a community enterprise with a café, bunkhouse and events space — are among 25 standout projects named by the **Architectural Heritage Fund** to mark its 50th anniversary. The projects span all four nations and range from medieval stone forts and Victorian courthouses to industrial potteries and seaside piers given new purpose by their communities. (Nation.Cymru)

? Singer Steffan Lloyd Owen on grief, a decade after losing his mother

The Ynys Môn baritone **Steffan Lloyd Owen** has spoken for the first time on his own terms about losing his mother **Susan** in a road accident in 2016, hoping his experience can help others: "Feel everything and take your time to feel everything — don't rush grief." Now approaching the tenth anniversary, he says he no longer marks the date as the day his mother died: "I wanted to put a positive spin on the day." He adds that grief has changed how he sings: "The grief hasn't got smaller — I've grown around it." (BBC Cymru Fyw, Welsh-language feature)

? Sport

??????? Wales 2-1 Norway: first Nations League A win at the ninth attempt

Wales ended their long wait for a top-tier Nations League victory, coming from behind to beat 10-man Norway 2-1 at Cardiff City Stadium — their first win of 2026 and Craig Bellamy's first over a side ranked above Wales. Oscar Bobb put the World Cup quarter-finalists ahead inside 11 minutes, playing a one-two with **Martin Odegaard**, but **Daniel James** levelled on 38 minutes after **Liam Cullen** dispossessed Sander Berge to launch a counter. Seventeen seconds into the second half Norway's **Torbjørn Heggem** was sent off for dragging down James and **Neco Williams** lashed home the resulting free-kick. Wales made five changes from the side beaten in Denmark and kept **Erling Haaland** quiet — a rare blank for the striker. It

was Wales' ninth match in the top tier across two campaigns after one draw and seven defeats. Next up: **Denmark at home on Sunday 4 October**. (BBC Sport / Nation.Cymru / BBC Cymru Fyw)

?? Emotional Bellamy: "I do think we could be kinder to each other"

Wales manager **Craig Bellamy** used his post-match press conference to reveal the personal abuse he has faced during a difficult year in which Wales missed out on World Cup qualification and he spoke to Burnley about their managerial vacancy. "I felt my own disappointment since Bosnia and I've felt the stick as well… it's been a really difficult couple of months, but it's 'welcome to this'," he said. "I do think we could be kinder to each other. It's not me, but I have kids, I have a wife. It's for them." Bellamy, who chose to live in south Wales rather than base himself abroad, said he "turned down big money to keep doing this". (Nation.Cymru / BBC Sport)

? Elfyn Evans third quickest on Sardinia opener as WRC title fight begins

Elfyn Evans opened the season-ending **Rally Italia Sardegna** by beating nearest title rival **Sami Pajari** by 0.4 seconds in their head-to-head duel in the Ittiri Arena, but was only third quickest overall — **1.1s slower than Toyota team-mate Oliver Solberg**. The Dolgellau driver, 37, takes a **17-point lead** over Pajari into the final rally, with Solberg a further four points back, and faces the disadvantage of opening the road on gravel after a hot, dry spell. "I think tomorrow will be tough," he said. Evans will guarantee a maiden title — becoming only the third British WRC champion after Colin McRae and Richard Burns — if he collects 19 points from a maximum 35. (BBC Sport)

? Rugby: Adams targets a third World Cup as the countdown begins

On the **one-year anniversary of Wales' World Cup opener against Zimbabwe in Adelaide (2 October 2027)**, wing **Josh Adams** says he is "desperate to go" and has "never been to Australia", targeting a third global tournament. Adams, 31, was the 2019 World Cup's top try scorer with seven; he missed July's 43-0 defeat by South Africa in Durban with a calf injury but expects to be fit for international duty next month, with Wales playing Japan, New Zealand and Australia in Cardiff in the Nations Championship before a Twickenham play-off. Elsewhere, new Scarlets lock **Alex Groves** makes his first start on Welsh soil on Saturday in the URC derby against the Dragons — remarkable given the **eight-hour heart surgery** he underwent in February 2024 after an aneurysm was found on his aorta; and the Dragons field a trio of Tongans (Fine Inisi, Fetuli Paea and Anzelo Tuitavuki) in Newport, continuing Gwent's Pacific Islands tradition. (BBC Sport)

?? Weather

No weather warnings are in force for the UK (BBC Weather). For Cardiff: **today** will be partly cloudy with sunny spells becoming longer in the late afternoon — largely dry, though the odd shower cannot be ruled out — high **20°C**, low **12°C**; **tonight** mostly clear and dry; **Saturday** partly cloudy with sunny spells, cloudier in the afternoon, 19°C/8°C; **Sunday** a very cloudy day, largely dry with the odd spot of drizzle, 19°C/13°C; **Monday** partly cloudy with the odd sunny break, 20°C/12°C. (BBC Weather)

? Quick Summary

- **Top story** — **Rhun ap Iorwerth** writes to PM **Andy Burnham** demanding a "**New Deal for Wales**" — policing, justice, rail, the Crown Estate, welfare and Scottish-style fiscal tools — ahead of his first Plaid conference speech as First Minister in Llandudno today.
- **Senedd** — **Kemi Badenoch** refuses to rule out Tory support for Plaid's supplementary budget and pledges **500 more police officers**; four MSs are rebuked for calling the 20mph default a "blanket" limit and a deputy minister is accused of intimidating a Reform MS; **Newport Bus** is in a financial "crisis" with accounts overdue.
- **Courts** — **Gareth Ritter**, the *Educating Cardiff* teacher, admits sexually assaulting a teenage girl and will be sentenced on **4 November**; a **six-year-old boy** dies in a crash in **Llanfairfechan** and a 39-year-old man is arrested; the baby found on the Bangor shoreline was a **girl**.
- **Communities** — Mountain rescuers warn **TikTok and Instagram** hikers are heading out unprepared as Llanberis heads for **450 call-outs**; **Neath Port Talbot** is Wales' most affordable place to buy a home and **Monmouthshire** the least; a **26-bedroom HMO** is approved on Cardiff's North Road.
- **Culture** — **Michael Sheen** is rehearsing to play **Owain Glyndŵr**, tops the *Celebrity Traitors* odds and features in a CBeebies bedtime story; **Luke Evans** leads ITV's *The Party* ; a **1942 Anglesey wartime diary** is published after 80 years; **Y Llais** names **Steffan Powell** as its new host.
- **Sport** — **Wales beat 10-man Norway 2-1** for a first Nations League A win; **Elfyn Evans** opens his WRC title decider third quickest in Sardinia; **Josh Adams** targets a third World Cup a year out from **Wales v Zimbabwe** in Adelaide.

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*Method note: compiled in cron mode. SearXNG (:8086) returned a usable index mix this morning — the BBC Wales and BBC Wales Politics indexes, Nation.Cymru, GOV.WALES and ITV Wales results — so the sweep ran through the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090, MarkItDown): 13 index pages (BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru news/home/sport/culture, GOV.WALES main index, Guardian Wales + RSS, WalesOnline home and live blog, BBC Weather and warnings) and 61 article pages, all successful. The Guardian's Wales RSS had nothing newer than 1 October (prisoner releases — covered). De-duplicated against the 01 October Welsh file, this morning's UK file and a folder-wide keyword grep: the **grooming-gangs inquiry expansion, Michael Sheen's toxic-waste Senedd motion, the Tŷ Hywel***

refurbishment, the minimum alcohol price rise, the prisoner early releases, the Glangwili scabies account, the rare bog grass moth, the idling fine, the FM's Kremlin remarks, Tata/Port Talbot, the Lavrov "Celts" comments, the Anglesey Hawk crash, Mark Drakeford's mini-budget self-criticism, the Royal Mint Cluedo 50p, the PCB blood-testing campaign, the migraine feature and Llandaff Rowing Club's 80th anniversary *were all dropped as already covered or stale. The Cymru Fyw Michael Sheen Owain and Henry piece is today's (07:05) and his Celebrity Traitors odds story is treated as new. The BBC Cymru Fyw/Wales stories that appear in both languages (the Llanfairfechan crash, the FM's New Deal letter, Badenoch's budget comments, the Bangor baby update) are written up once and tagged to both sources. The Guardian, senedd.wales, ITV and WalesOnline article pages were not used for bodies (WalesOnline's live blog did return full text and was used for the Ritter and Prince of Wales detail).*

Revision #2
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