Welsh Headlines — 23 Aug 2026

??????? Welsh News Roundup — 23 August 2026

? Top Story: £1.1bn works package lined up as Wylfa nuclear plans gather pace

Preparatory works worth up to **£1.1bn** are being lined up as part of plans to build the UK's first small modular nuclear reactors at Wylfa on Ynys Môn. **Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N)** has begun sounding out contractors for a major early-works package covering site clearance, earthworks, infrastructure and utilities, with an estimated value of **£730m–£1.1bn**. The contract is expected to run from **June 2028 to June 2034** (with an option to extend to 2037), and will prepare the site for the main construction programme — species relocation, remediation, drainage, haul roads and extensive earthworks. GBE-N chose a single package over two contracts to reduce risk from contractors working across interconnected elements, though it cautioned scope and value could change. A formal tender notice is expected in **March 2027**, with a supplier webinar on **3 September**; the package is flagged as particularly suitable for SMEs, potentially opening supply-chain opportunities for Welsh firms. The project — three initial Rolls-Royce SMRs, enough power for around three million homes — is expected to support about **8,000 jobs across the UK, up to 3,000 locally** during peak construction. Wylfa stopped generating in 2015; Hitachi's previous large-scale plan was abandoned in 2020.

□□ *Nation.Cymru (Mark Mansfield) — 22 Aug*

?? Politics & Senedd

Campaigners oppose 'secretive' application to extend BAE's Glascoed arms factory
Campaigners have spoken out against the planning application to build 18 new buildings and a 30-

space car park at BAE Systems' Glascoed munitions factory between Usk and Pontypool — with full plans withheld from public view on security grounds, viewable only by appointment at County Hall in Usk. **Adam Johannes**, of Cardiff Stop The War Coalition — which blockaded the site in 2024 over arms sales to Israel — said the public was being asked to comment on a substantial expansion "while being denied the information necessary to make an informed judgement", and called on the Welsh Government to establish a **Welsh Defence Diversification Agency** to explore converting arms factories to "socially useful production" in housing, transport, healthcare and renewable energy. *(Follow-up to the expansion bid reported 21 Aug; comment deadline 3 September.)* □□ *Nation.Cymru (Martin Shipton) — 23 Aug*

Reform MS accused of being north Wales' answer to Del Boy Trotter Reform UK MS **John Clark** (Bangor Conwy Môn) has been compared to Only Fools and Horses' Derek Trotter after a constituent challenged his campaign CV, which describes him as "Founder and CEO" of Artificial Art Ltd — "one of north Wales's leading digital agencies" claiming PLC, NGO and hospital clients. Corporate records show the firm is a **micro company employing one person, with negative shareholders' funds**. The constituent pointed to the Senedd's new standards framework — including the obligation on Members not to make deliberately misleading statements and the Member Accountability and Elections recall provisions — and asked whether voters were given an exaggerated impression of Clark's business credentials. Clark was elected in May as one of six MSs for the constituency.

□□ *Nation.Cymru (Martin Shipton) — 22 Aug*

Post Office rules out temporary service for Caerphilly The Post Office has rejected a request from Plaid Cymru MS **Lindsay Whittle** for a temporary mobile service in Caerphilly town centre, where the main branch closed on 8 August after its postmaster resigned. Whittle said the branch at Cwm in his constituency shows mobile offices work: "surely not beyond the wit of man to put a mobile office on land in the town centre." The Post Office pointed to alternatives at Castle View (1.3 miles), Penyrheol (1.5 miles), Bedwas and Trethomas, and is re-advertising for a new operator with interest sought by 13 September. *(New development on the closure covered 17 Aug.)* □□ *Nation.Cymru — 22 Aug*

- **Flood-hit Milford Haven residents to help shape new national flooding support network:** a steering group is to be set up to help create an independent body giving practical support to communities before, during and after floods, following a visit by ministers to Milford Haven where new flood defences are under construction; new members are also being appointed to the committee coordinating flooding strategy across Wales. *(GOV.WALES — 21 Aug)*

? Local & Community

Haverfordwest Castle to get £17.7m refurbishment The 800-year-old former fortress in Pembrokeshire will be temporarily closed until 2028 for a **£17.7m restoration** designed to make it a major tourist attraction — including grounds able to host open-air events for 500 people, an

interactive exhibition across three floors of the 18th Century gaol, a medicinal garden and micro-meadows. Pembrokeshire Council said the development would act as "a catalyst for the regeneration of Haverfordwest", aiming to attract around **63,000 visitors in the first year**. The idea followed councillor David Lloyd noticing the economic impact of Cardigan Castle's development.

□□ *BBC Wales (Anaba Khan) — 22 Aug*

Teenager forced to sleep on living room floor after black mould leaves bedroom unusable A mum says her teenage daughter has been sleeping on a mattress in the living room for months because black mould has left the bedroom at their Chepstow flat unusable — after the 14-year-old collapsed with a severe chest infection, with a GP letter saying mould at the property was likely contributing to recurrent respiratory illness. **Leah Morgan**, 32, said landlords Monmouthshire Housing Association's work stalled until county councillor Armand Watts raised complaints in July; she has since refused further access until a plan to treat the mould is agreed. The association said it had upheld a formal complaint about response times, had removed the "immediate risk", and noted demand for social housing outweighs supply.

□□ *Nation.Cymru/LDR (Twm Owen) — 23 Aug*

Plans advance for 16 affordable homes in Pontywaun Caerphilly County Borough Council has appointed **Jones Brothers (Henllan) Ltd** to build 16 affordable one-, two- and three-bedroom flats on the site of the former Castle Court sheltered housing scheme on Silver Street, Pontywaun — demolished after being deemed "no longer functionally viable". Demolition starts in the autumn. Housing cabinet member Cllr Shayne Cook called it "an exciting milestone"; the project had unanimous planning committee backing last year.

□□ *Nation.Cymru/LDR (Nicholas Thomas) — 23 Aug*

- **Tywi Valley Path Festival of Walks:** a new walking festival runs 16 September–4 October along the recently completed Tywi Valley Path between Carmarthen and Llandeilo, with wildlife walks, heritage tours, Nordic walking and creative workshops. *(Nation.Cymru — 22 Aug)*
- **Cynheidre miners' memorial unveiled today:** a permanent memorial to the **37 miners who died** at Cynheidre Colliery, Carmarthenshire, is being unveiled on Sunday at the Llanelli and Mynydd Mawr Railway, alongside a new heritage woodland with recordings from about 20 former workers — as previewed in the 3 Aug roundup. The pit employed over 1,000 people before closing in 1989. *(BBC Cymru Fyw — 23 Aug)*

? Environment

Torfaen council responds after county ranked among world's worst for wildfire carbon emissions Torfaen Borough Council has said it was **not aware** of the Save the Children/Copernicus analysis — reported 20 Aug — ranking the county fourth in the world for wildfire carbon emissions intensity per square km in July, adding "it is not clear what data or

evidence was used". It acknowledged "elevated particulate concentrations" had been observed during the wildfire period via its monitoring station in Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran, but said the site measures general background air quality rather than conditions immediately adjacent to the fires. Blaenavon councillor **Janet Jones** said smoke was "particularly bad" on 13 August, with concern for elderly people and those with respiratory conditions such as emphysema and COPD; she had spoken to GP practice nurses and was not aware of a rise in respiratory complaints yet, "but this could change in the months ahead". Melanie Simmonds of Save the Children Wales said children "are breathing in smoke from wildfires… these conditions are not only frightening – they carry serious health consequences".

BBC Wales/LDR (Twm Owen) — 22 Aug; Nation.Cymru — 23 Aug

Ceredigion woman loses private spring water for first time in 30 years Genista Tanner, 72, who lives near Aberteifi in rural Ceredigion, says her private spring has run dry for the first time in more than three decades, leaving her dependent on bottled water and a 40-minute drive to her daughter's home in Aberystwyth for showers — she now knows it takes 1.7 litres to wash her hair. She is one of about **104,000 people in Wales** dependent on private water supplies, according to the British Geological Survey, whose principal hydrogeologist Dr Emmanuel Zarate says such problems are "widespread across Wales, especially this summer" after the driest July on record. NFU Cymru president Abi Reader said huge rural areas rely entirely on private supplies, with farmers increasingly having to haul water to livestock as streams, springs and ponds dry up — and some sources will take months to recover even after rain returns.

BBC Cymru Fyw — 23 Aug

? Culture & Entertainment

120-year-old organ that first played Cwm Rhondda gets second wind The 750-pipe organ at **Capel Rhondda**, Hopkinstown near Pontypridd — where John Hughes first played the rugby anthem Cwm Rhondda (Bread of Heaven) in 1907 — is being restored after more than 20 years unplayable, in time for its 120-year anniversary in 2027. The Grade II-listed chapel was bought by a community campaign group after being sold by the Baptist Union of Wales for £47,500; charity **Pipe Up for Pipe Organs** is leading restoration, with volunteers set to remove, clean and replace all 764 pipes. Abergavenny-based organ builder Kingsley Robinson has already stirred it back to life after fixing a blower spinning the wrong direction.

BBC Wales (Matt Murray) — 22 Aug

Welsh wine expert joins elite group of just 420 worldwide Owain Hughes has become only the **second person from Wales** to achieve the Master of Wine qualification — joining 420 Masters worldwide after exams covering tasting, viticulture, winemaking and quality control. He said the Welsh industry was "finding its feet" but developing quickly, with producers "getting better at matching specific grape varieties to the land"; he named Monmouthshire's Ancre Hill among his favourite Welsh producers. He noted climate change cuts both ways for Welsh wine: riper grapes with warming, but more variable seasons, disease pressure and frost risk.

□□ *Nation.Cymru (Abby Neve) — 23 Aug*

- **Admiral resurrects legendary Wales kit:** the sportswear firm behind Wales' iconic 1976 'Hourglass' shirt — worn by John Toshack and Terry Yorath — has brought the design back via its Kit Builder, allowing teams to recreate the yellow-and-green tramline classic, a chance for fans unhappy with the FAW's much-maligned new kit to design an alternative. *(Nation.Cymru — 22 Aug)*
- **Cordia on closing Eisteddfod Maes stage:** Anglesey pop trio Cordia — who reformed in 2025 — look back on headlining the Maes stage at Eisteddfod y Garreg Las, including performing with Alys Williams and Band Pres Llareggub, less than two years after releasing their first single. *(BBC Cymru Fyw — 23 Aug)*

? Sport

Josh Tarling finishes third in Vuelta opener, eight days after brother's death Josh Tarling, 22, finished **third in the opening time trial of the Vuelta a España** in Monaco — just four seconds behind winner Tadej Pogačar and seconds off Ethan Hayter — eight days after his brother **Finlay, 19**, died in a collision with a van at the Volta a Portugal. Pogačar hugged the Welshman before the podium presentation. Racing director **Geraint Thomas** said the ride showed "the class of him as person and an athlete… couldn't be prouder". Tarling now wears the white young riders' jersey on stage two, and may target stage 18's time trial. *(New development on the 21 Aug decision to ride.)* □□ *BBC Sport Wales — 22 Aug*

High court allows rugby brain injury case to go on The High Court has allowed the multi-million-pound concussion legal battle involving **hundreds of players from rugby union and league** to continue to trial, after Senior Master Jeremy David Cook said he would have thrown out the claims but for "exceptional circumstances" and a "particular element of public importance". The case, running since 2020, involves more than 500 players — including former Wales internationals **Alix Popham, Colin Charvis, Gavin Henson, Ryan Jones and Lee Byrne** — claiming governing bodies failed to protect them from repeated head impacts. World Rugby, the WRU, RFU and RFL deny breaching a duty of care. The judge noted the claimants were no longer represented by Rylands Garth, saying "given the vulnerability of many of these claimants… they should not be punished for the sins of their legal representative".

□□ *BBC Sport Wales (Chris Kirwan) — 21 Aug*

Wrexham's new Kop stand becomes 'symbol of hope' The £70m Kop stand under construction at the Racecourse — designed by the firm behind Wembley and the Las Vegas Sphere, and set to hold 7,750 spectators, taking capacity past 18,000 — loomed over Wrexham's 1-1 home draw with Watford, the first home fixture of the Championship season. Chief executive Michael Williamson called it "a real symbol of hope ahead"; midfielder Ollie Rathbone said it shows "how quickly the club is progressing". Owners Ryan Reynolds and Rob Mac attended, with Phil Parkinson confirming talks about further signings before Friday's visit of Birmingham City and the 1 September deadline — "no guarantee signings will come in because the players we are competing

for are wanted by clubs in this division, and in Europe."

□□ *BBC Sport Wales (Chris Wathan) — 23 Aug; Nation.Cymru/PA — 22 Aug*

- **David Smith targets boccia 'Triple Crown':** the Swansea-based 37-year-old, five medals at four Paralympics, seeks to reclaim the world, European and Paralympic titles at the World Championships in Seoul (24 Aug–4 Sep), saying he must play "like a phoenix rising from the ashes" against a deeper BC1 field. *(BBC Sport Wales — 23 Aug)*
- **Cardiff pegged back twice in 2-2 draw at Derby:** with four centre-backs injured (Gabriel Osho joining Lawlor, Chambers and Fish), boss Brian Barry-Murphy fielded Perry Ng and Joel Bagan at the heart of defence; Cian Ashford and Yousef Salech scored but Carlton Morris and Bobby Clark levelled. He expects a defensive signing before Tuesday's Carabao Cup tie with Norwich. *(Nation.Cymru — 22 Aug)*
- **Swansea frustrated in 0-0 with Sheffield United:** Vitor Matos made attacking changes without a breakthrough, with Zan Vipotnik still the subject of £20m-rated transfer speculation; Matos wants midfield and defensive additions before the window closes — "like a game of chess, but playing chess in a storm." *(Nation.Cymru — 22 Aug)*

? Feel-Good

Baby whose parents feared had days to live is 'thriving' after heart operation Macs Green, a baby from Cardiff whose parents were told he had just days to live, is "thriving" after having a **Berlin Heart** fitted — a mechanical heart-assist device — following two cardiac arrests and a diagnosis of dilated cardiomyopathy. After a struggle to find a suitable hospital bed, the operation took place on 7 August at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital after treatment on an Ecmo machine in Bristol. Mum Catrin, 32, said it was like "having our baby back", while dad Dylan, 35, said: "There was talk of end of life at that point… He's smiling, he's responding to us." Macs still needs a transplant and could wait 18 months to two years — "but a heart could also turn up tomorrow." The couple, who have two other children, urged people to consider organ donation. Just 17 Berlin Hearts were fitted in children across the UK in 2024-25.

□□ *BBC Wales (Gwyn Loader) — 22/23 Aug*

Firefighters rally as Brecon colleague loses 'virtually everything' in house fire Firefighters are supporting **Group Manager Phil Morris** of Brecon Fire Station and his partner Donna after a serious house fire destroyed their home, leaving them "with little more than the clothes they had with them". A JustGiving page set up by the Cefn Gorwydd community with a £10,000 target has already raised **over £22,000**. The station's post said: "When someone has spent their life helping others, hopefully we can now come together and return some." The story lands amid warnings from Fire Brigades Union Wales official Gareth Tovey of crews battling "carnage" — working 10-11 hour shifts on mountainsides "covered in soot" — through the summer's wildfires.

□□ *Nation.Cymru — 22 Aug*

? Quick Summary

Section	Key story
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□□ Politics	Campaigners oppose BAE Glascoed expansion; Reform MS 'Del Boy' CV row; Caerphilly mobile Post Office refused
□□ Local	Haverfordwest Castle £17.7m restoration; Chepstow mould; Pontywaun homes; Cynheidre memorial unveiled
□□ Environment	Torfaen council responds to wildfire carbon ranking; private water supplies drying up
□□ Culture	Cwm Rhondda organ restoration; second Welsh Master of Wine
□□ Sport	Tarling third in Vuelta opener; rugby brain injury case proceeds; Wrexham Kop; Cardiff/Swansea draws
□□ Feel-Good	Baby Macs thriving on Berlin Heart; firefighters' £22k fundraiser

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Compiled 23 Aug 2026 · Sources: BBC Wales, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru (incl. LDR), GOV.WALES, BBC Sport · SearXNG in garbage mode (index/aggregator hits only, no usable article leads); all articles fetched via the Playwright-fetch server (Hermes browser unavailable in cron).

Revision #1
Created 2026-08-23 08:13:56 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-08-23 08:13:56 UTC by Admin