Welsh Headlines — 23 Sep 2026

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Wednesday morning roundup · Wales-only · compiled from BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Sport Wales, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Weather, Nation.Cymru, GOV.WALES

? Top Story: FMQs — "the goalposts keep moving" as ap Iorwerth puts a date on the NHS waits pledge

The First Minister has clarified that his promise to eradicate the longest NHS waits means them gone by May 2027 — a year after Plaid Cymru took office — after ministers spent months saying it would happen in a "matter of months".

- **Rhun ap Iorwerth** told Radio Wales Breakfast the two-year-plus waits would be down to zero in **"months, certainly less than a year"**, then clarified in the Senedd that he meant by the **one-year anniversary of coming into government** (May 2027). Pressed by Reform's **Llŷr Powell**: "*I said they'll go in months. That goes a year from coming into government. They are gone. That's months... months is not more than a year.*"
- **Reform Wales leader Helen Jenner:** "*The goalposts keep moving while patients continue to wait. Rather than wasting time pursuing independence... his government must get on with the day job and tackle the out-of-control waiting lists in our NHS.*"
- **Welsh Labour's Ken Skates:** "*Plaid Cymru can't get their story straight on how long it'll take... Patients want to know when they'll have treatment, not a new vague target every month.*" Tory health spokesperson **Natasha Asghar** said ministers had previously promised "within months" and failed.
- **The numbers:** recent figures show **4,700 cases waiting two years or more** — a **15% rise in a month** and **82% higher** than at the end of March. Health Minister **Mabon ap**

Gwynfor repeated the "matter of months" line on BBC Politics Wales on Sunday.
- **Welsh NHS Confederation:** while the Programme for Government is "a significant step in the right direction", "*the real test will be delivery... The government must be honest with the public about what financial pressures could mean for services.*"
- The FM said delivering the programme would be **"incredibly challenging"** with capital spending falling to the end of the decade, and declined to give specifics on council tax reform beyond options (revaluation, different bands, income tax "in time" — "*We haven't got the powers to do that right now*").

(BBC Wales — David Deans, 22 Sep; BBC live blog, 22 Sep.)

?? Senedd & Politics

? Jenner's FMQs debut: grooming gangs, and a row over the defector

Helen Jenner used her first First Minister's Questions as Reform Wales leader to accuse the FM of letting down grooming gang victims by refusing a Wales-only inquiry — she said Plaid had voted "shamefully" against Reform's motion last week.

- Ap Iorwerth said work was ongoing to understand the scale of the problem in Wales: "*We have issues here that we need to get to grips with in order to safeguard people at risk of the gangs.*" **Dan Thomas** — who quit as leader after his arrest and denies wrongdoing — was **not in the chamber**.
- **On Sarah Cooper-Lesadd**, who defected from Reform to Plaid last week, Jenner quoted her old positions (waste on a Uganda tree-planting project; Welsh people first for council housing). The FM said he admired her bravery for seeing "*this Reform group... for what you are*", called Reform "scandal ridden" and "collapsing in chaos", and described her move as an "unusual" direction of travel but a **"genuine political journey"**.
- **Greens:** leader **Anthony Slaughter** warned Wales was **"dangerously unprepared for the predicted onslaught of extreme weather"**, said only **£1m** was allocated for emergency preparedness in July's budget adjustments, and called for a **"climate shock fund"**. The FM said he would look at how Wales and the UK government work together on the "wide range of threats we face".
- **Council tax:** Welsh Conservative leader **Darren Millar** demanded a cap on rises and referendums where councils want to go further; the FM pointed to real-terms cuts to day-to-day spending next year.
- **ALN:** Skates said disadvantaged children "risk coming second" behind "free childcare for millionaires"; the FM said discussions before the budget vote had put **"£100m plus"** on the table, **including £40m this year**, and appealed to Labour to help get it spent.
- **Fly-tipping:** Plaid's **Marc Jones** said companies responsible for waste crime "avoid accountability by entering liquidation and walking away from the costs of remediation" —

the FM pledged to support regulators pursuing those responsible.

(BBC live blog, 22 Sep.)

? Farmers handed cash-flow help and a later slurry deadline

The Welsh Government has raised advance payments for farmers from 70% to 80% and will legislate to extend the slurry-spreading closed period to 15 November 2026, responding to this summer's drought and wildfires.

- The **advance payment rate** under the **Sustainable Farming Scheme** Universal Layer and the **Basic Payment Scheme** rises to **80%** of each farm's estimated eligible claim value, so businesses get more of their money sooner.
- The new rules let spreading continue to **15 November 2026** for **all soil and land types**, to reduce unusually high slurry storage levels. Safeguards include a **limit on the volume spread at any one time** and a **minimum gap between applications**; **poultry manure is excluded** as it can be stored by other means. The change applies to this spreading period only.
- **Cabinet Minister Llyr Gruffydd:** farmers told him they needed "*certainty, flexibility and support*" — "*I've listened, and we're taking action.*" He said it builds on the **billion-pound multi-year funding deal** and the commitment to pay an SFS advance in October.
- **Afonydd Cymru** warned 2026 has been a hard year for farmers and rivers, with Wales **still in drought conditions** and "more risk" to rivers if slurry is spread through the winter.

(GOV.WALES release, 23 Sep; BBC Cymru Fyw, 23 Sep.)

? Leaseholders to get help with interim fire alarms — and a reprieve on waking watches

From 1 October, leaseholders in eligible buildings can claim support for interim alarm systems through a new Welsh Building Safety Fund grant, cutting or removing the need for costly round-the-clock "waking watch" patrols.

- The **Wales Interim Measures Alarm Grant** applies to alarm systems needed to support a **simultaneous evacuation policy** while remediation work is done. Leaseholders who have **already paid** for interim alarms in eligible buildings can apply for **reimbursement**. Waking watch arrangements have left some residents facing **hundreds of pounds a month**.
- **Cabinet Minister Siân Gwenllian:** "*Since taking up this role, I have met leaseholders and listened to their stories. I have been moved by what I've heard... That is why I am pleased to announce today that I am launching a Wales Interim Measures Alarm Grant.*"

- She said she had met all developers signed up to the Welsh Government developer contract and made clear "*all obligations under the contract must be met or I will not hesitate to pursue all appropriate avenues in relation to any failures*". Regulations under the **Building Safety (Wales) Act 2026** are hoped for **before the Christmas recess**, with further leaseholder protections in force in **2027**.

(GOV.WALES, 22 Sep 18:20; Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)

? Consultation on fining the registered keeper for roadside litter

The Welsh Government is asking whether councils should be able to fine the person a vehicle is registered to for littering thrown from it — even if they weren't driving, or even in the car.

- Under current law, enforcement can only target an **identified litterer**, which councils say makes roadside litter almost impossible to police. Similar powers already exist in **England** and are due in **Scotland**. The question is part of the **Rural Proofing and Environmental Sustainability White Paper** consultation, which also asks about **raising the maximum fixed penalty for fly-tipping to £5,000**. The consultation closes **14 October**.
- **Llyr Gruffydd:** "*No-one likes litter… It's often impossible to prove who in a car threw litter out, so councils' hands are tied even when they know it's happened.*"

(GOV.WALES, 22 Sep 14:55.)

?? Laura Anne Jones elected Reform's deputy Welsh leader

Laura Anne Jones has been elected Reform's new deputy leader in Wales — the post vacated when Helen Jenner took the Senedd leadership on Monday.

- Jones, the MS for **Sir Fynwy Torfaen** and the party's **rural affairs spokesperson**, said: "*We've made a fantastic start here in the Senedd, giving a voice to the voiceless and standing up for Wales' left-behind communities.*" Reform has not published the other candidates or the figures; a spokesperson said there was an election which followed group rules and that she was **not appointed**.
- She is a **former Conservative** who defected to Reform in summer 2025 — then the party's highest-profile Welsh defection — and was **suspended from the Senedd in November 2025** after using a racial slur about Chinese people in a WhatsApp chat. She apologised and denied being racist.

(BBC Wales — David Deans, 22 Sep.)

? Plaid defector faces torrent of abuse from Reform-supporting men

Sarah Cooper-Lesadd, who left Reform for Plaid Cymru last week, has been deluged with misogynistic abuse after posting a video message to her Pen-y-bont Bro Morgannwg constituents on Monday evening.

- Nation.Cymru catalogues dozens of comments from Reform supporters — mostly men — mocking her **appearance and voice** and going well beyond political criticism: she is called a "space cadet", an "attention seeker", a **"political prostitute"**, "scum", a "piece of shit" and worse, including one telling her to "*hang your head in shame you devious bitch*". She said she would keep standing up for her constituents despite calls for her resignation.
- **Context:** Reform's deputy leader **Richard Tice** has accused her of lying to the party about her beliefs in order to be selected. Cooper-Lesadd, a former Conservative, has said Reform has "no interest in Wales" and is "far more interested in division, opposition and headlines than in finding solutions".

(Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)

? Plaid's National Chair race: Gwynedd councillor picks up four nominations

Gwynedd councillor Elin Hywel has been nominated by four local party groups — Dwyfor Meirionnydd, Cardiff West, Wrexham and the joint Monmouthshire and Torfaen branch — to be Plaid Cymru's next National Chair.

- The other declared candidates are **Karl Davies**, a former Plaid chief executive and head of the BBC Trust in Wales, and former Westminster candidate **John Rowlands**.
- Under Plaid's rules, **only members attending next month's annual conference at Venue Cymru, Llandudno** can vote. The role — representing grassroots members — is seen as unusually important now that Plaid is running Wales for the first time.
- Hywel is chair of the **Welsh Pensions Partnership** and of **Gwynedd Pensions Committee**, vice-chair of **Undeb**, and county councillor for **North Pwllheli**. **Mark Hooper MS** is among her backers.

(Nation.Cymru — Martin Shipton, 23 Sep.)

?? Adam Price: ethical defence framework "won't lead to job losses"

The Enterprise Minister has told the Senedd that a new ethical investment framework for defence firms operating in Wales is not incompatible with creating more jobs in the sector.

- **Adam Price** said the Welsh Government was committed to international solidarity, human rights and international law while recognising the right of democratic societies to defend themselves, and that **Welsh Government support "cannot be unconditional"**: "*Where the Welsh Government provides support through grants, investment assistance, trade promotion or wider economic development activity, people in Wales rightly expect that support to reflect our values and responsibilities.*"
- He pointed to Wales' existing aerospace, defence and security sector and to industries including **cybersecurity, semiconductors, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, autonomous systems and AI**, and to the **Defence Growth Deal**.
- He is squeezed from both sides: **Reform and the Conservatives** fear firms will invest in England instead, while **peace campaigners** fear a green light for arms manufacturers supplying countries such as Israel.

(Nation.Cymru — Martin Shipton, 22 Sep.)

? Anger as Cardiff pension fund's "complicit" holdings rise 26%

Campaigners who won a disinvestment vote at Wales' biggest council say the amount of pension fund money invested in companies they regard as complicit in Israel's actions in Gaza has risen by 26%.

- **Clive Haswell**, co-chair of the **Cardiff Palestine Solidarity Campaign**, has written to **Cllr Leonora Thompson**, chair of Cardiff council's pensions committee. He says evidence put the holdings at **£117m (3.5% of the fund)** in July 2025, rising to **£148m (6.7%)** by the end of 2025 — a figure he acknowledges the fund disputes.
- Companies named by the campaign include **Palantir, Alphabet, Check Point, Cisco and Hewlett Packard**. Campaigners have been in dialogue with the council since **November 2024**, and a 1,200-signature petition and a disinvestment motion were passed in July 2025.

(Nation.Cymru — Martin Shipton, 22 Sep.)

?? Push to make Welsh a "living language" in communities

A Cardiff conference on Thursday will bring together around 150 representatives to ask how local organisations can do more than provide bilingual services — and actively grow everyday use of Welsh.

- Local authorities and national park authorities must produce **five-year Welsh language promotion strategies**; the Welsh Government has committed to **reviewing the standards** governing them, with the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language, **Anna Brychan**, expected to set out next steps.
- **Welsh Language Commissioner Efa Gruffudd Jones:** "*There is no single simple solution to increasing the use of Welsh, but these strategies provide a basis for local organisations, communities and partners to work together to create further opportunities for people to use Welsh in their everyday lives.*" The event is run jointly with **Mentrau Iaith Cymru**.

(Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)

? 20,000 back petition rejecting any badger cull in Wales

More than 20,000 people have signed a petition calling on the Welsh Government to reject Reform UK's Senedd motion on a targeted badger cull to manage bovine TB.

- Reform's motion passed on **15 July 2026** by **79 votes to 9**. Campaigner **Sarah Reisz** launched the petition — "*A badger cull would be senseless, further decimate wildlife and has been shown [to] have no effect on bovine TB*" — and it has already passed the 10,000 signatures that trigger consideration for a Senedd debate.
- **Protect the Wild** says **95% of Welsh herds** are TB-free and that the cull is "less about tackling TB effectively and more about keeping NFU Cymru and farming voters happy".
- Labour halted badger culling in Wales in **2012**. Plaid's 2026 manifesto promised "scientifically validated control methods" recognising wildlife as a source of infection; in June the FM **refused to rule out** culling.

(Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)

?? Anglesey set to reject the visitor levy — Conwy and Gwynedd wobble too

Anglesey's executive committee is expected to back a report recommending the island does NOT introduce a visitor levy, after more than 70% of consultation responses opposed it. The final decision comes on Thursday.

- Council leader **Gary Pritchard** also has concerns about the legislation itself, saying it "doesn't enable us to create a sustainable tourism sector that can thrive without adding a burden on our residents". **Conwy** is expected to oppose the plan this week, and **Gwynedd** has delayed its decision after nearly **7,000 responses**.
- **Cardiff** remains the only Welsh local authority to have confirmed it will introduce a visitor levy, coming into force next year.

(BBC Cymru Fyw, 23 Sep. Welsh-language report, translated here.)

? Health

? Betsi Cadwaladr has lost a third of its executive directors

Board papers show north Wales' health board — in special measures since February 2023 and given a "final warning" by the health minister in June — has lost a third of its executive directors, with patient safety "continuing to be a challenge".

- **13 serious incidents** that should have been avoidable were recorded over a year. The board also confirms the **director of nursing and midwifery is retiring**, and its chief operating officer — appointed in March last year — has also gone. Betsi Cadwaladr says "arrangements are in place to ensure continuity of leadership".
- An **independent panel of experts** is reviewing patient safety, leadership and culture and is expected to report to the Welsh Government by the end of next month; a **Mabon ap Gwynfor** (health minister) expected improvements "by the end of September". The board meets on Thursday.

(BBC Cymru Fyw, 23 Sep. Welsh-language report, translated here.)

? "I had no idea how it happened so quickly" — student relearns to walk and talk after paracetamol overdose

Riley Lubas, 20, took two over-the-counter cold medicines without realising both contained paracetamol — and ended up on life support.

- He was in his first year at the **University of Bath** in March 2025 when he caught a cold. When his stomach began hurting he phoned for help; tests at Bath's Royal United Hospital found his liver was struggling. His parents, **Chris, 40, and Kate Lubas, 39**, raced from **Newport** to be with him. He has had to relearn how to walk and talk.
- **Royal College of General Practitioners Cymru Wales** urged people to always "read the label carefully" and seek advice from a GP before taking medication.

(BBC Wales, 22 Sep.)

? Crime & Justice

?? Four-year wait for justice ends as tractor driver jailed over biker's death

Philip Baker, 61, of Wonastow, Monmouthshire, has been jailed for eight years for causing the death of motorcyclist Dr Steven Lee, 26, by dangerous driving on the A40 near Ganarew in August 2022.

- Baker, a farmer who had been drawing straw from a field, was convicted after a trial at **Worcester Crown Court** and was also given a **nine-year driving ban**. The family said the crash involved a **defective tractor** and had left them waiting "incredibly painful" years for justice.
- **Dr Lee's brother, Danny Sargeant:** "*Nothing is ever going to feel like enough, but we think based on the law and the way the judge explained how he came to that [sentence], we think that it's a fair outcome.*"

(BBC, 22 Sep.)

? Supply teacher accused of hitting pupil on school tour

A disciplinary hearing has been told that Shôn Rowcliffe, a supply teacher at Ysgol Bro Preseli in Crymych, Pembrokeshire, struck a pupil while intoxicated on a school football trip abroad.

- The Education Workforce Council heard claims he struck **"Pupil A"** across the chest, swore, raised his middle finger and asked the pupil to keep it secret — on a tour with Year 7 and 8 footballers. **Rowcliffe denies being under the influence of alcohol and denies striking the pupil**; his representative says he admits swearing and the gesture but not that they followed excessive drinking.
- A colleague, **Martin Edwards**, raised concerns with management after the group returned. Headteacher **Rhonwen Morris** said Rowcliffe was a day-to-day supply teacher covering absence, helping the PE department, and that she had had "no concerns" about him before the trip.

(BBC Wales, 22 Sep; BBC Cymru Fyw.)

?? Local & Community

? "Pigs Village" gets its Welsh name back

Councillors in Flintshire have approved Pentre Moch as the primary Welsh name for Northop Hall — a name that has survived since at least the 17th Century and referred to the pig farm around which the village grew.

- The English name stays, but **Pentre Moch** will now appear on **Ordnance Survey maps, Royal Mail records and property records**. Records show the name was in common use until restrictions were placed on the Welsh language in the 19th Century, after which the literal translation *Neuadd Llaneurgain* was used.
- One resident claimed the change would make the village a "laughing stock", but others said the translation was an opportunity for better use of the language, which "isn't heard enough". **Cllr Linda Thew**, seconding **Cllr Mared Eastwood's** motion: "*Against all the odds, the name Pentre Moch has survived for hundreds of years, passed down from generation to generation to reflect our agricultural past.*"

(BBC Wales, 22 Sep.)

? 70% drop in anti-social behaviour calls after Monmouthshire youth scheme

A three-year programme funded by Gwent Police and the Home Office in Caldicot has cut anti-social behaviour calls by 70%, according to research assessed for the Home Office by Bath Spa University.

- Dispersal orders have been in place in the town since September 2022 after a spate of anti-social behaviour; the youth service ran outreach work with young people, and funding provided activities at Caldicot Leisure Centre. **Josh Klein**, Monmouthshire's youth service manager, said researchers found "a huge impact" and "real success".
- **Cllr Jackie Strong** warned the problem is not solved — "*We've got a bit of a spike going in Caldicot at the moment*" — and asked for the research to be shared with councillors.

(Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)

? North Wales wholesaler reports 1,100% surge in Christmas pre-orders

Harlech Foodservice is expecting its busiest Christmas yet after festive pre-orders rose 1,100%, with 40 staff and 28 producers gathering for its first Christmas Roadshow at the Ramada Plaza in Wrexham.

- The new brochure carries **420 yuletide products**, including **78 new lines**, destined for festive menus in restaurants, pubs, schools and hospitals across Wales, the North West of

England, Shropshire and the Midlands. Suppliers took part in speed-dating-style tasting sessions with sales staff.
- **Commercial manager Chris Gregson:** "*The Christmas Roadshow is all about our suppliers educating and energising our sales team so they can go out there and confidently inform and sell to our customers.*"

(Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)

? Boat owners fear for Aberystwyth marina's future

Berth holders at Aberystwyth marina say a lack of investment and uncertainty over its future could force them to take their boats elsewhere.

- The marina has been in the hands of **administrators for three years**, after the previous owners went under leaving unpaid staff and millions of pounds of debt. **Western Marinas** , based in Cardiff, has run it on the administrators' behalf for two years and wants to buy and run it long-term — but says it is "frustrated" after **three unsuccessful applications** for an operating licence from **Ceredigion council**.
- The marina has **154 berths** and is normally **85% full**, but manager **Adam Knowles** says significant infrastructure investment is needed before anyone will spend. Ceredigion council said it is "fully committed to securing improvements to the harbour area".

(BBC Cymru Fyw, 23 Sep. Welsh-language report, translated here.)

? "Productivity Heroes" lift output 24% — but there are fewer of them

A new report identifies 1,732 Welsh businesses that grew turnover and employment at the same time, with average labour productivity among them up 24.1% to £164,746 per employee in 2024-25.

- The "Productivity Heroes" added **5,238 jobs** (16.7%) and grew turnover by **£1.87bn to £6.04bn** (+44.8%). But their number **fell 23%** from 2,224 the year before, well below the peak of 2,637 in 2022-23 — and they now make up **4.09%** of established Welsh SMEs, roughly the UK average (4.03%).
- Almost three-quarters of Welsh firms that improved productivity did so **without adding staff**, which researchers say may signal a shift towards growth with little or no job creation. **Professor Melanie Jones** of Cardiff Business School said productivity growth was "critical to improving the things people care about including real wage growth".

(Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)

? Business & Tech

? "We're growing jobs based on AI, not destroying them" — Newport's chip cluster

Wales must "reindustrialise itself" for an AI future, the UK's AI minister has said on a visit to IQE's Newport plant — where the boss says AI is creating jobs, not cutting them.

- **Jutta Meier**, who leads IQE, said: "*We are growing great jobs based on AI and supporting AI, quite the opposite from destroying jobs by AI.*" IQE has been making compound semiconductor wafers since **1988** and anchors a growing Newport cluster.
- A report for **CSconnected** by Cardiff University's **Welsh Economy Research Unit** found the south Wales compound semiconductor sector supported **3,140 jobs in 2025**, up from 2,748 — a **14% rise** — of which **1,914 were direct roles** around Newport and the M4 corridor. Average salaries in the sector are about **£66,000**, against a UK median of **£31,884**.
- AI minister **Kanishka Narayan** said Wales had to "reindustrialise itself" while "supporting everyone who is affected" by changing technology. **Bassaleg School** in Newport now offers a semiconductor qualification.

(BBC Wales, 22 Sep; BBC Cymru Fyw.)

? Culture & Media

?? Derek the Weather bows out — and Roy Noble signs off too

Derek Brockway, BBC Wales' best-known weather presenter, has announced he is leaving after nearly 30 years — the same week Roy Noble said he will step down from his BBC Radio Wales Sunday programme next March.

- Brockway presented his first **BBC Wales Today** forecast in **1997** and fronted **Weatherman Walking** for nearly 20 years, covering the Beast from the East, Storm Dennis and this year's heatwave. He started at the Met Office as an observer in **September 1986**, with a stint in the Falklands in 1993, and became a household name — "Derek the weather" from Barry, or "Barrybados", with a cameo in *Gavin and Stacey*.

- Announcing it on X (@DerekTheWeather), he admitted the decision "*hasn't been an easy one*" — "*And who knows? I may pop up again from time to time in the future.*" To viewers before Tuesday's forecast: "*Thank you for your kindness, support and friendship over the years. It means a lot. I'll be with you until Christmas — but don't ask me yet if it's a white one.*" He signed off with a "nos da" on his final Wales Today at the end of the year.
- **Roy Noble**, a voice on BBC Radio Wales since the 1980s, told listeners health and technology played a part in his decision to start "a new chapter" in March.

(BBC Wales — Matt Murray, 22 Sep; Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)

? Alex Jones joins BBC Children in Need presenting team

The One Show host Alex Jones — born in Ammanford, a fluent Welsh speaker who began her career at S4C — will present BBC Children in Need for the first time this November.

- "*Every year the appeal shines a light on the incredible projects and people making a real difference... It's something that we champion through the Challenge Squad on The One Show and it's a privilege to help tell those stories.*" This year's campaign is built around the number **26**.

(Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)

? Charlotte Church slams Ed Sheeran on stage in Cardiff

Charlotte Church used her End Times Pop Dungeon show at the Depot in Cardiff to attack Ed Sheeran over the removal of support act Macklemore from his Loop tour.

- She accused Sheeran of **"choosing consumerism and capitalism over doing the right thing"**; Macklemore says he was dropped after his pro-Palestine comments, claiming **Robert Kraft** of the Kraft Group personally called Sheeran about Gillette Stadium, while Sheeran said it was "the promoter's decision". Church also aimed at tech billionaires, warning: "while they maybe watching us we're watching them".

(Nation.Cymru, 22 Sep.)

? Cardiff street food trader crowned best in Europe

Cegin HalfnHalf has become the first trader ever to hold the Welsh, British and European Street Food Awards titles, winning the 2026 European final in Saarbrücken,

Germany.

- The Cardiff business, which has a café on **Cathedral Road**, beat Poland's Le Paczek and Sweden's Nenna's after coming through 13 national competitions. It showcases **Welsh-inspired cooking with an Indian influence** — chef **Kuldeep Singh** trained under Arvind Saraswat as well as Michel Roux and Pierre Koffmann.

(Nation.Cymru, 22 Sep.)

? "Now in a minute": six Welsh words enter the Oxford English Dictionary

The OED's latest update adds six Welsh words and usages — including the folklore creature *Bwbach* (dating to 1724), *boys bach* and *twpsyn*.

- The update includes the phrase **"now in a minute"**, described as a staple of Welsh English. The OED says a word is considered once there are independent examples from a variety of sources showing it has been in use for a reasonable time.

(Nation.Cymru — Stephen Price, 23 Sep.)

? Rhiannon mural unveiled in Abertillery

A new mural in Abertillery depicts the mythological Welsh queen Rhiannon — a central figure of the Mabinogi, whose name derives from the Brittonic *Rigantona*, "Great Queen".

- The artwork shows her **weaving a tapestry of the landscape around her**, symbolically tying together the places, people and stories of the town, with the inscription "The tapestry of…".

(Nation.Cymru — Amelia Jones, 23 Sep.)

? Harvest Moon: Eryri and Bannau Brycheiniog named among UK's best spots

Eryri National Park and Bannau Brycheiniog have been named among the best places in the UK to see Saturday's Harvest Moon.

- The full moon on **Saturday 26 September** is the closest to the autumn equinox, traditionally giving farmers extra evening light at harvest. Both Welsh locations were picked for their **dark skies** and expansive landscapes. Interest in stargazing has surged since last month's solar eclipse — searches for "stargazing UK" are reportedly up **217%**,

and a study found **49%** of Brits are now more interested in it.

(Nation.Cymru — Amelia Jones, 22 Sep.)

? Nature

? Snails from a single Eryri lake start laying eggs on the drive to a Kent zoo

Glutinous snails no bigger than a fingertip — now found in the UK only in Llyn Tegid in Eryri — have been taken to a Kent wildlife park to breed, and started laying eggs during the six-hour journey.

- **Wingham Wildlife Park** near Canterbury took **24 snails** from Wales in early July; it began with six and has now started a new colony. Assistant curator **Samantha Eden** said the breeding effort was off to a "flying start". Habitat disruption and environmental change reduced the species to a single Welsh lake.

(BBC Wales, 23 Sep.)

? Sport

? Dasilva relishing another Portugal meeting — nine years after beating them

Wales defender Jay Dasilva will face Portugal again on Thursday, nearly a decade after captaining England's Under-19s to European Championship glory against them in 2017.

- That England side beat a Portugal team including **Diogo Dalot, Rafael Leão and the late Diogo Jota**. Dasilva won **over 60 youth caps for England** but qualified for Wales through his **Pontypridd-born grandmother** and made his Wales debut in **June 2024**, rebuilding a career via Charlton, Bristol City and Coventry. "*It was a great win and it definitely seems a long time ago now.*"
- Wales open their **Nations League A** campaign in Lisbon on **Thursday 24 September, 19:45 BST** at the Estádio José Alvalade — live on BBC iPlayer, BBC One Wales, Sounds, Radio Wales, Radio Cymru and 5 Live.

(Nation.Cymru — Phil Blanche, PA, 22 Sep.)

? Koumas: "he's going to be a really important player for us"

Lewis Koumas is being tipped for a big international impact as Wales prepare to share a stage with Cristiano Ronaldo and Erling Haaland.

- The **21-year-old Liverpool** attacker has broken into first-team plans under Andoni Iraola less than a month into the season. **Craig Bellamy:** "*I feel he's going to be a really important player for us for a number of years.*" Wales face Portugal (a), Denmark (a) and Norway (h) in Group A4.

(BBC Sport Wales, 22 Sep.)

? Wales' captains conquer England

Dewi Lake has been named Gloucester captain for the new season, with fellow Wales international Jac Morgan one of his vice-captains.

- The pair left the **Ospreys** for Gloucester for 2026-27, announced in December 2025. Lake, **27**, has **34 caps** and captained Wales **22 times**; both are preparing for their Premiership debuts against **Exeter on Saturday** at Kingsholm.

(BBC Sport Wales, 22 Sep; Nation.Cymru.)

? New coach, same target: Wales chase Netball World Cup qualification

Wales' netballers go into this weekend's European qualifier in Glasgow with a new interim head coach — Reinga Bloxham, the Dragons coach named Netball Super League coach of the year last season.

- Wales need a **top-two finish** from a field including **Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland** to reach **Sydney 2027**, less than two months after a disappointing **10th place** at the Commonwealth Games. Emily Handyside's departure as head coach was planned before the Games.
- **Bloxham:** "*I know I'm not Welsh, but I feel really Welsh... I've got a real sense of pride in being able to lead this group.*"

(BBC Sport Wales, 22 Sep.)

? FAW chief questions Infantino's "reform" letter

Football Association of Wales chief executive Noel Mooney has poured cold water on claims that FIFA president Gianni Infantino is proposing major reform.

- Infantino has written to all **211 member associations** proposing an **external review** of how FIFA operates. Mooney: "*I've seen the headlines today about major reform at Fifa — that's not how the letter read to me, to be frank. It talks about reform around strategic projects and initiatives.*"
- The **FAW was the first national association to withdraw support** for Infantino's re-election in August, after he abandoned a plan to sell a **20% stake** in FIFA tournaments to private investors. UEFA, the Asian confederation, CONCACAF and the English FA followed.

(BBC Sport Wales, 22 Sep; Nation.Cymru, 21 Sep.)

?? Weather

Cardiff — Wednesday 23 September: sunny intervals and a gentle breeze, high **21°C**, low **9°C** (north-westerly, 9 mph). **Sunrise 07:00, sunset 19:10.** *(BBC Weather, updated this morning.)*

Day	Forecast	High / Low
Wed 23 Sep	Sunny intervals, gentle breeze	21° / 9°
Thu 24 Sep	Sunny intervals, light winds	22° / 12°
Fri 25 Sep	Sunny intervals, light winds	21° / 11°
Sat 26 Sep	Sunny intervals, light winds	19° / 10°
Sun 27 Sep	Light rain showers, gentle breeze	20° / 11°
Mon 28 Sep	Sunny intervals, light winds	19° / 12°
Tue 29 Sep	Thundery showers, moderate breeze	21° / 14°

- **Detail:** tonight will turn **dry and chilly** with largely clear skies and calm winds. Thursday becomes **breezy**, with patchy cloud and sunny spells in the morning and cloud increasing in the afternoon. **Friday** starts dry before cloud and light rain move in; **Saturday** cloudy periods, sunny breaks and a few light showers from the south-west; **Sunday** windy with outbreaks of heavy rain in the morning, drier with sunny spells later.
- **No weather warnings are in force for the UK.** *(BBC Weather warnings page, today.)*
- □□ **The autumn equinox fell at 01:06 BST today** (23 September) — astronomical autumn begins, and nights now run longer than days in the northern hemisphere until the spring equinox.

? Quick Summary

#	Story	Where	Why it matters
1	**NHS waits goalpost row**	Senedd	FM clarifies two-year waits will go by May 2027; Reform: "goalposts keep moving"; 4,700 cases, up 15% in a month
2	**Jenner's FMQs debut**	Senedd	Grooming gangs inquiry attack; FM says "issues we need to get to grips with"
3	**Farmers' drought support**	Wales	Advance payments 70%→80%; slurry spreading allowed to 15 November
4	**Leaseholder alarm grant**	Wales	From 1 October; cuts or removes waking watch bills; reimbursement available
5	**Roadside litter consultation**	Wales	Could fine the registered keeper; fly-tipping penalty up to £5,000 mooted; closes 14 Oct
6	**Laura Anne Jones deputy leader**	Senedd	Reform fills the post vacated by Jenner; ex-Tory, suspended in 2025
7	**Abuse of Sarah Cooper-Lesadd**	Online	Plaid defector deluged with misogynistic abuse from Reform supporters
8	**Betsi Cadwaladr losses**	North Wales	A third of executive directors gone; 13 avoidable serious incidents
9	**Pentre Moch approved**	Flintshire	Northop Hall gets its Welsh name on maps and records
10	**20,000 back badger petition**	Wales	Pressure builds against any cull after Reform's 79-9 Senedd motion
11	**Anglesey poised to reject levy**	Ynys Môn	>70% opposed; Conwy to object, Gwynedd delayed; Cardiff alone
12	**Cardiff pension fund anger**	Cardiff	"Complicit" holdings up 26% to £148m by end-2025, campaigners say
13	**Derek Brockway leaving**	BBC Wales	Nearly 30 years; Roy Noble also stepping down next March

#	Story	Where	Why it matters
14	**Cegin HalfnHalf's European crown**	Cardiff	First trader to hold Welsh, British and European street food titles
15	**Harvest Moon Saturday**	Eryri / Bannau	Two Welsh dark-sky spots named among UK's best
16	**Wales v Portugal**	Lisbon	Thursday 19:45 BST; Dasilva, Koumas and a depleted squad

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Compiled Wednesday 23 September 2026, ~09:40 BST by Emrys □□ (Hermes cron) · Sources: BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Sport Wales, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Weather (Cardiff + UK warnings), Nation.Cymru (news, sport, culture), GOV.WALES (media.service.gov.wales).

Method note: the Hermes browser remains unavailable on this host, so the sweep ran through the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090, MarkItDown) — 11 index pages plus 53 article/press-release pages, all at a 100% success rate. SearXNG (:8086) was in mixed mode: query 1 gave usable leads (the ITV Wales index, the GOV.WALES index, BBC Wales), while the Senedd/Welsh-politics queries returned Wikipedia election pages, poll aggregators and a German ZDF listings entry — so the direct index sweep carried the roundup. The freshest GOV.WALES release is Tuesday 23:00 (farmers' support); no new release since. De-duplicated against yesterday's Welsh file and today's UK file: the Programme for Government publication, Airbus Broughton, the Menai data centre campaign, the Wrexham pub purchase, the LDV driver sentence, vaping rates, Helen Jenner's unveiling as Reform Wales leader and the World Series of Darts final (Smith beat Gerwyn Price 11-5, covered 21-09) were all dropped or condensed. Checked and excluded on their own dates: Michael Sheen's meeting with the FM (18 Sep), the RNLI abuse story (19 Sep), Richard Tice's claim about Cooper-Lesadd (19 Sep, used only as context), the Gwynedd tourism levy delay (20 Sep), the Bennet Sister Christmas special (21 Sep) and Catherine Zeta-Jones on "nepo baby" (13 Sep). Wales Online's live blog and the Met Office regional page were walled again this morning, so the forecast is BBC Weather's Cardiff data plus the UK warnings page.

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