

Welsh Headlines — 24 Aug 2026

??????? Welsh News Roundup — 24 August 2026

? Top Story: 'Buried' episode two focuses on Llwyneinion — Plaid MS calls for UK Government clean-up funding

The second episode of Michael Sheen's BBC investigation *Buried* — focusing on the **Llwyneinion Acid Tar Lagoon at Ruabon, near Wrexham**, where historic reports indicate an estimated **1,100 barrels of chemical waste** were dumped by Monsanto (which operated at nearby Acrefair) and other manufacturers — is already available on iPlayer and is broadcast tonight (Monday) on BBC One Wales and BBC Two. Ahead of transmission, **Elwyn Vaughan**, Plaid Cymru MS for Gwynedd Maldwyn, has called on the UK Government to fund the clean-up of Wales' historic toxic waste sites, arguing the scale and cost are "simply too great" for Wrexham Council or the Welsh Government alone. He pointed to UK Government support for coal-tip safety in Wales as a precedent. **Cllr Paul Pemberton** (Ponciau), who has campaigned over the site for more than two decades and appears in the programme, disputed Wrexham Council's position that the site no longer requires a multi-million-pound clean-up: "The only reason it is no longer considered a danger is because they put a fence up around it... there is always the prospect these toxic chemicals get into the water table or the food chain." Previous estimates put the clean-up cost at around **£45m** — "if the authority was made to clean up the site we would be bankrupt – simple as that." Wales Environment Link has also urged the UK Government to fund work at historic toxic waste sites while pursuing chemical companies for compensation, arguing that because the dumping pre-dated devolution, responsibility should not pass to the Welsh Government. Defra has previously declined to respond to campaigners' calls.

☐ *Nation.Cymru* (Mark Mansfield) — 23 Aug; BBC iPlayer/BBC One Wales broadcast Mon 24 Aug

?? Politics & Senedd

Funding warning for 'revolutionary' youth homelessness project Upstream Cymru

Campaigners warn that Upstream Cymru — the school-based homelessness prevention programme introduced by charity **Llamau** in 2020, the first of its kind in the UK — risks falling behind the rest of the UK without long-term Welsh Government funding. The scheme, now reaching **12 secondary schools in south Wales**, uses a survey developed by Cardiff University to flag pupils at risk of homelessness, with evidence of significant reductions in youth homelessness rates; charities say other UK nations are now ahead of Wales. **Emily Mapley, 20**, whose family of seven was made homeless when she was 13 and spent 18 months in temporary accommodation, told how a support worker (Russell) helped her "come out of my shell" after she ticked "every box" on the survey at St Illtyd's Catholic High School in Cardiff. The Welsh Government said preventing homelessness is a priority and it will continue to work with the sector, including through new legislation. *(Fully covered in the UK roundup as a one-liner; the funding-certainty warning and project detail are new.)*

☐ BBC Cymru Fyw (Gareth Bryer & Matthew Bassett) — 24 Aug

? Local & Community

'It's not Alton Towers' — rows break out over queuing at Yr Wyddfa Visitors to Wales' highest mountain are being urged not to skip queues to reach the top after bumper summer crowds left people waiting **more than an hour** to reach the 1,085m summit trig point. Social media videos show arguments between queue-jumpers and those waiting their turn — one, **Marc Screeton** from Manchester, was heckled after bypassing the line, saying "Imagine queuing on a mountain? No chance." Walkers gave mixed views: Lucy Taylor said queuing is "really quite dangerous" without it, while Tina Millard from West Bromwich insisted "We're not at Alton Towers for a ride. It's a mountain, it's for everyone." Eryri National Park warden **Alun Jones** urged people to "be considerate and don't skip the queue", and UCL ethics professor Johann Go called queuing an "unwritten and unspoken" social contract. *(BBC Wales — published 23 Aug, updated 24 Aug; the day's #2 most-read BBC story.)*

☐ BBC Wales (Matthew Richards) — 23/24 Aug

Hundreds protest plan for year-round dog ban on Rhos-on-Sea beach Hundreds of dogs and their owners descended on the beach at **Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy**, to protest against a proposed year-round ban covering the Cayley Promenade section, between already dog-free areas at the harbour and Porth Eirias. Conwy councillor **Jo Nuttall** said another no-go area would disproportionately penalise owners: "I'm not against a seasonal ban of sorts... let's have dogs before 10:00 and no dogs after 10:00. So long as it is policed." The council says dog-related issues are a "key concern" and is considering extending the current dog control order, which expires in October; protester Wendy Routledge argued humans, not dogs, were to blame for beach mess, and suggested a beach warden instead. A separate dog-free zone is proposed at a sports ground in

Betws-yn-Rhos. The consultation closes **11 September**.

☐ *BBC Wales (Sarah Easedale & James McCarthy) — 23 Aug*

Man, 40, from Bridgend dies after collision between two motorbikes in Port Talbot A 40-year-old man from Bridgend died following a collision between two motorcycles on **Harbour Way, Port Talbot**, on Saturday at about 14:15 BST. South Wales Police said his family is being supported by specially trained officers; the other rider suffered minor injuries. The road between Dock Road and the A48 junction was closed temporarily for the investigation.

☐ *BBC Wales — 23 Aug*

Welsh volunteer firefighter from Nefyn on the front line in Spain Aaron Gomer, originally from Nefyn, who moved to Xàbia on Spain's Costa Blanca about three years ago, has spoken about volunteering with the independent brigade *Los Bomberos Voluntarios de Balcón al Mar* amid worsening "**urban wildfires**". He described how rural depopulation leaves land unmanaged — "no one cutting the grass, no animals grazing" — so fires are "stronger and travel further", and how Xàbia's forests sit directly beside homes, with the population swelling from about 30,000 to more than 100,000 in summer. The brigade was founded in the 1980s by Swiss residents after official fire services took more than an hour to reach the area. (*Welsh-language feature — BBC Cymru Fyw, Alun Gaffey — 23 Aug.*)

☐ *BBC Cymru Fyw — 23 Aug*

- **Appeal as dead dog found in 'suspicious' circumstances:** police have launched an appeal after a dead dog was found in suspicious circumstances (details with the force). (*BBC Wales — 23 Aug*)

? Economy & Housing

Llanwern steelworks 'running half-empty' as cheap imports bite Production lines at Tata Steel's **Llanwern** plant, near Newport, are falling quiet for parts of the day, with workers put on maintenance and cleaning while machines sit idle, the Guardian reports. New **50% import tariffs** introduced in July were meant to protect UK producers, but for galvanised steel the situation has worsened after the government *increased* tariff-free quotas for some countries — India's allowance rose from 98,000 to 125,000 tonnes, Vietnam's more than tripled from 51,000 to 174,000 tonnes, and South Korea gained 100,000 tonnes. The India increase is understood to have been a last-minute move to help secure a trade deal, with WTO rules forcing matching rises for Vietnam and South Korea. Tata commercial director **Russell Codling** said the "world-class Zodiac galvanising line... is already being significantly impacted by the new quotas, and that situation just isn't sustainable"; the plant, which makes about 600,000 tonnes a year (nearly half UK demand), is running at about half capacity. The company met industry minister Blair McDougall two weeks ago.

☐ *The Guardian (Alex Daniel) — 23 Aug*

Port Talbot among Britain's fastest-rising commuter property hotspots Port Talbot recorded **7.7% annual asking-price growth in July** — the fifth-fastest of commuter locations around six major British cities analysed by Rightmove, with an average asking price of **£176,787** against Cardiff's £285,596 (up 1.4%). Barry rose 5.2% to £261,859 and Penarth 4.7% to £432,414, while Caerphilly fell 1.2% to £251,142. Only Falkirk, Rochdale, Broxbourne and St Helens grew faster.

📰 *Nation.Cymru* — 24 Aug

New-build homes cost more than nine years' wages in parts of Wales Buyers in **Conwy** face the least affordable new-build homes of the 18 Welsh areas studied by warranty firm Buildsafe — a typical new-build at **£332,995** equivalent to **9.4 years** of median full-time pay. Cardiff was close behind at 9.2 years (median price £339,998), with Swansea third at 8.64. The average affordability ratio across the Welsh areas studied was 7.91 years; Pembrokeshire was the most affordable at 6.59 years.

📰 *Nation.Cymru* — 23 Aug

? Environment

Country diary: 'South Wales' summer of fires will linger long in the memory' The Guardian's Country diary column reflects on a fire season that has left blackened mountainsides across the south Wales valleys, as the region continues to deal with the aftermath of the summer's wildfires. *(Commentary piece — a companion to the county's ranking as a global hotspot for wildfire carbon emissions, reported 20-23 Aug.)*

📰 *The Guardian* — 24 Aug

- **Wildfire-housing tie-in:** a Nation.Cymru feature notes that 75% of UK wetlands have been destroyed and argues restoring them would help prevent wildfires. *(Nation.Cymru — feature)*

? Culture & Entertainment

First look at BBC supernatural drama 'The Witch Farm' The BBC has released first images from **The Witch Farm**, a four-part drama based on the "seven-year haunting" of **Heol Fanog**, a farmhouse near the Brecon Beacons where couple Liz and Bill Rich reported poltergeist activity and apparent possessions after moving in with their family in 1989. Welsh actor **Gabrielle Creevy** (The Guest, Black Doves) stars alongside **Michael Socha** as Liz and Bill; the cast also includes Lewin Lloyd, Sian Gibson, Robert Pugh and Jeremy Swift. The story, previously explored in the BBC podcast of the same name, is part ghost story, part mystery — and is linked to an 1848 axe murder said to have taken place in the area.

Thousands flock to RCT '90s Summer Party in Pontypridd Thousands packed Ynysangharad Park in Pontypridd on Saturday for RCT Council's flagship '90s festival, which sold out so fast organisers released extra tickets. Headliners included **Heather Small** (M People), **Kenny Thomas**, **East 17**, **Whigfield** and Jo and Jon from S Club, with Heart Radio's Jagger and Woody hosting, and Welsh duo Cadog on the bill. Gates opened at 3pm with performances until around 10:30pm.

- **Vote for the Welsh oak:** people across Wales are being urged to back a Welsh oak in the UK Tree of the Year contest. (*Nation.Cymru*)
- **Suffragette Christmas card from 1910 found at roadshow:** a rare card reading "to vote you have a right" surfaced at a valuations roadshow. (*BBC Wales*)

? Sport

New Quay teenager selected for British Sailing Youth Team Steffan Williams, 17, from New Quay in Ceredigion, has been selected for the **British Sailing Youth ILCA 6 Team** after performances at the ILCA National Championships in July and his first international — the ILCA 6 Youth World Championships in Denmark this month, where he raced against more than 300 young sailors. His highlight: rounding the windward mark in second place in a qualifying race and "looking back and seeing the rest of the world fleet" before finishing fifth. The Ysgol Bro Teifi sixth-former, who sails out of Cardigan Bay, will now train with other leading young British sailors on the pathway towards senior international and Olympic competition.

? Feel-Good

Holiday meal scheme Bwyd a Hwyl Food and Fun reaches one million places The Welsh Government's summer holiday programme has passed a major milestone — **one million places delivered** as it enters its second decade. This summer, schemes ran in **all 22 local authorities** with 384 schools and more than 16,000 places a day, supported by **£5.85m** of Welsh Government funding; this year's theme was *Legends (Chwedlau)*. Education minister **Anna Brychan**, who visited Blenheim Road Primary School, credited the education and local authority workforce and said the programme "builds confidence, supports wellbeing and gives learners the chance to try new things". WLGA education spokesperson Lis Burnett called the one-million-places milestone "a remarkable milestone" over the past 11 years.

? Quick Summary

Section	Key story
Top Story	Buried ep 2 (Llwyneinion) airs tonight; Plaid MS urges UK clean-up funding
Politics	Upstream Cymru youth homelessness project needs long-term funding
Local	Yr Wyddfa queue rows; Rhos-on-Sea dog ban protest; Port Talbot fatal crash; Nefyn firefighter in Spain
Economy	Llanwern running half-empty on cheap imports; Port Talbot commuter hotspot; new-build affordability
Environment	Country diary on south Wales' summer of fires
Culture	The Witch Farm first look; RCT '90s Summer Party
Sport	New Quay sailor Steffan Williams in British Youth Team
Feel-Good	Bwyd a Hwyl one million places

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