Welsh Headlines — 24 Sep 2026

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

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? Top Story: RAF halts all Hawk flying after jet crash on Anglesey — "I knew straight away that it was in trouble"

A Hawk T2 crashed and exploded in a field at Pencarnisiog on Anglesey, less than two miles from RAF Valley, minutes after both pilots ejected. The RAF has now paused Hawk operations — including the Red Arrows' T1 fleet — "as a precautionary measure" while it investigates.

- **What happened:** the aircraft had just taken off from **RAF Valley**, home of **No 4 Flying Training School**, when it came down on Wednesday afternoon. **North Wales Police** said the two pilots, on a training flight, were treated for **minor injuries**. Wreckage, including a tail section, landed beside **Afallon Caravan Park**; the fire service said the fire was "now under control" and asked the public to avoid the area. Train lines were closed with replacement buses between **Bangor and Holyhead**.
- **Eyewitness accounts:** resident **Pete Bennett** told Wales Live the jet looked in trouble from take-off — "*Right on takeoff there was an orange flame, and as it accelerated it was basically on fire... It pitched twice violently in the air and then there were two clear, loud bangs. It was probably at around 800ft at this point. The pilots ejected and both parachutes opened.*" Caravan park owner **Richard Owen** told the Daily Mail the tail "must have blown off" before landing next to one of his caravans: "*Then I heard a second bang and I saw the fire and flames... There were little bits of wreckage all around the site.*"

Driver **Ollie Zalot**, on the A55, heard a "big bang": "*I saw the parachutes come down so I assumed they were fine.*"

- **The pause:** the RAF said training was paused while investigations continue, and would not comment further. The BBC understands the **Red Arrows** — who fly the older **T1** — are covered by the restriction, though they were not due to fly again until the **Le Touquet Airshow in France this weekend**. It is not known when the restriction will be lifted.
- **Video analysis:** the BBC's review of crash footage notes the flames appear to come from the **side of the engine, near the main hydraulics**, rather than the exhaust — unusual for a Hawk, which is not a reheated jet.
- **What it means:** RAF Valley trains fast-jet pilots on Hawk T2s, so the pause touches the pipeline for UK combat aircrew as well as the display season. The Guardian's report was updated at 08:55 this morning; the crash site is in the **Mach Loop** low-flying area's backyard.

(BBC Wales — Rowenna Hoskin & Nicholas Bourne, 23 Sep, updated today; BBC Verify video analysis; The Guardian, 23 Sep, updated 24 Sep 08:55.)

?? Senedd & Politics

? Reform's deputy leader accuses a colleague of misleading the party

Laura Anne Jones says James Evans was wrong to claim he had the most support to be Reform Wales leader — the row spilling out of a week in which the party changed leader after an arrest.

- **James Evans** — who defected from the Conservatives earlier this year — said last week he would not stand even though most of the party's Senedd members wanted him to. **Laura Anne Jones** told **BBC Radio Wales Breakfast** on Wednesday she did not recognise that, and did not know why he said it. Evans insisted he had "considerable support" but said it was time to "move on".
- **Context: Helen Jenner** was elected Reform's Welsh leader on Monday, replacing **Dan Thomas**, who quit after his arrest on suspicion of assault and coercive or controlling behaviour. Thomas says he has "done nothing wrong".

? "Misogynistic pile-on" against the Plaid defector — and a Reform adviser joins in

A senior Reform UK Senedd staffer shared a video mocking Sarah Cooper-Lesadd's appearance, as Nation.Cymru detailed the abuse faced by the MS who crossed to Plaid Cymru last week.

- **Derek Roberts**, a special adviser to a Reform Senedd member, posted on Tuesday comparing Cooper-Lesadd to Theresa May and saying she was "*definitely NOT*" made for the screen, then tried to share it into community groups. Nation.Cymru's report says other men directed sexualised abuse at her, mocking her voice and appearance; one called her "the most autistic woman" they had ever seen.
- **The politics of it:** Cooper-Lesadd, a 31-year-old Cambridge graduate and care leaver, is facing calls to resign her Senedd seat because she won it under Reform's banner. Roberts has been pushing a petition demanding list MSs vacate their seats if they change party.

? Minister holds up an "impenetrable" spreadsheet — and the government agrees to fix it

The Welsh Government has committed to reviewing how it publishes spending data after a Reform MS handed a minister a printout nobody could understand.

- At the **Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee**, **Cai Parry-Jones** (Reform, former data analyst) showed **Cabinet Minister Dafydd Trystan Davies** a row from the over-£25,000 expenditure dashboard labelled only **"profit centre XF73"**. Davies identified it — strategy and funding division, a **£362m payment to the Student Loans Company** — and conceded the point was "well made": "*clearly, as a member of the public... XF73 doesn't particularly add much to understanding.*" He said he was happy to look at how the data is presented.
- Parry-Jones said the codes are "locked behind a system" that requires a **Freedom of Information request** and a possible 20-day wait: "*the public would be much happier if they just had quick and easy access.*"

? 20mph row: minister says the evidence has been "polluted"

Deputy transport minister Mark Hooper accused Reform's transport spokesperson Jason O'Connell of twisting new road-casualty data in the Senedd.

- Welsh Government statistics show **91 people were killed on Welsh roads last year, seven more than in 2024** — but the rise was on **60mph and 70mph roads**, not 20mph roads. Collisions on 20mph and 30mph roads combined were **1,469 in 2025 against 1,445 in 2024** (+2%) — the **second-lowest annual total ever recorded**. O'Connell had omitted that when claiming the policy is "clearly not working".

- Hooper: "*when the evidence gets polluted by words that aren't actually true, it distorts things... This saves children's lives.*" Campaigners say Reform has been misrepresenting the data.

? Cardiff campaigners accuse the council of "indifference" over a fourth Welsh-medium secondary

Campaigners want Cardiff Council to buy a Welsh Government-owned site at Callaghan Square for a new Welsh-medium high school serving Trebiwt and Grangetown.

- Cardiff has three Welsh-medium secondaries — **Ysgol Glantaf, Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Bro Edern**. Campaigners fear the government is considering selling the land instead. The Welsh Government says school planning is a matter for the local authority and that no formal offer has been made to officials about the land; the council says it has begun developing long-term strategic options and is discussing them with parents and learners.

? "Nofio Ysgol" launches — 20 hours of swimming lessons for years 4 and 5

From this month, pupils in years 4 and 5 at Welsh-maintained primary schools get at least 20 hours of swimming and water-safety teaching as part of the new government's programme.

- **Nofio Ysgol** is universal — water confidence, self-rescue and basic swimming competence — with **nine local authorities in the first phase** and a full Wales-wide rollout over three years. It was launched on Wednesday at **Penlan Leisure Centre, Swansea**, by First Minister **Rhun ap Iorwerth** and Culture and Sport Minister **Heledd Fychan**. *(GOV.WALES release, 23 Sep 23:00; Nation.Cymru.)*

? Health

? "I couldn't live with the agony any more — my GP called me dramatic"

Lauren Evans, 29, had her first migraine at seven; by 24 they were daily. When she told a doctor she felt suicidal because of the pain, she says she was told she was being

dramatic.

- Evans, who has given up her NHS career in north Wales, describes migraine as "*a full body experience*" — a neurological condition that leaves people unable to work, socialise or function. The BBC piece lands on the broader point that migraine is still dismissed as "just a headache". *(BBC Wales — Rowenna Hoskin, 23 Sep, updated today; the Welsh-language version ran on Cymru Fyw.)*

? Crime & Justice

?? Llantwit Major man jailed over indecent images and assaulting a child

Nathan Berry, 38, was jailed for five years and four months with an eight-year extended licence after pleading guilty to eight offences.

- Berry was arrested in **March 2026**; images of children found on his phone were identified by their parents — the children are **non-verbal**. Further examination while he was on remand uncovered a sexual-touching offence. Sentenced at **Cardiff Crown Court on 3 August** to five years four months plus an eight-year extended licence, with a restraining order and a Sexual Harm Prevention Order barring unsupervised contact with under-16s. **DC Julie Lewis**, South Wales Police: "*Nathan Berry betrayed the trust of these children and their parents in the most dreadful way.*" Police said the outcome was not publicised at sentencing to give the families time to process it.

? Josh Roberts: mother hopes the "full truth" comes out as inquest is restarted

Mel Tookey spoke after a second pre-inquest hearing into the death of her son Joshua Lloyd Roberts, the 19-year-old Cardiff Metropolitan student killed while walking home from work in Gwynedd in June 2023.

- Joshua was struck on the **A4085 between Waunfawr and Caernarfon** near **Caethro**. Senior coroner **John Gittins** told Wednesday's hearing he is looking at the case **de novo** — from the beginning. *(BBC Cymru Fyw, 23 Sep.)*

?? Local & Community

? Wrexham villagers "let down" as 400MW battery storage site is approved on appeal

Innova has won its appeal for the Legacy ESS scheme near Rhostyllen — and Wrexham council will now have to pay some of the developer's legal costs.

- The 5.5-hectare site beside the **A483** would, the developer says, store enough energy for **900,000 homes**. The company went to the Welsh Government's **Planning and Environment Decisions Wales** after the council failed to determine the application in time; the council's planning committee had voted to oppose it at the July hearing.
- Campaigner **Kevin Williams**, who has fought the scheme since 2023: "*We've definitely been let down... you always try to think the best of people, but when you look at the case and what has happened, clearly the council hasn't done their job the right way. They haven't questioned any of the company's arguments.*" Concerns include agricultural land loss, fire safety, landscape character and biodiversity. The council says it put as strong a case as possible. *(BBC Cymru Fyw, this morning.)*

?? Cardiff Market restoration begins this month

Phase one of the Cardiff Market restoration starts later this month, beginning with repairs to the Victorian glass roof, plus solar panels — about 12 months of work with traders staying open throughout.

- The **Grade II* listed** market opened in **1891**. Work will be carried out inside an acoustically and dust-sealed enclosure to limit disruption. *(Nation.Cymru, today.)*

? Cardiff Bus warns of half-marathon diversions

Cardiff Bus has told passengers to allow extra time on Sunday 4 October — route 6 diverts via Dumballs Road and Bute Street, starting and finishing at Mermaid Quay until 12:45, and route 9 runs a series of diversions all day, including for services to the Sports Village and Heath Hospital. Full details are on the Cardiff Bus app and website.

? Business

?? Admiral to cut 500 UK jobs as it chases £100m of savings

The Cardiff-headquartered insurer will cut about 5% of its UK insurance workforce, saying the changes make it "faster and more efficient".

- **Alistair Hargreaves**, chief executive of Admiral Insurance UK: "*We recognise this will be a difficult time for affected colleagues.*" The company says its use of **AI is not believed to be responsible** for these changes; affected staff will get enhanced redundancy terms and redeployment where possible. Admiral flagged the £100m savings target earlier this year.
- The **Welsh Government** said it was "disappointing to learn that Admiral will be making these redundancies" and would arrange a meeting with the company to understand the reasons and offer support. *(BBC Wales — Huw Thomas, Wales business correspondent, 23 Sep.)*

? Culture & Media

? Radio Cymru's Dros Ginio axed — "a heavy blow to the Welsh language"

S4C News understands the daily Dros Ginio programme is being dropped from Radio Cymru, with Saturday's Dros Frecwast also ending and compulsory redundancies possible at BBC Cymru.

- Dros Ginio replaced *Taro'r Post* in 2019 and is one of the station's main news and current affairs strands. **Cymdeithas yr Iaith** chair **Owain Meirion**: "*This is a heavy blow to public broadcasting in Wales. The opportunities to discuss current affairs are scarce as it is, never mind doing it through the Welsh language.*" BBC Cymru declined to confirm or comment.
- Separately, presenter **John Hardy** has announced he is leaving the BBC after **48 years** — he joined on 5 November 1979, has fronted the weekday 05:30–07:00 show on Radio Cymru since 2013, and presented the archive programme *Cofio* for 19 years until 2025. He leaves in March. *(BBC Cymru Fyw, 23 Sep.)*

? Will.i.am backs the campaign to bring Sir Tom Jones back to The Voice

A petition to reinstate Sir Tom Jones has passed 63,000 signatures — and now has a former co-coach behind it.

- Sir Tom, 86, from **Treforest**, said this month that ITV had "fired" him from the show he has coached on and off since 2012. The petition was started by superfan **Aaron Howlett,**

50, from Hull. Will.i.am shared it on Instagram. ITV thanked Sir Tom for "countless incredible and unforgettable moments". *(BBC Wales, 23 Sep, updated today.)*

? Sir Bryn Terfel ambushes composer Paul Mealor with a top award

Paul Mealor — from Connah's Quay — was waiting in the wings at St Asaph Cathedral when he was called on stage to receive the Sir Bryn Terfel Foundation Gold Wales Care award mid-concert.

- The surprise came at the sold-out opening night of the **North Wales International Music Festival**, ahead of a Q&A between Sir Bryn and **Bishop Gregory Cameron**. *(Nation.Cymru, today.)*

? Twin Town back on the big screen for a 30th-anniversary tour

The Swansea-set cult comedy is touring ten Welsh cinemas in October, with director Kevin Allen doing Q&As after each screening.

- The 1997 film starred real-life brothers **Rhys Ifans** and **Llyr Ifans** as twins waging war on local businessman Bryn Cartwright. *(Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)*

? Bunkhouse owner rebuilds the bar in a day

Swansea venue The Bunkhouse has a new merch stand and a fresh coat of paint after director Jordan McGuire tore out the main room bar himself — documented on social media: "*POV: It's 7.15 on a Monday morning and you've decided to tear down the main room bar... And do it in a day.*" It follows serious roof problems earlier this year that closed the main room bar.

? Wellfest takes over Mumbles this weekend

More than 50 local practitioners, free yoga, sea dips, nature walks and workshops run from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 September in Mumbles. *(Nation.Cymru.)*

? Palestinian, Judeo-Spanish and Welsh traditions meet in west Wales

"Songs We Carry" — Ana Silvera with Palestinian oud virtuoso Saied Silbak, joined by Welsh musician Patrick Rimes and four Sinfonia Cymru players — comes to the Mwldan

arts centre on 9 October.

? Cardiff's Golden BBQ named best takeaway in Wales and the South West

Golden BBQ in Cardiff took the regional title at the Just Eat Awards after more than 114,000 customer votes. Owner **Mustafa Ocak** said it was "a really proud" moment; the shop is also the reigning Best Kebab Shop in Wales. *(Nation.Cymru, 23 Sep.)*

? New documents reveal the fate of the Merthyr Rising's "lost hero"

New evidence has surfaced about Lewis Lewis — "Lewsyn yr Heliwr" — the working-class leader transported to Australia for his part in the 1831 Merthyr Rising.

- Lewsyn was transported in **1832** after the rising, in which collier **Dic Penderyn** was hanged for allegedly stabbing a soldier. A document filed in error under the name **'John'** — the ship he sailed on — has now been found by **Rhodri Johns**, Cwmbran-born and 30 years in Australia, working with **Kempsey Museum** in New South Wales. It shows he died in **Kempsey**, with about **£13 to his name**, having worked as a farm labourer for landowners in the **Macleay River valley**. Johns: "*Economically he was probably in a decent position. He didn't have a lot of money, but enough to suggest he had been working.*" *(BBC Cymru Fyw, this morning.)*

? Nature

? Hen harriers fledge 21 chicks at Welsh reserves

More than 20 chicks from one of Wales' most threatened birds of prey fledged this breeding season — 17 young from five nests at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, plus four more at nearby RSPB Tanrallt.

- Six hen harrier territories were established at Lake Vyrnwy in spring. The RSPB says its upland habitat management — a mosaic that provides nesting cover alongside feeding areas — is what is making the difference. *(Nation.Cymru, today.)*

? Sport

?? Portugal v Wales tonight — Ronaldo starts his 234th cap in Lisbon

Wales open their Nations League Group A4 campaign at the José Alvalade Stadium this evening (Thursday) against a Portugal side whose 41-year-old captain will start.

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** — 42 in February — says he considered ending his international career after the World Cup but still believes he can help Portugal; he had been tipped to make this his farewell. Wales are without **Harry Wilson** (hip), **Nathan Broadhead** and **Karl Darlow**; **David Cornell**, **Joe Taylor** and **Charlie Savage** come into the squad. After Lisbon: Denmark away on **27 September**, then Norway (h) on **1 October** and Denmark (h) on **4 October**.
- **Bellamy on his future:** "*Don't question my commitment to the job.*" The Wales manager says he rejected the chance to move to Burnley in the summer and intends to stay until **Euro 2028** — after coming close to leaving following the World Cup near-miss. Some fans and ex-players were unhappy he considered going, not least after he called the job "the best in the world".
- **Wes Burns** says his Wales career is better second time around after 11 months out with ACL damage; the 31-year-old left Ipswich for Leicester this summer.

?? FAW wants more Wales internationals at the Racecourse

Chief executive Noel Mooney says the FAW wants Wrexham's Y Cae Ras to host more internationals once the new Kop stand is finished — 7,500 seats that will take capacity past 18,000.

- The Racecourse is the oldest international football ground still in use, staging Wales' first home game in 1877 and **95 senior men's internationals**, most recently a 2023 friendly against Gibraltar. It hosted five games at this summer's Under-19s Euros. Mooney, on BBC Radio Wales, said it was "brilliant to see the Cae Ras taking shape". *(BBC Sport Wales, this morning.)*

? FA charges Cardiff's Bielik — but police close their inquiry

The FA has charged Cardiff City defender Krystian Bielik with misconduct over an altercation with Portsmouth fans during the 2-0 defeat at Fratton Park on 5 September.

The FA alleges he "acted in an improper manner around the 71st minute"; he has until **Friday 25 September** to respond. Hampshire Police have concluded their investigation and will take no further action.

? Jordan James: "That ship sailed" on Wrexham

The Wales midfielder, on loan at Wolves from Rennes, says he turned down possible Premier League moves to go there — and that Wrexham talk ended in summer 2025. James: "*I'm glad I went to Leicester, I had such a good season.*" He has scored once in six league appearances, all from the bench.

? All four Welsh regions target the URC play-offs

The new United Rugby Championship season starts with Scarlets v Cardiff in Llanelli on Saturday — the first of five derbies before the international break. Last season Cardiff were the only Welsh side in the top eight; the Scarlets made it in 2025 and the Ospreys in 2024. *(BBC Sport Wales, this morning.)*

?? Weather

Cardiff — Thursday 24 September: sunny intervals and light winds, high **21°C (70°F)**, low **11°C (53°F)**; southerly wind around 6 mph. *(BBC Weather, Cardiff; updated today at 08:58.)*

Day	Forecast	High / Low
Thu 24 Sep	Sunny intervals, light winds	21° / 11°
Fri 25 Sep	Sunny intervals, light winds	21° / 9°
Sat 26 Sep	Sunny intervals, light winds	19° / 10°
Sun 27 Sep	Light rain, gentle breeze	19° / 10°
Mon 28 Sep	Sunny, light winds	19° / 13°
Tue 29 Sep	Thundery showers	—

- **Detail:** today will be dry and settled — sunny in the morning, a few patches of cloud in the afternoon. Tonight stays dry with variable cloud, clear spells and a few patches of mist and fog. **Friday** starts dry and bright before cloud and light rain arrive in the afternoon. **Saturday** is largely dry but breezy; **Sunday** is breezy with light showers moving in from the west; **Monday** turns drier again.
- **No weather warnings are in force for the UK.** *(BBC Weather warnings page, today.)*

? Quick Summary

#	Story	Where	Why it matters
1	**RAF jet crash / Hawk pause**	Anglesey	Hawk T2 down at Pencarnisiog; pilots safe; all Hawk flying paused, Red Arrows included
2	**Admiral to cut 500 UK jobs**	Cardiff	~5% of UK insurance workforce; £100m savings target; government seeking a meeting
3	**Reform Welsh deputy row**	Senedd	Laura Anne Jones says James Evans misled the party over leadership support
4	**Pile-on against Cooper-Lesadd**	Senedd	Reform adviser mocks the Plaid defector's appearance; calls for her to quit her seat
5	**"Impenetrable" spending data**	Senedd	Government agrees to review how expenditure is published after XF73 row
6	**20mph evidence row**	Senedd	91 road deaths last year — but the rise was on 60/70mph roads, not 20mph
7	**400MW battery site approved**	Rhostyllen	Appeal upheld on a 5.5ha site; campaigners say council "sat on its hands"
8	**Cardiff's 4th Welsh-medium school**	Cardiff	Campaigners want the council to buy Callaghan Square land before it is sold
9	**Nofio Ysgol launches**	Wales	20 hours of swimming and water safety for years 4-5; nine councils first
10	**Dros Ginio axed**	Broadcasting	Radio Cymru current-affairs cut called a "heavy blow"; John Hardy leaves after 48 years
11	**Cardiff Market restoration begins**	Cardiff	Grade II* glass roof and solar panels; traders stay open

#	Story	Where	Why it matters
12	**Wales v Portugal tonight**	Lisbon	Ronaldo starts; Bellamy defends his commitment; Wilson and Broadhead out
13	**Chronic migraine dismissed**	Health	Lauren Evans told she was "dramatic" while suicidal with daily migraine
14	**Merthyr hero's fate uncovered**	History	Documents show Lewsyn yr Heliwr died in Kempsey, NSW, with £13 to his name

Method note: compiled in cron mode. SearXNG (:8086) was in garbage mode for all three queries — search-engine listings, WalesOnline section pages and Today's Cover front-page aggregators, with no usable article leads — so the sweep ran through the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090, MarkItDown): 11 index pages plus 44 article/press-release pages, all fetched successfully. The Hermes browser remains unavailable on this host (no Chromium-family binary installed). De-duplicated against yesterday's Welsh file and this morning's UK file: the FM's NHS-waits goalpost row, Jenner's FMQs debut, the leaseholder alarm grant, the roadside-litter consultation, the farmers' slurry extension, Anglesey/Conwy/Gwynedd visitor-levy retreat, Charlotte Church on Ed Sheeran, Derek Brockway and Roy Noble leaving the BBC, the "Pigs Village" name change, the paracetamol-overdose student, the Rhiannon mural, the Menai 101-acre data centre, the Wrexham pub purchase, Dewi Lake and Jac Morgan's move to Gloucester, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Michael Sheen's meeting with the FM (18 Sep) and the Bennet Sister Christmas special (21 Sep) were all dropped or condensed. Checked and excluded on their own dates: the "Airport owner killed in Swiss Alps" story (a West Midlands article surfaced oddly on the Wales index), the Gwynedd tourism tax delay (20 Sep), the Blair Institute EU rejoin report (UK-level). WalesOnline's live blog and the Met Office regional page were walled again, so the forecast is BBC Weather's Cardiff data plus the UK warnings page. Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit steps were skipped — services down.

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