Welsh Headlines — 25 Oct 2026

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Compiled 09:05 GMT, 25 Oct 2026 (clocks went back at 02:00). Sources: BBC Wales/Cymru Fyw/Sport, Nation.Cymru, BBC Weather.

? Top Story: Ten and a half hours on the floor with broken bones

Margaret Owen, 93, lay on the floor of her Abercynon home for ten and a half hours with a fractured femur and shoulder before an ambulance reached her, her son has said. Graham Anthony was alerted by her lifeline alarm at 06:15 on 4 October; an ambulance was requested at 07:35, but a St John Ambulance worker only arrived at 15:30, at the Welsh Ambulance Service's own request, and it was another 90 minutes before an ambulance took her to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. She needed surgery and is still there. "Listening to her repeatedly asking for help and sometimes screaming in pain has left me with a feeling of hopelessness," Anthony said. "It's just not good enough, is it?"

Welsh Ambulance Service chief executive Lee Brooks said he was sorry to hear of her experience. Anthony praised the crew who eventually responded but said it "knocked my confidence in our health service's ability to respond". Margaret has dementia and cannot remember how long she lay there before triggering the alarm. The latest published figures show **10,977 patients waited 12 hours or more for an ambulance in August**, 733 (6.3%) fewer than the previous month.

? Storm Boelo: flood warnings and a wind warning until 21:00

Four flood warnings were issued for south Wales on Saturday — the River Rhondda at Porth, the River Ely at Talbot Green and at Peterston-super-Ely, and the River Towy at Llanwrda —

and Natural Resources Wales still lists warnings at a handful of sites in the south this morning, with dozens of lower-level alerts across the country, from the Severn and Wye in Powys to the Dyfi, Conwy, Teifi and Towy and the south Wales valleys. **A Met Office yellow wind warning still covers parts of north Wales — Pen Llŷn, Bangor, Ynys Môn, Blaenau Ffestiniog and across to Mold — until 21:00 tonight**, with injuries and danger to life possible from flying debris and large coastal waves. Police have dealt with flooding on the A473 at Treforest, in Pontypridd and in Cardiff; buses are replacing several Transport for Wales trains and Rhondda Cynon Taf council has been clearing fallen trees. Thousands of homes lost power at points over the weekend across storms Austen and Boelo, Stena Line has cancelled some Holyhead–Dublin sailings, and Ynys Môn council has paused refurbishment of the old Marine Terminal at Amlwch after the storm damaged a new roof beam. BBC Weather for Cardiff: very windy with sunny spells and the odd shower today, gales on exposed ground, high 13C; winds easing tonight before heavy rain sweeps north-east tomorrow.

?? Wigley: Plaid needs "much more homework" on independence

Former Plaid Cymru leader Dafydd Wigley says the party must do "a great deal more homework" on the implications of independence if it is to persuade people in Wales of the benefits of leaving the UK. Speaking on BBC Radio Cymru's *Gwleidydda* podcast, Lord Wigley said Plaid must prepare for several constitutional outcomes in the coming years, including the possibility that Scotland moves towards a second independence referendum: any major change to the UK's constitution would have "a direct impact on Wales". "People in Wales haven't had the chance so far to come to understand this fully, and that is perhaps a responsibility on us," he said. Plaid says a new National Commission for Wales would give people the chance to consider the options for the nation's future.

? Reform's Aberfan "tribute" video condemned as "shameful"

Reform UK Wales has been widely criticised for a video fronted by its Welsh leader Helen Jenner that opens on Aberfan before pivoting to party policy. The clip, posted on X on 23 October — two days after the 60th anniversary of the disaster that killed 144 people, 116 of them children — moves from remembrance into pitches on mobile phones in schools, prostate cancer and Reform's call to ban face coverings. Villagers including Gerwyn Jones called it disrespectful, and one survivor wrote on X: "The bereaved families and fellow survivors of Aberfan do not need or appreciate the hollow words of remembrance of a political party like Reform who only exist to sow division and hatred." It follows the angry Senedd exchanges of 21 October, when Reform MS Jason O'Connell argued full-face coverings clash with British values and Plaid's Sioned

Williams called it a divisive end to a day of unity in Aberfan.

? Hate crime: 6,157 offences in a year as Jewish communities raise concerns

Police in Wales recorded 6,157 hate crimes between April 2025 and March 2026, including 4,098 motivated by race and 325 by religion, figures highlighted by the Welsh Local Government Association show. At a meeting with WLGA leaders, Jewish representatives from across Wales described routine verbal abuse, anxiety about children in schools and people changing their behaviour to avoid being identified as Jewish in public, and said attacks in Manchester and London had heightened fears here. WLGA leader **Cllr Anthony Hunt** said: "Hate crime has no place in Wales. Everyone should be able to live in their community without fear of abuse, discrimination or violence because of who they are or what they believe."

? Sport

Wales' women opened their WXV campaign with a 17-0 win over Japan in Tokyo, Seren Lockwood scoring two tries and Kelsey Jones the other, though fly-half **Freya Bell was carried off injured** in the second half. The sides meet again next Saturday in Kumagaya. **Ospreys marked their return to St Helen's with a 31-14 bonus-point win over Dragons** in front of 5,592 in dreadful conditions — Reuben Morgan-Williams scoring twice, captain Sam Parry and Ross Moriarty also crossing, plus a penalty try. Dragons had Rhodri Williams, Tinus de Beer and Aneurin Owen sin-binned; Wales were handed a scare when **Rio Dyer did not reappear after half-time** and lock Ben Carter went off with a head injury. **Swansea City were hammered 5-0 at QPR**, their heaviest defeat in Vitor Matos' 11-month reign and their worst league loss since a 7-1 reverse at Hartlepool in April 2002; Matos says he will investigate. Cardiff City beat Birmingham 1-0 after the squad visited the Aberfan memorial garden, Wrexham lost 2-0 at Blackburn, Newport went down 1-0 at Cheltenham and the Scarlets were beaten 52-40 by Stormers in Cape Town despite a Joe Roberts hat-trick. **Jak Jones, the British Open champion, faces Kyren Wilson in today's Northern Ireland Open final** after edging Mark Williams in a deciding frame. And **Jade Mullen**, captain of the Army rugby union side, is playing for Wales at the Women's Rugby League World Cup in Australia having switched codes only in January.

? Mid Wales gets £13.1m for transport

Almost £13.1m has been allocated to transport projects across Ceredigion and Powys for 2027/28, covering road safety, highway improvements, public transport, walking and cycling and EV charging, on top of just over £13m for 2026/27 after the Welsh Government approved the Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan in March. Ceredigion's highways cabinet member **Cllr Shelley**

Childs said it showed the region was "now receiving a fairer allocation of national transport funding"; Powys' **Cllr Jackie Charlton** said it would "turn our regional transport plan into action". A scheme-by-scheme breakdown was not published.

? Housing and poverty

Penmynydd Almshouses on Anglesey — built in 1620 from a £1,000 bequest to house "the poor of good and honest character" — will become affordable homes for young people after lying empty since 2011. Anglesey council has approved converting the Grade II-listed five units into three rental properties designed to let residents save for a deposit. **A single mother in Wales has described her daughter's bed being propped up on books**, one leg gone entirely, as MPs heard this week that the proportion of children in relative poverty in Wales — one in three — has not changed in 20 years. Sarah Ruscoe, who is out of work through ill health and uses a food bank, said "every year seems to be getting worse"; a charity eventually paid for a new bed for Sabrina, 11.

? £3m Welsh trial targets inoperable stomach cancer

Two Swansea oncologists are leading the world's first randomised trial of radiotherapy for inoperable stomach cancer. Dr Sarah Gwynne and Dr Amy Case, based at Singleton Hospital, will run the **GastroSCOPE** study across 28 centres with 558 patients, comparing standard treatment with and without earlier, higher-dose radiotherapy to see whether it delays symptoms such as bleeding, blockage and pain. Funded by Cancer Research UK, it is also the UK's first stomach radiotherapy study. Dr Gwynne said it addresses a question she has asked throughout 14 years as a consultant.

? Roads, justice and community

Residents around Blackmill in the Ogmore Valley are being invited to a public meeting on Wednesday 28 October about replacing the deteriorating A4061 river bridge, restricted to a single lane with temporary lights since March 2025 after engineers found significant cracks. Centregreat Limited has been appointed after a full tender. **A Cardiff mother's campaign for tougher sentences for dangerous drivers reaches Westminster on Wednesday**, when Cardiff West MP **Alex Barros-Curtis** leads a Westminster Hall debate. Sian Morgan's petition, begun after her 15-year-old daughter **Keely Morgan** was killed by a driver in Caerau in May 2023, has passed 11,800 signatures and is cited in the Commons Library briefing. It calls for longer sentences, automatic licence revocation after serious incidents and mandatory reassessment before driving again. **Llamau marked 40 years at an event in the Senedd**, with chief

executive **Sam Austin** urging policymakers to invest in prevention "or risk more people reaching crisis point" in homelessness and domestic abuse services.

? Welsh language: care home pays staff to learn Welsh

A care home in Pentrefoelas is paying staff to learn Welsh on their days off so residents can be cared for in their first language. Bryn yr Eglwys runs two-hour classes on Friday afternoons, paid for by owner **Meryl Welsby**, because 90% of its 30 residents are first-language Welsh speakers who find it easier to express themselves in Welsh — especially when ill, in pain or living with memory problems. The home is among the first to join the Bangor University-led scheme; nurse **Sandhya Dahal**, originally from Nepal, says the course is helping her connect with residents.

? Culture

Great Pottery Throw Down judge Keith Brymer Jones is to marry actor Marj Hogarth in the Grade II-listed chapel they are renovating in Pwllheli, after proposing during their show at Cardiff's New Theatre: "I just thought I ought to really propose to her on Welsh soil." The wedding is planned for May. **Laura Aikman, who played Smithy's ex Sonia in Gavin and Stacey, has revealed she told fellow actor Sarah Hadland about her shock return** in the 2024 Christmas finale — but not her parents, for fear of "ruining everyone's Christmas". **The petition to reinstate Sir Tom Jones on The Voice UK has doubled to almost 80,000 signatures** since the singer said ITV dropped him over insurance costs (it stood at 63,000 when the roundup covered it on 24 September). **A row has broken out in Newport over city-centre footfall claims**: figures for April to July show footfall fell between 0.3% and 6.6% year on year, while the council says a "slight decline" still bucks the national trend.

?? Weather

Very windy and unsettled in Cardiff today with sunny spells and isolated showers, gales on exposed ground, high 13C. Tonight stays partly cloudy and windy before winds ease and rain arrives by dawn. Monday brings heavy rain sweeping north-east, drier later but very windy again, 17C; Tuesday windy with sunny spells; Wednesday mostly cloudy; Thursday sunny intervals; Friday light rain.

? Quick Summary

- A 93-year-old from Abercynon lay on the floor 10.5 hours with a broken femur and shoulder before an ambulance came; 10,977 patients waited 12+ hours in August.
- Four flood warnings in south Wales and a yellow wind warning for north Wales until 21:00 tonight as Storm Boelo clears.
- Dafydd Wigley says Plaid Cymru needs "much more homework" on the implications of independence.
- Reform UK Wales condemned over an Aberfan "tribute" video that pivots to party policy.
- 6,157 hate crimes recorded in Wales in a year; Jewish communities raise fears with council leaders.
- Wales women beat Japan 17-0 in the WXV, but Freya Bell was carried off injured.
- Ospreys beat Dragons 31-14 at St Helen's; Swansea thrashed 5-0 at QPR; Jak Jones into the NI Open final.
- Mid Wales gets £13.1m for transport in 2027/28.
- Penmynydd's 1620 almshouses to become affordable homes for young people after 15 years empty.
- £3m GastroSCOPE trial in Swansea to test radiotherapy for inoperable stomach cancer.

? Method note

Compiled in cron mode at ~09:05 GMT. SearXNG returned a usable index-heavy mix (BBC Wales and Wales Politics, Nation.Cymru, ITV Wales, WalesOnline, senedd.wales) with one article lead, so the sweep ran through the Playwright fetch service: ten index/feed pages (BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru home/news/sport/culture, GOV.WALES main index, Guardian Wales RSS, BBC Weather warnings) and 28 article pages, all successful. The per-file date sweep dropped stale cards: the pylon consultation, the Covid-19 review and the face-coverings debate (all 21-24 Oct and already covered), the Welsh-language fall and the Aberfan anniversary pieces (23 Oct and earlier), and a Nation.Cymru "Plaid criticised for skipping business event" hit that turned out to be from 16 January 2026. GOV.WALES had nothing newer than Friday. De-duplicated against yesterday's Welsh file and this morning's UK file: the storm was carried only as today's fresh developments (flood warnings, the north Wales wind warning, travel and power), and the Sir Tom Jones petition only as a growth figure. Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit skipped as instructed; senedd.wales and WalesOnline bodies remain unusable through the fetcher.

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