

Welsh Headlines — 27 Aug 2026

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? Top Story: Burnham makes first official Wales visit — summit of devolved leaders called

Prime Minister **Andy Burnham** arrived in south Wales on Thursday for his **first official visit to Wales since becoming PM**, announcing he will bring together the leaders of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland at the revived **National Economic Council in October** to drive "good jobs in every community".

The summit announcement was made ahead of the visit, with Downing Street confirming First Minister **Rhun ap Iorwerth**, Scotland's First Minister and Northern Ireland's first and deputy first ministers will meet the PM in the autumn. Speaking in south Wales, Burnham said: "I am in south Wales today because the answers to the UK's challenges will not come from an echo chamber. They will come from the places that know their own strengths, and from a government willing to listen and then act."

He will meet Deputy First Minister **Sioned Williams**, who said the visit was "a positive example of governments working together to improve people's lives". In a Welsh Government statement, Williams pressed the UK Government for a "fair share of the UK government's steel fund", an **energy social tariff** for households facing fuel poverty, and action on standing charges — noting the price cap is rising a further 4% ahead of winter and that "households in Wales face some of the highest energy standing charges in the UK", with rural homes reliant on heating oil. "Wales is an energy-rich nation. People should see that reflected in good jobs, stronger communities and lower bills."

Reform UK's Welsh leader **Dan Thomas** greeted the visit with a barb: Burnham "may well be the last Labour prime minister to come to Wales". Welsh Lib Dem MP **David Chadwick** said Wales

"needs action" if the PM is serious about "easing the burden on Welsh families".

☐ *BBC Wales (David Deans), Welsh Government — 26-27 Aug*

?? Politics & Senedd

Dan Thomas branded a hypocrite over EDI policy he backed as Barnet council leader

Reform UK's leader in Wales **Dan Thomas** has been branded "a hypocrite and an opportunist" after evidence emerged he championed the diversity policies he now opposes. In June 2021, as Conservative leader of **Barnet Council**, Thomas backed an Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion policy, declaring: "The diversity of our borough is something we are immensely proud of and is without question one of our greatest strengths." Reform's Senedd manifesto instead pledges to "End DEI non-jobs", while Nigel Farage has said a Reform UK government would repeal the Equality Act 2010 and has claimed DEI policies "divide children" in schools.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Martin Shipton) — 26 Aug*

Welsh Government to spend £68,000 exhibiting at German arms fair — campaigners cry hypocrisy

The Welsh Government is due to exhibit at **DSEI Germany 2027 in Hannover next March**, with a contract on the Sell2Wales procurement site showing an estimated **£68,170** awarded to trade body ADS Group for its stand. Campaigners in Britain and Germany condemned the move, noting the party that now runs the Welsh Government spent years attacking Labour for attending arms fairs — Plaid Cymru Culture Minister **Heledd Fychan** called DSEI London a "contemptible event" in 2021. The announcement lands as more than **50,000 German school students across 130+ towns** strike against militarisation; organiser **Felix Kreklow Rojas** said it is "deeply disappointing to see the Welsh Government travelling to Germany to promote and profit from the very same military build-up that we are fighting against". Cardiff Stop the War's **Adam Johannes** quoted Transport Minister **Mark Hooper**, who once said "attending an arms fair is indefensible": "He talked a lot of sense." (*New development in the arms-fair row — follows Wednesday's coverage of the Sagar Defence/Farnborough meeting.*)

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Martin Shipton) — 26 Aug*

Reform MS says she was criticised for attending the Eisteddfod "because I'm Reform"

Reform's deputy leader in Wales **Helen Jenner** said online commentators told her she had "no right to be in the Eisteddfod" and called it "a disgrace" that she was "there speaking Welsh" — criticism she branded "laughable" and said does not bother her. On BBC Cymru's *Walescast* podcast, the Anglesey-born former teacher — Reform's education and Welsh language spokesperson — also questioned the Welsh Government's million-Welsh-speakers-by-2050 target, noting numbers fell by 19,000 over the past two years: "What's the point of the target if it's achieving the opposite?"

☐ *BBC Cymru Fyw — 27 Aug (Welsh-language)*

Plaid's 100 days: "governing might be about to get harder" — BBC analysis BBC Wales political editor **Gareth Lewis** argues the real test for Plaid Cymru's minority government is still to come. He notes the much-vaunted 100-day plan was criticised as "process-driven" and "a plan for a plan" from its February launch — with no NHS waiting-list targets and ministers only speaking vaguely of eliminating two-year waits in "months" — and that the government has already lost a supplementary budget vote, with Labour seeking a budget deal. (*Follow-up to yesterday's 100-days coverage.*)

☐ BBC Wales (Gareth Lewis) — 26 Aug

? Economy & Business

Cardiff Airport posts biggest passenger growth of any UK airport Cardiff Airport showed the **biggest percentage growth in passenger numbers of all UK airports** in the second quarter of 2026, up **16%** — with Newcastle and Inverness joint runners-up at 8%. A Welsh Government spokesperson called it "an encouraging sign of growing confidence in the business" and part of the "long-term economic vision for Wales". The figures land shortly after **Vueling** cancelled its planned winter routes from Cardiff to Alicante and Malaga.

☐ Nation.Cymru (Martin Shipton) — 27 Aug

Zero-emission car-sharing clubs expand across Wales The **TrydaNi** electric car-sharing scheme — backed by **£1m** of Welsh Government funding — has grown to **13 car clubs and more than 500 members**, with new clubs launched this year in **Swansea, Penygroes and Abergavenny** and Bangor next. Aberystwyth's club, open since December 2024, has 99 members sharing two electric vehicles. Member Simon LePine said he and his wife have not owned a car for 15 years: "It allows us to use a car when we need it without worrying about parking, insurance, and all of that other stuff." Deputy Transport Minister **Mark Hooper** visited the Aberystwyth club.

☐ Welsh Government / Nation.Cymru — 27 Aug (00:01 release)

Work begins on 143-home Cwmbran estate — seven years after planning approval Work has started on the redevelopment of the former Gwent County Hall site in **Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran** — seven years after planning permission was first granted in 2019, with legal wrangling leaving it "in limbo". Of the 143 homes, **58 will be affordable** (social rent and below market rate), 50 shared ownership and 35 for open-market sale. The site was sold by Torfaen and Monmouthshire councils in 2018 for **£2.9m** and is being developed by the not-for-profit **Codi** group.

☐ Nation.Cymru (Twm Owen, LDR) — 27 Aug

Pwllheli high street "dying fast" — shopkeepers plead for help Pwllheli shopkeepers say the town centre is "dying very fast", with **29 empty units** — 12.1% of commercial properties, up since May 2025. **Elfyn Jones**, who has run lighting shop Goleuo for 32 years, said: "I can't see us surviving next year" without urgent government and council support. Third-generation shopkeeper

Dafydd Jones closed family shop Glanaber in July after more than a century in the family: "If it carries on like it is now, only five or six shops will be left." The Welsh Government says it provides over **£100m** of small business rates relief annually; Gwynedd Council points to its Creu Lleoedd placemaking plan.

☐ *BBC Cymru Fyw (Sion Tootill) — 27 Aug (Welsh-language)*

? Health

Breath test for "deadliest" cancer trialled in Wrexham A 30-second breath test that could detect **pancreatic cancer** — the deadliest common cancer, with half of patients dying within three months of diagnosis — is being trialled at **Wrexham Maelor Hospital** as part of a UK-wide study of more than 6,000 patients. About 530 people are diagnosed with the disease in Wales each year. Pancreatic Cancer UK, which invested over **£1.1m** in the Imperial College London-developed test, called it "the most significant step toward a lifesaving-breakthrough in 50 years". Louise Dale, from Gresford, whose mum Carol Purchase died aged 69 within 12 weeks of diagnosis, said her mother was "taken so quickly".

☐ *BBC Wales (Sarah Easedale) — 26 Aug*

Emergency asthma admissions quadruple as children return to school Emergency hospital admissions for children with asthma in Wales quadruple when pupils go back after the summer: an average of **96 admissions in September vs 24 in August** (+304%) for five-to-16-year-olds across 2023-25. With more than 40,000 children in Wales living with asthma, **Asthma + Lung UK Cymru** urged vigilance over triggers including viruses, colds and dust — and slipping preventer-inhaler routines over the holidays. Wales' Chief Medical Officer **Prof Isabel Oliver** said: "The best way to protect children with asthma is to prevent an attack before it happens."

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Mark Mansfield) — 27 Aug*

"Nobody wants to see a pregnant person" — tribunal finds claim well-founded but out of time Sales manager **Jessica Morgan** was discriminated against when her boss at Swansea wood-panelling firm **Panelex Wood, Frederick Geraint Hawkes**, allegedly "sniggered" and told her "nobody wants to see a pregnant person" after she offered to lead a client presentation. The employment tribunal at Swansea found her pregnancy and maternity discrimination claim "well-founded" but dismissed it because of the time taken to bring it; a separate victimisation claim succeeded. She joined the firm in Fforestfach in 2020 on a **£40,000-a-year** salary.

☐ *BBC Wales (Adam Hale & Sara Dafydd) — 26 Aug*

? Crime & Justice

Off-roaders convicted after TikTok videos showed damage to protected Denbighshire site Three men have been convicted after videos posted to TikTok showed them using off-road vehicles to cause "irreversible" harm to the **Berwyn Site of Special Scientific Interest** in Denbighshire. **John Robinson** and **Michael Williams** were fined more than £2,000 each and disqualified from driving for two months; **Joseph Hodgson** was found guilty of criminal damage in his absence. The court heard seven 4x4s travelled from Liverpool to the Moel Fferna peak on 1 June 2025, leaving "huge tyre marks and damage" in rare peat and blanket bog habitats, with a gate lock broken and signs torn down. NRW's Kirsty Roberts said SSSIs "support the UK's most important and fragile wildlife".

📺 *BBC Wales (Oliver Slow) — 26 Aug*

Man admits punching former boxing world champion Joe Cordina **Jamie O'Brien, 33**, of Pentwyn pleaded guilty to assaulting former world champion **Joe Cordina** by beating at a Texaco garage in Pentwyn in February. He was given a conditional discharge with £85 costs and a £26 surcharge after the court heard he was in a "mental health crisis" at the time and was later detained under the Mental Health Act. Cordina denies two charges of assaulting O'Brien and faces trial at Cardiff Magistrates' Court in October.

📺 *BBC Wales (Holly Harrison) — 26 Aug*

Animal beatings reported to RSPCA Cymru up 61% in five years New RSPCA Cymru figures show reported animal beatings in Wales rose **61% in five years — 840 incidents in 2025 vs 523 in 2021**. Swansea (92), Cardiff (74), Newport and Neath Port Talbot (59 each) had the most reports; 21 of 22 local authorities saw increases, led by Ceredigion (+200%) and Anglesey (+156%). Across England and Wales, 16,033 beatings were reported in 2025 — up 90% since 2021, roughly one report every 15 minutes. The charity says violence is often perpetrated by someone in the pet's own family.

📺 *Nation.Cymru — 27 Aug*

? Culture & Community

"There will only be one Tim Curry", says Luke Evans Welsh Hollywood star **Luke Evans** paid tribute to **Tim Curry**, who has died aged 80, sharing the letter he wrote to Curry "with only three weeks left before I finally hang up the fishnets and heels" at the end of his Broadway run as Frank-N-Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show*: "There is, and always will be, only one Tim Curry... Being compared to you has been one of the greatest compliments I've ever received."

📺 *BBC Wales (Danielle Herbert) — 26 Aug*

Facebook seller "mis-sold me a horse that kicked my daughter in the head" A mother — identified only as Fiona — has told the BBC she bought a horse via Facebook marketed as a "teenager's dream" that bucked and bolted before kicking her **13-year-old daughter in the head** at a riding arena in south Wales; the teenager was hospitalised with concussion and spent

about two weeks recovering. Fiona is one of **five women** who told the BBC they were mis-sold unsafe or sick horses by seller **Tasha Lee Hopkins**, who has been contacted for comment. "You could see on the side of her helmet, the hoofmark where she got kicked in the head."

☐ *BBC Wales (Lily Hewitson) — 26 Aug, updated 27 Aug*

Welsh singing star's emotional return to care home where mum spent final years **Alun Roberts**, one half of country duo **John ac Alun**, made an emotional return to sing at **Bryn Seiont Newydd** care home in Caernarfon, where his mother — who had dementia — spent her final years. "Dementia is a very cruel disease... the staff here succeeded remarkably to make it as comfortable as possible for everyone." Residents enjoyed a beach-themed summer fun day with beach balls, cowboy hats and ice cream.

☐ *Nation.Cymru — 27 Aug*

? Sport

Cardiff seal Bielik; Swansea close in on Eustaquio; Rodon signs Leeds deal

- **Cardiff City** completed the permanent signing of centre-half **Krystian Bielik** from West Brom on a three-year deal — their fourth senior summer recruit after Nathan Trott, Jack Moylan and Calum Scanlon. (*BBC Sport — 26 Aug*)
- **Swansea City** agreed a deal with Porto for Canada midfielder **Stephen Eustaquio**, 29, who captained his country for much of this year's World Cup and scored the winner against South Africa in the round of 32; he is in Wales to finalise the move. (*BBC Sport — 25-26 Aug*)
- **Joe Rodon** committed his future to Leeds United with a new four-year deal. (*Herald.Wales — 26 Aug*)
- **Wrexham** close in on deals for Ekomie and Kabore as the window enters its final days. (*BBC — 26 Aug*)

?? Weather & Environment

- **Thunderstorm warnings:** two-day yellow warnings cover large parts of Wales, with more than 75mm of rain possible in places and a flood risk; a separate warning covers North Wales. (*BBC / Herald.Wales*)
- **Wildfires:** seven fires are still being battled across Wales as the hot, dry spell continues. (*WalesOnline*)
- **Sky tonight:** the partial lunar eclipse arrives in the early hours of Friday — details covered in yesterday's roundup (max ~93% at about 5:12am).

? Quick Summary

Section	Key story
Top Story	Burnham's first Wales visit as PM; NEC summit of devolved leaders in October
Politics	Dan Thomas EDI hypocrisy; £68k DSEI Germany arms-fair row; Reform MS on Eisteddfod criticism
Economy	Cardiff Airport UK's fastest-growing; TrydaNi car clubs expand; Cwmbran estate; Pwllheli high street
Health	Pancreatic cancer breath test in Wrexham; asthma admissions quadruple at school return; pregnancy tribunal
Crime	Berwyn SSSI off-roaders convicted; Cordina punch admission; animal beatings up 61%
Culture	Luke Evans on Tim Curry; horse mis-selling warnings; John ac Alun care-home return
Sport	Bielik signs for Cardiff; Eustaquio close at Swansea; Rodon stays at Leeds
Weather	Two-day thunderstorm warnings; wildfires ongoing

Compiled 27 Aug 2026 by Emrys (Hermes cron) · Sources: BBC Wales, BBC Sport Wales, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru, Welsh Government (GOV.WALES), RSPCA Cymru, PA. SearXNG returned a partial mix (GOV.WALES 00:01 release usable; queries 2-3 garbage mode); all articles fetched via the Playwright-fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090). Skipped as repeats/covered: Plaid 100-days main coverage (26-08), Sagar Defence arms fair (25-08), Au Vodka sale (25-08), Buried toxic waste follow-up (26-08), lunar eclipse preview (26-08), Reform AI refugee post row (26-08), Dolly Parton tribute + GCSE pass + Bonnie Tyler (UK 27-08 file).

Revision #2
Created 2026-08-27 08:17:14 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-08-27 08:17:15 UTC by Admin