Welsh Headlines — 28 Sep 2026

??????? Welsh News Headlines — 28 September 2026

Compiled 09:05 BST, Monday 28 September 2026 • Sources: BBC Wales and BBC Wales Politics indexes, BBC News articles, BBC Sport Wales, BBC Cymru Fyw, Nation.Cymru (news / sport / culture / feature), GOV.WALES, BBC Weather (Playwright fetch service). Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit skipped — services down.

? Top Story: UK–Wales relations flare ahead of the Budget — Kinnock accuses Plaid of "stalling" as Elin Jones demands £1bn rail cash

Welsh Secretary **Stephen Kinnock** used Labour's conference in Liverpool to accuse Wales' Plaid Cymru government of "stalling" on investment, telling delegates: "Stop sitting on your hands, get energy infrastructure through planning, allow broadband upgrades for thousands of homes, stay true to your commitments on our £50m defence growth deal." He said he wanted to "reach out" to Plaid because deals were already underway in England, and warned Wales risked becoming "the most centralised nation in the UK" as England's regional mayors and councils gain powers under a UK devolution programme. "The Welsh people deserve similar levels of control over decisions as people across the border," he said. Kinnock also told *Politics Wales* the UK government would give "careful consideration" to Welsh proposals for further powers, but suggested transferring policing could jeopardise cross-border cooperation between forces.

Plaid hit back in a separate row over the tone of the speech. Kinnock also claimed Plaid and Reform UK offer Wales the "same poison", accusing Plaid of "separatism" and Reform of "plastic patriotism, funded by crypto billionaires, egged on by foreign powers waging war on Europe and on our values" — adding: "Wales is a nation of dragons. We are not Putin's parrots."

Plaid's Westminster leader **Liz Saville Roberts** responded that Labour should examine why it lost so much support in May's Senedd election rather than "throwing insults" at those who switched. Labour won 11.1% of the vote and nine of 96 seats; Plaid took 35.4% and 43 seats, Reform 29.3% and 34.

Demands on the Budget. Finance Minister **Elin Jones** has written to Chancellor **John Healey** ahead of his first Budget on **28 October**, calling for **£1bn** of the UK Government's promised **£14bn** long-term rail programme for Wales to be brought forward. Just **£302m** is currently allocated in the Spending Review period to 2029-30 — around **1% of Network Rail's spending across England and Wales**. "Right now, just 1% of Network Rail's spending across England and Wales is going towards our railways. That's not good enough," she said. She also wants Local Housing Allowance unfrozen, the Welsh Government's child payment **Cynnal** protected from tax and benefit deductions, and real-terms cuts to Wales' day-to-day and capital budgets reversed. The Welsh Government published both the rail call and a farming paperwork change as 23:00 releases on Sunday. (BBC Wales — Shelley Phelps / Nation.Cymru / GOV.WALES)

?? Senedd & Politics

?? Ken Skates: rebuilding Welsh Labour is "a marathon not a sprint"

Welsh Labour leader **Ken Skates** gave his first party conference speech in Liverpool on Sunday, saying beforehand that rebuilding the party would be "a marathon not a sprint" and that there were reasons to be "optimistic" ahead of next May's local elections, when all 22 Welsh councils go to the polls. Labour governed Wales from 1999 until May, when it came third with nine seats in the enlarged Senedd. In 2022 the party won 43% of seats available and took overall control of eight councils — a baseline Skates accepted might not be repeated: "No, I don't accept [that going backwards is] inevitable." Privately, senior figures at the party's Cardiff headquarters accept it could take "years" to win back lost support. (BBC Wales — Cemlyn Davies)

? Analysis: the challenge facing Wales' first minister after the Aberystwyth rally

BBC Wales political editor **Nick Servini** writes that Conservative MS **Andrew RT Davies**' jibe — "instead of marching in Aberystwyth he'd be better off behind his desk in Cathays Park sorting the problems he said he would sort out" — sums up the attack line **Rhun ap Iorwerth** now faces. The first minister joined a Yes Cymru independence march for the first time, a fortnight after appearing in Cardiff with Sinn Féin's Michelle O'Neill and the SNP's John Swinney, and told the BBC the "next step" for Wales has to be "equality with Scotland, as a minimum". Servini's assessment: it is now clear this is a first minister unafraid to campaign for independence when given the chance, but

what is unknown is how often he will do it and whether it costs him the day job — "the next four years are not about independence", and he will be judged on health, education and public services. (BBC Wales — Nick Servini, Politics Wales)

? Money, Councils & Housing

? Council spends £4m buying 20 homes to tackle homelessness

Neath Port Talbot Council has bought **20 properties** under a three-year, £4m property purchase project approved in 2025, using open-market acquisitions to support rapid re-housing. Welsh Government data showed **394 homeless individuals** temporarily accommodated across the county as of July 2026. Ten of the homes are in use as shared interim accommodation, eight are undergoing works, one houses a family as settled accommodation and one is ready to use. The council says the move has helped **27 people** who would otherwise have needed hotel or bed-and-breakfast placement, and that a kitchen and laundry access make a "significant practical difference". The first clients moved in during April 2026. (Nation.Cymru — LDR, Lewis Smith)

? £17,000 for a house with no roof — the 400-year-old Llanberis ruin going to auction

The "ruined shell" of **Ty Du** near Llanberis, Gwynedd, is listed with a guide price of **£17,000** — but has no roof, having walls intact only to eaves level. Dating from the 13th Century and rebuilt in the 17th, the house lies in the wooded foothills of Yr Wyddfa and comes with two ruined cottages, a smithy and an old shop; the owners on Anglesey have preserved the A-frame roof timbers. Past residents include north Wales' strongest man, the poet Dewi Arfon and **Godfrey Goodman**, Bishop of Gloucester, who lived there after being banished by Oliver Cromwell. Auctioneers say you can walk from the door to the summit of Yr Wyddfa without crossing a public road. (BBC Wales — Paul Pigott / BBC Cymru Fyw)

? Health & Public Services

? Rural west Wales faces "hidden" health inequalities, board's report warns

Hywel Dda University Health Board's annual public health report says distance, limited public transport and poor digital connectivity contribute directly to health inequalities across

Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. The board covers a quarter of Wales' landmass and is the second most sparsely populated in the country; **69 of its 235 local areas** fall in the most deprived 10% for access to services, even though few communities are among Wales' most deprived overall. The report argues conventional deprivation measures overlook disadvantage dispersed across rural areas and says access itself should be treated as a health inequality, factoring in travel times, transport costs, digital connectivity and Welsh-language needs. People aged 65 and over are around **26%** of the population, projected to reach **34% by 2047** against 29% for Wales. (Nation.Cymru)

? Transport & Environment

? A40 speed limits could be cut from 60mph to 40mph at Crickhowell

Sections of the **A40** either side of Crickhowell could drop from **60mph to 40mph** as "buffer zones" approaching the town's existing 20mph limit, following a Welsh Government review of 20mph and 30mph limits on the trunk road network. Ministers say they are "considering introducing buffer speed limits in some areas" to help drivers slow gradually, plus engineering measures such as crossings, pavements and better signage, with each road section assessed individually. Powys councillor **Claire Hall** (Crickhowell with Cwmdu and Tretower) has been given **14 days** to give the government feedback and has asked residents for their views; the 20mph limit itself is not changing. (Nation.Cymru)

? Heart of Wales Line closes for five days from today

The Heart of Wales Line between **Craven Arms and Llandrindod Wells** closes from 7am today (Monday 28 September) until 7pm on Friday 2 October for track timbers, sleeper renewals and tunnel surveys at Bucknell, Knucklas, Llangynllo, Penybont and Llandrindod Wells. Transport for Wales will run rail replacement express buses and minibuses between Shrewsbury and Llandrindod Wells; trains continue between Swansea and Llandrindod Wells. Network Rail says the work maintains safety and reliability and supports the route's long-term future. (Nation.Cymru)

? Tourism tax "needs to be more flexible", expert warns as councils stall

Anglesey council has rejected introducing the visitor levy for now and **Gwynedd and Conwy both postponed** decisions, leaving the Welsh Government's tourism tax in limbo before it can be charged from 2027. Under the legislation councils can set a nightly charge — **75p + VAT** per

person per night for hostels, shared rooms and tent pitches, **£1.30 + VAT** for most other accommodation, applying to adults and children. Dr **Linda Osti** of Bangor University says the one-size-fits-all, county-level approach is wrong: "Geographically, if we think about Gwynedd... we cannot have the same levy on Eryri or Porthmadog." She also points to "mistrust" among tourism businesses over how councils would spend the money. The Welsh Government says the law deliberately allows local decisions. (BBC Wales — Anna Lewis)

? Why more councils are moving to 20mph — and what Wales did first

The BBC looks at the growing 20mph rollout across the UK, noting **Wales introduced a default 20mph limit on most restricted roads in September 2023** and Edinburgh became Scotland's first city-wide 20mph network, while more than 30% of urban roads in Great Britain now carry the restriction. Birmingham plans 20mph on all non-A roads, Coventry is considering a broader approach and Leicestershire is consulting. Supporters cite University of the West of England research showing average speeds fell **2.7mph** in Bristol after limits were introduced, and Welsh Government reporting of reduced vehicle speeds in Wales; critics say journey times rise and businesses bear costs. (BBC News — Oprah Flash)

? Farming & Rural

? Less paperwork for Welsh farmers under Sustainable Farming Scheme

Farmers who are members of the **Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL)** scheme will no longer need to complete separate Animal Health Improvement Cycle "Measure" and "Plan" requirements for the 2026 Sustainable Farming Scheme, under an agreement between the Welsh Government and Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers. FAWL members will declare their membership on the SFS Universal Dashboard as confirmation that the requirements have been met; all other Universal Action 12 duties, including animal welfare proficiency, scoring and the Incoming Animal Biosecurity Assessment, still apply by the end of December. The agreement also sets up integration of animal health and welfare requirements into the FAWL annual review from 2027. "This agreement will reduce duplication for farmers while maintaining the high standards of animal health and welfare we expect," said Cabinet Minister **Llyr Gruffydd**. (GOV.WALES / Nation.Cymru)

? Heritage, Culture & Media

? "Deep disappointment": National Slate Museum closure extended by up to 18 months

Amgueddfa Lechi Cymru in Llanberis — closed since November 2024 for a **£21m** refurbishment and redevelopment — is now aiming to reopen in **spring 2028**, up to a year and a half later than the original end-2026/early-2027 target. BBC Cymru Fyw reports the delay has left local businesses fearing for their survival, with some reporting turnover down as much as **50%** since works began. "Last year we thought there was just one more summer left and we were trying to be positive," said **Rebecca Colley-Jones**, owner of Ropeworks Active. "But now it's going to be another summer and there's a possibility the business won't be here in two years if things continue like this." Amgueddfa Cymru says the scale of repairs often only becomes clear once builders are on site; the project promises a new café, exhibition space and learning centre alongside improved buildings. (BBC Cymru Fyw — Bryn Jones, Welsh-language)

? Fifty years on — when Hollywood came to Fishguard for Moby Dick

Fishguard was one of the locations for John Huston's *Moby Dick*, released **70 years ago in 1956** and at the time one of Hollywood's most expensive films at about $4m. **Gregory Peck** starred as Captain Ahab; the 19th-Century Nantucket whaling ship *Pequod* was filmed at sea off the Pembrokeshire town, and the town itself was later transformed into Dylan Thomas's Llareggub for the 1971 film of *Under Milk Wood*. Local **Gareth Rees**, then 16, remembers "a buzz" in the area: his wife's mother ran a bed and breakfast whose guests arrived with "a Rolls [Royce] and two Bentleys parked outside". Rees's Sea Cadet crew raced a team of Hollywood stars in the harbour — and won, with Peck as coxswain of the opposition. (BBC Wales — Sara Dafydd)

? Grace Williams festival to mark the composer's Barry roots

A festival celebrating **Grace Williams**, born in Barry in 1906 and regarded as one of the leading Welsh composers of the 20th century, will be held in her home town in **February 2027**, with concerts, recitals, talks, heritage walks, art workshops and film screenings; its website has launched ahead of the event. Williams won the Morfydd Owen scholarship to study at what is now Cardiff University in 1923, studied at the Royal College of Music under Ralph Vaughan Williams, and later in Vienna. She returned to Barry in 1945 and in 1949 became the first British woman to compose the score for a feature film. (Nation.Cymru)

?? Rare Welsh treasures head to London in a touring exhibition

The William Morris Gallery's **Earthly Paradise: Radical Living in the UK** — part of Art Fund's £5.36m Going Places touring programme — includes Welsh material such as images of the **Ladies of Llangollen**, Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby, who left Ireland in 1778 to set up home together in north Wales. The exhibition spans two centuries of people and communities who defied convention, and considers how money and class shaped access to those spaces. (Nation.Cymru — Norena Shopland)

? Community

? "It's going to break my heart" — Wales' only SEND holiday caravans face replacement

Niaomi Flewers, 39, set up the **Sen-Den** caravans at Trecco Bay Holiday Park in Porthcawl after struggling to find holidays that worked for her own family — four of her six children are neurodivergent. Park rules limit individual caravans to a maximum of **15 years**, so one has two years left and the other three, and Flewers estimates she needs around **£60,000** to replace them. Adaptations include locked doors, alarmed windows, sensory equipment, padded safe beds and indoor sensory areas. Park officials say they are aware of the positive impact and would like it to continue, but the replacement policy applies to all 2,000 caravan owners on site. Families say there is no alternative: Sen-Den is believed to be the only specialist SEND holiday caravan provision in Wales. (BBC Wales — Anaba Khan)

?? Caerleon shop says it was barred from returning "because it opposed tree felling"

Spirit of Awen, a crystal and spiritual gift shop run by practising druid **Alun Evans** and his wife Grace, says the new owner of **Ffwrwm Caerleon** has told it that it will not be invited back to its former home, after it objected to plans to fell trees in the walled garden. Traders were moved out for a six-month refurbishment in May 2026, with the move described as temporary. The felling — a willow, yew, Scots pine and two rowans in the Caerleon Conservation Area — drew more than 100 comments and a July protest, with campaigners claiming only the willow was diseased, dying or dangerous; the owner, Highmore Investments Ltd, said the works were "necessary, proportionate, and in the interest of public safety". Evans told the *South Wales Argus*: "We're hoping to save the trees because people like to sit under them, to read, and to study here." (Nation.Cymru)

? Cardigan Bay marine wildlife centre marks 30 years

The **Cardigan Bay Marine Wildlife Centre** in New Quay, run by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, is marking **30 years** of research on the bay's dolphins, porpoises and seals — home to the UK's largest population of bottlenose dolphins. Founder **Steve Hartley** set it up in 1996 after decades at sea because "people just didn't seem to realise what amazing wildlife was in Cardigan Bay"; the centre joined the Wildlife Trust in 2015 and opens to the public from April to October. (Nation.Cymru)

? "Own the Night" returns to make winter running safer for women

Welsh Athletics relaunches its **Own the Night** campaign on **1 October**, encouraging women to keep running through the darker months and calling on others to help them feel safer. Research it cites found almost three-quarters of women change their exercise habits in winter — This Girl Can data shows 24% stick to well-lit routes, 23% avoid certain areas and 20% look behind them to check nobody is following — while Our Streets research found **93%** of respondents had experienced some form of public sexual harassment while running. This year's theme, **Be the Light**, includes three workshops with Lead The Change Wales on allyship. The campaign won Most Influential Campaign at the 2026 WSA Sports Industry Awards. (Nation.Cymru)

? Sport

? Denmark 2-0 Wales — winless in 2026 and bottom of Group A4

Wales slumped to a **second successive Nations League defeat** in Copenhagen, conceding a **Ben Davies own goal** and a **Gustav Isaksen** strike, and are bottom of Group A4 without a point or a goal after also losing 1-0 to Portugal on Thursday. **Craig Bellamy** made six changes for the short turnaround, with Reading midfielder **Charlie Savage** — son of former Wales international Robbie — handed a surprise start despite not being in the initial 28-man squad, and Daniel James, Kieffer Moore and Sorba Thomas forming a reshaped frontline. "I'm really hurting. When you see an athletic team run over you a little bit… but then, will we improve? I think we will," said Bellamy, who has now gone five matches in 2026 without a win. Wales missed a late chance through **Lewis Koumas** to reduce the deficit. (Nation.Cymru / BBC Sport — Phil Blanche, PA / Ian Mitchelmore)

? Adam Jones tackles the Cardiff Half after losing five stone

Former Wales and Lions prop **Adam Jones**, 45, will run the **Cardiff Half Marathon on Sunday 4 October** — the same day as the race's 23rd edition — having lost more than **five stone (32kg)**. A

three-time Grand Slam winner with 100 international appearances, Jones admits he was known for his scrummaging rather than his running, and says the challenge is about taking himself "out of his comfort zone". He now coaches the scrum at Harlequins. (BBC Sport Wales — Gareth Griffiths)

? Glamorgan secure best-ever Championship finish

Glamorgan finished **sixth in Division One** — their best finish in the top flight and the first time they have played successive seasons there since 2001 and 2005. Captain **Kiran Carlson**, the county's leading Championship run-scorer with 942 at 37, said the side "would have bitten your hand off" for that at the start of the year. A rain-hit draw with Essex ended the campaign, after heavy innings defeats by Somerset and Warwickshire in early September had briefly raised relegation fears. (BBC Sport Wales — Nick Webb)

? Charlotte Henrich sets her sights on LA 2028

Charlotte Henrich, 20, has gone from European Under-20 gold to Welsh record holder, a European Championship and Ultimate Championship silver medallist and a Commonwealth Games finalist in a single debut senior season, and now wants the **2028 Los Angeles Olympics**. "I don't think I ever let myself dream that I could be there, and now it feels like a real possibility," the 400m runner told BBC Sport. (BBC Sport Wales — Luke Hemmings)

? Warburton retains WBA Continental title

Gerome Warburton, 31, retained his WBA Continental Middleweight title with a unanimous points win over **Nathan Heaney** in Birmingham — repeating his March upset of the Stoke fighter. Heaney, 37, had signalled he would retire after the bout; he ends with 19 wins from 23 professional fights. (BBC Sport)

? Wrexham go top as TNS strike late

TNS scored late to win while **Wrexham** moved to the top of the table in Sunday's Cymru Premier and Welsh football action. (BBC Sport)

?? Weather

No weather warnings are in force for the UK. BBC Weather for Cardiff, updated 08:58 this morning: today is **sunny intervals and light winds**, high **19°C**, low **10°C**, easterly winds around 5mph. **Tuesday** turns much warmer but wet and breezy — light rain and a moderate easterly breeze, high **23°C**, low 17°C. **Wednesday** brings light rain showers and a moderate southerly

breeze, high 21°C, and **Thursday** stays unsettled. (BBC Weather)

? Quick Summary

- **UK–Wales politics** — Welsh Secretary Stephen Kinnock accuses Plaid Cymru of "stalling" on investment and says it offers the "same poison" as Reform; Plaid's Liz Saville Roberts tells him to reflect on why voters switched. Finance Minister Elin Jones demands **£1bn** of the **£14bn** rail commitment be brought forward before the 28 October Budget.
- **Senedd** — Ken Skates gives his first conference speech as Welsh Labour leader, calling the rebuild "a marathon not a sprint"; Nick Servini analyses the political cost of Rhun ap Iorwerth's independence campaigning.
- **Farming** — FAWL members freed from duplicate Animal Health Improvement Cycle paperwork in the 2026 Sustainable Farming Scheme.
- **Heritage** — the National Slate Museum's reopening slips to spring 2028, leaving Llanberis traders some reporting turnover down 50%; Fishguard marks 70 years since Moby Dick; a Grace Williams festival is set for Barry in February 2027.
- **Councils & housing** — Neath Port Talbot buys 20 homes with £4m for homeless accommodation; a roofless 400-year-old house near Llanberis goes to auction at £17,000.
- **Transport** — the A40 at Crickhowell may drop from 60mph to 40mph in buffer zones; the Heart of Wales Line closes for five days from today; Anglesey, Gwynedd and Conwy stall on the tourism tax.
- **Health** — Hywel Dda warns of "hidden" rural health inequalities, with 69 of 235 local areas in the worst 10% for access to services.
- **Sport** — Wales lose 2-0 in Denmark and are winless in 2026; Adam Jones runs the Cardiff Half after losing five stone; Glamorgan record their best-ever Championship finish; Charlotte Henrich targets LA 2028.
- **Weather** — no UK warnings; Cardiff sunny intervals 19°C today, wet and breezy 23°C tomorrow.

Method note: compiled in cron mode. SearXNG (:8086) was in mixed mode — the WalesOnline live-blog URL, BBC programme and schedule pages and senedd.wales sat alongside German and Chinese-language noise — but it did surface two usable leads (the Monday live-blog URL and the fresh GOV.WALES rail release) which were cherry-picked. All content came from the Playwright fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090, MarkItDown): 15 index pages plus 59 article pages in three batches at a 100% success rate. GOV.WALES's main index carried two fresh 23:00 Sunday releases (the £1bn rail call and the SFA/FAWL farming announcement); its FM-tagged index remains stale (newest 21 September). The Guardian's Wales RSS feed had nothing newer than 27 September and no Wales-specific story, so it contributed no items. WalesOnline article pages and its Monday live blog remain cookie-walled through the service; senedd.wales returns only its cookie shell. The Hermes browser remains unavailable on this host (no Chromium-family binary). De-duplicated against yesterday's Welsh file and this morning's UK file: the Aberystwyth independence rally, Ken Skates' devolution speech, the Wrexham contaminated-land motion, Ryan Reynolds' Wrexham pub, the 101-acre Menai data centre, Katherine Jenkins, the £10,000-a-month lottery win, Owain Wyn Evans' Children in Need ride, the 150-faults snagging story, the Huw Antur tributes, the gender-service reprimand, the Cardiff derby, the Wales women's WXV defeat and the Fury–Joshua doubt

were all dropped or condensed to one line. Checked and excluded on their own publication dates: the Dyfed-Powys police cyber-attack (25 September), the OED Welsh-words story (23 September), the RAF Anglesey crash analysis (23 September), the Reform deputy-leader row and Green Party leader's diagnosis (both 23–24 September), the PCB blood-testing feature (24 September), the Netball World Cup qualification failure (26 September), the Aberdare chapel auction (26 September), the Stiwt centenary and mushroom plaque features (25 September), the Wrexham football museum (25 September) and the Moby Dick/Mary Wynne pieces' older siblings.

Revision #2
Created 2026-09-29 08:41:26 UTC by Admin
Updated 2026-09-29 08:41:27 UTC by Admin