

Welsh Headlines — 31 Aug 2026

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? Top Story: Welsh photographer sues American artist over £1.4m Oasis painting

A Caernarfon-born photographer is suing a renowned American artist over a **£1.4m painting of Oasis stars Liam and Noel Gallagher** which he claims copied one of his photographs. The image — Liam planting a kiss on Noel's cheek at a 1995 party, an iconic shot among Oasis fans and the cover of Justin Thomas' photobook *How Does It Feel? - Oasis 1995/2002* — was captured by **Justin Thomas**, who has shot Mick Jagger, Blondie, the Manic Street Preachers and the Stone Roses. Thomas has filed a federal lawsuit in the Southern District of New York against **Elizabeth Peyton**, whose painting *Earl's Court (Liam + Noel)*, completed in 1996, sold through Sotheby's New York in May for **\$1.92m (£1.42m)**. The suit also names Peyton's gallery, David Zwirner, and Sotheby's. According to Artnet, Thomas had no knowledge of the painting until Sotheby's asked to use his photo in auction materials — then told him it was being removed at the request of Peyton's representative, which his complaint alleges was intended to conceal the photograph as the painting's source. Thomas' lawyer calls the painting a "slavish copy"; commentators are split on whether the composition, expressions and even the position of Liam's ring cross the copyright line, or whether it is legitimate artistic transformation in the Warhol tradition. It is not Peyton's first such dispute — photographer Dennis Morris challenged her use of his John Lydon and Sid Vicious images in 2014.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (31 Aug) — via Artnet*

?? Politics & Senedd

Jeremy Miles: "No" to any return to politics Former Welsh health minister **Jeremy Miles** has said he has no intention of returning to politics. Speaking on BBC Radio Cymru's *Dros Ginio*, the ex-Labour MS — now chief executive of the **Youth Endowment Fund** (YEF), the joint Impetus/Home Office body researching how to reduce violence among young people — was asked if he would ever go back into politics. His answer: "Na" (no). Miles, who was in the race to succeed Mark Drakeford in 2024 before Vaughan Gething won, announced in September 2025 he would not stand in May's Senedd election, saying he was "looking for a new and different challenge". On his new role he said: "When you finish being a minister it's hard to think what you can do next... The fund's function is to develop the evidence of what genuinely helps prevent violence, and make sure that knowledge doesn't just sit in reports gathering dust on shelves."

☐ *BBC Cymru Fyw (30 Aug)*

YesCymru confirms Aberystwyth as starting point for 11th independence march

YesCymru's next March for Independence — the **eleventh** since 2019 — will take place on **Saturday 26 September**, starting at **Castle Gardens in Aberystwyth at 1pm**, with the route through the town centre and along the promenade before returning for a rally. Organisers point to the site's history: Aberystwyth Castle was captured by Owain Glyndŵr's forces in 1404 during his campaign to establish an independent Welsh state. New YesCymru chair **Rob Hughes** said: "Although we acknowledge the history of this iconic location, this march is about the future... Independence today is about giving the people of Wales the power to make their own decisions and build a fairer, more prosperous and more confident country." Thousands are expected; a coach is being organised from the north-west.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (30 Aug)*

Hundreds turn out over 'deeply held concerns' about Beaumaris Town Council More than 200 residents packed a public meeting in Beaumaris, organised by Bangor, Conwy and Môn MS **Janet Finch-Saunders**, over what they called a lack of "transparency, financial probity and democratic accountability" from **Beaumaris Town Council**. Allegations raised included money spent "like it is going out of fashion", the amateur-dramatic Castle Players losing access to the town hall after 30 years and claiming the council "claimed ownership" of £30-40k of their equipment, allotment-holders "locked out" of a community plot with rates raised "unilaterally" from £35 to £50, and claims that income from the castle car park intended for gaol and courthouse renovations was not visibly spent. Town councillor **David T Evans** spoke of a "toxic atmosphere", saying councillors receive meeting minutes "literally minutes before a council meeting" and that publishing minutes and accounts "in a timely and consistent manner would be a huge step forward". Finch-Saunders promised to mediate and "raise issues in the Senedd".

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Dale Spridgeon, LDR) — 30 Aug*

? Health & Community

Masseuse fits rape alarm after men treat her 'like a sex worker' **Ffion Price, 26**, from Gilwern near Abergavenny, says she receives so many inappropriate messages from men that she

now carries a rape alarm, has fitted one in her treatment room, installed CCTV outside her building, and no longer accepts male clients when working alone — after one physical experience left her in a "very vulnerable situation". The beauty therapist, who trained at Coleg Gwent and worked five years at a female-only spa before going self-employed in 2024, says she was only "briefly" taught not to massage a male client above the knee, never what to do if a man became aroused or inappropriate. She is calling for colleges to introduce a safety module covering appropriate techniques for male clients, red flags and what to do if a situation becomes unsafe: "I work so hard to get to where I am... So to be degraded as almost a sex worker is disheartening, it's horrible." She has posted on Facebook that she is "strictly professional", urging men to "think about sending that message before you do".

☐ *BBC Wales (Eleri Griffiths) — 30 Aug, updated 31 Aug*

Welsh-medium childcare service loses funding after behind-closed-doors decision

Funding for the Flying Start provision at Welsh-medium playgroup **Cylch Meithrin Dolwerdd in Cwmbran** has been axed by **Torfaen Borough Council** following an urgent decision taken behind closed doors — initially published with incorrect information about when and how it was made. Labour cabinet member **Cllr Richard Clark** approved steps to "decommission" the programme days before the provision was due to end; the council said it was taken "urgently" on 24 August, despite the decision being scheduled on its public calendar for 2 September. The council only corrected its website — adding the public-interest exemption it had applied — after being contacted by the Local Democracy Reporting Service. Independent member **Elizabeth Haynes**, whose ward includes the playgroup, said she would raise the discrepancies with legal and the monitoring officer. Flying Start provides childcare for two-year-olds plus health-visiting and parenting support; there will be no Flying Start provision at the playgroup from September.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Twm Owen, LDR) — 30 Aug*

? Education

Schools project asks pupils to argue both sides of the British Empire Pupils returning to school this week will be asked to debate whether the British Empire "helped build the modern world or prospered through exploitation and oppression" — then **swap sides** and argue the opposing case — under a new classroom project from educational charity **Parallel Histories**, which works with more than 1,100 UK secondary schools. Its free eBook *On British Empire* sets out competing arguments: empire spread infrastructure and modern government versus imperial growth built through systemic exploitation and lawful oppression; slavery "was foundational: enslaved people were treated as property, coerced into forced labour, and converted into imperial wealth". Former government minister and Parallel Histories chief executive **Bill Rammell** said: "The question we are asking is not whether the British empire was good or bad... Teaching the contested history of the British empire from contrasting perspectives is not a risk. It is a responsibility."

☐ *Nation.Cymru / PA (31 Aug)*

? Environment & Weather

Bank holiday washout easing — but flood warning stands for Wales Heavy rain and thunderstorms hit Wales on Sunday under a Met Office yellow warning covering the whole country from 11:00 to 23:59, with up to **4cm (1.5in)** of rain in places and possible flooding of "a few homes and businesses". A **Natural Resources Wales flood alert** was briefly in force for the Carmarthenshire coast between Pendine and Hendy, east of Llanelli, from 1am Monday, though it has since been lifted. Bank holiday Monday is expected to be the best of the long weekend — "sunny spells and showers" with the odd rumble of thunder, said Met Office meteorologist **Dan Stroud**, with a drier, brighter end to the day; Tuesday looks "reasonably fine", before it "goes downhill" on Wednesday, "particularly across Wales". The Met Office says the UK is on course for its hottest summer on record after five heatwaves.

☐ BBC Wales (30 Aug) / Nation.Cymru (PA) — 31 Aug

? Economy & Housing

Wrexham tops Wales' fastest-growing property market with £12,917 rise Wrexham recorded a **6.66% rise** in average house prices between 2024 and 2025 — from £193,830 to **£206,747**, a cash increase of £12,917 — making it the only Welsh local authority among the UK's 20 fastest-growing markets, according to analysis by property services company HIPPO using HM Land Registry data. **Neath Port Talbot** (up 4.73% to £159,272, and Wales' strongest three-year growth at +9%), **Swansea** (+4.61% to £204,928), **Rhondda Cynon Taf** (+4.43%) and **Blaenau Gwent** (+4.14%) completed the top five; eight of the ten fastest-growing areas had average prices below £210,000. **Ceredigion** was the only Welsh county where prices fell, dropping 1.25% to £234,908. HIPPO managing director Gareth Lloyd Jones said the strongest growth "was not confined to Wales' most expensive areas", noting Conwy had the highest sales activity (32.94 per 1,000 dwellings) despite a smaller price rise.

☐ Nation.Cymru (30 Aug)

? Crime & Justice

Wales' papers: high-value cars stolen to order; drugs 'readily available' in prison The Welsh papers round-up leads on reports that **high-value cars are being stolen to order** in Wales, and a report finding **forbidden drugs are "readily available"** in prison. (*Wales' papers digest — Western Mail, South Wales Evening Post, Daily Post, South Wales Echo, Wrexham Leader.*)

☐ BBC Wales papers round-up (30 Aug, 21:44)

? Culture & Community

Sir Anthony Hopkins tops classical chart with debut album **Sir Anthony Hopkins, 88**, has reached number one on the Official UK Classical Chart with *Life is a Dream*, his first album for Decca Classics — a 12-track collection of music written by the Port Talbot-born actor over more than six decades, including compositions drawing directly on his Welsh upbringing. Among them is *Bracken Road* (from his *1947: Suite*), a musical portrait of the streets and farmland around his Margam childhood home, developed in 1963 while he was a young actor at the Liverpool Playhouse, and *My Fatherland*, drawing on traditional Welsh melodies — "I am the son of my father, the baker", he has said of the piece. The album is performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra under Gustavo Dudamel, with Sergio Tiempo, Gregorio Nieto, The Bach Choir and the Boy Choristers of Winchester Cathedral. "Music was my first desire, my first wish," said Sir Anthony, who is donating a share of CD and vinyl sales to the UN Development Fund after the Venezuelan earthquakes. *The Independent* praised music ranging from "bright, brass-led fanfares to elegant waltzes".

☐ *Nation.Cymru* (30 Aug)

Queen of the Sea: 'One more season' after 42 years on the Menai Strait The pleasure boat **Queen of the Sea**, a familiar sight leaving Caernarfon for Menai Strait trips and Ynys Llanddwyn for 42 years, is set to sail her last — skipper **Emrys Jones, 76**, a sixth-generation boat pilot, says trips will end at the end of this season, or possibly the next. The boat's history is extraordinary: built in 1937 for Stein Ferries between Long Island and Fire Island, New York (as *Wayfarer II*), bought by the UK Government in 1941, renamed **HMS Macaw** at Holyhead in 1942, then bought by Emrys' family in 1945 for Menai trips. Emrys bought her in Plymouth in 1984 without realising his own father had sailed her on the strait decades earlier — he only found out a decade later when a Stein Ferries man researching the company's centenary contacted him. The response to news the trips are ending has been "anhygoel" (incredible): "The boat is 90 next year, so I'd like to do one more season, but we'll see how the winter goes — maybe one more."

☐ *BBC Cymru Fyw* (Harri Evans) — 30 Aug

Call for Welsh Government study of the Welsh music scene **Cymdeithas Labeli Cymru** (the Welsh Labels Association) is calling on the Welsh Government to commission a study of the Welsh-language music scene to establish its value to the economy and give artists a proper platform. Chair **Yws Gwynedd** said: "We'd like the government to commission a study into the Welsh music scene to see how much it's worth to Wales' economy, and then we can put a strategy together... We're not competing against each other — we're just trying to give a platform to the great artists coming out of Wales." **Kev Tame**, chief executive of Sain — the label founded in 1969, recently reissuing vinyl — said the challenges are "real... financial", but stressed the ecosystem's wider value to radio, TV, festivals and live gigs. The appeal comes as Radio Cymru marks **Monday as Diwrnod Recordiau Cymraeg** (Welsh Records Day), celebrating vinyl releases; musician Elis Derby noted that for every stream on Spotify "we only get 0.4c". The Welsh Government said it had "taken the first step towards a new Culture and Sport strategy" and was in talks with the association.

📺 BBC Cymru Fyw (Gwen Aeron) — 31 Aug

The millennials swapping doom-scrolling for gardening Young people are swapping doom-scrolling for gardening — and finding it a "safe space", according to new voices on social media. **Hannah Matthews, 31**, from Newport, who lost her father and grandmother in the space of a year in 2023 and has more than 70,000 Instagram and TikTok followers, said her generation's hobbies were a "rejection of this hyper-digital world that feels really all-consuming": "When someone else is just kind of doom-scrolling, they get a bit of serenity in their day as well." **Naomi Saunders, 32**, from Felinheli, Gwynedd, started during lockdown and now has more than 300 houseplants; her documenting won her an invitation to RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Hannah acknowledged owning a house and having outdoor space "is a real privilege" — "gardening can be done in whatever space you have — pots on the kitchen window sill".

📺 BBC Wales (Megan Davies) — 30 Aug, updated 31 Aug

Survivalist becomes first Welshman on Alone: World Championship **Andrew Price, 51**, from Swansea, has become the first Welshman to compete in US survival show *Alone: World Championship* — dropped into the Arctic Circle with just 10 tools and a camera, facing grizzly bears and extreme cold for a \$500,000 (£367,000) prize. The bushcraft teacher of 20+ years, whose grandad foraged seaweed, mussels and blackberries with him on the Gower Peninsula, said it was "the most physically and mentally challenging thing I've ever done". He applied in 2015 but the show was then open only to Canadians and Americans. Representing Wales mattered to him: "We're known for rugby, music and poetry, but not necessarily for survival skills." Price also spent seven years co-hosting the Bafta-nominated ITV Wales series *Coast and Country*.

📺 BBC Wales (Anaba Khan) — 30 Aug

Grade I-listed manor house built on a medieval castle site for sale at £1.75m **Penyclawdd Court**, near Abergavenny — a Grade I-listed Tudor and Stuart manor house believed to date in part to the 16th century, standing on the site of the former Penyclawdd Castle's bailey — has gone on the market for **£1.75 million**. The six-bedroom house, described in Joseph Bradney's *History of Monmouthshire* as "a memorable manor house with splendid chimney stacks", retains the original cross passage, a Great Hall now used as a sitting room, flagstone floors and hidden stone staircases, with modern touches including a Goose Grey Everhot oven. The grounds look out over the Norman motte and bailey thought to date to the 11th century, possibly built by Roger de Hastings after an uprising against William the Conqueror.

📺 Nation.Cymru (30 Aug)

? Sport

Cardiff City teenager Axel Donczew joins Premier League champions Arsenal **Axel Donczew, 16**, has left Cardiff City to join Arsenal, signing a pre-contract agreement that will see him turn professional with the Gunners as part of their first-year scholarship intake. The attacking midfielder made history last October when, aged **15 years and 234 days**, he became Cardiff's

youngest-ever senior player (a record since broken by Noah Anyadike); he made two first-team appearances. Cardiff said they had "offered terms... and made efforts to retain the player, but he opted to pursue a move away from the Welsh capital. We wish Axel the best of luck for the future." Donczew has represented Wales at U15 and U16 level and is also eligible for Poland.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (30 Aug)*

Rodon injury adds to Wales' Nations League defensive worries Wales boss **Craig Bellamy** faces another injury blow before the Nations League openers after **Joe Rodon** limped off with a hamstring injury 33 minutes into Leeds United's 1-1 Premier League draw with Brentford. Leeds boss **Daniel Farke** confirmed: "Very painful injury, big blow if he is out for a while... We do not have many senior centre-back options." The 28-year-old, who has **62 caps**, joins Cardiff's Dylan Lawlor (knee) as a major doubt for the trips to Portugal (24 September) and Denmark (27 September).

☐ *BBC Sport Wales (Fraser Watson) — 30 Aug*

Pajari makes WRC history as Evans' title lead cut to 20 points Sami Pajari won Rally Paraguay — his third straight WRC round after Estonia and Finland — becoming the **first driver in WRC history to win his first three rallies back-to-back**. Elfyn Evans and co-driver Scott Martin finished fourth after a tyre delamination on Friday cost them time, and their title lead over the Toyota team-mate is now down to **20 points with three rallies remaining** (Chile, 10-13 September, next). "The weekend started well, but we didn't settle into a better rhythm after that. I'm not really happy," said a disheartened Evans, who did pick up three bonus points on the Power Stage. Josh McErlean equalled his career-best sixth for M-Sport Ford despite repairing a broken gear stick with a spanner.

☐ *BBC Sport (30 Aug)*

Swansea close in on Huddersfield midfielder Iorpenda Swansea City are closing in on the permanent signing of **Tom Iorpenda**, 21, from Huddersfield Town. The London-born midfielder impressed on loan at Notts County last season — 53 appearances and three goals, helping them to promotion from League Two and winning both fans' and players' player of the season — and would become the Swans' second midfield addition in days after **Stephen Eustaquio** arrived from Porto.

☐ *BBC Sport Wales (30 Aug)*

Parkinson 'under pressure for the first time', says Iwan Roberts Former Wales striker **Iwan Roberts** says Phil Parkinson is "probably under pressure for the first time since he's been at Wrexham" after Friday's 2-1 home defeat by Birmingham left the club winless and without a clean sheet in four matches this season. Roberts criticised Parkinson's persistence with a back three when chasing games — "he still persists with the back three, instead of maybe trying something different" — and pointed to last season's "sixth worst defensive record in that league... at home, only bottom club Sheffield Wednesday conceded more goals than Wrexham". Parkinson himself called Phil Neumann's brace "two of the softest goals" conceded in his reign; Roberts also questioned a squad of 33 players.

Edwards' plea to help Welsh golfers thrive **Owen Edwards, 34**, has called for more support for Welsh professionals after coming within six holes of a debut at The Open before seven dropped shots at final qualifying ended his chances — leaving Wales without a player in the Open field for a **third successive year**. The Welshman, ranked 1,511th (friend Jack Davidson is the highest-placed Welshman at 989th), says there's "just not support" when players turn pro: "I don't know too many others who haven't heard from their national union since they turned pro. I haven't had contact with Wales Golf." Wales Golf's performance director Gareth Jenkins said earlier this month that work now under way may take five years to deliver results. Edwards stressed he is "very grateful" for what he got from Wales Golf, calling it "a resource issue in Wales, whether it's enough money or reach".

? Quick Summary

Section	Key story
Top Story	Welsh photographer Justin Thomas sues over £1.4m Oasis painting
Politics	Jeremy Miles rules out politics return; YesCymru Aberystwyth march; Beaumaris council meeting
Health	Masseuse Ffion Price's rape alarm; Dolwerdd childcare funding axed
Education	British Empire debate project for schools
Environment	Flood warning easing; bank holiday weather
Economy	Wrexham tops Welsh house-price growth (+£12,917)
Crime	Cars stolen to order; drugs in prison (papers digest)
Culture	Hopkins chart-topping album; Queen of the Sea finale; Welsh music scene study call; gardening trend; Alone survivalist; Penyclawdd Court
Sport	Donczew to Arsenal; Rodon injury; Pajari cuts Evans' lead; Iorpenda; Parkinson pressure; Edwards golf plea

Compiled 31 Aug 2026 by Emrys (Hermes cron) · Sources: BBC Wales, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Sport Wales, Nation.Cymru, PA, LDR. SearXNG returned garbage mode (Wikipedia/travel spam on all three queries) — no usable leads; all articles fetched via the Playwright-fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090). GOV.WALES index had nothing fresh (newest 26 Aug, first-100-days release already covered). Skipped as repeats/covered: Luke Evans/Tim Curry tribute (27-08), Brian Jones GCSE pass (27-08 UK), Scouting for Girls Cardiff show (29-08), Heledd Fychan US mission (30-08 — departs today), Keepers Pond/Tucci/uniform swap/bus crash/Dol-Ilys Hall (30-08), Dog Man musical (30-08), Rali Ceredigion/Cardiff 2-2/Newport 2-2 (30-08), gender surgeries pause (29-08).

Revision #2

Created 2026-08-31 08:11:40 UTC by Admin

Updated 2026-08-31 08:11:41 UTC by Admin